

# Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary Family Newsletter

April 2018



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## Dates to remember

### April

- 4.....DQ Night, 5-8 p.m.  
*(C. Schleper and Nagengast)*
- 5....."Screenagers," 7 p.m.
- 6.....HS spring musical, 7 p.m.
- 7.....HS spring musical, 1 p.m.
- 9.....District PIE, 7 p.m.
- 10.....ES PIE, 7 p.m.
- 16-17....MCA testing, grades 3-4
- 18.....DIS info mtg, 6:30 p.m.
- 18.....DQ Art Night, 5-8 p.m.  
*(Beck and Pohlmann)*
- 19.....Imagination Fair, 4:30 p.m.
- 25.....Grade 2 field trip,  
Eastman Nature Center
- 25.....Kindergarten field trip,  
Gale Woods Farm



## Scientists for a day

Dr. Tara Mullen helps a pair of young volunteers conduct an experiment on March 9. Mullen, a resident of Delano with her husband, Dr. Brian Mullen, spent the day at DES doing demonstrations and sharing about scientific careers. See Page 5 for more.

## More than head knowledge

By Darren Schuler  
Principal

One of the most popular topics in education recently has been Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). This phrase comes up in many conversations with teachers and parents regarding students in today's schools.

Social and emotional learning is defined as the process through which children (and adults) acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for



**Darren Schuler**

others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and

make responsible decisions.

Many educational experts are now saying that a child's success isn't only determined by cognitive skills, as once thought. Social-emotional skills, including self-awareness, optimism and grit, are major contributors to student success in school and in life.

### **Assess your children**

I would encourage parents to take a minute to assess your child's social-emotional readiness. Many teachers are currently using the Devereux

**See Schuler**  
Page 2

# Songs from outer space

Second-graders performed two “Journey into Space” concerts on Thursday, March 22, under the direction of Ms. Dake and Ms. Rosholt. Here is a look at a few of the stars from the night.



## Schuler

from Page 1

Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) to track student progress in SEL skills.

I would encourage you to review each of the eight areas of social emotional learning to see where your child shows strength or areas of weakness:

**1. Self-awareness:** A child’s realistic understanding of his or her strengths and limitations and consistent desire for self-improvement.

**2. Self-management:** A child’s success in controlling his or her emotions and behaviors, to complete a task or succeed in a new or challenging situation.

**3. Social awareness:** A child’s capacity to interact with others in a way that shows

respect for their ideas and behaviors, recognizes her or his impact on them, and uses cooperation and tolerance in social situations.

**4. Relationship skills:** A child’s consistent performance of socially acceptable actions that promote and maintain positive connections with others.

**5. Goal-directed behavior:** A child’s initiation of, and persistence in, completing tasks of varying difficulty.

**6. Personal responsibility:** A child’s tendency to be careful and reliable in their actions and in contributing to group efforts.

**7. Decision making:** A child’s approach to problem solving that involves learning from others and from his or her own previous experiences, using values to guide

their actions, and accepting responsibility for his or her decisions.

**8. Optimistic thinking:** A child’s attitude of confidence, hopefulness and positive thinking regarding themselves and their life situations in the past, present and future.

When looking at these eight areas of social-emotional learning, please remember they are a guide to help you in determining the areas where your children may need some extra support. Every child will have areas where they are particularly strong, and some areas where they have room for growth.

By looking at the particular areas of social and emotional learning, you can play an important role in helping promote healthy outcomes for your children.

# Three Reading Corps tutors needed

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

Few skills are more integral to learning than reading, and students who don't learn to read well by the end of third grade typically have a difficult time catching up during the rest of their school years.

In Minnesota, about one in three third-graders struggle with reading, so the extra help provided by Minnesota Reading Corps (MRC) tutors can make a big difference.

Delano Elementary is seeking three full-time MRC tutors to step in for the 2018-19 school year to replace three outgoing tutors. Sue Dehne, Angela Westlund and Lacy Punt have served during the current school year, and each one said they would highly recommend the experience.

"I was a stay-at-home mom for 11 years, and this was something to just get back into the swing of working," said Westlund, who is wrapping up her time as a tutor at DES after two years.



Minnesota Reading Corps tutors for 2017-18 are, from left, Sue Dehne, Lacy Punt and Angela Westlund. Three new tutors are needed for 2018-19.

Punt saw a notice seeking tutors in one of the district's publications last year and decided to go for the experience.

"I just wanted to try tutoring young kids," she said, adding that an educational benefit provided to MRC tutors was also an incentive.

Full-time tutors earn a stipend of about \$500 every two weeks, and they also earn an

education award of just under \$6,000 per year for two years.

Because tutors receive thorough instruction in MRC methods both before and during the school year, they do not need much in the way of prior qualifications beyond a high school diploma.

"They are fully trained, so when they come and start they feel pretty confident," said DES

basic skills teacher Lisa Downer, who oversees the Reading Corps program at DES.

Tutor hours run from about 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Dehne, a former teacher who has served as a tutor for the past three years, said the opportunity to work on the same schedule as her own school-age son was a good fit.

"I like the one-on-one or the small group teaching," Dehne said. "I've enjoyed it so I just stayed with it."

Delano Elementary School has been a Minnesota Reading Corps site for the past 10 years. Tutors have their own instruction area, and Downer said the staff appreciates the work done by the Reading Corps personnel. Dehne said the feeling is mutual.

"It's just been very nice working with the staff here and being a part of the school," she said.

For more information, contact Downer at [lisa.downer@delanoschools.org](mailto:lisa.downer@delanoschools.org), or see [www.minnesotareadingcorps.org](http://www.minnesotareadingcorps.org).



## Viktor against bullying

The March "Tiger Way" celebration featured special guests from the Minnesota Vikings. Cheerleader Evan and team mascot Viktor talked to DES students about how to stop bullying using the acronym STOP: Stand Up, Take Action, Open Up, and Protect Yourself. The event was sponsored by PACER, and Verizon Wireless.

# Intermediate information meeting on April 18

Parents of next year's Delano Intermediate students in grades 4-6 are invited to a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18, in the Delano Middle School auditorium.

Principal Barry Voight will provide an overview of the planning efforts for the new school. The main portion of the meeting will be reserved for responses to questions that audience members have regarding the new school. Contact Voight at [barry.voight@delanoschools.org](mailto:barry.voight@delanoschools.org) with specific questions in order to help orient his presentation toward questions that families currently have.

Those unable to attend will still have access to the information through the school website. A slideshow and audio recording from the meeting will be posted.



Contractors are putting the finishing touches on the intermediate school, and staff plan to start moving in the day after school ends in May.

## Schuler a Distinguished Principal Finalist

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

When it comes to providing leadership at the elementary school level, Delano's Darren Schuler stands a head above the rest.

His success in that regard was recognized when the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association named him one of three statewide finalists for the Minnesota 2018 National Distinguished Principal honor.

"It's fun to be recognized. There are some amazing folks out there doing some amazing things," Schuler said. "It's neat to be part of the process any way it goes."

Schuler was nominated for the honor by former DES assistant principals Corey Lahr, now the principal at St. Michael Elementary, and John McDonald, now the principal of Albertville Primary, St. Michael-Albertville Schools.

"Throughout his tenure at Delano Elementary, Mr. Schuler has always had a vision for excellence," Lahr and McDonald wrote in their nomination. "His goal is to make all staff better at their jobs by promoting best practices. Mr. Schuler not only strives to help the staff at Delano Elementary grow,



Darren Schuler

but he is constantly working on making himself better too."

Under Schuler's leadership, Delano Elementary has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School, a Senator's School of Excellence, an Active Schools Award winner, a MAEF School Spotlight Award winner, and has been credentialed by MESPA as a Minnesota School of Excellence.

"On behalf of the school district, we're extremely proud of Mr. Schuler's accomplishments professionally as the principal of our elementary school," said Delano Superintendent Matt Schoen. "Over the past 11 years, working with Mr. Schuler both as a fellow principal and as su-

'Mr. Schuler has always had a vision for excellence.'

Corey Lahr and  
John McDonald

perintendent, I've been very impressed with his ability to be the instructional leader in our elementary school. Mr. Schuler has built positive and effective relationships over the past several years that have created an optimal teaching and learning environment for all students and staff."

Schuler has been a principal for 18 years, including the past 13 years in Delano. Previous principal stints included three years in Lanesboro and two in Milaca. He also taught second grade in Watertown for seven years before embarking on his career as an administrator.

### ***Building a strong staff***

Schuler said his biggest focus as a leader has been to build a school culture that breeds success. At the front end of that effort is a relatively extensive hiring process that ensures a skilled teaching staff.

"I feel like we get really good, high-quality people that fit the Delano mold," Schuler said, adding that a strong

work ethic, team spirit and a focus on doing what's best for students are emphasized.

Bringing in top-notch staff members is important, he said, and particularly so in a community like Delano where education serves as a draw for homebuyers.

"We have some really invested parents in Delano that come here for the schools," said Schuler. "I think our staff does a really nice job of meeting those parent expectations. ... We have a wonderful staff here that works hard and advocates for kids in the classrooms. That makes my job a lot easier."

### ***Next steps***

Schuler and the other finalists, Lisa Pikop (principal of Garfield Elementary, Miltona Science Magnet School, and Carlos Elementary of Alexandria Public Schools) and Curtis Slater (principal of Wyoming Elementary in the Forest Lake School District) will have in-person interviews with a selection committee in late April.

The 2018 Minnesota National Distinguished Principal, along with 49 counterparts representing their own states, will earn a trip to Washington, D.C. for an awards ceremony.

• See [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us) for a more complete story.

# Learning the life of a scientist

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

The wonders of chemistry were on full display at Delano Elementary School Friday, March 9, when a pair of visiting scientists performed a variety of demonstrations with acids and bases, the fire triangle, and more.

Brian and Tara Mullen, Delano residents for the past 10 years and the parents of two

**‘There are all sorts of fun things you can do if you want to be a scientist.’**

**Tara Mullen**

Delano students, brought their PhD credentials and a wealth of experience to their presentations. Collectively, the pair holds 58 U.S. patents.

Brian works in construction chemicals with BASF, a company that has provided coatings for materials in iconic structures like One World Trade Center, U.S. Bank Stadium and Target Field.

Tara is employed by Suez Water Technologies, which handles water purification and



**Dr. Brian Mullen answers questions from students after demonstrating a number of experiments on Friday, March 9.**

cleanup services, among other things.

“The reason I like science is it causes me to think,” Brian told students, describing how his interest in the field was sparked when a scientist visited his school when he was a student. “I see something and it makes me ask why things happen.”

Tara described a few of the



**Dr. Mullen demonstrates how a chemical reaction can cause a balloon to inflate with gas.**

couple’s past ventures as a way of showing the broad possibilities students can enjoy in the field.

“There are all sorts of fun things you can do if you want to be a scientist,” she said.

In their demonstrations, the Mullens showed the effects of carbon dioxide on a candle’s flame, changed the color of a liquid by adding acids or bases,

and captured gas in a balloon.

“We just want some sparks to go off in their minds about chemistry and help them get ready for the Imagination Fair coming up,” said Brian.

After the demonstrations each student received color-changing cups and pencils, along with a magazine, courtesy of BASF.



**Students of all ages were excited to see a variety of demonstrations performed by the Mullens.**

# Testing aids teaching and learning

By **Greg Hinker**  
Assistant Principal

During the months of April and May DES students will be participating in the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments test (MCA) and the Formative Assessment System for Teachers test (FAST).

All K-4 students take the FAST reading and math tests, and all students in third and fourth grade take the MCA reading and math test.

## **MCA information**

The results of both tests are very beneficial and are used by staff in different ways. The MCA is given each spring and measures student mastery of grade level standards. It tells us how well we have aligned curriculum to and instructed students in the Minnesota



**Greg Hinker**

Academic Standards in reading and mathematics.

We use the information to improve classroom teaching and learning. Teachers and principals look for areas where students do well so they can reinforce the ways they teach these skills. We also look for ar-

reas that need improvement so they can increase instructional time or modify their instruction.

Families can go to the “Test Preparation Suggestions for Parents and Teachers” handout on the MDE website for tips on content preparation and general test-taking strategies. Item samplers are also available on the MDE website to help students become familiar with the format of the test and the types of questions that are on the test. Student tutorials for online tests provide information on using the online tools and describe navigation and item types.

## **FAST information**

The FAST test is a universal screening assessment that is given three times each year. Universal screening is the pro-

cess of regularly checking every student’s performance (taking their “temperature”) periodically during the school year. It is an adaptive computer test that is individualized and monitors individual student growth. The results of this assessment help staff identify students who are responding well to core instruction (on track), as well as those who may require supplemental or intervention and instructional support.

## **Test schedule**

Students will take the MCA reading test the week of April 16 and the MCA math test the week of April 23.

The FAST test will be administered starting the week of May 7. Individual classroom teachers will post the specific things their students will be taking.

## Kindergarten Round-Up



## Exploring DES

Students and parents from the Class of 2031 attended Kindergarten Round-Up in early March to gather information, meet with staff and check out the facilities. Principal Darren Schuler said it looks as if the kindergarten class should stay about the same size next year, which means there will be seven sections.





## State spirit

DES was literally shaking with excitement during an impromptu pep fest on Friday, March 23, the day before Delano won the state basketball title. Students met the mascot, enjoyed a pep band and met cheerleaders.

# Time to consider signing up for band

By Mike Dailey  
Band Director

Students interested in joining band in fifth grade should consider the following.

### May 7-11

All fourth-graders will see a band instrument demonstration during this week. At this demonstration they will see the various musical instruments that are options for them to play next year. After the demonstration, each student will have a sign up sheet to indicate their top two instrument choices. They should keep that form with them.

### Monday, May 14

This is instrument testing day at the elementary multi-purpose room. The students will bring the form they filled out during the demonstration and have the opportunity to test their top two choices of instruments.

Eckroth Music will have professionals there to help the students see where their strengths are and to guide them to the best instrument choice for them.

### Percussion notes

We start a maximum of six



**Students should consider whether or not they would like to be in band, and take part in preparatory activities during the month of May.**

percussion students each year. I will evaluate any student that wants to be in percussion after school on Thursday, May 10, Friday, May 11, or Monday May 14. The evaluations will take 5-10 minutes per student.

I will do the evaluations on a first-come first-serve basis starting at 3 p.m. each day in the high school band room. We would like perspective percussion students to have two years of formal piano lessons.

Percussion evaluations will consist of rhythm reading, rhythm matching, tempo matching, note naming, a bell piece and a major scale. All

materials will be provided. Please email me what day your student would like to try out at [mike.dailey@delano.schools.org](mailto:mike.dailey@delano.schools.org).

### Sign-up night

Wednesday, May 16, is the official sign up night for the fifth-grade band of 2018-19! I will have two informational parent meetings in the high school band room at 4:30 and 6 p.m.

After the meeting you can sign your child up for band and, if needed, rent an instrument and/or buy supplies from Eckroth Music.

Signing up for band is, of course, optional. All students wishing to join the band must have an instrument that works well. To facilitate this, Eckroth Music will be renting instruments and will also have someone at the sign up night that can inspect an instrument you may already have.

### What students need

All students participating in band will need a quality working instrument, lesson book (Traditions of Excellence Book 1), oils and/or cleaning supplies and a music stand.

Percussionists will need one additional book: Alfred Drum Method Book 1.

### Free band camp

A free band camp will be held in the intermediate school music room Aug. 20-23. Sections will meet together Monday through Thursday each day to learn all of the basics and to get started before the first day of school.

- Flutes and oboes (8-8:45 a.m.), clarinets (8:45-9:30), saxophones (9:30-10:15), trumpets and French horns (10:15-11), trombones and baritones (11:15-noon) and percussion (noon to 12:45 p.m.)



**DHS will present “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” on Friday and Saturday, April 6-7.**

## ‘Peanuts’ characters coming to life in play

DHS will present its spring musical, “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” next week. Show times include a 7 p.m. performance on Friday, April 6, and a 1 p.m. show on Saturday, April 7.

The cast is led by Gabe Otto in the title role. Other characters include Lucy (Grace Schaust), Linus (Blake Koehler), Schroeder (Hunter Elwood), Sally (Jenna Kantrovich), Snoopy (Owen Dailey), Woodstock (Justin May), Peppermint Patty (Kelli Carroll), Marcie (Mary Ludwig), Violet (Claire Bruhn), Frieda (Juney Anderson), Eudora (Isabelle Hokanson), Pigpen (Sydney Sinnott) and Thibault (Autumn Trujillo).

That group is augmented by an “enthusiastic ensemble,” according to play director Barb Roy. Middle school/high school vocal director Sandy Meyerson is managing the music.

## Announcements

### *Attend ‘Screenagers’ showing*

Are you watching kids scroll through life with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Stanford-trained physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw that with her own kids, and learned that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. She wondered about the impact of all this time, and about the friction occurring in homes and schools in terms of negotiating screen time.

In “Screenagers,” Delaney explores struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists and brain scientists, “Screenagers” reveals how tech time impacts kids’ development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.

“Screenagers” will be shown at Delano High School on Thursday, April 5. Students in grades 9-12 will view the film during the school day, and a longer version will be shown for parents and community members at 7 p.m.

### *Become a substitute teacher*

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at teaching? A two-day workshop is planned for people with a non-education four-year bachelor’s degree from an accredited college who would like to become a limited, short-call substitute teacher. Participants will receive training in:

- the process for applying for the two-year license through the Minnesota Department of Education,
- the substitute teacher’s role in the classroom and district,
- the basics of classroom management, instruction, and child development, as well as communication skills, and
- awareness of legal issues relating to students and a teacher’s obligations.

The workshop takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, and from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, at Resource Training & Solutions (137 23rd Street S, Sartell).

There is a fee to attend. To register, go to [www.resourcetraining.com](http://www.resourcetraining.com), enter the course code in the “Search for Events” box located to the right on the homepage, then follow the prompts. The course code is 9999. For more info, visit [www.resourcetraining.com](http://www.resourcetraining.com).

### *Watch year-end meal balances*

Beginning Monday, May 14, and continuing through the end of the year, there will be no charging of any amount to purchase a lunch or breakfast. This helps eliminate negative balances at year end. Any unpaid lunch balances will be placed for collections.

Account deposits must be turned in to the office by 10 a.m. each day to be recorded by lunch time. To check your current account balance, you can log in to Family Access on the Delano Public Schools website ([www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us)) and click on Food Service.

Contact Tracie Erickson with questions or concerns at 763.972.3365 ext. 2136 or [tracie.erickson@delanoschools.org](mailto:tracie.erickson@delanoschools.org).

### *Notify school of address changes*

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 2018-19 school year.

### *Volunteer at Delano schools*

Whether you have just a few hours a year or several a month, there is no shortage of opportunities to share your skills and interests at Delano Public Schools. For more information, or to register as a volunteer, visit [www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun) or call 763.972.3365, ext. 2333.

### *New school rewards program*

Support for a school district can come in many forms, but anyone who wishes to aid the Delano schools through the Coborn’s school rewards program should be aware of a change in how the program works this year. Coborn’s is starting its new paperless MORE School Rewards program, which replaces the former Labels for Learning. There are three steps to participate.

1. Designate your preferred school (DHS, DMS or DES) by logging into [moreRewards.com](http://moreRewards.com) or the MORE Rewards mobile app. Click the Rewards tab at the top of the page, then the School Rewards tab.

2. Shop Coborn’s for the store brands (Food Club, Full Circle, Top Care, Paws, Tippy Toes and more) to earn points for your preferred school.

# Building strong citizens

The March theme of the month at DES was Citizenship. Students discussed making a difference in the place they live through events like food, clothing and diaper drives, senior center visits and more.



LUNCH					APRIL 2018				
Delano Elementary School									
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday					
Cheese Quesadilla Corn Lettuce Salad Pears	French Toast Sticks Sausage links Tritater / Broccoli Orange Wedges OJ Cup	Hamburger Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce/tomatoes/pickles Carrots/ Fruit Cocktail	Chicken Alfredo Penne Pasta Calf Blend/ Roll Lettuce Orange Wedges	Chicken Drumstick Brown Rice Peas Lettuce Pineapple					
Hot Dog A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips / Carrots Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce	Chicken Gravy A)Polish Sausage Mashed potatoes/Peas Lettuce / Roll Apple Crisp/Oranges	Chicken Nuggets Tritater Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail	Cheese/Pepperoni Pizza Corn Lettuce Pears	Tacos – Beef Lettuce/Cheese/Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit / OJ Cup Frosted Graham Cracker					
Popcorn Chicken Brown Rice Steamed Vegetables Lettuce Pineapple	Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	Italian Dunkers A)Chicken Caesar Salad Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	Chicken Patty/Bun A)PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Lettuce/Veggies/Cracker Peaches	Cheese Ravioli Cheesy Breadstick California Blend Veg Lettuce Salad Pears/ice cream cup					
Nachos – Beef/Cheese Lettuce/Salsa/Onions Refried Beans Fresh Fruit OJ Cup	Cinnamon Roll Cheese Omelet Broccoli / Tritater Apple Juice Cup Orange Wedges	Spaghetti/Meatballs A)Egg Salad Sandwich Garlic Bread Green Beans/Lettuce Pears	Chicken Nuggets Tritater Veggies Corn Fruit Cocktail	Hamburger A)Sloppy Joes Waffle Fries Lettuce/tomatoes/pickles Orange Wedges					
Dominos Pizza Cheese/Pepperoni Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears									

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Elementary School \$2.80



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