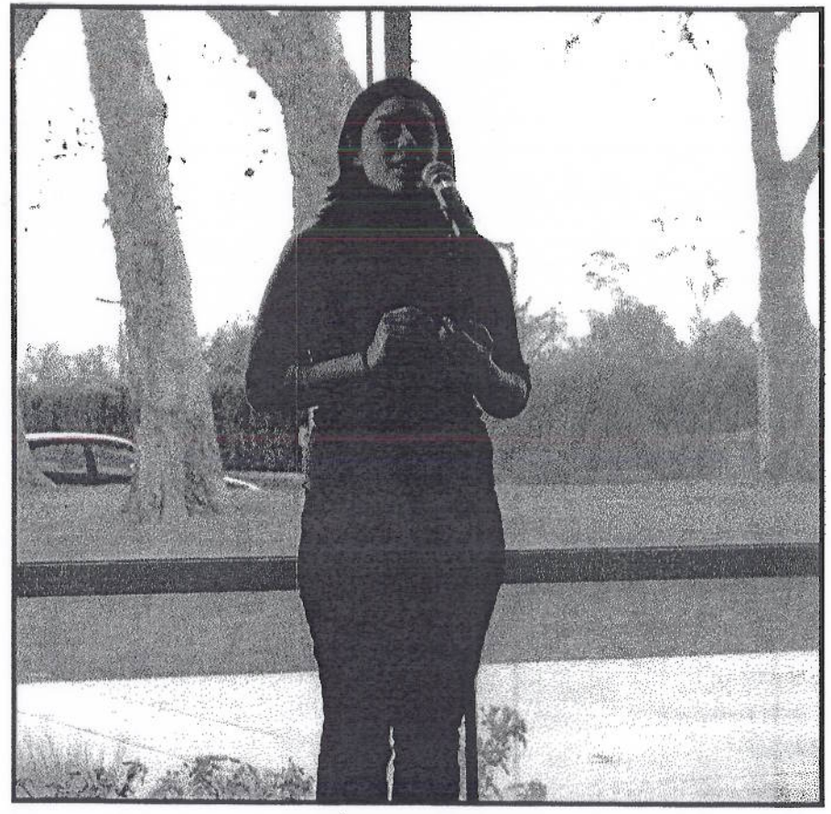
Delta High School News

Our Mission: Delta is a small, highly personalized high school that attracts a broad spectrum of students who are immersed in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning experiences. We integrate the humanities and STEM fields to prepare students to succeed in post-secondary education, careers, and citizenship. Learning parallels how scientists, engineers, and mathematicians conduct inquiries, solve problems, and expand knowledge, with learning partnerships that connect academic learning to the world beyond the classroom.



Delta High School

Are you ready for Poetry Out Loud? Pg. 4

Brought to you by students, parents, and staff of Delta High School, a partnership program of the Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland School Districts.

Principal's Corner

by Jenny Rodriquez

During the month of November, I make a special effort to focus on thankfulness. It just seems the time of year to remember the "good things." Even that extra hour of sleep from daylight savings time seems like a gift!

At Delta, we have no shortage of things to be thankful for. As we wrap up our first trimester, our new Deltonians (aka freshmen) are starting to demonstrate Delta Habits of Mind. I see kids helping each other with math at lunch tables (collaborative), and students asking each other questions to guide thinking (curiosity). I see kids of all ages using technology responsibly (mostly!), and Key Club members complimenting their peers for keeping our campus clean (problem solvers). I see students inviting others to join extracurricular activities (socially aware). Delta Habits of Mind seem to be everywhere!

Freshmen have survived their first integrated project (a Delta rite of passage). Sophomores are becoming role models and getting involved in more clubs. Juniors are getting focused on future careers. And Seniors, well, you can almost see them in their caps and gowns ...

Recently I was able to spend some time with our senior class brainstorming traditions which will become part of Delta graduation ceremonies for years to come. I am thankful for all of their thoughtful participation, and ability to know that their decisions don't just impact themselves, but future Delta students and families. I remember when they were freshmen, and I'm thankful I got to see them learn, stretch, and grow into the amazing young adults they are today.

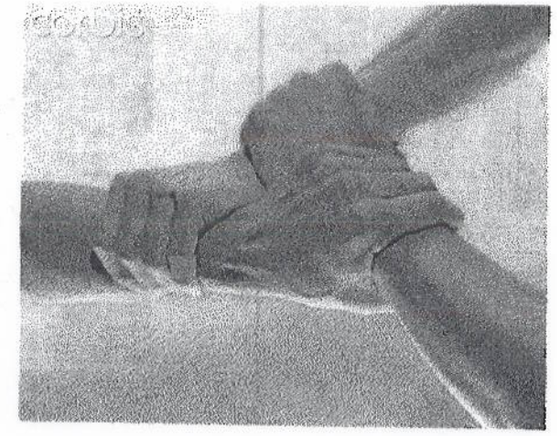
Sometimes there are a lot of challenges. We have the largest freshmen class ever. We have four teachers without their own rooms on our main campus. We have new Common Core State Standards to infuse into our teaching. For our students, some have lost family members, their homes, or financial stability these past few months. It makes focusing on learning tough. But despite the hardships, Deltonians persevere. Together we weather the storms, and push on towards our goals.

This November, I am thankful to be a part of our Delta family. Thank you for being a part of it, too!

Student-Led Conferences:

by Sarah Pack

Supporting Student Voice in the Learning Process



What are they?

Unlike parent-teacher conferences where the teacher reports on your student's progress, student-led conferences are facilitated by your student. Your student puts a lot of effort into preparing a 15-20 presentation for you about their academic progress and what they have learned in their academic classes.

What are the benefits?

- Students take more ownership of their learning.
- Parents and students have more open communication about school and important academic decisions.
- Teachers can establish stronger relationships with parents and students.

When are they?

Student-led conferences are held at the end of Trimester 1 and Trimester 2 every year. This year fall conferences will be held on November 25 and 26 by appointment. There will not be student-led conferences on November 27 this year, but there will be a half day of school.

You will need to arrive to the Delta High School campus at your scheduled time; attendance at the scheduled student led conference is mandatory; students will not receive credit for Advisory if s/he does not complete their conference.

How can you prepare?

Leading up to the conference, you can encourage your child's involvement (Continued on page 4)

Poetry Personified:

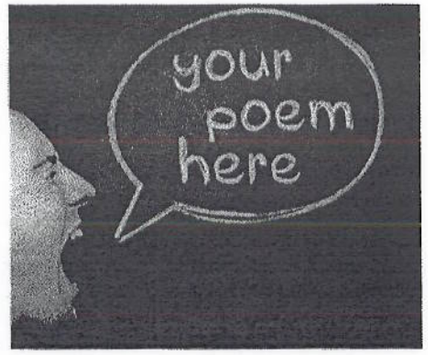
by Sarah Pack

Poetry Out Loud Returns to Delta

Tis the season to begin the fourth annual Poetry Out Loud competition at Delta High School. In English and Drama classes during Trimester 2, all Delta students will select, analyze, memorize, and perform a poem from the Poetry Out Loud anthology. The estimated dates for the classroom competitions are the week of January 6-10, 2014. Students who win their classroom competition will advance to the school competition. Please join us in supporting all of our classroom winners at the school competition on January 25 at the Richland Public Library's beautiful Doris Roberts Gallery. The competition will begin at 1:00 p.m.

This year, students who do not win their classroom competition, but would still like to have a chance to compete at the school competition can participate in the Wild-Card Competition. The Wild-Card competition will be held during first lunch in Mrs. Hoffner's room on Tuesday, January 14.

Students will perform one poem for the "lunch crowd," and two winners will be selected by our surprise judges.



For Parents:

Please encourage your student to select a poem(s) that they can relate to in some way (this always makes a poem easier to understand and easier to memorize). Browse the poems in the Poetry Out Loud anthology at www.poetryoutloud.org. This website also has lots of great resources to help your student analyze and prepare a performance.

Once your student selects their poem, s/he should be practicing their poem every day during winter break. Your student will be bringing home a "Tips and Tricks for Memorizing Your Poem" handout. Use this handout when the holiday break starts to begin a discussion with your student about which memorization method(s) s/he

(Continued on page 4)

Poetry Out Loud (continued from page 3)

will be using. Your student's teacher may also be sending a calendar for you to sign to confirm that your student is practicing.

For Students:

Beginning in December, the fabulous Fine Arts Club will be incorporating Poetry Out Loud into their weekly activities. Students can meet after school every Monday at 3:00 in Mrs. Pack's room to practice their performance with students who have experience with performing and public speaking.

For more information, contact Dylan Wright-Mockler or swing by Mrs. Pack's room on a Monday afternoon.

Student Senate

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held December 4th at Delta High School. Students must be 16 to give blood and have a signed parent consent form. Forms are available for download on Deltanomics II. Come do something awesome by making a difference and saving lives!

Student–Led Conferences (continued from page 2)

in the learning process by having them summarize what happened at school each day. This open-ended question will not only help your student review what they learned that day, it will provide you with a more realistic view of what your student is doing than asking, "Do you have homework?" From these conversations, generate a list of questions you want answered at the conference and have your student bring the questions to Advisory on November 20. These questions can help your student customize their conference to your needs.

During the conference, offer your student encouragement by helping her/him identify strengths and determine the next steps for their learning. When there are areas your student needs to improve upon, help him/her generate goals and brainstorm ways s/he can monitor their progress throughout the next trimester.

ATTENTION: NEW Student-Led Conference Schedule for 2013-2014!

If you looked closely at the Delta calendar that came home in the last newsletter, you noticed that Student Led Conferences for Trimester 1 are scheduled for November 25th and 26th. In order to comply with regulations regarding educational days, we have modified how we schedule conferences.

For 9th and 10th grade students only, there will be a half day of school on Monday, 11/25, with early release at 11:30 a.m., followed by NO SCHOOL on Tuesday, 11/26. Conferences will be scheduled Monday afternoon and Tuesday afternoon and evening.

For 11th and 12th grade students only, there will be NO SCHOOL on Monday, 11/25, followed by a half day of school on Tuesday, 11/26, with early release at 11:30 a.m. Conferences will be scheduled Monday afternoon and evening and Tuesday afternoon.

ALL STUDENTS HAVE CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, 11/26, from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. There will be NO SCHOOL Thursday, 11/27, and Friday, 11/28, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Please remember that attendance at Student-Led Conferences is mandatory. Students must attend with a parent or other significant adult to share their academic progress in order to pass advisory class, a graduation requirement.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Mon.
11/25</th><th>Tues.
11/26</th><th>Wed.
11/27</th><th>Thurs.
11/28</th><th>Fri.
11/29</th></tr>
<tr><td>9th - 10th Grades</td><td>Early Release; Classes 8:30-11:30</td><td>NO SCHOOL</td><td rowspan="2">Early Release; Classes 8:30-11:30</td><td rowspan="2">NO SCHOOL</td><td rowspan="2">NO SCHOOL</td></tr>
<tr><td>11th - 12th Grades</td><td>NO SCHOOL</td><td>Early Release; Classes 8:30-11:30</td></tr>
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Freshman earning college credit

by Jim Hendricks

Freshmen students in Engineering Technology may earn college credits!

Through an articulation agreement with Columbia Basin College, students in the Engineering Technology class at Delta High School may earn college credit, if the student completes the registration process and maintains an 85% or higher for all three trimesters.

This opportunity is part of the Tech Prep Direct Credit program. The Tech Prep Direct Credit program provides opportunities for students to earn college credit for the successful completion of specific high school courses.

Which students are eligible to receive college credit?

Students are eligible for college credit in articulated courses when they maintain a grade of 85% (B) or better for each trimester of the specific course(s) and meet the course competency requirements.

How much does the credit cost through Direct Credit?

There is currently no fee for college credit received through the Tech Prep Direct Credit program articulated through Columbia Basin College.

How do students register?

Students register, with the assistance of the high school program teacher (Mr. Hendricks), during the specified enrollment period. Upon completion of the course, the teacher will identify the students who have achieved the minimum grade requirement and should receive articulated credit and sends that information to the college's Tech Prep Director.

Is this credit transferable?

The receiving institution determines the transferability of credit. Students must contact the institution of their choice for specific information. Most institutions allow for the transfer of elective credits; however, Tech Prep Direct Credit may not meet elective course criteria for all post-secondary institutions.

For more information about Engineering Technology competencies to earn CBC credit, contact Jim Hendricks at Jim.Hendricks@TheDeltaHighSchool.com.

NEW! Delta STEM EXPO

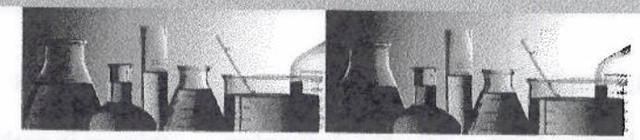
by Ann Autrey & MaryBeth Tilson

This year we are having a STEM Expo! This will occur on Wednesday, February 19, 2014, and is part of our annual Student Showcase event. Below is a table with all the categories in which students can compete as part of the Expo.

9th Grade Physical Science Topics	**10th Grade Life Science Topics**	**Eligible for Mid-Columbia Fair**
Rube Goldberg		No
Science Fiction		No
Reverse Engineering		No
Invention	Environmental Innovation/ Invention	Yes
Robotics	Robotics	Yes
Science Inquiry/ Experiment	Science Inquiry/ Experiment	Yes
*eCybermission Contest		No

If your child wants to go above and beyond (earn a grade of 4), they will need to go to two competitions. The first competition is the Delta STEM Expo; the second is the Mid-Columbia Science & Engineering Fair on March 6th.

**9th grade students may use the eCybermission for their second competition to earn a 4.*



Freshmen are required to focus their topics on physical science topics; sophomores are required to focus their topics on life sciences.

For more ideas and information visit http://www.stemexpo.org/ or http://ecybermission.com/

Below are *tentative* due-dates for both 9th and 10th grade students.

Assignment	Due Date
Topic Selection	Dec. 2
Background Research Cornell Notes (5 sources)	Dec. 9
*Project Plan	Dec. 16
Paperwork for Competition	**Dec. 16**
Data Table/Graph OR Prototype built	Jan. 8
Conclusion and Abstract	Jan. 22
Final Report	Feb. 5
Display board with journal and report	Feb. 14
Delta STEM Expo Event	Feb. 19
Mid-Columbia Science & Engineering Fair	Mar. 6

Delta High School will be providing eligible students with a display board.

If you have questions about the project, please contact:
Ann Autrey, ann.autrey@thedeltahighschool.com
MaryBeth Tilson, marybeth.tilson@thedeltahighschool.com

Thank you for your support!

Tales from an Internship

by Loni Shugars

For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to be a doctor. So when I started hearing about internships during my Career Choices class, I could not imagine finding a medical internship that was not going to be more than filing patient papers. I got my internship at the Tri-Cities Cancer Center, and I was excited as well as nervous to be in a medical institution, without being a patient. I had no idea what I was going to be doing on a day to day basis, but what I have ended up doing is nothing except amazing!

I would have to say the most memorable experience in my month and a half at the Tri-Cities Cancer Center was in the first week October. I had just switched into the dosimetry area of the clinic. The medical physicist was going to perform a quality assurance test on a radiation machine for a patient's treatment plan and he invited me to go and help him. I thought I was just going to be watching him as he completed the test, but as I walked into the radiation treatment room he handed me the controls to the radiation machine and instructed me on exactly what I needed to do to set up the parameters of the patient's treatment plan. Then we went outside of the room and he instructed me how to deliver the radiation treatment to the sensor as though I were delivering treatment to an actual patient. Operating such a large piece of machinery is nothing that I had ever imagined, especially as a high schooler, and the entire time that I was completing this quality assurance test I had an enormous grin on my face. There was no better feeling.

My internship has been amazing, and to be perfectly honest, it reaffirmed my belief that I need to be in the medical field within the first week. I love going into the Cancer Center and learning how a medical institution operates and how doctors determine the best method of care for their patients. I wouldn't trade my internship for the world.

Delta STEM Expo – February 19th, 2014

See the article on pg. 7-8 for more information!

Competition/Exhibit Categories for 9th & 10th grade students:

Rube Goldberg

The **Rube Goldberg** Category is intended to provide a means of discovery of physics and engineering concepts and methods. The category description covers the device construction, the use of simple machines, and the written sequence requirements

Invention

The **Invention** Category is intended to provide a general area for an innovative solution to a problem, or a new single item invention. The category description covers the illustrative design detail, the understanding of the invention's use and benefits, and design prototype construction. *(Projects submitted in this category can compete in the Mid-Columbia Science & Engineering Fair.)*

Science Fiction

(9th grade only)

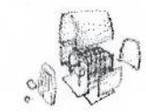
The **Science Fiction** category is intended to provide a means of sharing fictional science writing.
Good science fiction defines or declares alternative physical rules or thought processes for the environment, and then is consistent to those rules throughout the story. Additionally, good science fiction has a good story!

Environmental Innovation

(10th grade only)

The **Environmental Innovation** category is intended to provide a means of sharing environmentally innovative ideas. These ideas may be new products, procedures, inventions, promotional projects, etc. *(Projects submitted in this category can compete in the Mid-Columbia Science & Engineering Fair.)*

Engineering (Reverse)



The **Reverse Engineering** Category is intended to provide a means of discovery of engineering concepts and methods. The participant must take something apart and learn how it works, then explain it!

Engineering (Robotics)

The participant in the **Robotics** category must design a device (a robot) that accomplishes a specific purpose repeatedly and autonomously or via remote control. *(Projects submitted in this category can compete in the Mid-Columbia Science & Engineering Fair.)*

Scientific Inquiry

Scientific Inquiry is the basic experimentation category. The items pertaining to this category cover Scientific Methodology, Research, Hypothesis, Experiment Design, Data Collection and Analysis. *(Projects submitted in this category can compete in the Mid-Columbia Science & Engineering Fair.)*

Staff Spotlight: Kelly Hamby

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I love literature and the advantages literacy provides for people. I believe in showing my students the strengths of being literate and possessing the ability to use powerful language.

Before I became a teacher I made a very good living as a salesman because of my understanding of language and rhetoric. These tools will help my students to succeed in life regardless of their post high school choices.

What do you love about teaching at Delta?

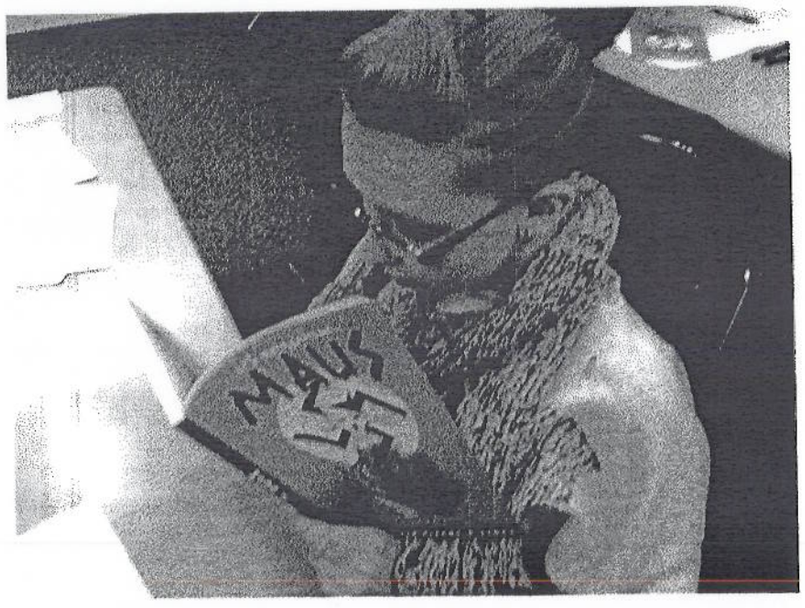
I love the rigor we are able to implement into our curriculum. We are able to truly challenge our students to be better. Challenges now will prepare them for the challenges they will inevitably face as adults.

What's your favorite school memory?

I have always been a big reader. I loved reading new literature and having people to discuss it with.

What do you enjoy doing in your time away from school?

I like to do wood working activities such as refinishing or building furniture. I am also a huge fan of tennis, but have not yet found someone to play with in the Tri-Cities area.



Volunteer Spotlight: Duane Balvage

Why did you decide to become a Delta volunteer?

I saw a need for help that happened to be in my area of expertise. The Technology department at Delta really just needed a little "assistance", and I thought I might be able to help with that.

What do you love about volunteering at Delta?

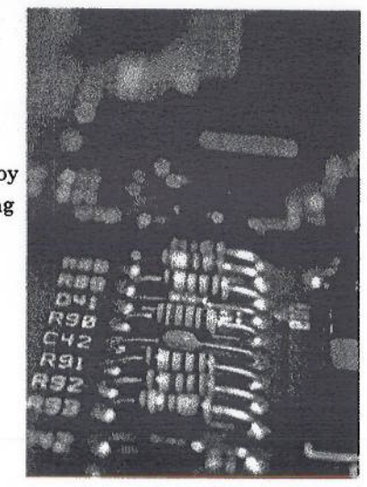
I love the fact that I am helping shape minds and helping students get excited and/or interested in careers in technology and electronics or robotics, or even software development! Maybe even mechanical engineering. We need more people that are *creators* of technology, not just *users*.

What's your favorite school memory?

My favorite? From volunteering? Probably the one I have of a student approaching me with a schematic and asking what the "big box" was (it was the microcontroller), and explaining to him what it did. He went on to win the SumoBot competition. Warms my heart!

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to build things, mostly electronics. I design music synthesizers keyboards. I enjoy writing music, listening to music, and DJing for schools.



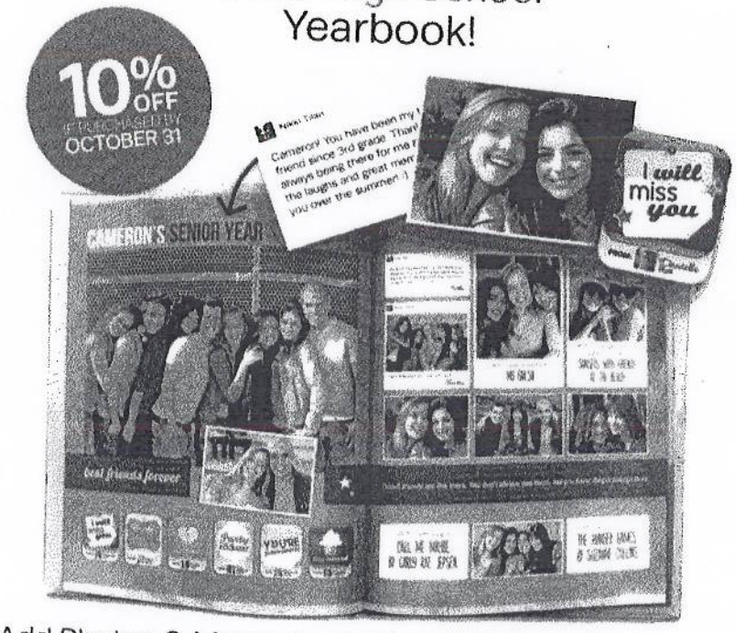
Important Upcoming Dates

No School — Veterans' Day	11/11
Veterans' Day Assemblies	**11/12**
Parents of Delta Students (PoDS) Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	**11/21**
End of Trimester 1	**11/22**
Conferences: 1/2 day 9th, 10. No school 11th, 12th	**11/25**
Conferences: No school 9th, 10. 1/2 day 11th, 12th	**11/26**
Early release all grades, 11:30 a.m.	**11/27**
No school Thanksgiving Break	11/28-11/29
Red Cross Blood Drive	12/4
Parents of Delta Students (PoDS) Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	**12/19**
No school winter break	**12/23-1/3**

Below: Students working on environmental clean-up at Hip Deep Creek as part of Mrs. Tilson's environmental science class.

Washington State Designated Innovative School 2011

Capture Your Memories in this Year's Delta High School Yearbook!



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