

# Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary Family Newsletter

December 2017-January 2018



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December menu

## Dates to remember

### December

- 6.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.  
(Stern, Emmerich)
- 7.....Grade 4 concert, 6:30 p.m.  
(Griep, Hiltner, Sass, Stern)
- 7.....Grade 4 concert, 7:30 p.m.  
(Berggren, Brown, Hall, Schleper)
- 20.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.  
(Huikko, Knisley)
- 25-31.....Winter break, no school

### January

- 1.....Winter break, no school
- 2.....School resumes
- 9.....ES PIE meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.  
(Williams, Swan)
- 15.....Workshop day, no school
- 15.....ES conferences and book fair, 12-8 p.m.
- 18.....ES conferences and book fair, 4-8 p.m.
- 24.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.  
(Jensen, Hiltner)
- 26..Grade 3 Science Museum trip



After the Apex Fun Run, select students were rewarded for strong fundraising with the chance to hit Apex team member 'Squishy' in the face with a pie.

## Unprecedented support

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coord.

Delano Elementary School conducted one of its most successful fundraisers ever during the second half of November.

While the final total had not yet been tallied at the start of December, preliminary indications were that the Apex Fun Run and Apex UNIT-ED program had netted over \$37,000 for the DES Partners In Education group.

There was a good chance that total would increase, but even if it didn't the number would still represent 115 percent of the school's fundraising goal.

"That is probably the best



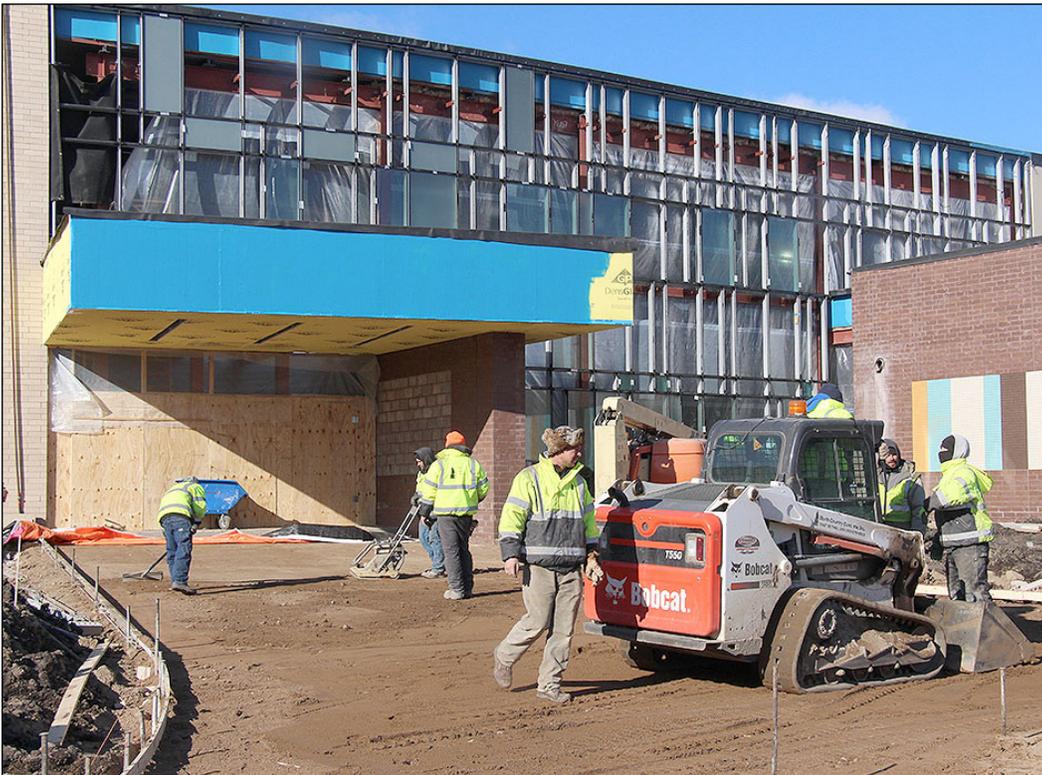
Kindergarten students start the fun run on Nov. 29.

we've ever done," said Principal Darren Schuler.

The Apex Fun Run is a nationwide program that focuses on character and fitness. The

two-week program culminates in a fun run that was held in the Tiger Activity Center on

See Apex  
Page 4



Construction crews prepared the main entrance of Delano Intermediate School for concrete and installed windows in mid-November. When the new school opens next spring it will create an opportunity to reimagine how space is used in the elementary school to maximize learning for K-3 students.

# Nurse's notes

By Crista Wadholm  
DES Nurse

As we head into winter, I wanted to take a moment to revisit the guidelines that we follow regarding illness and school attendance.

Winter marks the height of cold and flu season, and it's important for the health of our students that children who are ill be kept home from school. My hope is that these guidelines will help you to decide when your child should stay home from school.

- If a child has a fever of 100 degrees or more, that child should stay home for 24 hours after their temperature returns to normal without the use of fever reducing medication.

- If a child has vomited or has had diarrhea, that child should stay home from school until 24 hours after the last episode.

- If a child has an unexplained rash that could be disease-related, that child should be kept home from school until cleared by a physician to return to school.

- If a child is started on antibiotics for ANY reason, that child should be kept home for 24 hours.

It is certainly challenging for working parents to juggle the demands of work and family, so we ask that a back-up plan be put into place with a trusted friend or relative in the event that your child becomes ill unexpectedly and you are unable to take time off from work.

Also, please make sure that your child is properly dressed for the weather each and every day. Once there is snow on the ground that includes coat, hat, mittens, snow pants and boots.

Our students go outside for recess every day unless it is raining or a combination of air temperature and wind chill keeps our students inside.

Have a wonderful, safe and healthy winter!

# Opportunity ahead

## Departure of fourth grade opens door to redesigning the elementary

By Darren Schuler  
Principal

These are very exciting times for Delano Public Schools! With multiple on-going building projects over the past year, we are seeing unprecedented changes to our schools and campus.

These changes will directly impact Delano Elementary soon, with fourth grade moving to the new intermediate building starting in September 2018.

This past October, our Delano Elementary Site Base Committee began the process of planning for the new redesign of the elementary school building to meet the needs of our K-3 students and staff.

With an entire grade level



**Darren Schuler**

moving out of the elementary building, it creates a unique opportunity to redesign our learning spaces. Our committee will be focusing on three specific areas over the course

of this school year:

- Redesign and changes to space in current building
- Review of schedule to better meet student and staff learning needs
- Revise our homework procedures to meet the needs of K-3 grade learners.

In January and February we are planning listening sessions with our elementary school parent community to gather feedback on the proposed changes. Please look for information and dates in the near future.

As always, feel free to contact me at [darren.schuler@delanoschools.org](mailto:darren.schuler@delanoschools.org) if you have questions.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

# Learning extends beyond academics

By Greg Hinker  
Assistant Principal

Social and emotional learning is an important initiative in many schools around the United States.

The Collaboration for Academic and Social and Emotional Learning ([www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org), 2017) describes social and emotional learning as the process through which children acquire and effectively apply knowledge, attitudes and skills to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Delano Elementary School staff have been working to



**Greg Hinker**

bring social and emotional learning to our children.

**Kindness, gratitude**  
Each month a theme word

has been set as a focus of learning. Kindness was the focus of October. Students engaged in lessons, watched educational videos, and participated in the Unity Day and Kindness in Chalk events.

In November students have been learning about gratitude. Students have participated in classroom activities, read books and completed projects about gratitude. Bulletin boards were created in the main hallways where messages of gratitude from students were posted.

During the morning announcements, students have been given tips and have been challenged to show gratitude and appreciation to different people and in different ways.

## **Empathy**

In December students will be learning about empathy. Teachers will model, discuss, role play, journal and use picture books to help students better understand and share the feelings of others.

Picture books with characters and conflicts will expose children to a range of social situations that children may not have experienced themselves. These activities will give space for students to engage in opportunities to be empathetic.

I encourage parents to support and extend this social and emotional learning by asking your child about these activities and having conversations about being aware of the thoughts and feelings of others.

# Turkey of ties helps express gratitude

## Unique display boosts creativity

Gratitude was a theme for students through the month of November, and fourth-graders in Cay Griep's class continued a tradition of expressing their gratitude in a unique style with their turkey project made entirely from business ties.

"I have been doing this since my days in Cokato, about 18 years ago, when I was needing to create a November bulletin board," said Griep, who said the idea came from a magazine.

"I do it every year, focusing on why we are thankful for the wonderful things we have in our lives. I read a Native American book about thanking the earth for the things we have, and then discuss how it pertains to our lives now. The students really do put a lot of thought into (their projects) and I have seen some pretty awesome thankful writings."

Griep started out small, borrowing ties for the turkey from her husband, father and brother. When she came to Delano, she added a few more from students in her class, Principal Darren Schuler and at least one other unwitting participant in Director of Teaching and Learning Joe Vieau.

"I'm not sure his wife ever told him she donated his ties," Griep said.

Over the past few years Griep said she



**Students show off this year's tie turkey, which inspired them to focus on things they are thankful for in a unique way.**

has had a number of parent volunteers who have gone all out to create a memorable turkey that inspires her students to write with even more creativity.

Fourth-graders will not move to the new Delano Intermediate School until the

fall of 2018, but Griep said she is already thinking ahead when it comes to the turkey tie project.

"I hope I can find a spot in the new 4-6 building to put it up," she said. "Some traditions are hard to let go of."

# Apex

from Page 1

Wednesday, Nov. 29. Before then, students raised money by obtaining pledges for the laps they would run.

On race day students ran laps 1/16th of a mile in length while parent volunteers recorded their progress. Students were allowed to run a maximum of 36 laps.

"It's just a fun event. The kids are really excited when they get down to the big TAC. They have inflatable tunnels to run through, and the kids really want to reach that 36-lap limit," said Schuler.

The four-person Apex team of "Nik Nak Nate," "Two Step," "Captain Jack" and "Squishy" will conduct fundraisers at about 48 schools this year, and "Delano will be one of the better schools we have" in terms of fundraising success, said Nik Nak.

## Service to students

Last spring DES tried the Apex fundraiser for the first time at the recommendation of a former Delano administrator. This fall, the school was more familiar with the program and promoted it on a wider scale.

"It's a really good message, and of course being active was something we really felt fits well with our values of being a healthy school, an active school," said Schuler.

After a pep rally to kick off the program on Nov. 15, the Apex team visited classrooms to share about the Apex UNITED message, with the



Kindergarten students sprint around the a track set up in the Tiger Activity Center during the Apex Fun Run on Wednesday, Nov. 29.

acronym standing for "Unique, No Excuses, Inspire Others, Teachable, Empathize and Do Your Best."

"Compared to other fundraisers I've been a part of, this provided a significant service to students through character building," said Assistant Principal Greg Hinker. "That was a great addition and taught the kids some valuable lessons. So we weren't just promoting food and begging for this, that and the other thing. It was a nice change."

Students also had the opportunity to win a wide range of prizes based on their pledges. The top prizes won by Delano students this year included aerial drones and a mini mo-



Students enjoyed the fun run experience.

torbike.

## Why use Apex?

Even with the large amount of money raised, Schuler said some might question why the school uses an outside fundraising program rather than doing its own fundraising and keeping all the proceeds.

While the school could hold its own fundraisers, he explained that an outside program is more exciting for the students, helps teachers and staff to focus on their jobs rather than fundraising, and ultimately is more successful.

Hinker agreed.

"If we did it ourselves we would not be able to draw as sustained a level of interest as what they are able to get because they have a profession-

ally planned, upbeat program," Hinker said. "We could do something on our own, but I don't think we would get nearly the amount of fundraising dollars."

## Use of the money

The funds raised go to the DES PIE group, which uses its money for things like technology upgrades, field trips and more. This fall previously raised PIE funds were used to construct a new playground structure for kindergarten students to alleviate overcrowding.

"All of the things the money goes toward are ultimately to impact the students," said Schuler.

The Apex program is the only fundraiser the PIE group will hold this year.

"In Delano we've been pretty fortunate to usually just do one fundraiser sponsored by our PIE group a year," said Schuler, explaining that two were done last year during the transition to Apex. "In general we just feel like we can meet our budgetary needs by having one. It looks like this program will kind of surpass our expectations in year two, so financially we're doing pretty well."



Parent volunteers passed out water and recorded laps.

# Partners step up for playground

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coord.

Ever since Delano Elementary School began all-day kindergarten four years ago, staff members and kindergarten students found that playground equipment space was at a premium during recess time.

"The playground was sufficient before that, but now when you have 150 to 160 students out there for recess, it just was not big enough," said Principal Darren Schuler.

That changed when the DES Partners in Education group budgeted about \$30,000 to construct additional playground equipment. Construction began over the MEA break this fall, and the new unit opened to students on Friday, Nov. 10.

"That following week so many kids were interested in using it at the same time that we had to designate one group a day that would have the privilege of going to use it to break it in," said Assistant Principal Greg Hinker. "Now it's being used fully every day and the kids are excited about it."

## Creative play

The new equipment from Landscape Structures consists of posts connected by a network of ropes and small platforms that students can use to climb to the top. A spinning feature, monkey bars and a slide are also included, and additional swings were added elsewhere.

"The structure is unique in that there are a lot of problem-solving skills that go into it," said Schuler. "It's not your typical playground structure where it's pretty simple and you know what to do. This one is designed to give kids multiple different ways of reaching their end goal of getting to the top. So our teachers have had some fun watching kids team up together or think of different ways to use it. It's a neat structure."

Hinker added that some of



Kindergarten students enjoy the view from the top of the new playground structure installed at Delano Elementary School this fall thanks to a PIE donation.



The rope network provides plenty of opportunity for creative play.

the older children in first grade and third grade were able to watch the construction from their classroom windows.

"They are a little envious of the kindergartners because they have such a great play structure. Some of our older kids want to get out there and use it too because it's so nice," he said.

## Team effort

The need for more equipment had been recognized at various levels for a number of years, and Schuler said the process of solving that problem involved a whole team of individuals. After the PIE group and the school's site base team agreed to pursue the project, Schuler and the kindergartner

teachers met with Landscape Structures personnel to design the playground.

Aside from Landscape Structures, two other local businesses were also involved in the construction. Mike Jaunich of Alpine Landscape handled the installation, and Mike Jensen of Jenco Property Maintenance donated labor, and removed concrete and existing items. The school's custodial staff helped dismantle some existing equipment and did grading work.

"It was a team project," said Schuler.

## Room to grow

While the new equipment helps meet demand for now, there is space available to add on in the future.

"We left a little bit of space in our design for some future additions, but I don't know when that would be," said Schuler. "Eventually I think one more structure would be really fun. Hopefully that's something we can do down the road."

# Clothing drive aids veterans in need

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coord.

Thanks to the generosity of the Delano community, many veterans served by the St. Cloud Veterans Administration Hospital will have warm clothing to wear this winter.

For a second consecutive year, Delano Public Schools took part in a clothing drive that concluded just before Veterans Day in order to gather items, which were then donated to the hospital for distribution.

“At the time the drive began, the center’s inventory was at almost zero in most of the clothing areas,” said Ginny Schuelke, who organized the drive along with Karla Otterness. “Thanks to the support of the



**Second-graders from Amanda Anderson’s class displayed thank you notes to veterans in addition to the clothing gathered at Delano Elementary School.**



**Personal notes were included with the donations.**

Delano students, families and staff, we were able to deliver a large number of items in each of the areas identified. In addition, with the funds that were donated we were able to purchase eight winter coats and hats as well.”

In all, the drive collected about 580 new clothing items, including shirts, pants, underclothes and footwear, during its three-week run.

Schuelke and Otterness are the parents of veterans, and said the idea for the cloth-

ing drive originated when they volunteered at the St. Cloud VA during the summer of 2016.

When they arrived to drop off the clothing the first year, Otterness said they had a “wonderful” reception from the hospital.

“They were very thankful that we were bringing in this donation,” she said, adding that as far as she knew the effort was unique among school districts. “We’re very happy with the turnout again this year.”



## The banner



Delano Elementary School students were visited by members of the Delano Legion on Thursday, Nov. 9, before the main Veterans Day ceremony the following morning in the Tiger Activity Center. Students were taught the significance of each fold of the flag, listened to essays written by high school students, and asked the veterans questions about their military service.

# Conferences arrive on Jan. 15 and 18

Winter conferences will be held from noon to 8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15, and from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18. Here are a few tips on how you, as parents, can get the most out of your conference time.

## Listen

Throughout the trimester, if you hear your child talking about something he or she is doing well in or is struggling with, make a note of it. When it's time for the conference,

you'll have a list of topics to discuss.

## Ask

The week before conferences, sit down with your child and ask him or her about school. Ask what's happening in class, at lunchtime or in special classes such as media, physical education, and/or music. Ask your child what he or she thinks their teacher is going to tell you about them.

## Be on time

Conferences are tightly scheduled so teachers can see all families. Show up a few minutes early to maximize your time with the teacher.

## Take notes

Take some notes on what information the teacher is sharing about your child. Your child's teacher will have assessment data to share on how your child is achieving in comparison to his or her

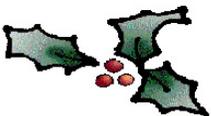
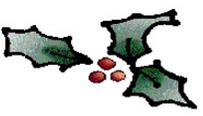
peers. This information will help in addressing your child's strengths, weaknesses and social skills development.

## Follow up

After the conference, take time to talk with your child about what you and the teacher discussed. Highlight the positive things the teacher said. Take time to develop a plan to help your child in the areas the teacher addressed.

## ES 2017-18

## December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Walking Taco Lettuce & Cheese Black Bean Salsa, OJ Cup Fresh Fruit Mix Teddy Grahams
4 BBQ Chicken Drumstick Brown Rice Steamed Broccoli Pineapple Lettuce Salad	5 French Toast Sticks Sausage, Tri Tater Steamed Broccoli OJ Cup Orange Wedges	6 Hamburger Sun Chips; Baked Beans Lettuce; Tomato; Onions Pickles; Baby Carrots Fresh Fruit Mix	7 Chicken Alfredo A: Polish Sausage California Blend Vegetables Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	8 Chicken Fried Rice Egg Roll Peas, Lettuce Salad Pineapple Cake
11 Hot Dog A - Mr. Rib Sun Chips Baked Beans; Carrots Rosy Applesauce	12 Chicken Gravy A- Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes; Roll Lettuce Salad; Peas Cranberries, Apple Crisp	13 Chicken Nuggets Tri Tater Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail	14 Cheese Pizza Lettuce Salad Corn Pears	15 Tacos-Beef Lettuce/Cheese/Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Mix Frosted Graham Cracker
18 BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich Veggies and Chips Lettuce Salad Pineapple	19 Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	20 Italian Dunkers A: Fish Sandwich Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit Mix	21 Chicken Patty on Bun A- PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers; Lettuce Salad Veggies; Peaches	22 Meatballs Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Steamed Vegetables Lettuce Salad Mixed Fruit, Cookie
25	26	27	28	29
<b>NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK</b>				
<b>Lunch Prices:</b> \$ 2.80 Elementary School. Milk varieties offered at all schools. Meal account can be viewed on Family Access. Payment				The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer



Tiger Cub News is published by Delano Elementary School. Editor, Paul Downer, District Office, 763.972.3365, ext. 2111, paul.downer@delanoschools.org



Delano Elementary School  
678 Tiger Drive Delano, MN 55328  
Phone: 763.972.6200  
Website: www.delano.k12.mn.us