



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 23  
ISSUE 7  
March 2024

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

In the February issue of the Mustang Monthly, I outlined some of the safety procedures at DCG. We are unveiling another key component this month.

As of March 1, DCG CSD is making Safe+Sound Iowa information available to all of our stakeholders. Safe+Sound Iowa is a free, anonymous school violence reporting tool. Starting today, students, parents, teachers and other community members can help identify and provide intervention for students in crisis before they harm themselves or others.

Safe+Sound Iowa is available to all of our students at no charge by the Governor's School Safety Bureau. It was developed to help prevent violence, unlawful possession of weapons, self-harm and other forms of victimization and threatening behaviors.

In past school attacks in the United States, 92% of those who noticed concerning behaviors before the events were schoolmates. Students may not report warning signs due to feelings of anxiety or intimidation, fear of retaliation or not knowing who to talk to. Safe+Sound Iowa removes these barriers with easy, convenient and confidential ways to report safety concerns.

Reports can be made securely and anonymously:

- Online at [SafeandSoundIowa.gov](https://SafeandSoundIowa.gov)
- Through the Safe+Sound Iowa mobile app, or
- By phone at 800-224-6018.

Trained dispatchers monitor reports 24/7 and immediately engage in two-way communication with those raising concerns. They then reach out to the appropriate local school safety contact, law enforcement or other community partners.

You'll notice informational flyers placed in all of our buildings at DCG. We also have an additional information available, including a QR code to download the app, available at [DCGschoools.com](https://DCGschoools.com).

If you have any questions, please reach out to me or your building principal. I believe this is another important step in our emergency response strategy. Safe+Sound Iowa is now available at DCG.

Sincerely,

**Scott Blum**

DCG Superintendent

## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

March 5+7 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (PK-8)

March 8 - No School

March 11-15 - Spring Break

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 100 Days at DCG
- Students of the Term
- Paella at DCG
- Oak View Wears Red
- Service Learning
- State Wrestling Update
- Art Showcase

Home of the Mustangs



[www.dcgschools.com](https://www.dcgschools.com)

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Dr. Scott Blum, Superintendent  
E-mail: scott.blum@dcdgschools.com  
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2405 W. 1st Street, P.O. Box 680  
Grimes, Iowa 50111

**DISTRICT UPDATES**

**National School Counseling Week** - DCG CSD celebrated National School Counseling Week in February. We certainly have an incredible group of professionals to honor. Our district has 11 counselors working with our students each and every day. The impact they make in our buildings is remarkable. Please celebrate these 11 with us!

**DCG School Counselors**

*DCG High School* - Danielle Clancy, Lisa Rinehart, Ben Twigg | *Oak View* - Emily Waugh | *DCG Middle School* - Emma Olejniczak, Megann Roff | *Elementary* - Courtney Anderson, Mallory DeLacy, Brandon Fitch, Adam Jones, Logan Wilson. Thank you counselors!!



**Lost and Found Reminder** - Please take a moment and check through your school's lost and found when you have a moment! We've accumulated quite the collection during the winter months! Parent-teacher conferences are a great time to check these out with your student!

**100 Days at DCG!** - We celebrated our 100th day of school on Friday, February 2! This is always such a fun day in our district and it gives us a chance to dress up (photo right) and celebrate all of the amazing accomplishments we've made so far this year!



**Meggison Honored**

- DCG High School is excited to announce that Tess Meggison has been selected as a recipient of the National Honor Society Scholarship! Recipients are selected based on their demonstrated

work to support the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership and character! Congratulations Tess!

# HIGH SCHOOL



**DCG High School Celebrates Students of the Term** - We are excited to celebrate the Students of the Term at DCG High School!

**Agriculture** Senior Trenton Randolph, Junior Luke Tigges, Sophomore CJ Bowen, Freshmen Jaylee Mease **Art** Senior Mya Vongphasouk, Junior Isabel Schall, Sophomore Riley Fox, Freshmen Lillian Reames **Band** Sophomore Audrey Nichols, Freshmen Eli Holcomb **Business** Senior Kerry Myers, Junior Emma Evans, Sophomore Jon Burkett, Freshmen Cally Seidl **FCS** Senior Keaton Fenn, Junior Jaden Mendias, Sophomore Zofiana Woollums, Freshmen Ashley Wong **French** Senior Alan Jubell, Junior Alexa Gill, Sophomore Griffin Kleis, Freshmen Kelson Campbell **Language Arts** Senior Brooke Krug, Junior Deja Jackson, Sophomore Liliane Nyagatutsi, Freshmen Avika Rastogi **Math** Senior Logan Young, Junior Sofia Newell, Sophomore Trinity Hillmer, Freshmen Reece Hennessy **PE** Senior Elle Illian, Junior Finn DeDoncker, Sophomore Hudson Heidgerken, Freshmen Hadeel Alhazoum **Science** Senior Isabelle Soult, Junior Max Ringgenberg, Sophomore Ava Mikkelsen, Freshmen Kaiden Hanks **Social Studies** Senior Malaina Elliott, Junior Aidan Bryan, Sophomore Lily Beauford, Freshmen Jackson Omgig **Spanish** Senior Anna Briggeman, Junior Braden Zach, Sophomore Kaia Seske, Freshmen Bronwyn Squires **Technology Ed.** Senior Jared Bain, Junior Sarah Henrici, Sophomore Ryan Gilster, Freshmen Alayna Boel **Student Services** Senior Princess David, Junior Gauge Varron, Sophomore Mercedes Kollie, Freshmen Aubrey Borcharding **Vocal** Senior Tess Meggison, Junior Noah Dutchuk, Sophomore Hunter Quandt, Freshmen Daphne Kallman



**TAG Trip to Iowa City** - DCG High School TAG students traveled to the University of Iowa to check out the Special Collections Department in the Main Library and the Carver College of Medicine. At the library, they saw the largest collection of miniature books, some as small as the top of a pencil! The group toured the exhibit "Making the Book, Past and Present" which explores the intersections of history and art. At the Carver College of Medicine, students observed the facilities and visited

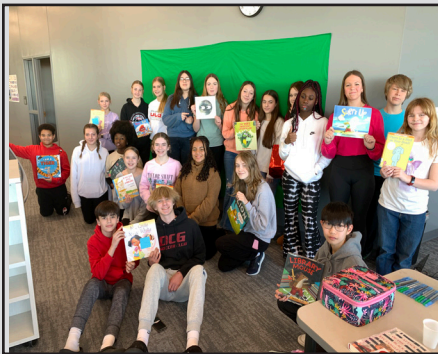
the labs and learning community spaces. During the neuropathology lab, they learned about healthy brains and brains inflicted with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

**Want to travel to France & Spain in 2026?**- Come and learn more about this great opportunity for students and parents to travel through France and Spain in 2026. This meeting will take place Wednesday, April 24 at 5:30 in the DCG High School Media Center. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please visit [passports.com](https://passports.com) and enter the trip ID #: LHAWKS2026 to find more information. Please send any questions you have to [laree.hawks@dcgschools.com](mailto:laree.hawks@dcgschools.com) or any of the World Language teachers at DCG High School.

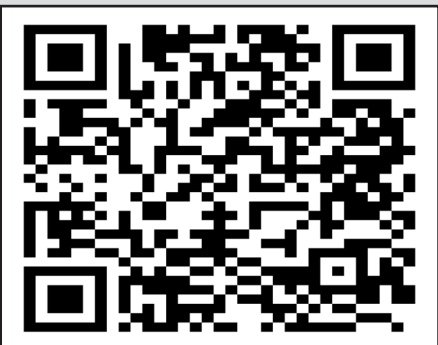


**Taher Update** - The Taher team at DCG was joined by Taher CEO Bruce Taher for an afternoon in the DCG High School Cafeteria. They teamed up to make an authentic Spanish Paella from scratch! Hundreds of DCG High School students lined up to try a new dish! Thanks to Taher for providing these nutritious opportunities for our students! We can't wait to see/taste what's next!

**Oak View's Service Learning Project Shines Spotlight on Community Service** - Students at Oak View are working together in a really powerful way. Service learning projects focus on school and community impact. They also allow students the opportunity to problem-solve issues that impact their building and community. Some projects are big. Some projects are small. They all make an impact and our students deserve praise.



If you'd like to learn more about the service learning projects at Oak View this year, follow the QR code below for the complete list!



## OAK VIEW



**Oak View Wears Red** - Wednesday, February 14 was a special day at Oak View. Emma Stoecken is a 7th grader at Oak View and the big sister of preschooler Josie. Josie's journey to preschool at DCG has not been easy. She had a birth diagnosis of Down Syndrome and CHD. Josie was in and out surgery during the first

few years of her life, but has really found her groove in preschool. Watching Josie grow has provided big sis Emma with a powerful opportunity to advocate. Emma asked Oak View Principal Joan Cundiff if February 14 could be Wear Red Day at Oak View to raise awareness for CHD.

"I was just like I have to do this," Emma said. "It's something that means so much to my family and other families."

Oak View students turned out in full force. It was a sea of red honoring a very special preschooler. There's a video feature of Wear Red Day at Oak View available at [DCGschoools.com](http://DCGschoools.com).

## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT SPOTLIGHT



**DCG Partners with Junior Achievement** - Financial literacy doesn't appear in most kindergarten curriculum. However, students in Allie Carenza's class at Heritage Elementary are discussing dollars and cents in a really cool way. Carenza's classroom just completed a financial literacy unit

as part of the Junior Achievement (JA) platform.

The JA Ourselves lesson introduces kindergarten students to the intersection of financial literacy and social studies learning objectives. Through hands-on classroom activities, the learning experience provides students with an overview of supply and demand along with needs and wants.

"Our students were invested in this unit from the very first day," says Carenza. "I was encouraged by their energy and effort throughout the project."

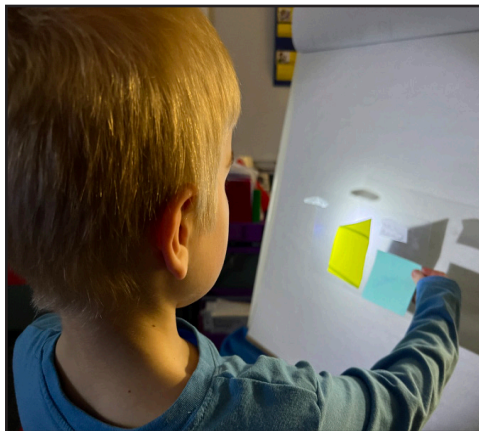
# ELEMENTARY



**Therapy Dogs Visit Pre-school** - This was such a fun lesson for DCG preschoolers! Fog and Eureka, DCG's professional therapy dogs, visited DCG preschool classes! The interaction between our youngest learners and their new furry friends was so special! Thanks to DCG counselors

Mallory DeLacy and Megann Roff for providing this opportunity!

**National Inspire Your Heart with Art** - What a fun way to celebrate art at South Prairie Elementary! 4th grade students traveled over to Kennybrook and spent time creating with residents! This was a powerful example of art bringing the generations together!

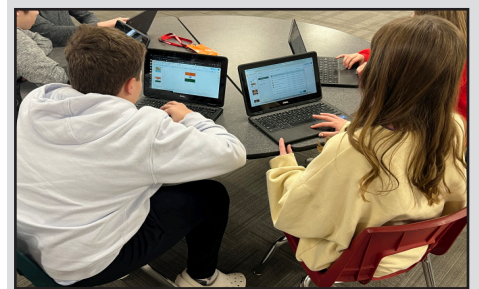
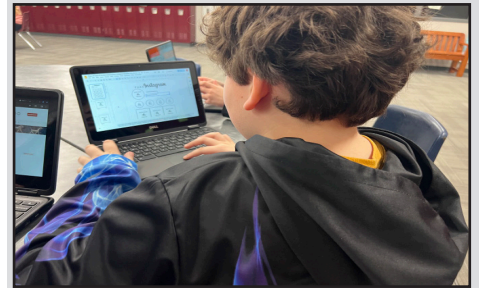


**Shine Your Light** - 1st graders at Dallas Center Elementary are wrapping up their unit on light and sound. Students created their own scene to test how light shines through. They used a dark area, a medium area and a bright area. It was fun to see the light bulb to turn on!

**Now Hiring!** - DCG CSD has several open positions for the 2024-25 school year! These include certified and classified positions. You'll join a team of passionate educators and dedicated support staff, working together to serve our students every single day! The QR Code (right) has a list of our current openings. We'd love to connect with you!



**Ancient India Empire Instagram Project at DCG Middle School** - What a fun way to learn about historical figures at DCG Middle School! Students were asked to pretend that they were a ruler in Ancient India. Their goal was to create an Instagram feed that would be similar to what their historical subject would've used. Students presented to classmates using this pretend Instagram feed so they could learn more about the life and accomplishment of these important historical figures!



**School Board Update** - The DCG School Board will meet on Monday, March 27. The agenda will be posted at DCGschools.com along with a link to watch the meeting live.

**All-State Speech** - The DCG High School Speech program continues to shine! DCG sent five events to the All-State Large Group competition on Saturday, February 17 in Ames. Names listed below.



## ACTIVITIES



**DCG Girls Wrestling Sends Five to State** - The DCG Girls Wrestling team capped off an awesome season at the state tournament. The Mustangs sent five wrestlers to the IGHS AU State Tournament! Josephine Bond (115), Asia Jahangir (130), Bella Mulder (135), Jenah Gray (145) and Halley Beaudet (190) all ended their year at state! Mulder deserves a special shout out after finishing 7th place, the highest finish in DCG Girls Wrestling history.

**Six Wrestlers Qualify for State** - The DCG Boys Wrestling team sent six grapplers to the IHSAA State Tournament in February. Avery Van Zelderen (106), Blake Forrester (120), Nick Esser (132), Cayden Mayfield (144), Lane Nelsen (190) and Ryan Pertzsch (285)



all finished their season at Wells Fargo Arena. Van Zelderen finished 7th place at 106! Avery is the second freshman to place at state in DCG history!

**Basketball Update** - What a year of hoops at DCG! The DCG Girls Basketball team qualified for the Class 4A State Tournament for the fourth straight year. The DCG Boys opened their postseason journey on Friday, February 23 against CB Lincoln. We will have a full season recap in our next issue!

**Esports Update** - It was another incredible year for the DCG HS Esports team! The program qualified for the state championships in OverWatch2 and Rocket League! We will update their progress in the next issue!

**All-State Speech** - Group Mime – *Pinky Promise*: Ellie Cole, Anna McKernan, Tess Meggison, Norah Southwick, Addilyn Stine, Elle Wood  
Group Mime – *Dear Sara, Love Mom*: Grace Crow, Alexa Farrell, Taylor Gray, Emily Kleckner, Gabi Vandenberg  
TV News – *BCDC*: AJ Altman, Campbell Bowen, Johanna Bonefas, Hayden Smith, Drew Sonberg, Braden Zach  
Musical Theater – *Newsies*: Kadence Brown, Ellie Cole, Emma Behnkendorf, Ella Kleckner, Evelin Mead, Anna McKernan, Norah Southwick, Brynn Weydert  
Ensemble Acting – *God of Carnage*: Lily Holcomb, Brady Kinman, Sara Saleh, Sam Watkins

# ACTIVITIES



**Play for Milly** - Opponents on the court, partners in the game of life. The Oak View Boys Basketball team joined the #bekindlikemilly movement in their games against Pella in February. Pella was honoring Milly Zellmer's life by spreading random acts of kindness throughout the community. Oak View was so honored to play a small part by wearing pink ribbons and donating snacks to the Pella program. Thanks for this incredible reminder 8th graders! We will Be Kind Like Milly!

**Little Hawkeye Conference Honor Band** - DCG High School was the host site for the 2024 Little Hawkeye Conference Honor Band performance! The talented group of musicians rehearsed during the school day on Monday, February 5. At night they put on an absolutely incredible performance! DCG High School and the Little Hawkeye Conference have an incredible music history and it was so amazing to have all of this talent in one place! DCG High School placed 30 members on the Little Hawkeye Conference Honor Band. The performances were under the direction of conductors from Iowa State University.



**DCG/Johnston Boys Bowling Caps Off Great Year at State** - The DCG/Johnston Boys Bowling team had an incredible season at the alley! The group qualified for the Class 3A State Tournament in late February. Caden Klug and Roman Boley are DCG HS students and are on the state tournament roster. Klug also qualified for the individual competition at state. He finished his season in the quarterfinal round. Congratulations on a great season bowlers!

**Booster Club Update** - The DCG Booster Club has a big year coming up where a few of our amazing, long-time, board members are stepping away, leaving opportunities for others to join the fun! Our open positions are critical to our success and we couldn't do it without our team of volunteers!

Communications Chair | Website Chair | Scheduling Chair | Sponsorship Chair | Summer Concession Chair

There's a lot of help and training so please consider volunteering; email us at [merch@dcgboosterclub.com](mailto:merch@dcgboosterclub.com). These positions officially start 6/1/24. Reach out if you have any questions!



The **Oak View Jazz Band** took home 1st place at the Paul McKee Jazz Festival in Indianola on 2/17. Nathan Fitch was named Best Soloist!

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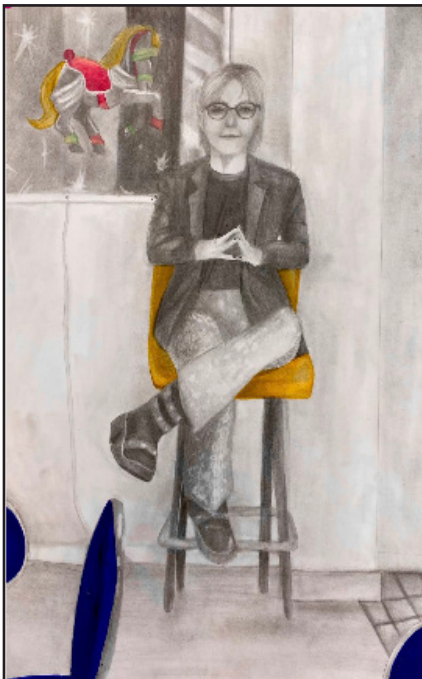
## POSTAL CUSTOMER



[www.dcgschools.com](http://www.dcgschools.com)



June did a wonderful job of creating an interesting composition, using proportion and value in this portrait for Art 1.



In Drawing I, students were asked to illustrate a historical moment that is significant to them. Sophomore, Ava Mikkelsen, created this impressive artwork.



Junior, Shyanne Eiteman, created this piece in Drawing II to illustrate the art elements/principles of emphasis, value and texture.

