

# FALCON FILE

## JANUARY 2025

## DOWNTOWN SCHOOL

### Happy New Year

Welcome to 2025! We are almost halfway through the school year. It has been fantastic watching our students learn and grow.

We begin our winter assessments next week. These assessments provide a midyear check point on student progress in reading and math. We are excited to see all the progress our students have made and make adjustments to instruction to better meet the needs of all our students. Teachers will share scores with parents. If you have any questions, just reach out to your child's teacher. We appreciate our partnership!

We have a few no school days coming up over the next two months, as well as conferences! The important dates are listed on the right.

Happy January!



### After School Clubs

**Monday Club:** Yearbook

- Jan 6, Jan 13, Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 17, Feb 24, March 3, March 10

**Tuesday Clubs:** K-3 Art, STEAM, Girl Math, All School Sing

- Jan 7, Jan 14, Jan 21, Jan 28, Feb 4, Feb 18, Feb 25, March 4
- March 11 will be held for makeup.

**Wednesday Clubs:** 4/5 Art, Rosie Reader, Free Play

- Jan 8, Jan 15, Jan 22, Jan 29, Feb 12, Feb 19, Feb 26, March 5
- March 12 will be held for makeup.

There are still spots available. Sign up today! Questions? Contact [catarina.hathaway@dmschools.org](mailto:catarina.hathaway@dmschools.org).

### Upcoming Events

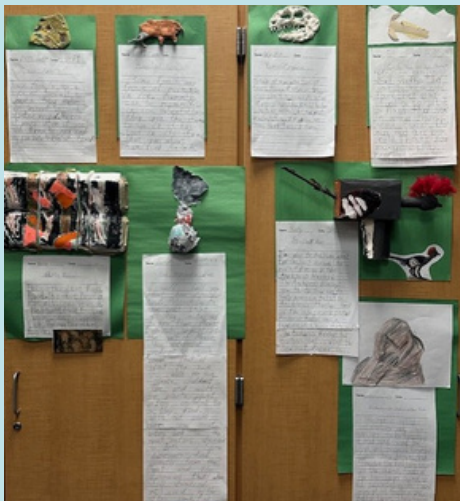
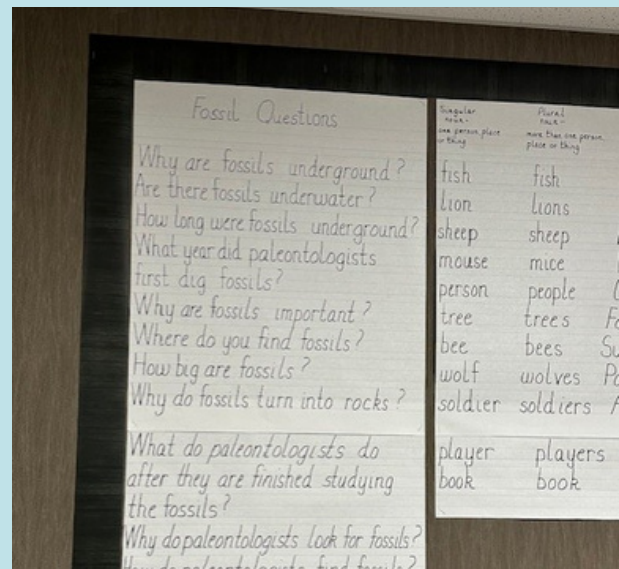
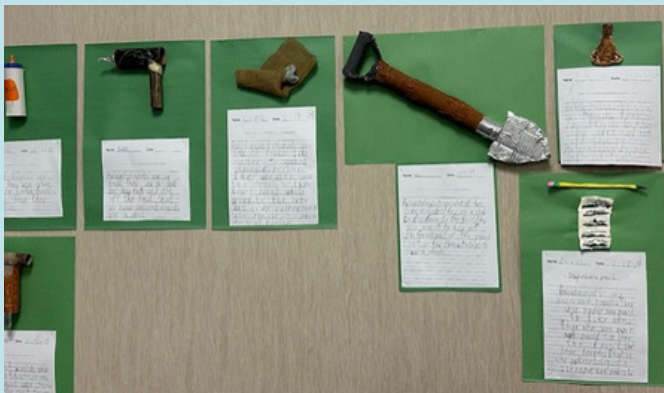
- PTA Meeting: Jan. 14
- No School: Jan. 16-20
- Skate South Night: Jan. 23
- All School Sing: Jan. 31
- Conference Sign-ups: Jan. 21
- Conferences: Feb. 5 and 6
- No School: Feb. 6-11

# DIG INTO SECOND GRADE

## Mrs. Jansen and Mrs. Leise

The second graders have been hard at work learning about paleontologists and fossils. They are exploring these guiding questions and big ideas:

- What do paleontologists do?
  - Paleontologists are people who look for, unearth, and study fossils.
- How do characters respond to major events?
  - Characters respond in different ways to major events and challenges in books.
- What can we learn from studying fossils?
  - Fossils can help us understand what plants and animals lived long ago and how the earth has changed.
- How do readers learn more about a topic from informational texts?
  - Readers use different strategies to learn about a topic from informational text.
- How do authors write compelling narratives?
  - Writers use various writing techniques to tell compelling stories.



# DTS PTA UPDATE

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

**Januar 2025 Falcon File**

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



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

Hey DTS! We wanted to take a couple minutes and say **THANK YOU** for all the fun you've added to DTS through our PTA events. For our Fall Skate Night, we had 198 skaters and well over 200 people there since many caregivers didn't skate. What a blast. Special thanks to Mrs. Hurlburt and Mrs. Ramirez for helping our DTS friends enjoy a safe skating environment. We'll see you again at our Winter Skate Night on 1/23! We had a great turnout for our Winter Dance with 52 K-2 graders and 63 3-5 graders! Special thanks to Ms. Feeney for joining us for holiday pictures with Daphne. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the dance a great time for our DTS friends! **THANK YOU** for all your holiday donations to the Teacher Support Fund. Our PTA made cards for the teachers with your donation messages. We surpassed our goal of \$2,000, raising **\$2,675 in donations!** This money, coupled with our PTA budgeted allowance and past Box Tops money, allows us to give teachers \$250 and support staff \$70 to go towards classroom supplies and other teaching tools. This month, we have several PTA events going on.

- Come to our first Auction Committee meeting and learn how to get help with our big DTS Fundraising Auction on 5/2. The meeting's at Big Grove; come to meet other DTS parents, share your knowledge, or just buy a drink and join us for company. :)
- We have our next Spotlight Night on Tuesday 1/14 where Tracey Donovan, our DTS Instructional Coach, will spotlight the DTS instructional framework. We'll also have a Q&A time with her and Mrs. Hurlburt. We'll be raffling off a lunch for a kiddo with Mrs. Hurlburt to those who join us at this Spotlight Night.
- Last but not least, the beloved Book Fair is coming soon! We'll be hosting a book fair during the February conferences. This money goes directly back to DTS and provides the Library with more funding. We'll have "Wish List Items" from teachers there that your family can purchase for their classrooms if you'd like. Please remember: this is a cash-free book fair.

Thank you for engaging with the PTA to help create opportunities for the DTS community to gather together and support DTS!

This month we're spotlighting...

**DTS Instruction with  
Tracey Donovan, DTS  
Instructional Coach**

The Spotlight Night will also feature...

- A Q&A time with Mrs. Donovan and Mrs. Hurlburt on our DTS curriculum.
- Breakouts to gather your input on how the PTA can support you:
  - in learning more about the Reimagining DMPS initiative and how it impacts DTS
  - in helping our 5th graders transition to middle school
- A shortened PTA Work Session (this is optional, but we hope you'll stay to learn more about the PTA!)

Learn more about DTS and provide your input at the next...

**PTA SPOTLIGHT NIGHT  
TUES 1/14 | 6:30PM  
DTS LIBRARY**

This is open to all parents, caregivers, and DTS stakeholders.

Raffle prize drawing for those who attend!

**DTS PTA  
IMPORTANT DATES**

- January 7- Auction Committee meeting  
7pm | Big Grove
- January 14- PTA Spotlight Night  
6:30pm | DTS Library
- January 23- Winter Skate Night  
6-8pm | Skate South
- Feb 5 & 6- Book Fair  
DTS Culminating Event Room

SCHOLASTIC  
**BOOK FAIR**  
**YOU'RE INVITED**  
**TO OUR BOOK FAIR FAMILY EVENT**

Shopping takes place February 5-6 during Conferences  
 DTS Culminating Event Room

**MORE BOOKS  
 MORE READING**

**!** This is a cash-free Book Fair!  
 Please bring electronic payments.

Join your child in choosing new books during our Book Fair Family Event!

While you're there, give to **Share the Fair™**, a program supporting students in our school who need help buying books. Contribute by adding to the coin box at the register or rounding up your purchases for **Share the Fair**. **Every purchase at the Fair benefits our school.**



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Click here to  
 volunteer for the  
 book fair!

HOSTED BY THE DTS PTA



you're invited to a DTS

winter  
**SKATE NIGHT**

Students, Family, School Staff and Friends  
 are all welcome!!!

We hope to see you there!

This is a family event- parents/guardians  
 are responsible for supervising their kids

\$5.00+ tax per skater:

admission and brown skate rental

\$1.00 to upgrade skate to:

in line, hockey, or speed skates per skater

\$5.00 Skate Mate per rental

All school staff are free-  
 you just need to show school ID at the box office!

Jan. 23, 2025

6-8 PM

Skate South, 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!

**YOU'RE INVITED**  
to our  
**FIRST AUCTION**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DTS Fundraising Auction Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 7 @ 7:00PM**  
Big Grove  
555 17th Street, Des Moines

We are excited to announce that planning is underway for our upcoming DTS Auction, and we would love for you to be a part of the team! This event is a wonderful opportunity to raise funds that directly benefit our school and enrich the educational experience of our students.

Whether you have experience with event planning or just want to help out, your ideas, energy, and enthusiasm are what will make this auction a success.

At this meeting, we'll discuss ideas for auction items, event logistics, volunteer opportunities, and much more. It's a great chance to get involved, meet other parents, and make a real impact on our school community.

We hope to see you there!!!

[Click here to](#)  
[volunteer!](#)

