

# Falcon File

December  
2024

It's hard to believe that December is already here! We had a wonderful November full of learning and fun! Thanks to everyone that joined us for our PTA spotlight series on Social Emotional Learning with Mrs. Hogan. We will be offering our next spotlight on Instruction at DTS with our Instructional Coach, Tracey Donovan.

We also had an amazing time at Skate South for our family skate night. We're looking forward to seeing you all at the next one!

We have three solid weeks of instruction before winter break as well as our All School Sing and winter dance. It's going to be a great month at DTS!

## Upcoming Events

All School Sing - Dec. 6

Winter Dance - Dec. 12

No School - Dec. 13

Winter Break - Dec. 23-Jan. 1

*Looking for things to work on at home? Reading (and rereading) books together improves sight word vocabulary and fluency! Try "You read-I read" to take turns reading each page.*

## Reminders

Please use the top entrance of the driveway when dropping off and picking up students.

Please help us reduce tardies by getting your child to school by 7:40.

Don't miss out on the exciting opportunities from DMPS Community Education. Courses are filling up fast so secure your spot today! They are offering youth activities, fitness, new hobbies or career skills, and more. There's something for everyone.

Learn more & register here:  
[commed.dmschools.org](https://commed.dmschools.org)

The fifth graders in Mrs. Badger's class have been hard at work these past few weeks...

*"How can we, as a 5th grade class, conduct an outreach project that professionally and successfully meets a human right threatened in our community?"*

That was the driving question behind the outreach project: the "JOY RIDE TOY DRIVE"!

This project was the culmination of an intensive study of human rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. What is that, you may ask? Ask a DTS 5th grader and they will explain that it is the document our United Nations wrote that lays out the human rights all people have simply because they exist on this planet.

After listening to multiple guest speakers that work with organizations helping to meet human rights in our community, Mrs. Badger's class decided to partner with Alison Hoeman of Des Moines Refugee Support in one of the more fun events that her organization hosts: a "pop-up shop" (of sorts) that allows families to choose fun and fundamental items for the winter/holiday season, specifically safe and appropriate toys for refugee families. This was a perfect opportunity to meet a human right we feel strongly about: the right to play! Our Joyride Toy Drive was proud to contribute 1,350 items (652 being BRAND NEW toys) to refugee families in our community. Thanks to all who donated items to our outreach project. We were so excited to have our school be a force of GOOD in our community!



## Meanwhile, the fifth graders in Mrs. Herrin's class...

Mrs. Herrin's 5th grade class has been learning about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Students identified that Article 25, the right to housing and food, is not widely accepted as a human right in our own community. The lack of this right severely threatens the most vulnerable of our citizens right here in Des Moines. Students had the opportunity to listen to multiple experts concerning the lack of human rights offered to the unhoused in our city. 5th graders visited the YSS shelter on 7th Street, where they received a tour and asked questions about how they can help.



Students created a pop-up shop of handmade crafts thanks to the Brown Family who hosted us at the Glitter Factory. Children worked with partners as pretend small business owners designing quality products to be offered for sale at the pop-up shop.



Along with the pop-up shop, each classroom will be asked to bring in spare change in an effort titled "Change for Change". This fundraiser will run from 7:20 AM to 8:00 AM for one week. Students will decide which items will be purchased with the funds for delivery on December 20. All proceeds will go to the YSS shelter.

# DTS PTA UPDATE

Downtown School PTA: A non-profit parent organization focused on supporting the Downtown School.

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you are invited to our annual

# WINTER DANCE!

Join us for a magical evening at the DTS Winter Dance! Students will enjoy music, light refreshments, dancing, and fun with friends in a winter wonderland!

The dance will be split into two sessions: younger students will have their dance from 5:30 PM to 6:15 PM and older students from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Please note that this is a drop-off event, and we kindly ask parents to be prompt in picking up their children when the dance concludes

Parents are invited to sign up for snack donations or as chaperones to help ensure a safe and enjoyable event for everyone

We look forward to celebrating the season together!

Sign up here to donate snacks!

Sign up here to chaperone!

Dec. 12, 2024

K-2 5:30-6:15  
3-5 6:30-7:30

DMPS Board Room, Des Moines

# SAVE THE DATE!

it is AUCTION YEAR!!!!

DTS Fundraising Auction  
Friday, May 2, 2025  
Ricochet

400 Locust Street, Des Moines

Our biennial auction is DTS's largest and most important fundraiser, held every two years to generate the essential funds needed to support our programs. This event brings together parents, teachers, and community to bid on exciting items and experiences, with all proceeds going directly toward operating costs, educational resources, and enrichment activities for the next two school years.

Your participation and contributions make a meaningful impact on our students' learning experiences. Look for opportunities to contribute in future PTA updates—thank you for helping us make a difference!

This adults-only event includes live and silent auction items, teacher recognition, and a cash bar. All proceeds from the Auction enhance the DTS student experience through:

- academic enrichment classroom
- materials experiential learning
- experiences access to quality
- student and family programming sponsored by the PTA.

We need volunteers in all capacities to make the Auction a success! (No experience needed!) Because this event raises funds to benefit DTS over the next two school years, your efforts will make a huge impact.

SIGN UP HERE TO HELP



Visit our website at [dtspta.com](http://dtspta.com) to stay updated!



Pay your yearly student activity fee and PTA membership dues here.

## SAY THANKS TO OUR DTS TEACHERS & SUPPORT STAFF THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Wondering how to say "thanks" to our incredible DTS teachers and support staff for the holidays? Consider donating to the PTA's Teacher Support Fund.

The

PTA distributes Teacher Support Fund donations equally to teachers to pay for classroom supplies and materials for special projects. It's a great way to show your appreciation around the holidays and support DTS all year long.

- **Donate by Dec. 17** to ensure your message reaches your teacher **before the holidays** message per student to make sure it goes to the correct teacher.



CLICK HERE TO DONATE

## SIGN UP FOR THE AUCTION COMMITTEE