

# Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary Family Newsletter

March 2018



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## Dates to remember

### March

- 6, 8.....Kindergarten Round-Up,  
5:30 to 8 p.m.
- 7.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.  
(Mrs. Kern, Mrs. Griep)
- 13.....ES PIE, 7 p.m.
- 13.....District PIE, 7 p.m.
- 15-16.....Early Childhood Health  
and Development Screening
- 21.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.  
(Mr. Hall, Mr. Lindquist)
- 22.....2nd grade music program,  
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
- 29.....2nd grade field trip to  
MN History Center
- 30.....Spring break, no school
- April**
- 2.....Spring break, no school



## Young authors

The Tiger Publishing Center helps students produce their own books. Here, volunteers Cynthia Jacobson and Shadow Felknor present Emilia Bidle with her work after finishing the publishing process. For more on the publishing center, see Page 5.

## School safety a priority

By Darren Schuler  
Principal

The recent high profile acts of school violence have many teachers, parents and students on edge in terms of the safety of our children at school. These senseless acts can confuse and frighten children and families. As building principal, I want to emphasize that our school is safe.

Delano Elementary has a plan in place for dangerous situations. This plan was developed by school district officials, city officials and the Wright County Sheriff's Office. Lockdown drills are practiced five times each year, along with



**Darren Schuler**

five fire drills, per Minnesota state law.

Teachers are trained by the Wright County Sheriff's Office

on an annual basis about what to do in the event of an active shooter. All building doors are locked during the school day, with the exception of our front entrance. All visitors must go through our front office to check in before proceeding into the main academic part of the building.

Multiple high-definition security cameras assist our office staff in identifying individuals coming and going throughout the exterior and interior of the school. All volunteers must go through a certified background check before being approved to volunteer in our school.

**See Schuler  
Page 3**

# District among nation's best

## New study places Delano in top 3 percent in U.S.

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

A recent survey has determined that Delano Public Schools ranks among the top 3 percent of school districts in the United States.

The National Council for Home Safety and Security evaluated 9,577 school districts to develop its Best School Districts in America list, and Delano was ranked 345th overall. A total of 26 districts from Minnesota were included in the top 500, and among those Minnesota districts Delano was No. 13.

To compile its rankings, the home security trade association that advocates for safe communities and community involvement used four criteria: student



performance measured by math and reading tests, school funding, poverty rate and dropout rate.

In regard to student performance, the report noted that strong districts can benefit all students, regardless of where they fall on the grade scale.

"Enrolling your child in a school where

students perform well on tests and get good grades will increase his or her own achievement through osmosis," the report noted. "Children and teenagers are highly influenced by their peer groups, and competition between students to achieve top marks can be a very good thing."

The ranking adds to a banner year for Delano Public Schools, which was ranked No. 9 in Minnesota by SchoolDigger.com last August, and which was one of just seven Minnesota school districts honored by The College Board with placement on the 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll in December.

For complete results and further explanation of the methods used in the rankings, see [www.alarms.org/best-school-districts-in-america-2018/](http://www.alarms.org/best-school-districts-in-america-2018/).

## Junie B. Jones Jr.



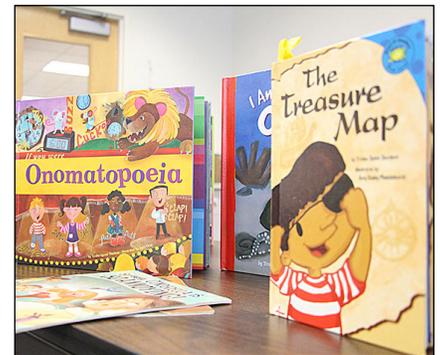
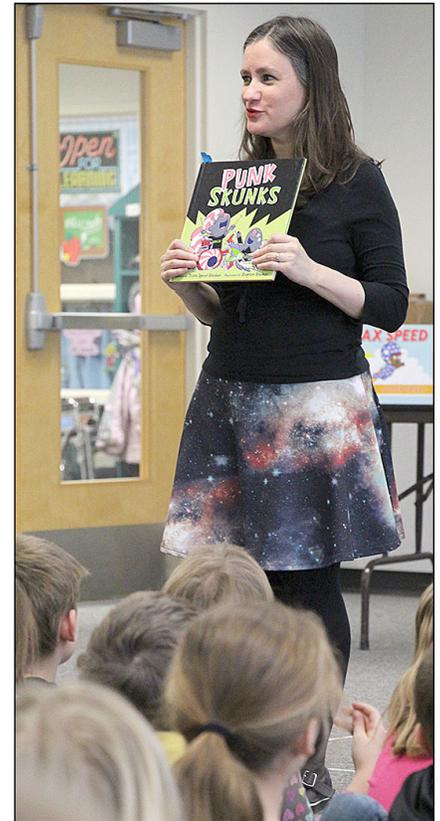
Students in grades 4-7 performed the musical 'Junie B. Jones Jr.' Feb. 22-24. The show focused on the life and thoughts of the popular fictional first-grader.



# I Love to Read Month



Delano Elementary School celebrated I Love to Read Month with a variety of activities in February. Above, students from Ms. Pohlmann's first-grade class read to school board members on Feb. 26. At right and below, Minneapolis authors Stephen Shaskan and Trisha Speed Shaskan shared about the writing and illustrating process during their visit Feb. 15-16. Students also enjoyed dress-up days, a 'Read for the Gold' event and more.



## Schuler

from Page 1

### Talking tips

Many parents and teachers ask the question, "How can I reassure my child(ren) that they are going to be safe at school?" Here are some talking points from the National Association of School Psychologists that may help in establishing a sense of normalcy and security when talking with them about their fears:

- Schools are safe places. Teachers and staff members work with local sheriff and fire departments to keep you safe.
- Schools practice lockdown, fire, and

tornado drills to keep you safe. Be observant and let an adult know when you hear or see something that makes you feel uncomfortable or nervous.

- Although there is no absolute guarantee that something bad will never happen, it is important to understand the difference between the possibility of something happening and the probability of it affecting you.

- Senseless violence is hard for everyone to understand. Doing things that you enjoy, sticking to your normal routine, and being with friends and family help make us feel better and keep us from worrying about the event.

- Violence is never a solution to our

problems. Students can be part of the positive solution by reporting things that do not seem right, supporting students who are being bullied, and learning conflict resolution skills.

Finally, take time to talk about your child's feelings. Some children may not be able to express their concerns verbally. Elementary aged children may use drawing, looking at picture books and art as ways to express their feelings.

As always, we also have a great support staff at Delano Elementary to help your child in any way. Please email me at [darren.schuler@delanoschools.org](mailto:darren.schuler@delanoschools.org) if you have further questions regarding school safety.



‘Flexible seating allows them to wobble, rock, bounce, lean or stand, which in turn helps keep young minds more alert and focused.’

**Greg Hinker**

From left, Levi Meister, Peyton Bright, Lucy Roers and JD Gessinger work on a project in Mrs. Kern’s first-grade class while using some of the unique seating available.

# Unique seats keep kids engaged

**By Greg Hinker**  
Assistant Principal

Several DES teachers are testing the waters with flexible seating arrangements.

When you walk into one of these classrooms you will see seating arrangements very different than those in place 20 years ago. Rather than rows and rows of desks, you will see lowered tables, mats, high-top tables, countertops, benches, stools, bouncy balls and more. These nontraditional options are available in addition to a few standard desks and chairs.

With a flexible seating arrangement, students are allowed to choose where they work and with whom. Students are taught to find their best spot to stay calm, focused and productive.

Teachers have different systems in place for helping students choose and use the different seat options in a fair and non-disruptive way. After a bit of time establishing rules



**Greg Hinker**

and expectations, students quickly take to the choice and freedom that flexible seating provides.

Students love it! They feel empowered by having some degree of choice and control over their environment. Flexible seating allows them to wobble, rock, bounce, lean or stand, which in turn helps keep young minds more alert and focused. Students report feeling



**In addition to unique seats, low-top and high-top tables are also used to allow freedom of movement.**

more comfortable; an uncomfortable student is a distracted and unproductive student.

Flexible seating encourages community and collaboration. Students can quickly and easily pair up, work in small groups, or discuss subjects as a whole class without moving moun-

tains of heavy desks.

Finally, flexible seating helps make learning fun.

Flexible seating is another example of DES teachers striving to better meet the educational and socio-emotional needs of students in innovative and creative ways.

# Publishers encourage young authors

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

At some point most young students probably wonder what it is like to be an author. The Tiger Publishing Center at Delano Elementary School gives them an opportunity to find out.

The publishing center is a volunteer service that helps students create their own books. Students write their own stories and provide the illustrations, while volunteers Cynthia Jacobson and Shadow Felknor take care of the book assembly.

This year is Jacobson's sixth working with the publishing center, and Felknor's fifth. Both have continued volunteering at the publishing center even though their children have outgrown the elementary.

"We've stayed because we like to see the kids at the elementary level grow," said Jacobson. "You can watch the progression of how they improve from first grade to fourth grade, and when we go to hand out these books the kids are excited. It gives them something they've created themselves."

"I love to see the creativity each one brings," said Felknor. "I have had fun watching the younger siblings of my son's



Shadow Felknor, left, and Cynthia Jacobson enjoy volunteering at the Tiger Publishing Center because it helps students become writers and create their own books.

classmates grow. I look back at Logan's books and hope each parent feels the same joy I do as they look at them."

## Publishing process

The publishing process begins when a student writes their own story or works together with friends. The hand-written manuscript is

dropped off at the "in bin" in the elementary media center along with an "author's directions" form specifying choices of book cover and binding design. Students also fill out a "meet the author" page that is included with the book.

From there, Jacobson and Felknor pick up the manuscripts and take them home to type them.

The typed pages that leave room for illustrations are returned to the student, who notes any corrections that might be needed. Jacobson and Felknor make the corrections, and the student has the chance to draw their illustrations.

When the text is finalized and the illustrations done, Jacobson and Felknor create a book cover from cardboard, contact paper and gaffer tape. The pages are covered with Bristol board and sewn together with dental floss. Why floss?

"It's sticky, it's flat, it's really

hard to break, and it will last," said Jacobson.

Finally, the book is glued into the cover with rubber cement, and after it dries the books are presented to the students in their classrooms.

"We like to deliver, because then we get the personal contact with the student," said Jacobson.

## Value

Jacobson and Felknor agreed that the writing process was important for students to explore and enjoy.

"Kids aren't writing the way they used to before the computer age," said Jacobson.

"When you are a good reader you become a better writer, but it's when you become a good

writer that you become a much better reader. They go hand in hand, but if you become a good reader and all you do is read, that doesn't necessarily make you a good writer without practice."



From left, first-graders Grace Techam, Kinlee Jensen, Eva Dinger and Emilia Bidle receive their books.



First place out of 25 teams in third grade went to, from left, Blake Merritt, Harry Stenback and Alexis Zens.



First prize in fourth grade went to, from left, Addison Kirchmann, Kaia Georges and Allison Moen.

# Winners emerge from book battle

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

After the dust settled, a pair of teams emerged with gold medals from both the third grade and fourth grade Battle of the Books competitions on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

The third-grade team of Blake Merritt, Alexis Zens and Harry Stenback claimed first prize after three days of competition, and in fourth grade the winning team members were Addison Kirchmann, Kaia Georges and Allison Moen.

Battle of the Books began with preliminary rounds on Monday, continued with semifinals on Tuesday and concluded with the finals on Wednesday. About 25 third-grade teams and 20 fourth-grade teams read 14 books over a two-month period beforehand. The objective was to get students excited about reading and to introduce some genres students might not otherwise choose on their own.

## Third grade

Merritt, Zens and Stenback went about preparing for their victory in a systematic manner, with Zens creating Google Docs and each team member

filling in plot summaries, as well as names of characters and authors for study purposes.

“Alexis set it up and we wrote down the information for the books we were assigned and memorized it,” said Stenback.

Merritt and Zens read all the books, including the ones they were not specifically assigned, and said they weren’t nervous ahead of the finals, which included the last three teams out of the original 25.

“We were confident,” said Zens.

Stenback, on the other hand, said the suspense was his favorite part of the Battle of the Books competition.

“I could barely sleep last night,” he said.

All three said their favorite book was “The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles,”

by Julie Andrews.

“It had imagination and creativity,” said Stenback.

“And it was really funny,” said Zens.

What did they enjoy most about the competition overall?

added Moen.

“I’m actually quite surprised,” said Kirchmann. “I’m speechless right now.”

The trio had just edged out two other teams in the finals. The second-place team consisted of Isaiah Depa, Wyatt Stenback and Jaimon Kittok, and the third-place squad consisted of Eddie Binsfeld, Garrett Pennala and Luke Logan.

Although they were very nervous before the finals, the winners had two primary factors working in their favor – a lot of preparation and lucky matching hair bows that they wore to each competition.

“These bows are magic,” said Kirchmann.

As for preparation, Georges read each book twice, Moen read all the books once, and Kirchmann focused on a half dozen stories.

Like the third-grade winners, all three said their favorite book was “The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles,” by Julie Andrews. They also said they looked forward to participating in the Battle of the Books competition in the years ahead as the same team.

“We’ve been friends since preschool and kindergarten,” said Georges.

## The runners-up

### Third grade

2nd place: Madison Ring, Anna Lamecker, Charlotte Nelson  
3rd place: Jackson Althoff, Carson Snow, Ben Teal

### Fourth grade

2nd place: Isaiah Depa, Wyatt Stenback, Jaimon Kittok  
3rd place: Eddie Binsfeld, Garrett Pennala, Luke Logan

“Just reading the books in general,” said Merritt. “And winning.”

The second-place team was made up of Madison Ring, Anna Lamecker and Charlotte Nelson. Taking third place were Jackson Althoff, Carson Snow and Ben Teal.

## Fourth grade

Shortly after claiming their gold medals, Kirchmann, Georges and Moen were still reveling in their victory.

“I feel exultant right now,” said Georges.

“I feel a shot of triumph,”

# Olympics at DES



Delano Elementary marked the beginning of the Winter Olympics with its own opening ceremony and parade of nations on Friday, Feb. 9.



# Snapshots

## Diaper drive

The recent kindergarten diaper drive yielded a total of 1,882 diapers and 3,372 wipes. The diapers and wipes are donated to Love Inc's Lullaby Ministry located in Delano. Thanks to kindergarten students and their families for making a difference in the Delano community!



## FRED event draws crowd

Over 150 dads and 160 students attended the Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) event on Monday, Feb. 12. Attendees created their own books, and enjoyed a variety of activities.



## Tiger Fun Fair

A wide array of games, bounce houses, obstacle courses and more greeted visitors at the annual Tiger Fun Fair on Saturday, Feb. 24, in the Tiger Activity Center. The event was put on by the PIE group.



# Announcements

## Kindergarten Round-Up

Kindergarten Round-Up is on Tuesday or Thursday, March 6 or 8, for children entering school in the fall of 2018. Families with last names beginning with A-K should attend on March 6, and families with last names beginning with L-Z should attend on March 8. Come on the alternate day if there is a schedule conflict.

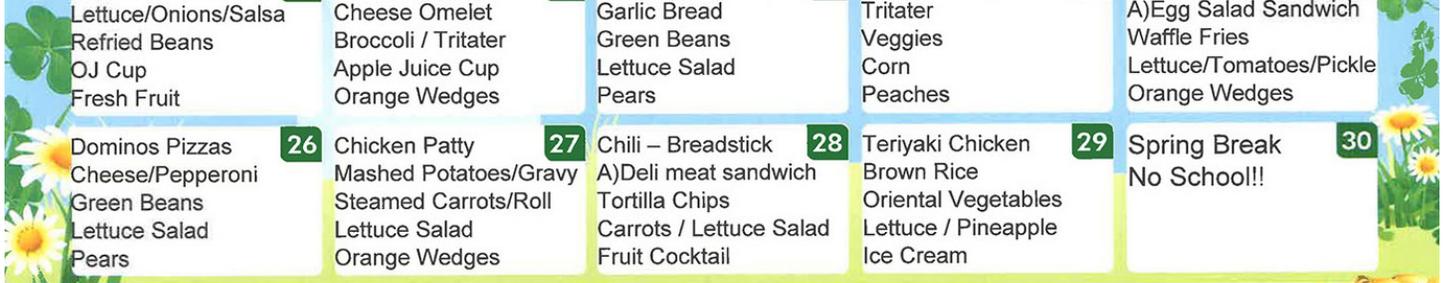
Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and special activities will begin at 6:05 p.m. The evening will include a meeting for parents while children participate in classroom activities, and concludes around 8 p.m. Children and parents will can meet the exceptional and caring DES staff, tour the school, participate in fun activities, and learn about the all-day every-day kindergarten program.

## Anxiety presentation March 20

Licensed psychologist and registered play therapist Rob Winkler of Playmore & Prosper will present a special workshop about anxiety in children from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, in the elementary school multipurpose room.

The presentation will help dispel popular myths regarding anxiety in children, include the latest research and information, explain the two essential components needed to defeat anxiety, and offer creative and playful strategies to ease and eliminate anxiety.

Parents, educators and those who work with children are welcome to attend. The event is free, and childcare is available. RSVP to michelle.krueger@delanoschools.org.

LUNCH					MARCH 2018		Delano Elementary Lunch \$2.80		
Delano Elementary School					Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
					<b>5</b> Hot Dog A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips / Carrots Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce	<b>6</b> Chicken Gravy A)Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes/Roll Peas / Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	<b>7</b> Chicken Nuggets Tritater Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail	<b>1</b> Chicken Alfredo Penne Pasta Roll / Lettuce Salad California Vegetables Orange Wedges	<b>2</b> Build Burrito/Chicken Spanish Rice Refried Beans Lettuce/Cheese/Salsa Fresh Fruit
<b>12</b> BBQ Chick Drumstick Brown Rice Steamed Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple	<b>13</b> Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	<b>14</b> Hamburger Sun Chips Lettuce/Tomatoes/Pickle Fresh Fruit	<b>8</b> Pepperoni Pizza Lettuce Salad Corn Pears	<b>9</b> Tacos / Beef Lettuce/Cheese/Salsa Refried Beans OJ cup / Fresh Fruit Frosted Graham Cracker					
<b>19</b> Nachos-Beef/Cheese Lettuce/Onions/Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit	<b>20</b> Cinnamon Roll Cheese Omelet Broccoli / Tritater Apple Juice Cup Orange Wedges	<b>21</b> Spaghetti/Meatballs Garlic Bread Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	<b>15</b> Chicken Patty/Bun A )PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Lettuce Salad/Veggies Peaches/crackers	<b>16</b> Italian Dunkers Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit					
<b>26</b> Dominos Pizzas Cheese/Pepperoni Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	<b>27</b> Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Steamed Carrots/Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	<b>28</b> Chili – Breadstick A)Deli meat sandwich Tortilla Chips Carrots / Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail	<b>22</b> Chicken Nuggets Tritater Veggies Corn Peaches	<b>23</b> Hamburger A)Egg Salad Sandwich Waffle Fries Lettuce/Tomatoes/Pickle Orange Wedges					
<b>30</b> Spring Break No School!!					<b>29</b> Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Oriental Vegetables Lettuce / Pineapple Ice Cream				

**'Destiny may ride with us today, but there is no reason for it to interfere with lunch.'**  
**- Peter the Great**



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