



Students serve communities

The spirit of giving was abundant in Davis School District this month as students, teachers and administrators worked together to help others. While the opportunities for collecting donations may have looked a little different this year due to COVID-19, the efforts to assist those in need remained unchanged.

Students at **West Point Junior High** raised over \$3,000 to help foster families by collecting change, selling candy canes and paying to throw whipped cream pies at student government officers and teachers. This year was challenging without the opportunity to kick off the event with the traditional assembly, West Point Junior High Principal Wendy Nelson said, but it didn't deter the students.

"We have a great school and the kids have been very generous," said Nelson. "We have had a lot of kids impacted from COVID-19, so it's been amazing to watch them give and help others. I think it's important that we learn that at a young age so we know that even in the middle of difficulty, people still need help."

Other schools across the district joined in the endeavor to serve community members — from food drives, to angel trees and Sub-for-Santa programs, to making scarves and beds for the homeless, students chose to give.

At **Meadowbrook Elementary**, first-graders tied fleece neck scarves for the homeless while learning about their civic duty to help people in their community.

Second-graders at **Kay's Creek Elementary** performed a virtual classroom concert for residents of a local assisted living facility. Over at **Holbrook Elementary**, students participated in random acts of kindness, which earned them points toward a class party.



A student prepares to launch a pie at teacher Dillon Bates.

The student leadership council at **Woods Cross Elementary** sold over 2,500 candy grams this year to benefit families in need at their school. **Stewart Elementary** students helped earn money at home doing simple chores that raised enough money to purchase coats, boots and gloves for some of the students at their school.

Several schools participated in food drives for the Ogden, Bountiful and Open Doors food pantries. **Clinton Elementary Junior Hope Squad** members encouraged students to participate in their "I Can" week; **Kaysville Elementary** hosted a "Stuff the Truck" event and **Knowlton**

Elementary students built a construction paper snowman as they reached certain canned food goals.

At **Tolman Elementary**, students put their canned food into the bin supporting the college team of their choice. All donations, no matter which school, were given to the

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Students deliver donations to "Stuff the Truck" at Kaysville Elementary.

Unprecedented year shines light on dedicated staff

Join many of you in saying, “I’m not sorry to see 2020 end!” I shared a message in December of 2019 talking about some of the challenges we faced in the prior decade. I had no idea of the challenges we would face as we started a new decade.



Carter

While this year has been the most challenging in recent memory for the education community, I have also witnessed the phenomenal dedication of our education family.

Just to name a few:

- Teachers adjusting between teaching in person or virtually on a moment’s notice.
- Nutrition Service staff serving over 300,000 grab-and-go meals from April to August.

- Custodial staff sanitizing schools and departments each day.
- Bus drivers and assistants, picking up kids each day to ensure they are at school ready to learn.

The list can go on. Many of our employees are compromised due to personal health issues and yet they show up each day to serve our students.

It is my hope that 2021 will bring a cure for COVID-19 and a commitment from everyone, that all people are entitled to the same rights, privileges, and freedoms regardless of race, color, sex, religion, or sexual orientation.

Speaking for the Superintendency, we wish all of our students, employees, and families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2021.

Craig Carter

Business Administrator/Assistant Superintendent

Cheers for staff, students recognized for achievements

Students from throughout the district connected virtually to compete in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Speech Contest. Students were asked to memorize and present a 1- to 3-minute excerpt from any of King’s speeches. Students first compete at the school level and then move onto the district contest. Eighty students competed at the district level. Winners receive \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place.

The winners and the division they competed in are:

K-2

First Place - Ileana Young, **Mountain View Elementary**;

Second Place - Daryn Brunson, **Kaysville Elementary**;

Third Place - Sydni Buckner, **Fremont Elementary**.

3-4

First Place Tie - Rhea Li Young, **Mountain View Elementary**; Grant Cowdin, **Heritage Elementary**;

Second Place - Jesus Garcia, **Lincoln Elementary**;

Third Place - Hunter Hansen, **Burton Elementary**.

5-6

First Place Tie - Zachary Hayward, **Mountain View Elementary**; Coleman Hall, **Buffalo Point Elementary**

Second Place - Beatrice Etter, **Endeavour Elementary**;

Third Place - Luke Copier, **Whitesides Elementary**.

Secondary 7-12

First Place - Patrycja Pogorzelska, **N. Layton Junior High**;

Second Place - Shydra Williams, **Syracuse High**;

Third Place - Sadeelyn Savage, **S. Davis Junior High**.

Other recent recognitions include:



Redford

• Kirk Redford, a sixth-grade teacher at **South Clearfield Elementary**, is one of six 2020 Utah finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

• **Davis High** Girls Soccer team was named the Utah High School Activities Association State Champions.

• In the Utah Red Rocks State Marching Band Championship, **Farmington High** took first place in the 5A Division and **Davis High** second place in the 6A Division.

• The **West Point Junior High** Madrigals and **Farmington High** Chamber Choir were selected to perform in the Temple Square “Christmas Collection” concert series.

Davis School District

45 E. State Street

Farmington, Utah 84025

www.davis.k12.ut.us

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Bountiful Food Pantry.

Orchard Elementary, Sunburst Elementary and West Bountiful Elementary also collected and donated food for the Bountiful Food Pantry.

Several schools set up angel trees asking for donated items to benefit local organizations. **Eagle Bay Elementary** helped the Davis

Education Foundation with its angel tree and **Lakeside Elementary** gave their angel tree donations to Candy Cane Lane at the YMCA.

Oak Hills Elementary conducted a “Change for Charity” activity, raising funds to put together pantry packs and gifts cards for families to purchase groceries. **Layton Elementary** collected donations to help families in need at Mercy Housing in Davis County.

Penny Wars were popular among secondary schools, but students had to get creative. **Legacy Junior High** set up an electronic donation site. All funds raised go toward the Clearfield High Teen Center. **Fairfield Junior High** also held a Penny Wars with all funds supporting Safe Harbor. Their donations were set up so students could donate coins or give digitally. Teachers in both schools agreed to some crazy incentives – from eating worms to dying hair purple — if certain goals were reached.

At **Farmington Junior High**, the annual service project was pulled off on a shorter timeframe, but that didn’t stop students from raising more than \$8,000 for Sub for Santa and the Layton High food pantry. Students were able to shop for 15 children from



Syracuse High Student Body Officers deliver Letters to Santa to the Macy’s at City Creek in Salt Lake.

local families and provide them with Christmas. **Centennial Junior High** also raised more than \$7,000 for Sub for Santa.

Mueller Park Junior High delivered more than 3,000 toiletry items — soap, toothbrushes, shampoo, Chapstick, wash cloths, towels, etc. — and \$1,900 to the new Clearfield teen center.

At the high school level, service activity organizers agreed that this year was a little different from previous years where schoolwide assemblies and large group activities raised the bulk of their funds.

The annual Falcons are Fabulous fundraiser at **Clearfield High** included lunch vendors, virtual concerts and restaurant community nights. The big final assembly is also partially virtual. The funds raised will help build a mindful center for students. Student Body Advisor Becky Vervloet said: “It has been amazing to watch all the students adjust and adapt to the changes. Their enthusiasm has not dimmed one bit and their positive attitude has really proven that Falcons are Fabulous.” Students raised more than \$66,000.

Mountain High students recently spent a day of service repurposing plastic bags into crocheted works of

art. Hundreds of plastics bags were turned into “plarn” (plastic yarn) used to crochet sleeping mats. The creations were then given to Bags to Beds, a non-profit organization founded to create bedding for individuals experiencing homelessness in the Salt Lake area.

Syracuse High School is opening a community food pantry at the

high school so some of their holiday fund-raising efforts went toward collecting food and monetary donations. Additionally, students collected 20,373 letters to Santa digitally. Those letters mean a \$40,000 donation to Make A Wish Foundation thanks to a partnership with Macy’s.

At **Viewmont High School**, the Vikings Give program also went digital. Students distributed fliers throughout the community to let people know where they could make online donations. Typically, volunteers go door-to-door asking for donations. The tree auction took place on Facebook Live with trees displayed on a student-created website. About 112 children through Grandfamilies organization will receive gifts. The annual fundraiser also helps Viewmont students in need. Families will pick up a to-go breakfast and Christmas dinner items. As of Monday, the activities had raised \$26,000 of the \$40,000 goal.

Woods Cross High School participated in Christmas Wishes for the third year. Student body officers created cards for the 207 people they adopted for Christmas. About \$5,000 was donated, a neighborhood made 200 hygiene kits and USANA donated 25 food kits.

Holiday magic



Kindergarten teacher Suzette Cottrell reads "The Elves and the Shoemaker."



South Clearfield kindergarten students show off their new shoes.



A student unwraps his new shoes.



Supt. Reid Newey helps a student unwrap her gift.

Credit union, Foundation gift students with new shoes

The magic of the fairy tale "The Elves and the Shoemaker" came to life for kindergarten students at South Clearfield Elementary.

Kindergarten teacher Suzette Cottrell read each of her classes the story of the little elves who helped a poor shoe cobbler. At the end of the reading, students followed the sound of jingling bells down the hallway and discovered brightly wrapped packages with their names on them.

Inside each box was a pair of shoes and socks purchased by Mountain America Credit Union and the Davis Education Foundation. One student quickly exclaimed that these would be his "good shoes" that he would never get dirty.

"Mountain America is pleased to partner with Davis Education Foundation on gifting new shoes to kindergartners at South Clearfield Elementary this holiday season," says Spencer Carver, assistant vice president of business

development at Mountain America Credit Union. "It's incredible to see the smiles on the kids' faces when they open their new pair of shoes and the self-esteem and confidence boost that follows."

Principal Robert Kinghorn said the desire to supply kids with shoes came to him a few years ago when he discovered a young child playing on the hot playground asphalt without any shoes.

"This is far more than a pair of shoes," he said. "This is, to me, a chance to help with a basic need while allowing students to feel the magic that this time of year brings. More than even this time of year, because of generous donors we have, that same magic and love that can be felt on a hot July day."

The credit union delivered 57 pairs of shoes to South Clearfield and another 51 pairs to Wasatch Elementary.