



Uniquely Davis

Students receive, give gifts

Service projects districtwide bring holiday spirit to schools, students

There wasn't a Christmas tree or even a jolly old elf, but when about 40 students at Wasatch Elementary entered the gymnasium, there was a holiday feeling in the air.

The students were randomly picked to be part of the special Gift of Sports Tour brought to the school by Dick's Sporting Goods. Those lucky students were invited to make an ornament, run an obstacle course and then be the first to receive a duffel bag filled with sporting equipment.

As students posed for a photo, one student exclaimed: "I can't stop smiling."

Dan Doell, Dick's community marketing manager for the Utah/Idaho region, said only three organizations were visited by the Gift of Sports tour in Utah and 32 nationwide. Principal Chris Bertoldi submitted an application to be considered for the gift, which included a duffel bag

Superintendency Message

Standing together with hearts, hands committed to students

Each of us has likely seen (maybe even sent or received) the heart-hand gesture. The gesture (curving fingers and thumbs into a heart shape then directing the hands toward someone) has become a ubiquitous symbol of love, care, and support – especially among young people.

Contentious and difficult realities in our community have been in the forefront of the work of Davis School District in recent weeks.

When tragedy strikes in the lives of our students and families, we grieve



– mourning as community members and friends.

When racial injustice rears its ugly head, we respond – making needed changes to our perspective and practice. When we find ourselves in the 21st month of a pandemic (which

of basketball or soccer equipment for every student in the school and a \$2,000 check to be used for recess and PE equipment for the school.

"Seeing students smile and jump up and down with their sports packages was heartwarming to see," Bertoldi said. "It is so humbling to know how small acts of kindness can make such a positive effect on our students."



Students smile after receiving their duffel bag full of equipment.

It's been a season of giving for schools throughout Davis School District. Students and staff have once again come together to help others in their community.

Throughout the district, there are nearly 1,300 homeless students. The District recently opened a teen center at Clearfield High which helps

provide laundry facilities, a place to shower, access to hygiene items and a quiet study area. Now four additional high schools in the district are planning to build teen centers.

Students stepped up to create fundraising opportunities

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some of us naively thought would only last a few weeks), we endure – fostering learning in schools while protecting the health of our staff, our students, and their families.

When public school systems around the country become a battleground for political ideologies, we stand – engaging in respectful dialogue while upholding our responsibility to do what's best for students.

One of the things that I like most about the heart-hand gesture is that it symbolizes more than just emotion

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for the new facilities.

Layton High students hosted a festival of trees, coin collection events and a service assembly. Their goal is to raise \$35,000 for their school's teen center. **Northridge High** students participated in an ugly sweater tournament, skate night and holiday-themed sporting events, all in the name of bringing in donations for their teen center. **Davis High** students sold gift baskets and provided service in the community to contribute funds to the Mountain High teen center.

"It's been eye-opening to learn the statistics of my own school and learn how much this center will help the kids I go to school with," Layton High Student Body Officer Jenna Mollinet said. "It's been really cool to see how much the students at my school care to help and how much the community cares."

Students, clubs, organizations and faculty at **Viewmont High** came together decorating and auctioning off trees to raise money for the Vikings Give program. This year's focus was on purchasing gifts for students being raised by a grandparent. Those grand families were treated to a breakfast at the school where they received the wrapped gifts.

Stewart Elementary donated a decorated tree to Viewmont High for the auction and collected money to buy winter clothing for their school's Kids Give to Kids program.

There was a new twist on the traditional food drive at a couple of

schools. **Layton Elementary** students collected over 900 boxes of cereal and put together a giant cereal dominoes chain reaction before delivering the boxes to the food pantry.

South Weber Elementary collected food for the Tri City Exchange that



Layton Elementary students celebrate the collection of 900 boxes of cereal.

services Harrisville, North Ogden and Pleasant View. **Tolman Elementary** organized a food drive to benefit the Bountiful Pantry and at **Sunset Junior High**, students spent time putting together 100 hot chocolate gift packs for the food pantry.

The student council at **Buffalo Point Elementary** organized the annual canned-food drive, collecting nearly 3,000 food items. The fifth-grade classes also tied four quilts and made 30 hand-knitted winter hats.

In addition to a food drive at **Lakeside Elementary**, the school's HOPE Squad had each class put together a giant card thanking a group of individuals they appreciate. The cards

were delivered to the various groups, which included hospitals, firefighters, police officers and teachers.

The giving across the district continued with **Canyon Creek Elementary** setting up a giving tree to benefit students at South Clearfield Elementary. Students could take an ornament and donate the items on that ornament.

At **Woods Cross High**, students collected donations for the school's Wildcat Wishes program. This year's focus was on collecting a household kit of essentials for families in their school with extra needs this season.

Snow Horse Elementary spent the month collecting more than 1,100 socks for the Davis Education Foundation and the Christmas Box House in Ogden. **Bountiful High** raised money for the Sub-for-Santa program and **Clearfield High** held penny wars and community nights at local restaurants to provide funds to purchase adaptive devices for students in the district.

Mountain High participated in its annual Day of Service creating hygiene kits, plarn rugs and knit hats for refugees in the area. **Syracuse High** students wrote over 38,000 letters to Santa and delivered them to the Macy's Department store, which raised \$76,265 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

At **Farmington High**, the Phoenix Provides fundraiser consisted of a service assembly, loose change collection event, raffle baskets and a date night at the school. The funds raised went to Primary Children's for cancer research.

TOGETHER, From Pg. 1

(the heart); it also demonstrates a commitment to action (the hand).

An emotional show of love and support is good, but it's even more poignant when accompanied by meaningful actions. It's true that other (more hateful and divisive) gestures – and words – are present in our community.

We face contempt, hatred, and misinformation just like

every other sector of our community. But this does not define who we are or how we do our work. Every day I interact with good people: Good students, leaving homes of good parents to work with good teachers in schools led by good administrators and supported by good staff.

Despite contentious and difficult realities, the work of the Davis School District is moving forward – we stand together with hearts and hands committed to our students!

- Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone

Employees, students honored for achievements



Chidester

• In the month of November, the Davis School District Board of Education recognized **Rebecca Chidester** from King Elementary for dedication to students in the district.

• Sixth-grade student **Kelen Gold** from Stewart Elementary was honored as the best elementary chess player in Utah and traveled to New Jersey for the national competition where he tied for 13th place.

• Viewmont High student **Esther Clayton** was featured on National Public Radio with a violin solo performance.

• **Lisa Free** from Cook Elementary is the highest-ranked Infini-D teacher in the nation and has run over 750 missions since the school introduced Infini-D Lab in 2019.

• **McKenna Dillingham**, a senior at Viewmont High, is the winner of the state high school PTA Veterans Day essay contest.

• **Melinda Lewis** of Sand Springs Elementary was selected as Most Valuable Educator by Instructure, the makers of the Canvas Learning Management System, in partnership with



Free



Melinda Lewis poses with her students and the Jazz Bear.

the Utah Jazz. She receives a \$1,000 classroom grant and received a special visit by the Utah Jazz Bear.

• Two teachers at Windridge Elementary received a classroom grant from Mountain American Credit Union. **Tani Pierson** is using the grant to fund a novel library and **Jessica Payne** is using the grant to fund a hydroponics garden.

• **Morgan Becker**, Shoreline Junior High, is a winner of the Utah Radon poster contest.

• Several students from Shoreline Junior High will have artwork published in the Western Region Celebrating Arts Book — **Morgan Becker, Britton Burningham, McKay Doll, Amelia Guest, Mia Harrison, Rylie Kimball, Gracie Kirkham, Syd Lindquist, Sophia Muhlestein, Gracie Murray, Skye Nielson, Emma Pitts, Kembrie Thomas, Brooke Timothy.**

Student artwork decorates District Christmas card

During quarantine, Syracuse High sophomore Jacob Pulley spent time learning how to use digital artwork tools to create abstract geometric styles. Using that newfound knowledge, Pulley created an art piece selected for this year's Davis School District Christmas card. Pulley also received a \$100 award.

“When I started to design my holiday card, I decided to use the same ideas of 3D design to give the card a futuristic look,” Pulley said. “I have enjoyed taking different art classes, it has been so fun and taught me a lot of new concepts.”

Secondary art teachers across the district let students know of the contest, bringing in over 100 entries. The Teaching and Learning Department narrowed down the selections to 10. District ad-



This artwork by Jacob Pulley is on the district Christmas card.

ministration and Board of Education members selected the winners from those 10.

Other winners include the second-place entry created by Ellie Fowers, Northridge High; third place by Morgan Becker, Shoreline Junior High and honorable mention for Liz Miller, Syracuse High.



Second place card created by Ellie Fowers, Northridge High.



Third place card by Morgan Becker, Shoreline Jr. High.



Honorable mention, Liz Miller, Syracuse High.

Shoes for Christmas



Above: Fremont Administrative Intern David Thal interacts with students who just received their gift. Right: Fremont Principal Adell Arvidson reads “The Elves and the Shoemaker” to kindergarten students.



A Fremont Elementary student gets help with her new shoes.



Board of Education President John Robison helps a South Clearfield student put on her new shoes.



A student at South Clearfield Elementary grins as he opens his gift.

Students learn story of ‘The Elves and the Shoemaker’

Kindergarten students at Wasatch, Fremont and South Clearfield elementary schools received a new pair of shoes this week.

In partnership with the Davis Education Foundation, donations were made by Mountain America Credit Union, Ascent Credit Union and an anonymous donor to buy the shoes.

“Many students in our community need some basic things that most of us take for granted,” said Fremont Elementary Administrative

Intern David Thal. “The delight on the students’ faces when they get their new shoes is magical. Make no mistake — Christmas magic is alive and well!”

The activity started at Wasatch Elementary several years ago and has grown into a yearly tradition for several schools in Davis School District.

The activity starts with a reading of “The Elves and the Shoemaker.” At the end of the story, students go in search of a gift of shoes and socks wrapped just for them.