



# Herald & Review

Meyer's career night wills MacArthur to Senior Night win

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Gov. Pritzker pleased in NFL talks to keep Bears in Ill.

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## EDUCATION

# TINY TEACUPS, BIG MANNERS



JOSEPH RESSLER PHOTOS, HERALD & REVIEW

"Thank you!" Jayda Jackson says to a teacher during the annual kindergarten tea party at Johns Hill Magnet School in Decatur on Wednesday, Feb. 11. The students learned manners and put them to practice, dressed for the occasion.

## Johns Hill students dress sharp for tea party

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DECATUR — Slices of cheese, crackers, mini muffins, and fruit, all in bite size servings ideal for little fingers, were served to the Johns Hill Magnet School kindergartners for their annual Tea Party.

Dressed in their finest, the kindergartners used their best manners, one of their lesson plans, during the special occasion. Makhi' Daniel wore suspenders for as long as he could. "I already wore these for my graduation," he said about the accessory hanging past his waist. "But my shirt, it's good."

The lunch room was decorated with floral centerpieces as well as white table cloths donated by the Decatur Club. The children entered under an archway of balloons.

According to kindergarten teacher Glenna McKenzie, real glass and china teacups and plates have been used as part of the party since before she began teaching 17 years ago. "And we've never broken one," she said.

The party was a special occasion just for the Johns Hill kindergarten classes and their teachers.

"It's a chance for them to get dressed up and use their manners and celebrate their friendships," said teacher Jodi Folmsbee.

Folmsbee dressed for the occasion as well, wearing a navy blue velvet dress. "It's a good excuse for us to pull these out of the closet," she said.

Kindergarten parents planned, decorated and served the food and beverages of tea, lemonade and water.

Stephenie McCay volunteered for her daughter Ella's class.

"I love that they're doing this for the kids," she said. "They are giving them the opportunity to learn a little bit about manners. And my daughter is so excited about it."

McCay said she has witnessed the school provide her daughter with lifestyle lessons. "They are kind of setting them up for success," she said. "They are teaching them things that they may not otherwise be taught."

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Karamella Jack twirls in her dress during the annual kindergarten tea party at Johns Hill Magnet School in Decatur on Wednesday, Feb. 11.



Kora Houston practices table manners during the annual kindergarten tea party at Johns Hill Magnet School in Decatur on Wednesday, Feb. 11.



Aitana Sanchez-Banuelos, Hiyan Patel, and Remy Robinson arrive on the red carpet for the annual kindergarten tea party at Johns Hill Magnet School in Decatur on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

## DECATUR SCHOOLS

# Board revisits school tech

Upgrades OK'd for teachers; officials weigh using books over devices

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DECATUR — Members of the Decatur school board voiced their concerns about the use of technology in the classroom.

The discussion during Tuesday's school board meeting was prompted by a vote to upgrade teachers' devices, not the devices issued to and used by students.

Mark Reynolds said he worries that the reliance on devices has contributed to a decline in academic achievement. A return to books would benefit students, he added.

Board member Karen Lauritzen said she agreed.

"I'd like to see the district do away with the one-to-one at the student level," she said, referring to the Decatur schools' program that provides devices — iPads for younger students, Chromebooks for

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■ **INSIDE:** New superintendent could be announced next week **PAGE A3**

## IMMIGRATION

# Lawmakers spar over masked federal officers

**LISA MASCARO**  
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Beyond the car windows being smashed, people tackled on city streets — or even a little child with a floppy bunny ears snowcap detained — the images of masked federal officers has become a flashpoint in the Trump administration's immigration enforcement operations.

Not in recent U.S. memory has an American policing operation so consistently masked its thousands of officers from the public, a development that the Department of Homeland Security believes is important to safeguard employees from online harassment. But experts warn masking serves another purpose, inciting fear in communities, and risks shattering norms, accountability and trust between the police and its citizenry.

Whether to ban the masks — or allow the masking to continue — has emerged as a central question in the debate in

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