



## Students spread holiday cheer

### Fundraising & festivities exemplify the holiday spirit districtwide

Schools in the Davis School District are magical places during the holiday season. Virtually every studentbody, faculty and staff join together to help the less fortunate.

The following is an overview of just some of the efforts that took place across the district.

**Syracuse High** students wrote 82,316 letters to Santa this year. Macy's donated \$2 per letter written and will be giving a check to the Make-A-Wish Foundation for \$162,632 in their name.

Falcons Are Fabulous, the annual holiday service project and fundraiser at **Clearfield High**, raised \$78,107 to support Davis County Children's Justice Center.

Every year, **Sunset Junior High** hosts a Dollar Wars fundraiser to support Sub-for-Santa efforts in partnership with Davis Behavioral Health. This year, the Sun Devils raised \$15,984.

Contributing a grand total of \$13,172, students at **Centennial Junior High** exceeded their goal for the school's annual Sub-for-Santa fundraiser.

Fourth and 5th grade students at **Windridge Elementary** created and ran a school-wide fundraiser to purchase appliances for the soon-to-be-built teen resource center at Viewmont High. Working together, the Wolves raised \$4,558.

### Superintendent Message

### Remembering our "everything" and turning to others

As we approach winter break and the end of the calendar year, I want to take a moment to thank all the dedicated teachers, staff, and administrators who work tirelessly to provide a quality education to our students. Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated, and I am grateful to have such a talented and dedicated team

by my side. I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our students and their families for their commitment to learning and their support of our schools. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we are proud to be a part of your academic journey.

This time of year always causes me to reflect back on my time as a

**West Bountiful Elementary's** student council was also hard at work. Through the month of December, they raised \$4,500 to fund the school's Sub-for-Santa program, provide food vouchers for pantry pack families and support the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program.

The spirit of giving is alive at **Legacy Junior High**. So far, the Silver Wolves completed 48 service projects this school year, including writing letters to veterans, wrapping presents, heart attacking teachers, singing for office staff and making the office staff and administration

hot chocolate. They also raised \$3,000 for Primary Children's Hospital through Pennies by the Inch.

**Layton Elementary** hosted a Penny Wars competition between school houses to raise funds to eliminate \$900 in unpaid student lunch balances.

**West Point Junior High's** student body officers and cheerleaders spent a day serving Community Christmas at Ben Lomond High in Ogden. Their efforts went towards Christmas gifts for 2,000 families.

Friendly competition brought **Layton High** and **Northridge High** together as the two schools competed in a fundraising war for teen resource centers. In addition to a week of on-site activities, the two schools hosted a joint skate night and encouraged Lancers and Knights alike to arrive in ugly sweaters.

**Reading Elementary's** Student Council facilitated  
**See CHEER, Pg. 2**



Syracuse High students wrote 82,316 letters to Santa

## CHEER, From Pg. 1

a “Warming Tree.” They decorated their office tree with community donations of gloves, hats, and scarfs. The tree was so full it broke the stand. All the donations will be going to The Safe Harbor Crisis Center this year.

### Lake-

**side Elementary** hosted a Penny War to raise funds to support Angel Tree families! This friendly competition raised almost \$1500.

All aboard! The Polar Express pulled up to the station at **Boulton Elementary** for an activity with students.

The King of Rock and Roll visited students at **Bluff Ridge Elementary** to bring holiday cheer. A special



Boulton students board the Polar Express

assembly welcomed Elvis to the auditorium to sing songs and meet with students.

**Clinton Elementary** celebrated a big milestone - this year, the school turned 100! Faculty and staff held an open house highlighting the building, student artwork, historic photographs and other artifacts from the school community over the past century.

Indianapolis Colts player Julian Blackmon visited his alma mater, **Whitesides Elementary**, to talk to students, show off his juggling and singing skills and share stories of his time in the NFL. While at Whitesides, Blackmon encouraged students to work hard towards their goals and to complete their education.

**Bountiful, Woods Cross and Viewmont High** Schools teamed up for a combined choir and orchestra concert to raise funds for teen resource centers in the South end of the district. WXHS finished construction on their center this fall and construction will start soon for a center at VHS.

## SUPERINTENDENT, From Pg. 1

dents received handwritten Christmas lists from their assigned elementary students and had the opportunity to shop for the items on the list.

That experience was always festive and fun (when it comes to getting in the spirit of the season, a shopping center full of teenagers shopping for children is hard to beat). These teenagers then wrapped their gifts and placed them in a bag with their child's name on it. The next day, our students delivered the presents and played with their adopted elementary students for a few hours. It was inspiring to see my students sitting with these sweet elementary students, opening gifts, reading books, and singing carols together.

The bus ride heading to the elementary school was always loud, boisterous, and festive. All the way there, our students sang carols at the top of their lungs. They nearly exploded with anticipation, clutching



Linford

their bags of full of presents, knowing they were about to make Christmas dreams come true. Everything that our students anticipated became a reality as our bus pulled in and they were greeted by those impossibly adorable 5, 6, and 7 year-olds. As our students spent the day with those children, something began to change. Our students began to feel the weight of poverty that these sweet elementary children carried with them everyday. In contrast to the raucous journey to the elementary school, the bus ride home was always quiet and solemn.

I always looked forward to that quiet ride home; our students staring out windows, or at the floor, full of contemplation, but one trip home stands out to me above the others: I was sitting near the front of the bus, when a young woman came forward and tapped my shoulder. She explained that a girl in the back of the bus needed some help. I quickly made my way to the back of the bus and found a young woman shaking and crying. I knelt by her and asked if she was alright. Through heavy

sobs, she looked at me and held up her index finger, asking for a moment to collect herself. After a few moments, she wiped her tears with the cuff of her sleeve and spoke in a whisper. I will never forget her words, or the earnest look on her face. She said, “I have everything, and these children have nothing.”

Amid our season greetings and gifts, our expressions of gratitude and love, our songs and heralding of good times to come, let us search out those, not far from our own homes and festivities, for whom the season may feel less bright. Let us make it brighter. The recognition that they could and should look outside of themselves and serve others in need changed my students' lives. It changed my life. May this season spark in all of us a desire to give of ourselves more freely. May gratitude for our “everything” turn our hearts outward, so that all within our reach can greet the new year with far more than “nothing.”

On behalf of the entire school district, I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

- Supt. Dr. Dan Linford



# Employees, students, & schools honored for achievements

- **Sally Phelps**, an Essential Element teacher from Heritage Elementary received a Mental Health Awareness award for her work with students.

- **Tolman Elementary** was named a 2021-2023 National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) School of Excellence. They are one of only nine schools in the state of Utah to receive this recognition and one of 242 PTAs nationwide.

- In the month of November, six student teachers were awarded \$500 scholarships to go towards finishing their teaching degrees. The annual scholarships were created in honor of former teachers and are presented by the Department of Professional Learning and Quality Staffing.

*Winners:*

- Olivia Jones**, Buffalo Point Elementary
- Andrew Rembacz**, Mueller Park JH & Woods Cross Elementary
- Cassidy Nye**, Kay's Creek Elementary
- Laura Justensen**, Layton Elementary
- Taysha Haws**, Northridge High
- Natalie Huntington**, Woods Cross High

- November was also the month for Davis School Districts 15th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Speech Contest.

*Elementary  
(K-2nd Grade)*

- 1st Place - **Ryan Chen**, Kaysville Elementary
- 2nd Place - **Evan Lichfield**, Canyon Creek Elem.
- 3rd Place - TIE - **Alexander Harrison**, Bountiful Elementary & **Jackson Olsen**, Mountain View Elem.

*(3rd - 4th Grade)*

- 1st Place - **Malan Poll**, Mountain View Elementary
- 2nd Place - **Beckett Bowles**, Layton Elementary
- 3rd Place - **Luca Bailey**, Muir Elementary

*(5th - 6th Grade)*

- 1st Place - **Jesus Garcia**, Lincoln Elementary
- 2nd Place - TIE - **Grant Cowdin**, Heritage Elem. & **Eden Waymant**, Creekside Elementary
- 3rd Place - **Paula Flores**, Burton Elementary

*Junior High*

*(Grades 7-9)*

- 1st Place - **Sadeelyn Savage**, South Davis JH
- 2nd Place - **Demsey Bradshaw**, West Point JH
- 3rd Place - **Hailey Gourley**, Mueller Park JH



Tolman Elementary School of Excellence Award

*High School  
(Grades 10-12)*

- 1st Place - **Mykelle Williams**, Woods Cross High
- 2nd Place - **Morgan Becker**, Davis Connect

- The Board recognized are chiefs of police and SRO's for their partnership and collaboration with Davis School District in the service of keeping students and the community safe.

- **Davis High Girls Soccer Team** became the 6A state champions.

- **Holbrook Elementary** received a \$10,000 surprise donation from Performance Automotive Bountiful to help support classrooms.

- **Danica Puente**, Holbrook Elementary, was selected as one of three winners in the 2022 Duck® brand "Sticks with Education™" Sweepstakes. Puente's classroom will be well equipped as she takes home a one-year supply of Duck brand products.

- **John Garofalo**, social studies teacher at Syracuse High, was named Debate Teacher

of the year for the entire state of Utah.

- Davis Art Council Art Competition.

*Winners:*

- 1st Place - **Camdyn Miller**, Northridge High
- 2nd Place - **Morgan Becker**, Davis Connect
- 3rd Place - **Allison Lee**, Farmington High

*Honorable Mention:*

- Morgan Becker**, Davis Connect
- Sydney Bateman**, Layton High
- Natalie Harris**, Northridge High
- Graciela Eyring**, Bountiful High
- Anabelle Passey**, Layton High

*Staff Pick Purchase Award:*

- Natalie Harris**, Northridge High

*Board Pick Purchase Award:*

- Sadie Young**, Bountiful High
- Nicole Mendoza**, Woods Cross High
- Daniell Hauck**, Davis High

- **Penny Phillips**, school psychologist at West Clinton Elementary was given the Lifetime Achievement Award given by the Utah Association of School Psychologists.

- **Rovi Hildalgo** Antelope Elementary, Creekside Elementary, was given the Distinguished Service to Utah Association of School Psychologists Award.



Teacher John Garofalo and Syracuse High Principal Jed Johansen

# District says thank you to four school board members

As 2022 comes to an end, we tip out hat to four outstanding members of the Davis School District Board of Education, who all voluntarily chose not to run for re-election.

They are board Vice-President Marie Stevenson, and board members Gordon Eckersley, Julie Tanner and Cheryl Phipps.

The four leave behind 32 years of combined experience serving in their positions.

- Stevenson's service began in 2019 and, for the past year, served as vice-president. She represented Precinct 6 and served as a representative on the board of the Davis Education Foundation, on the board Finance Committee, Policy and Review Committee, and on the Utah School Boards Association (USBA) Delegate Assembly.

- Eckersley began his service on the board in 2015 and was immediately voted in as board chair, serving in that position for two years. Overall, he served for two terms representing Precinct 5. During his tenure on the board, he served on the Davis County Council of Governments, the district's Adult Education Advisory Committee, Audit Committee, Finance Committee



Marie Stevenson



Gordon Eckersley

and as a USBA Delegate Alternate.

- Tanner also began her service on the board in 2015 and represented Precinct 3 for two terms. Over the years, she served on the Davis Technical College Board, the district's Calendar Committee, the board Policy and Review Committee, Audit Committee, Equity Committee, as a board curriculum liaison, and on the USBA Delegate Assembly.



Julie Tanner

- Phipps originally became a member of the board in January 1995 and served for eight years. At that time, there were only five members on the board. That changed in 2003 when the size of the board, because of legislation, grew to seven members because of the size of the district. Sixteen years later, Phipps was back on the board and served another four years representing Precinct 7 from 2018 through 2022.



Cheryl Phipps

During her recent stint, Phipps served on the district Equity Committee, Audit Committee, Head Start Policy Committee, USBA Delegate Assembly and on the USBA Board of Directors.

During the Dec. 6 board meeting, Superintendent Dr. Dan Linford gave his thanks to the outgoing board members. "I say this a lot to our PTA folks and to people who give so much of their time. You are not normal," Linford said. "You are not normal in all the right ways. We need more not normal people in this world that spend their energy doing good things and being respectful and kind and working through really difficult issues.

"This has been the most complex time to be an elected person, certainly to be a school board member, in this country, maybe in the world, over these last several years," he said. "Your service in hours, of course, is hundreds and hundreds of hours. ... Hundreds and hundreds of hours beneath the press of the last few years. Maybe we need to triple or double the credit that you get for those hours in heaven or wherever those hours are reported. "Thank you for your service," Linford said. "You are incredible people and I look up to you and value you and it's hard to say goodbye, but your influence will be felt for a long time."



Board Members at the South Clearfield Elementary ribbon cutting.



# The holiday spirit warms hearts across Davis



When it comes to the holiday spirit, there may not be a place that warms so many hearts as in Davis School District.

From plays like “A Christmas Story” at Davis High School, elementary students at Fremont and South Clearfield elementaries receiving new footwear, to Elvis dropping in at Bluff Ridge Elementary, the talent, giving and festivities abound.

Hundreds of

thousands of dollars are raised at local schools, some students volunteer to grow their hair and then have it cut and shaved off to bring more money in, and school and district leaders help sort clothes, games and toys to assist programs like Salvation Army Angel Tree and others.

For all those who contribute their talents and time to bring smiles to the faces of all of us, we say “Thank You.”

