



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION EVENT HAS OUTSTANDING SUCCESS



The Dallas Center Grimes Education Foundation hosted the fourth annual Raising Education Dollars (RED) Dinner and Auction on Saturday, November 13, 2021. The Dallas Center and Grimes communities showed up to support and made the event an astounding success! Over 130 attendees sported their 'red' attire, and participated in both the silent and live auction along with other fundraisers throughout the

night. The event raised \$66,000 for the evening, the most successful fundraising event for the Education Foundation to date! Proceeds from the event will be used to move forward with the mission of the Education Foundation, including funding scholarships for DCG students and teacher classroom grants. Included in the funds raised is \$25,000 that will be used to award two - \$3,000, four-year renewable RED scholarships, designed to help ease the burden for students due to the rising cost of post-secondary education.

Attendees enjoyed an evening that began with a social hour followed by a delicious dinner catered by, Chef Joe Weisz. Throughout the evening, attendees monitored their bids on over 70 silent auction items. A variety of items were donated for the silent auction including a DCG Cribbage Board, DCG activities camp certificates donated by many of our high school coaches, home decor, DCG Mustang experiences, dog walking, date nights, and much more!

Part of the evenings fun festivities was the live auction, which was run by Auctioneer Jared Chambers, commanding the attention and bids on everything from a dinner catered by Chef Joe to a beach vacation! Some lucky bidders went home with an Apple Electronics Package, and others will be working on their golf game at several local golf courses throughout the Des Moines area.

The night wouldn't have been possible without the support of many local businesses, individuals, and all of the attendees. Don't miss out on this annual event. Mark your calendar now for November 5, 2022 at a new location, Three Sisters Barn outside of Dallas Center!

Be sure to follow the DCG Education Foundation on Facebook (@dcgeducationfoundation) and Twitter (@dcgedufound) to keep up-to-date with all of the great things the Dallas Center - Grimes Education Foundation is doing and see how you can get involved to make a difference for the students and staff within our great district!

Thank you for the continued support,
The Dallas Center - Grimes Education Foundation Board

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, December 8th 1:00 pm Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, Staff Professional Development

Thursday, December 23rd - Friday December 31st, No School Winter Break

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Superintendent's Message
- DCG Alumni Spotlight
- Students of the Quarter
 - Literacy Project
 - Meet Eureka,
- Activities Update

Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

School board elections took place earlier this month. Thank you for getting out and voting in the recent election. I want to welcome Brandon McNace and Monica Malmberg to the DCG School Board. Additionally, I want to thank Doug Rants and Sarah Wilson who are rolling off the board, for their contributions and support to our district over the last several years.

I have a great deal of gratitude for not only our past and present board members but the entire DCG School District staff for the time they put into helping create #dcdexcellence. The small things they do everyday add up to big things, from the early mornings and late nights spent on lesson plans and grading assessments to the selflessness the staff shows on a daily basis. The impact of the entire DCG staff from associates to custodians, bus drivers, and everyone in between, add up and help make DCG what it is.

I also want to thank parents and community members. DCG has a great following. From the article you read on the cover supporting our students through the Education Foundation to the way you show up at activities to cheer on the Mustangs. DCG truly is a special place to be and I am thankful to be a part of it.

Sincerely,

Scott Grimes

Superintendent

DCG ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



University of Iowa students and former DCG alumni: Ty Walker, Nic Lawton, Cody Hall, Caden Grimes, Trenton Leibe, and Spencer Schwantes along with two additional teammates Ryan Mace and Eli Johnson recently participated in the

University's intramural football program. The team went by the name of Sam Laporta's Back-Ups. They chose this name after current University of Iowa tight end, Sam Laporta. The team finished the regular season 0-3, but rallied in tournament play to win the University of Iowa Intramural Football Championship. The team was formed by their team captain, Ty Walker. The turning point in their seven week season was when they changed positions and placed the players on the team, who had played football in high school, on the defensive line so they could rush the quarterback. Once they made this change, they found their groove and started winning. The team played in the championship on Sunday, November 7th at Kinnick Stadium. Several DCG parents came to cheer on the team. They walked away with bragging rights for the year and a t-shirt!

HIGH SCHOOL

Students of the Quarter Congratulations to our first quarter Students of the Quarter! These students were nominated by their teachers for their excellence in class demonstrated through leadership and good character. Agriculture: Nick Thompson (Senior), Essence Ripperger (Junior), Zara Bejarno (Sophomore), and Aidan Ernsperger (Freshmen)
Art: Rachel Koster (Senior), Jillian Janssen (Junior), Layne Weber (Sophomore), and Alexis Evans (Freshmen)
Band: Kaylee Huinker (Senior), Ryan Fitch (Junior), Emily Henigan (Sophomore), and Patrick Schmitz (Freshmen)
Business: Ariadne Le Beau (Senior), Madeline Waddingham (Junior), Kerry Myers (Sophomore), and Taitn Gray (Freshmen)
FCS: Austin Fiori (Senior), Makenna Schmitt, (Junior), Eli Carpenter (Sophomore), and Deja Jackson (Freshmen)
Industrial Tech: Brock Renshaw (Senior), Matthew Deimerly (Junior), Emma Bushnell (Sophomore), and Halley Beaudet (Freshmen)
Language Arts: Natasha Tracy (Senior), Bianca Prunty (Junior), Gabriel Lee (Sophomore), and Camren Allen (Freshmen)
Math: Luke Herbsleb (Senior), Alex Sutterer (Junior), Damon Gahan (Sophomore), and Finn DeDoncker (Freshmen)
PE: Olivia Valline (Senior), Sheridan Gilster (Junior), Evin Jerry (Sophomore), and Noah Moberg (Freshmen)
Science: Nate Stovall (Senior), Tye Comauex (Junior), Alex Slavin (Sophomore), Alexa Farrell (Freshmen)
Social Studies: Isaac Short (Senior), Madison Falk (Junior), Ella Bandy (Sophomore), and Quinton Oberender (Freshmen)
Vocal: Chloe Traver (Senior), Anthony Glay (Junior), Tess Meggison (Sophomore), and Noah Dutchuk (Freshmen)
Spanish: Taylor Voyna (Senior), Josh Hendricks (Junior), Anna Briggeman (Sophomore), and Lexi Daleske (Freshmen)
French: Paige Hollatz (Senior), Chloe Rhoads (Junior), Macey Jermier (Sophomore), and Kate Busby (Freshmen)
Student Services: Hyde Eddy (Senior), Aubri Christiansen (Junior), Isabel Bustamante (Sophomore), and Caroline Edsen (Freshmen)



Taher News On November 11th Taher helped celebrate Veteran's Day by serving 150 veterans at the Middle School. "It was such an honor to serve these brave men and women as well as thank them for their service" said Donna Sevenich, Food Services Director from Taher. It was a busy month for Taher as they also prepared the pre-show meal for the play, Moana Jr, put on by Oak View students on November 12th and 13th. Taher employees created food that included a Hawaiian Luau inspired dinner overseen by Chef Phillip Carey. Additionally, Chef Carey had Tastings in the Classroom by spending two days with High School Social Studies students learning about authentic European street foods. The tastings included European meats and cheeses, with flavors such as Gruyere cheeses from Switzerland and Smoked Provolone and Pecorino Romano from Italy. Oak View hosted Taher's Chef John Sugimura on November 17th and 18th to promote the Tasting of Japan Tour. He prepared Yakitori Skewers. Chef John was at the High School on the 19th to work with students in Mr. Saba's classroom and taught them how to make dumplings.

Back by popular demand was the Dueling Chefs competition, which was held before Thanksgiving break between Chef Carey and Principal Blum. The competition featured Thanksgiving inspired flavors including a cranberry sauce chicken wing and a honey cornbread chicken wing. Chef Phil won the competition.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Literacy Secondary students at Oak View and the high school had opportunities throughout November to participate in a number of STEAM and literacy-related activities in the library. Felting, paper crafts, and technology design work have been available, including forming origami figures and felt turkeys, making with 3D pens, and creating green screen videos. Oak View students even got a chance to help make props for the fall play. In addition to watching book trailers, another literacy event for the month, students could also choose to participate in a breakout activity related to books about spies and espionage.

Honor Band Oak View student, Aiden Leiran was accepted into the All Iowa 8th-grade Honor Band. Students are chosen from around the state and will have the opportunity to play together at the Des Moines Marriott on Thursday, May 12, 2022. Congratulations to Aiden for your hard work and for representing DCG with pride!



New Therapy Dog Meet Eureka, the newest four legged employee at Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School. Eureka is an 18-month-old yellow Labrador retriever and is a trained professional therapy dog. Like Jasper and Fog, Eureka was trained by the same program, CARES - Canine, Assistance, Rehabilitation, Education and Services located in Concordia, Kansas. Guidance Counselor Megann Schultz is Eureka's handler. Eureka went through extensive training that is tailored especially for assistance dogs. During this time the dogs in class learn everything

from basic to more complex commands. Ms. Schultz had to complete a one week training class in order to prepare to pass the Public Access Test and skills training to continue as a certified assistance team handler. Eureka got her name from the family that volunteered to raise the puppies from her litter for the first eight weeks of their life. The family has boys who love to fish, so Eureka's litter is all named after fishing lakes in Kansas.

Eureka and Ms. Schultz graduated on November 5th and she has been working at the Middle School since. Ms. Schultz applied for a successor dog when she noticed Jasper slowing down some. "The wait list is a couple of years long, and I knew it could take a while to be placed with the right dog," said Schultz. Jasper will continue to come to work for as long as he wants to. He is slowing down and may spend more time in the office, instead of out and about in the building. "When I get ready in the morning and tell him to 'get dressed' he wags his tail and puts his head through his vest, so that tells me he isn't quite ready to retire yet." Schultz added.



Eureka loves people and is enjoying all the love from the middle school students and staff, she is a great addition to the counseling team!

OAK VIEW

Moana Jr. In a sell out both evenings, Oak View students presented the musical Moana Jr. on November 12th and 13th. Many fun memories were created by the cast and crew. The evening started out with a Luau including pulled pork and Kabobs prepared by Taher as well as Dole Whips for dessert. There was a quick change over from the meal to the show where sixty students in 7th and 8th grade performed. Some great comments from students include; " I am gonna audition for a part on stage next year." and " It was so fun just to get to go every day after school and be with students that really love this. I have made so many new friends."



PTO News Our school community is the BEST! So many people volunteered to stock the teacher's lounge in each elementary building and provide food for conference meals. Thank you so much for your generosity and support. Our teachers and administrators truly appreciate all that our school community does. Providing meals during conferences is just one of the many ways the PTO gives back to our schools.

We would like to invite you to join the PTO at any time. There are a lot of different ways to get involved and at a level you feel comfortable. Reach out to your principal or join the PTO go to our website: <https://dcgpto.com>. Click the "join the PTO" link. For questions, you can also contact us directly at dallascentergrime-spto@gmail.com

ELEMENTARY

Nature Programming Dallas County Conservation offers nature programming to schools. Recently, Naturalist Mike Havlik visited each DCG elementary school and taught students about Owls. Havlik was able to bring an Owl the Conservation had rescued almost 10 years ago and students were able to get an up close look of what a real owl looks like. He also read a book and even taught students a song, "Big Owls Hoot and Little Owls Toot".



Students learned they can be Naturalists by observing things in nature, reading books and talking to experts. This is a favorite program for students year after year.



ACTIVITIES

Boys Cross Country Be Light. Be light and quick on your feet. Let the heaviness and outside noise fall away. Be light for others at all times, especially difficult ones. This message was the focus for the DCG Boys Cross Country Team this year. The team became a very close-knit bunch and their efforts to “Be Light” in all phases of life carried them this season. The Mustangs celebrated their season at a banquet on November 9. The Mustangs finished second in the Little Hawkeye Conference, won their fifth District Title, and earned their third straight State Championship! They are the only team in Class 3A to finish in the top seven at State each of the last eight years. Their three-peat is only the 17th ever in Iowa, the 6th since 1980, and the first in Class 3A since going to four classes in 2003. Their score of 60 points showed their depth and is the second lowest total ever in Class 3A. The JV team finished second at Conference, as well! JV maintains an impressive 95% winning percentage over eight years, and Varsity has a 91% winning percentage over the same time span. Additionally, there were 33 additions to the record board, including a new school record set for total team time and a new school record in the 5K set by senior Aidan Ramsey; Ramsey also won the Class 3A individual title!



The following awards were given to team members at the banquet:

All-Conference: Aidan Ramsey, Tate McDermott, Ben Every

All-District: Aidan Ramsey, Tate McDermott, Jacob Ewers, Ben Every, Owen Pries, AJ Angus

All-State: Aidan Ramsey, Tate McDermott

Academic All-Conference: (10th-12th grade letterwinners earning a 3.5 GPA or above)

10th – AJ Angus, Ben Every, Jack Every, Nick Kessler, John Kitenge, Tate McDermott, Alex Pires, Owen Vasey, Sam Watkins, 11th – Braeden Roberts, Carson Springer, 12th – Nic Beaudet, Luke Herbsleb, Alex Jordan, Alex Pickering, Owen Pries, Aidan Ramsey

Academic All-State: (Senior who competed at State, 3.8 cum. GPA, 28 ACT): Aidan Ramsey

Most Improved: Drew Anderson, Nathan Wanat

DCG Sportsmanship Award: AJ Angus, Luke Herbsleb, Sam Watkins

Coaches Award: 9th - Elias Arbuckle, JV - Carson Springer, Varsity – Owen Pries

Most Valuable Team Member: Aidan Ramsey

Thank you to all the parents/guardians for their tremendous support and encouragement this season, with a shout out to parent reps Matt Morris and Heidi Watkins for their work throughout the year! Thank you to Mr. Buttjer, Mrs. Melchert, Shauna Pertzsch, Betsy Grove, Brenda Smith, and Jerod Torrey for their good work at the high school. And thank you to the Booster Club for its support of our team in a variety of ways! Thank you to middle school coaches Keri McDermott, Kellen Sulentic, and Kirstin Isenhardt for the way they help build the program through fun and encouragement of the kids, as well as their enthusiasm and promotion of the sport. The team is looking forward to building on the success they've had! We all appreciate the awesome support of the Dallas Center-Grimes community!

ACTIVITIES



Girls Cross Country The 2021 Girls Cross Country team continued their successful ways this season. After not returning five of the team's top 10

runners from last season, the squad of 45 runners returned to the podium at the State Championship meet. With a third place finish the Mustangs have finished in the top three for the fourth year in row. This marked the team's seventh consecutive year qualifying for the state meet. The varsity squad finished second in the Little Hawkeye Conference and first at the State Qualifying Meet. The Junior Varsity squad won the Little Hawkeye Conference Meet for the fifth consecutive year with a perfect score of 15 points. Ava Gannon was the JV conference champion. Earning varsity All Conference honors were Maddy Stevens 5th, Hannah Little 8th, and Skyler Blessman in 14th place. There were five individual state qualifiers at the State Qualifying Meet, Hannah Little 8th, Meredith McDermott 9th, Maddy Stevens 10th, Skyler Blessman 14th, and Abbey Angus 15th. Maddy Stevens was the team's highest finisher at the state meet in 23rd place. Skyler Blessman earned the prestigious honor of Academic All State as a senior state meet participant with a minimum GPA of 3.8 and minimum ACT of 28. The team was also involved in the community, volunteering to package meals for Meals From the Heartland and hosting a water station at the Des Moines Marathon. The team would like to thank Mr Buttjer, Mrs Melchert, the office staff, Booster Club, and the team's parents for all their support throughout the season. The 16 graduating seniors will be greatly missed, we wish them luck as they finish out their senior year. They had a major impact on the team over the last four years and that will carry forward for many years to come.

Dance Team The DCG Varsity Dance Team will be competing at the State Championship on December 3rd. The group will compete in Hip Hop, Jazz and Pom. There will also be 6 dancers competing in the individual solo competition. The Competition will be held at Wells Fargo arena and does allow for spectators and can also be live streamed. The team's 6 soloists will perform from 7:51-8:10am and the team will perform Jazz at 2:57pm, Pom at 3:54pm and Hip Hop at 7:02pm.



All State Choir Eight students from DCG were selected for the 75th Annual All-State Festival. Chase Behnkendorf (11), NaTasha Bruck (12), Eli Forbes (11), Aaron Fuentez (11), Alex Pries (10), Madison Stone (11), Campbell Valline (11) and Josh Ward (12) These students spent Thursday, November 18 through Saturday, November 20th at Iowa State University with 600 students from across the state to rehearse with Dr. Edith Copely, Professor Emeritus from Northern Arizona University. The festival con-



cluded with a concert held in Hilton Coliseum on Saturday, November 20th in conjunction with the All-State Band and All-State Orchestra.

Girls Wrestling November marked the start of both boys and girls wrestling at DCG. This is the first year for girls wrestling at DCG. With 24 girls out for wrestling, to say there is an interest is an understatement. Girls wrestling is not a sanctioned sport yet in Iowa, but the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) is monitoring the interest in the sport closely. IGHSAU Executive Director Jean Berger says 15 percent of member schools, which is around 50, must have letters of commitment before the union sanctions the sport.



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Dallas Center-Grimes
ART SPOTLIGHT 



Ceramics I students recently completed decorative wrap vases. Students were tasked with using the slab technique to construct a vase and then adding protruding surface design around a theme of their choice. Pictured here is Kileigh Lachacz's Halloween themed vase (top) and Seila Suvic's insect themed vase (bottom).



Damon Gahan did a great job creating depth and using color in his watercolor landscape painting for Art I.