



Delta High School Newsletter

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Delta High School is a public-private partnership school serving students from the Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland School Districts. Delta is a unique Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics-focused high school.

Brought to you by parents from the Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland School Districts

March 2012

Volume 2

Issue 3



Important Upcoming Dates

Student-Led Conferences— No School for Students. Schedule time with Advisors.	3/7 thru 3/9
Science & Engineering Project judging and Project Display at Columbia Center Mall.	3/8 thru 3/10
End of Trimester 2	3/9
Reading and Writing HSPE's for Sophomores.	3/13 thru 3/15
Parent Graduation 2013 Committee Meeting at Delta 3:30 p.m.	3/14
Parent Potluck and Program—Thinking & Learning 5:30 p.m.	3/14
Early Release 11:30 a.m.	3/16
College Knowledge 101—Open to Juniors @ Richland Library 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.	3/31
Spring Break	4/2 thru 4/6

Focus on Learning by Deidre Holmberg

In preparation for this *Focus on Learning* article regarding Motivation, I did a little action research. I asked students, in passing, what motivates them. I thought it was a simple question and I got a lot of simple answers. Most students answered that material things like money, cars, and clothes were highly motivating to them. Obviously. A few of them said “hormones”. Horrifying.

I know that it's more than money, cars, clothes, and hormones. When I think about motivation, I can't help but think of my students in Saudi Arabia. When I was a teacher there, all but a handful of my students were very highly motivated. They came from far-flung places like Texas, the Palestinian territories, Indonesia, Iraq, Korea, and Hawaii. There were sons of billionaires and fourth generation refugees in the same first hour block of biology. 9/11 had happened. We collectively understood that Arab/Muslim kids would be both sought after and scorned in the coming years. So, they worked.

Junaid, one of my brilliant Pakistani AP Biology students, worked hard to get a full scholarship to the University of Virginia. He knew that just being “super-smart Junaid” was not enough. He needed to make cut after cut after cut. He earned his MD at UVA recently and just started his residency at Johns Hopkins University in Mar-

SAT Update

Delta is now a registered test site for the May 5th SAT! Registration is currently open with a deadline of April 6th. I recommend registering as soon as possible, as seats are limited and open to all area students. The cost is \$49 (optional

ylend, at the tip-top of his class. He's still motivated because he didn't want to return to Pakistan. He is the best because he knows how fortunate he is to be in America. He loves learning, thankfully, because he had to be better at learning than every single American student vying for the same fully-funded places at UVA first and now at JHU.

I wish that Junaid was the exception, but he wasn't. Junaid wasn't one in a million, he was one of most. He knew that working hard would ultimately lead to well-paying jobs and to opportunities. He didn't mind the idea of spending ten or more years toiling away at a goal and working hard to stay on top. Junaid was and is highly motivated because he understood the opportunities available to him *if* he worked harder than anybody else. He shirked the peer pressure to slack off and distractions that sidelined some of his peers. His parents did not spoil him with material things, they modeled a strict work ethic, and they gave him positive feedback for his accomplishments.

I had the opportunity to have a focus group of about 50 people who have been very successful in their careers *and* have raised teenagers. I asked them, what motivated you to be successful when you were teenagers? Their answers: Parental expectations

were high and didn't budge. Parents didn't spoil us with material possessions. Our peers valued our achievements. Bad friends were banned. Parents were the boss. School discipline was reinforced at home. Parents weren't afraid to discipline us. We valued our parents' opinion and didn't want to disappoint them. Fun was focused on the family, not on friends. We earned what we had, so we valued it more. Our parents knew our friends and their parents. We earned freedom by being trustworthy, over and over again.

Now, granted, this was before texting, video games, the internet, fast food, the Kardashians, and parental advisory labels. Those were simpler times. I would call these motivational strategies outdated if I couldn't find evidence of them working today. Fortunately for many of the students at Delta, their parents use these identical strategies and they still work. Motivating teenagers is a complex undertaking. It takes years of prep work and foundation building. If you haven't built the foundation already, start today. They may hate you for it now, but they'll thank you later...I promise.

Subject Tests are \$22 for the first and \$11 per additional test). Registration and payment can be made online with a credit card or by check/money order for mail-in. Refunds are not available. However, test date/location

can be changed by April 18th for a fee of \$25. Feel free to email me at Lisa.Muir@thedeltahighschool.com with any questions.



Welcome Karen Adams!



Annabeth Guzman (above) and Dylan Wright-Mockler (below) at the Southeast Washington Poetry Out Loud contest.



SAT fee waivers are available for students who are eligible. Typically, students are eligible if they are enrolled in a free or reduced-priced lunch program, the student's family receives public assistance, the student's family lives in federally subsidized public housing, or the student resides in a foster home. Our counselor, Lisa Muir, can provide more information. (509) 544-8371 or Lisa.Muir@thedeltahighschool.com

Meet Karen Adams, English & Social Studies Teacher

I'm Delta's new teacher for 9th grade English and Social Studies.

I started my working career as a newspaper reporter for a small-town weekly in Mississippi at the tail-end of the civil rights movement. They were challenging times. After I married a Washingtonian, I became a reporter and editor for the Daily News in Longview. I also began volunteering to teach English as a Second Language to Southeast Asian teenagers who had escaped Vietnam and the killing fields of

Cambodia. That's when I began to imagine a career in teaching.

When we moved to the Tri-Cities in the mid-90s, I became a technical writer for PNNL, working mostly for the International Nuclear Safety Program. I interviewed scientists and engineers who were working to prevent more disasters at Soviet nuclear power plants, and then I explained their work for policy-makers in the United States and Russia.

When my husband's work took us to Southern California in the late nineties, I decided to get a teaching certificate and indulge my lifelong passion for American history. I taught for seven happy years in a 2,800-student high school in Burbank.

In the midst of all these changes, we raised two sons.

Now we're back in the Tri-Cities and here I am at Delta. Thanks for having me.

An Epic Shout Out for Poetry Out Loud

Annabeth Guzman and Dylan Wright-Mockler represented Delta High School at the Southeast Washington Poetry Out Loud contest at Columbia Basin College on February 15. Their performances captivated and inspired the audience.

"I had goose-bumps," said Mrs. Estes. Dylan's performance of "I

am the People, the Mob" by Carl Sandburg and "Cartoon Physics, Part 1" by Nick Flynn earned him a third place showing.

Annabeth, who performed "Idea LXI" by Michael Drayton and "It Couldn't Be Done" by Edgar Albert Guest, earned a second place showing and will serve as

our region's alternate for the state competition.

Both students are a testament that if you "just buckle in with a bit of a grin, just take off your coat and go to it; just start in to sing as you tackle the thing that 'cannot be done,' and *you'll do it.*"

Delta's Juniors Rock Mock Interviews

In this competitive world, first impressions count. In our current market it's vital to stand-out from the crowd when interviewing for a job or with a college. Mastering the art of the first impression is a skill that all students need to learn.

On January 25th, Delta High School Juniors participated in a mock interview forum. The interviews were structured similar to a job fair, with students interviewed by multiple professionals that morning.

The mock interviews were held at the CBC Health Science Building. Each DHS Junior had the opportunity to be interviewed by at least 2 or more business leaders and have their resume and cover letters reviewed by a Human Resource Professional.

Nalley Centeno, a Delta High School Junior said, "The Mock Interviews were amazing. It felt like a real-world life experience. The people treated it as a real interview and they were very helpful. They gave us advice on where we should improve and how to fix our resume and cover letter."

Dr. Jim Busey, Superintendent of the Richland School District said,

"The Delta High School students were extremely well prepared for their mock interviews. In addition, they displayed the personal and people skills necessary to formally compete for career positions in the community, region, state, and throughout the world."

Steve Anderson, President of Meier Architecture and Engineering stated, "I talked to several students and one happened to have the skills and passion our company was looking for. My involvement quickly went from a mock interview to a real interview. I think the student should get an "A", because he got the job. What a great experience and now we have another valuable asset on our team. Thank you very much for connecting our business with student learning."

The community partners and students all enjoyed the process; in fact, several students were offered summer jobs or opportunities for internships in the next year.

Prior to the interviews, students had the opportunity to work with community partners who coached them on appropriate dress, their personal "60 second commercial," how to answer a variety of interview questions, as well as how to

make not only a positive impression, but a lasting one, through body language, confidence, and appropriate business speech. They also learned how to navigate and prepare for a career or college fair. "The students were eager and enthusiastic to receive the information and enjoyed learning how to make themselves marketable and competitive in a 21st century economy," stated Sarah Pack, Delta High School English/Language Arts Teacher and Junior Advisor.

Thank you to the following for helping with this project: Worksource, Three Rivers Convention Center, Richland School District, Vivid Learning, Imageworks, Fluor, Copiers Northwest, Kadlec, DuraShine Clean, Esprit, Meier Architecture and Engineering, ATI Metals, Columbia Valley Luxury Cars, Fred Meyer, City of Richland, Henager, Black and Ciabattoni, STEM Foundation, HAPO, Tri-City Chamber of Commerce, Totally Energy Management, FE and C, Dade Moeller, Griggs Enterprises, Pacific Crest Planning, Gesa, PNNL, WSU Tri-Cities, Pasco School District and community members.

Science and Engineering Fair

Delta student scientists began their projects at the start of the school year with a brainstorm of possible research projects, led by a presentation from Ann Wright-Mockler. Larry Chick, a scientist at PNNL, shared a wooden beam breaking experience with the freshmen to enhance their understanding of the research process. Our science staff guided students through the background research phase followed by creating and testing hypotheses. Board construction was a time to put together all the pieces, including data analysis and conclusions.

We had a wonderful variety of student projects including; engineering, physics, chemistry, biology, psychology, and mathematical analysis. Topics were varied, as well, and ranged from designing a more efficient wind mill to a more efficient way to create glass structures for materials testing; deepening understanding of autism and of memory; wind-proofing roofs and fireproofing trees; analyzing tweet data and football injuries; and testing engineered systems from crayons and batteries to tennis racquets and hockey sticks and more.

On the evening of February 2nd, our students and the community came together. Our budding

scientists shared their work with a variety of experts who volunteered their time to give students a forum for presentation and provide feedback. General consensus was that the boards were of high quality and the speaking skills revealed even deeper engagement and understanding.

Those who are representing Delta at the regional fair will be at Columbia Center Mall for judging on Thursday, March 8th. The boards will be on display throughout the mall through Saturday, March 10th.

Larry Chick has spent additional time with these regional representatives on data analysis techniques and these dedicated students are using the feedback they received from our wonderful volunteer judges and mentors to revise their boards and presentations.

Many thanks are due to the vast number of community volunteers who have made the science and engineering fair a successful endeavor for Delta's students. Thank you also to local businesses, Pizza Pipeline, Dairy Queen, and Bomber's Drive-Through for donations.

Delta High School Science & Engineering Fair was a big suc-

cess! Here is a list of the students who were judged at the fair on February 2.

9th Grade

- Alvaro Ursua
- Katelyn Doyle
- Daisy Quiroga
- Derek Benham
- Nathan Bartol
- Brendan Velasquez
- Briana Carmona
- Summer Sturges
- Logan Garrett
- Alexander Schuhmacher
- Addisyn Gibson
- Andrew Tycksen
- Brooke Hull
- Justin Miles
- Oleg Tyshchuk
- Adriana Mendez
- Jessy Moss
- Sarah Adkins
- Laura Ness
- Sierra Maple
- Tramanh Le
- Lisabeth Jimenez
- Shawn Peyton
- Abram Valdorinos
- Jackie DeGroot
- Monica Garcia

10th grade

- Annabeth Guzman
- Mark Ayers
- Lisa Bratton
- Samantha Henze
- Loni Shugars
- Ashlynn Etherton

- Jordan Kelly
- Jesus Ortega
- Dylan Wright-Mockler
- Avika Sharma

Of those students who competed at Delta, the following students are eligible to enter the Mid-Columbia Science & Engineering Fair on March 8:

9th grade

- Alvaro Ursua
- Katelyn Doyle
- Daisy Quiroga
- Derek Benham
- Nathan Bartol
- Brendan Velasquez
- Briana Carmona
- Summer Sturges
- Logan Garrett
- Addisyn Gibson
- Sarah Adkins
- Laura Ness

10th grade

- Annabeth Guzman
- Mark Ayers
- Lisa Bratton
- Samantha Henze
- Loni Shugars
- Ashlynn Etherton
- Jordan Kelly

Congratulations Delta Students!

Delta High Math Team Places 24th in Competition by Eric Bell, Math Club Co-advisor

Competing with about 4,500 students from 95 schools around the world, [Delta High School's](#) five-student math team placed 24th in the Inter-School Round of the Rocket City Math League's annual online math contest for middle and high school students.

Team members Paul Horner, a freshman, juniors Jeevan Philip, Zachary Smith, and Tyler Williams, and Dylan Wright-Mockler, a sophomore, all contributed to the team score of 17,000. Each is also completing in three individual rounds of the on-line test which will conclude in March.

All five students are members of the Delta High School Math Club newly organized last year. Meeting weekly to study their subject, they practice taking tests admin-

istered in previous contests and periodically consider new areas and concepts in mathematics. They also investigate the roles mathematics plays in various career fields and have heard PNNL staff members present information about the importance of math in their own chosen fields.

While none of the students currently plans to major in mathematics, they joined the math club because they recognize the importance of a strong mathematics background in any scientific field they choose. The students plan to compete in more math contests this year.

Eric Bell, National Security Directorate at PNNL, is a co-advisor of the Math Club. Eric says Delta students are benefit-

ting from the club in two ways. First, they have an opportunity to compare their knowledge of mathematics to students in different school environments all over the world. "I think that's exciting for them," he explains. "They left their home schools to be part of Delta and they want to know how they're doing."

Second, Eric says they are fulfilling one of the purposes for creating Delta High School—to help students apply what they learn to the real world. He says, "Students are not only broadening their understanding of how mathematics applies to real life but also seeing a much wider spectrum of application areas, including less traditional ones."



Delta's Math Team pictured from left to right: Paul Horner, Zachary Smith, Jeevan Philip, Tyler Williams, and Dylan Wright-Mockler

SAT Test Dates

Register on
www.collegeboard.org

March 10—register by 2/24

May 5 - register by 4/6

June 2 - register by 5/8

ACT Test Dates

Register on
www.actstudent.org

April 14—register by 3/9

June 9—register by 5/4

Thank you, Mrs. Ayers, for donating a refrigerator for ASB to use in the School Store! Students appreciate being able to buy cold drinks now!

In addition to our exploration of exponential functions, 9th graders will begin preparing for the End of Course Exam for math. What does this mean for you? It means that your student will have math homework every day that they have math class. It means that you should see them working on math for at least 30 minutes each night. If your student says, "I already did it," it means that you have a great starting point for a mathematical conversation. I'll be sending a letter home to parents with more details on how to have a mathematical conversation as we get closer to T3.

Thanks,
Linda Estes

Parent Kudos to Delta

The following is a letter sent to Delta Principal, Deidre Holmberg from a Delta parent. It has been changed to be gender-neutral to protect the student from parental embarrassment (we all know how that goes!):

Dear Deidre, Delta teachers and staff,

I am so honored and grateful that our child is a part of your awesome school.

It's been clear from the very first class on day one that each teacher at Delta is committed to best practices and teaching to state standards. It's also been unfolding over the course of the year, though, that your level of commitment goes much deeper than that. My husband and I can see our child analyzing all sides of a situation. We have observed his/

her growth in communicating with his/her peers, as well as authority figures, and we've seen his/her competence and confidence in math, algebra and geometry bloom. We are witnesses to the fact that he's/she's starting to learn to work effectively in groups with people who he/she would not naturally gravitate to, and just amazed at the engaging way he's/she's been introduced to literature. We are pleased that he's/she's learning to look at difficult issues critically but respectfully with people who have a variety of views. He's/she's learned how to handle a zero without imploding, and not afraid to talk about difficult issues with a teacher.

At the beginning, I wondered whether the necessary emphasis on state standards and high test scores would play out at Delta in

a pressure cooker of tough assignments and high expectations delivered with a dose of inadequacy and guilt. What I've seen instead, is a staff who cares about educating my "whole student" so that he/she is becoming a person who thinks well, and carries himself/herself with confidence. With that foundation I can't see any reason that he/she won't test well also.

My husband and I appreciate the hard work that you do on behalf of our child, all of your students at Delta, and ultimately the work you are doing to improve the way we educate our kids. We are fortunate to be a part of Delta High School.

Thanks so much!

Spring Means Testing

Starting in March Delta students will be talking their High School Proficiency Exams in Reading and Writing, and then later in May the End of Course Exams in Science and Math.

The Reading and Writing HSPE's are March 13, 14, & 15. The Science EOC is May 30th, and the Math EOC's are June 5, 6, & 7.

The best preparation for the Reading and Writing exams is doing practice exams and prompts. These are available on the OSPI Web site at <http://www.k12.wa.us>. Just go to the "Assessments" tab and then select "Reading" or "Writing". There are lots of resources available, including scoring guides and sample scored papers. Students are also practicing "On Demand" writing, proofreading, editing and vocabulary in class to also prepare for these tests.

The End of Course exams are much more specific in terms of course content, and so their science and math teachers are

working very hard to prepare and review the materials the students will need this spring.

The web site mentioned above also has resources for science and math. Again, just look under the "Assessments" tab for math and science test resources. There are also web sites for practice tests from other states such as California <http://www.cde.ca.gov> and the Regents Test of New York <http://www.nysedregents.org>

Preparation is important, but equally essential is a student's decision to do the best he or she can. The tests provide plenty of time for students to complete them.

On the writing test, taking time to do pre-writing, drafting, and editing will always pay off. On the reading test, students need to slow down, read the passages and questions carefully, and answer the questions exactly as they are written. The reading test is especially difficult because of this, since a student may give an an-

swer that is generally correct, but it was not precisely what the question asked for. The same is true for the science and math EOC's. If students will be careful and thorough, they will do better.

As ever, a good night's rest and a nutritious breakfast will help the student face a rigorous day of testing.

Also, one last reminder: There are no "make-ups" for these tests. If a student misses any of the test dates, they will have to retake the test during the next testing window. Reading and Writing HSPE's will be given again in August, and the Math EOC's are usually given again in January of the following year.

National History Day History Day Tips & News

National History Day is a core part of the Delta social studies curriculum. Students gain valuable skills, as well as deep content knowledge, through completion of their project.

We have aligned the program from 9th to 11th grade to help your student gain skills that will benefit them not just in social studies, but in college. Please see the table below to see how you can expect your student's NHD experience to transition each year.

If your child had difficulty completing their project this year, please consider using the available resources to assist them next

year. A weekly timeline was provided to students, as well as mailed home. Checking in with your student to make sure they are meeting deadlines can make the difference! In addition, teachers frequently mark "checkpoint" grades in Powerschool throughout so that you can monitor your student's progress towards completion. Finally, students were provided with a rubric which detailed how their final project would be scored. This can be used as a discussion tool with your child prior to the final deadline to help alert students to areas that may need more work.

Students who completed all parts of a final project, including a process paper and annotated bibliography, were invited to participate at the regional level of competition; Eastern Washington University welcomed 120 Delta students on Saturday, February 25th. Students receiving top honors are eligible to compete at the state level of competition on Saturday, May 5th. A list of winning students will be listed in an upcoming newsletter!

For more information, please contact Jenny Rodriquez by e-mail at: jenny.rodriquez@thedeltahighschool.com.



Who are these people? You would know if you were at the dance.



Hayley Johnson, Cecily Bader, Guest, and Ilse Martinez.

Grade Level	Topic Choice	Group Choice	Project Choice
9 th	Any topic related to the annual theme	Individual, Partner, or Group of 3	Exhibit, Documentary, Website, Performance, or Paper
10 th	A world history topic related to the annual theme	Individual or Partner	Exhibit, Documentary, Website, Performance, or Paper
11 th	A U.S. history topic related to the annual theme	Individual	Paper with footnotes and appendix materials

Deltonians Go Formal for Monster Ball

The end of January found Delta students enjoying the red carpet treatment of Delta's Monster Ball, a formal masquerade dance held at Hanford High School. Students came with various masks in celebration of the theme.

A good time was had by all enjoying the music, dancing, food and socializing at the

white lights and balloon decorated event.

Parent chaperones and teachers alike commented on how nice it is to chaperone Delta dances. They definitely do things differently at Delta as evidenced by the great behavior of our students while having a wonderful time—conga line and all!



Dancing the night away at the Monster Ball.

Choices to Meet Requirements for Physical Education Credits

School District	Take the Class (credit & grade given for class)	Substitution—log but no class taken (pass/fail—no letter grade but credit given)	PE Waiver No class taken, no grade or credit given.	Competency Test
Kennewick	Take zero hour class / summer sessions at home school.	Log 225 hours of activity (75 hrs/semester) Logs are available from Lisa Muir.	Must attend all four years at Delta. PE waived in Year 4. *	KSD students can take a knowledge & skills test available at KSD.
Pasco	Take zero hour class / summer sessions at home school.	Log 225 hours of activity (75 hrs/semester) Logs are available from Lisa Muir.	Must attend all four years at Delta. PE waived in Year 4. *	Not available.
Richland	Take zero hour class / summer sessions at home school.	Log 225 hours of activity (75 hrs/semester) Logs are available from Lisa Muir.	Must attend all four years at Delta. PE waived in Year 4. *	Not available.

Visit the WSU Pullman campus for "Preview for Juniors Day" on April 28, 2012. Register at: <http://admission.wsu.edu/visits/juniors/>
Now is the time to check out colleges!

Take the Class—may help or hurt GPA. Substitution—doesn't help or hurt GPA. PE Waiver—no impact on GPA. * Students must have enough other credits to meet minimum graduation requirements to receive a PE Waiver.

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Think differently.



Inclement Weather—School Closures and Delays

We're on the Web!
www.thedeltahighschool.com

The superintendents will distribute ALL closure, cancellation, or late opening announcements to media outlets on TV, internet, and radio where all school closures are normally listed. The district superintendents make these decisions as a group.

For online, updated Pasco information: www.psd1.org For online, updated Richland information: www.rsd.edu

For online, updated Kennewick information: www.ksd.org



Delta High School

Event	Response	Notes
RSD Closed	Delta Closed	
RSD Only Delayed	Delta Open and On Time	RSD students expected to arrive late & are excused
PSD Only Closed	Delta Open and On Time	PSD students excused
PSD Only Delayed	Delta Open and On Time	PSD students expected to arrive late & are excused
KSD Only Closed	Delta Open and On Time	KSD students are excused
KSD Only Delayed	Delta Open and On Time	KSD students expected to arrive late & are excused
All Districts Delayed	Delta Delayed	All students expected to arrive late & are excused. Follow delay procedures in each district.