

Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary Family Newsletter

April 2017



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The DES Family-School Connection

It is hard to believe there are under 40 student days remaining in our school year. As we look back on the success of our students and staff, I pause to reflect on how well we communicated these successes with our elementary families. Communication is an essential part of the home-school relationship. Delano Elementary staff members take great pride and time in providing you with an abundance of ways to connect with your child's classroom and school.

One thing we have learned about Delano families is that they are busy and active during the week. Many of our elementary aged children are scheduled into a wide variety of after school activities and events. Taking time to read your child's teacher's daily blog, email reminder, or newsletter is essential to being an active part of your child's school success.

I am proud of the variety of ways our staff connects with our DES families! I would like to take a minute to highlight some of the ways we connect with our students and parents:

- **Weekly classroom e-newsletter:** Newsletters are the standard for home-school communication. Many teachers take great pride in creating a weekly or monthly newsletter that highlights the upcoming events and curriculum schedule.
- **Daily classroom blog post:** Many of our teachers have a classroom blog that highlights daily events along with photos of the activity. This is a great tool for parents to review and talk with their child about their day.
- **Class Dojo:** Connects teachers, students and parents to create a positive classroom culture. Teachers can share positive behavior data and classroom culture updates with families.
- **Seesaw App:** This application is an electronic portfolio that teachers control which allows parents to view what their child is learning in school. This can be done by video, pictures and audio.
- **Delano Elementary Facebook Page:** Parents can check out our schoolwide events. Facebook posts will contain pictures and video of some of the amazing events happening at our school. Don't forget to "like" the Delano Elementary Facebook page!
- **Delano Elementary Twitter Page:** This social media site is used to broadcast DES events. Our twitter handle is @delanoelem.
- **Skylert Emails:** We use our schoolwide email system to get important information out to parents that are time sensitive. Information regarding conference dates and special events are usually highlighted in these emails to families.
- **Tiger Cub News:** At the beginning of the month each family is emailed the *Tiger Cub News*. This document gives families a message from the principal, assistant principal, and articles on special areas in our school. You will also find highlights from events that occurred in previous months, and a calendar of events for the upcoming month.

In conclusion, we want to know the best way to communicate with our active families. **If there are other avenues in which we can better communicate what is happening at Delano Elementary, please let us know. You can reach me at darren.schuler@delanoschools.org or via Twitter @darrenschuler to provide feedback.** We ask that you continue to stay connected with your child's classroom by taking time to read classroom newsletters and our social media sites to be an active participant in your child's learning.

- Darren Schuler
Principal



2017 Spring Testing Season Begins!

During the month of April, testing season begins at Delano Elementary School. Our third and fourth grade students are busy preparing for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA). This year with the addition of Chromebooks, we were able to cut our MCA testing schedule in half. The MCA Series III Reading Test will be given during the week of April 17-21. The MCA Series III Math Test will be given during the week of April 24-28. The MCA III tests help our school measure student progress toward the state's academic standards and provide information for district accountability. Results of the MCA III assessments are received during the summer months and sent to parents in the fall.

How can parents help their child perform better on the MCA III Assessments?

Student attendance is very important during these testing weeks. Below are some tips to help your child be successful during testing time:

- **Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep.** Elementary and middle school children need up to 10 hours of sleep each night to do their best in school. They also need to curtail the excitement from video games, television, movies, and texting for at least 30 minutes before sleep.
- **Ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast.** Cut back on high-sugar cereals, pastries, and undiluted juices (which can have the same sugar content as sodas.)
- **Get your child to school on time.**
- **Wish your child good luck each morning of the test.** Tell your child that he/she is special and that you believe in him/her.
- **Remind your child that the test is important** and encourage him/her to do their best.
- **Encourage your child to stay focused on the test,** even if other students finish early.
- **Unplug already.** When it comes to distracting videos, television, cell phones, or social media (basically anything with a screen or speakers that's not directly related to school work), study time is the time to turn the devices off.
- **Get them moving.** Exams cause stress, but sports, exercise, and dancing can relieve it. Physical activity that gets students completely away from academics for a few hours each day can actually help them perform better on tests.

Testing time can be a terrific time for our students to show what they know. Our teachers are working hard to ensure that your child is properly prepared to be successful on these upcoming tests. Delano Elementary School takes great pride in our test results and will continue to maintain our goal of educational excellence.

*- John McDonald
Assistant Principal*

THANK YOU to the first grade students who read to the Delano School Board and took the time to visit with the school board members. This is a favorite time of the year for the board, and we hope this was a special night for the students as well.



Is Tutoring Young Readers in Your Future?

In Minnesota today, one in five third graders can't read at grade level. If these children don't catch up by the end of third grade, the odds are against them catching up in the future.

Have you ever considered being a reading tutor? Angela Westlund and Sue Dehne hadn't, but when the opportunity arose, they jumped at the chance to make a difference in students' lives while expanding their personal knowledge and skills in reading literacy.

What does a reading tutor do? Minnesota Reading Corps (MRC) tutors provide extra support to students as they practice their reading skills. This program supplements the classroom language arts curriculum with the aim of increasing the reading fluency of every child they help. One second grader expressed, "I learn new words and then I know them when I read chapter books." "I like to learn new words and I remember them the next day!" shared a first grader. Both Angela and Sue feel that the most rewarding aspects of tutoring are individual reading instruction time and developing a relationship with each student.

Students in the program meet daily with MRC tutors who have been trained in the most current reading fluency intervention strategies. When working in the area of fluency, tutors work to achieve better word accuracy, expression and rate of the reader. These three components are necessary in helping build a reader's comprehension. Students who qualify do not miss direct instruction from their classroom teacher, but are seen during more independent learning times. Tutors track student progress and work closely with classroom teachers to insure success. Students exit the program when they have met their individual reading goal.

Along with Angela and Sue, **Delano Elementary School is looking to fill a third Minnesota Reading Corps full-time literacy tutor position to focus on kindergarten students for the 2017-2018 school year.** MRC is a program that provides trained literacy tutors for children from age three to third grade. Along with training, volunteers receive a \$500 bi-weekly stipend and up to \$5,500 in educational benefits. This is a statewide initiative to help every Minnesota child become a successful reader.

The Reading Corps program has proven so successful, DES is entering its tenth year helping students become successful readers! For more information, contact Lisa Downer, Basic Skills Teacher, at lisa.downer@delanoschools.org or go to www.minnesotareadingcorps.org.



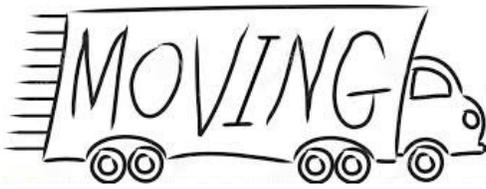
Writer's Workshop 2017



DES 3rd and 4th graders proudly display their anthologies from this year's Writer's Workshop. During Writer's Workshop students gathered each week for seven weeks and learned about writing strategies, discovered ideas to inspire their writing, and shared their work. Each week a piece was written by each student and shared with a small group. This gave students an opportunity to hear a variety of writing styles and to help each other by providing feedback. The end product is the anthology that is published and presented to each student that completes the program.

Parent Input Forms and 2017-18 Class Lists

Parent input forms for 2017-18 class lists will be sent home with your students the week of April 3. **If you wish to provide information about your child, complete the form and return to your child's teacher no later than Thursday, April 13.** We do not make placement decisions based on parent requests. We will, however, consider information about your child as one of the factors in determining placements. **Specific requests for a classroom teacher WILL NOT be honored. Placement of students is ultimately an administrative decision.**



Moving? Changing Schools? If your family is moving out of the school district and will not be attending Delano Elementary next year, please notify the school office at 763.972.6200.

This information is vital for class assignments and staffing needs for the 2017-18 school year.
Thank you!

April Calendar

- 5 **Dairy Queen Night** 5-8 pm
Artwork by Mrs. Huikko & Mrs. Scanlon's classrooms
- 10-May 5 **MCA III Testing**
Grades 3 & 4
- 11 **DES PIE Meeting** 7 pm
- 14 **Holiday - NO SCHOOL**
- 19 **Kindergarten Field Trip - Gale Woods Farms**
(Rheingans, Goudy, Hegland, Ludwig)
- 2nd **Grade Field Trip - Eastman Nature Center**
- Dairy Queen Night** 5-8 pm
Artwork by Mrs. Schleper & Mrs. Schmidt's classrooms
- 20 **Art Fair** 5-7 pm
- 25 **Kindergarten Field Trip - Gale Woods Farm**
(Huikko, Kessler, Burns, Scanlon)
- 27 **1st Grade Field Trip - Children's Theater**
- 2nd Grade Music Program** 6:30 pm
DMS Auditorium
(Anderson, Nagengast, Swan, Uselding)
- 2nd Grade Music Program** 7:30 pm
DMS Auditorium
(Clifton, Schmidt, Williams)



Earth Day is April 22, 2017
Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Replenish. Restore.
EVERYDAY!

Jump Rope for Heart Raises 9100!



The goal was to raise \$6500, but *Jump Rope for Heart* far surpassed that thanks to all the energy of the students and those who donated to this great cause. *Jump Rope for Heart* teaches students how to keep fit and healthy, all while having fun and raising funds for heart disease research and education. All funds donated go to the American Heart Association.



Tiger Cub News is published by Delano Elementary School. Editor, Traci Lawman, District Office, 763.972.3365, ext. 2111, traci.lawman@delanoschools.org



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
³ Hot Dog <i>A - Mr. Rib</i> Sun Chips Carrots Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce	⁴ Chicken Gravy <i>A- Polish Sausage</i> Mashed Potatoes; Roll Lettuce Salad; Peas OrangeWedges Apple Crisp	⁵ Chicken Nuggets Tri Tater Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail	⁶ Cheese Pizza Lettuce Salad Corn Pears	⁷ Tacos-Beef Lettuce/Cheese/Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit Mix Teddy Grahams
¹⁰ BBQ Chicken Drumstick Brown Rice Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad Pineapple	¹¹ Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	¹² Dunkers A-Chicken Salad Sandwich Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit Mix	¹³ Chicken Patty on Bun <i>A- PBJ Sandwich</i> Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers;Lettuce Salad Veggies Peaches	¹⁴ <p style="text-align: center;">Holiday No School</p>
¹⁷ Nachos - Beef & Cheese Lettuce; Onions; Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Mix OJ Cup	¹⁸ Cinamon Roll Omelet Tri Tater Steamed Broccoli Apple Juice Cup Orange Wedges	¹⁹ Spaghetti w/ Meatballs A-Egg Salad Sandwich Garlic Bread Lettuce Salad Green Beans Pears	²⁰ Chicken Nuggets Tri Tater Corn Veggies Fruit Cocktail	²¹ Hamburger <i>A- Sloppy Joe</i> Waffle Fries Lettuce Tomato Orange Wedges
²⁴ Dominos Pizza Cheese/Pepperoni Lettuce Salad Green Beans Pears	²⁵ Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes Country Gravy Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad; Roll OrangeWedges	²⁶ Chili w/Breadstick A-Ham & Cheese Sandwich Tortilla Chips Carrots Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail	²⁷ Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Oriental Vegetables Pineapple; Lettuce Salad Fortune Cookie Ice Cream Cup	²⁸ Walking Taco Lettuce & Cheese Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit Mix Teddy Grahams