

Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary Family Newsletter

November 2017



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Signing on for unity

From left, fourth-graders Vincent Anastasia, Elyse Toews, Addison Olson and Sydney Pink sign a Unity Day banner at Delano Elementary School on Wednesday, Oct. 25, to pledge their commitment against bullying. October was National Bullying Prevention Month. More information is included on Page 5.

Dates to remember

November

- 1.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.
(Petersen, Ludwig)
- 14.....PIE meeting 7 p.m.
- 15.....APEX Fun Run kickoff
- 15.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.
(Goudreault, Kurth)
- 21..Grade 3 field trip, Art Institute
(Petersen, Langton, Soupir)
- 22..Grade 3 field trip, Art Institute
(Knisley, Emmerich, Warne, Lindquist)
- 22.....Grade 2 field trip, Old Log Theater, 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 23-24.....Thanksgiving break
- 29.....APEX Fun Run
- 29.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.
(Burns, Hegland)
- 29.....Intermediate school update, 6 p.m. in auditorium

Parents are essential partners

By Darren Schuler
Principal

It was a pleasure to see so many parents attending our fall parent-teacher conference nights in October. We had 98 percent of our students' parents attend conferences!

This high level of engagement from DES parents and guardians continues to provide a strong home-school connection that will provide our students with the support



needed to be successful this school year.
The Delano Elementary

staff believes that "Parents as Partners" is absolutely essential for a student's success. Neither home nor school can effectively take advantage of all those important "learning moments" that take place each day both academically and socially. We believe it truly takes a village to educate your child!

You may ask, "How can parents/guardians help their

See Schuler
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Leaders in Educational Excellence

By Paul Downer
Communications Coord.

A quartet of Delano teachers, including two from the elementary school, recently received honors as Leaders in Educational Excellence.

The four included Ginger Diethart, reading interventionist at DES; third-grade teacher Charlene Warne, who was named Delano Teacher of the Year for 2016-17; middle school physical education teacher Jamie Longstreet; and high school social worker Marie Techam.

Their Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards were distributed at the 26th annual Award and Recognition Ceremony hosted by Resource Training & Solutions on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

For the purposes of this publication, Diethart and Warne are featured below. Additional information about Longstreet and Techam will be included in future articles.

Ginger Diethart

Diethart is in her 10th year of teaching in Delano, and said that receiving the LEEA recognition was a true honor.

"It does the heart good to realize that all the hard work you put in throughout the year is noticed and appreciated," she said.

An anonymous nominating letter submitted to the dis-



Charlene Warne, left, and Ginger Diethart were honored for Leadership in Educational Excellence on Oct. 25.

trict's Staff Development Committee noted that as a reading interventionist Diethart works hard to help some of the school's most needy students.

"She spends hours after school, as well as (additional) hours on the weekend to prepare the best lessons possible," said the nominating document. "She is well liked by her team and provides a positive leadership environment. She truly cares about the children she works with and is sincere about meeting their needs as well

as following grant guidelines within a very large case load."

Diethart said that helping at-risk students succeed has made for a fulfilling career.

"Most of these students come with low self-esteem and a belief that reading is something they will never be able to do," she said. "I most enjoy helping these kids realize they can achieve in areas they thought impossible. It's very rewarding seeing the progress they make."

Charlene Warne

Warne, in her 13th year at Delano Elementary and 22nd year in teaching overall, was named the district's Teacher of the Year for 2016-17. She attended last week's banquet in that capacity.

"It has been an honor to represent Delano," Warne said. "I feel so fortunate to work at DES and work with amazing people."

The recommendation given to the Staff Development Committee said Warne is among the most competent professionals in the business, and one who always goes the extra mile to meet students' needs.

"She is patient and always looks for unique challenges and projects that will inspire learning," said the recommendation. "She clearly enjoys her job and her students adore her. She has a great rapport with the staff, students and parents. She is a willing participant in school and community activities and always does it with a smile on her face."

Warne's extra work in staff development, curriculum matters, PIE activities, as a cluster teacher and as "an integral part" of the DES Relay for Life team contributed to her suitability for the honor.

"I enjoy building a strong community with the students in my classroom so it is a place to learn, grow, and belong," said Warne.

Schuler

from Page 1

child or children with school work and school issues?" Realizing that all situations are different, here are some suggestions that foster effective home-school relationships:

- A trusting relationship must be established and maintained between parents/guardians and school. If something hinders that trust throughout the course of the year, we must work together to build it back – it is essential.

It needs to be effectively communicated to the child that the adults in his/her life

are in charge and that boundaries are a sign of love for your child.

- It is the school's responsibility to open the communication lines, but it is the responsibility of both parents and school to use them with honest, sincere and cordial conversation. If you have a concern, first, do not make assumptions or naturally assume the worst; and second, provide the teacher the opportunity to explain the situation. With increased technology, communication should not be a problem.

- Make it common practice to check your student's student planner and/or take-home folder EACH NIGHT so you are aware of their activities and responsibilities.

- There are many ways to be involved at school, so when possible take advantage of those opportunities.

These opportunities include Partners in Education (PIE) meetings and events, parent nights, family nights, field trips, and being a regular classroom volunteer.

In closing, Delano Elementary is a school that continues to thrive in meeting the needs of our students. This occurs with the continued success of our home-school relationships with students and their families. We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff, involved parents and amazing students!

Go Tigers!

Ojibwe experience through art

By Paul Downer
Communications Coord.

Few things help illustrate a culture like its authentic art and artifacts, and Delano Elementary School students recently enjoyed the opportunity to view and handle a variety of items while learning a bit more about the Ojibwe tribe of Native Americans.

Between Thursday, Oct. 26, and Wednesday, Nov. 1, students viewed moccasins, a deer rawhide drum, a fan made of feathers, a beaded belt, a birch bark tray, artwork and many more items from a traveling

“We hope to expand our students’ perspectives of other cultures and ways of life.”

**Marcie Ludwig
Angie Kurth**
Art facilitators

suitcase put together by the Plains Art Museum in Fargo, North Dakota.

School art facilitators Marcie Ludwig and Angie Kurth said the case has been an annual attraction at the school since art



Students at Delano Elementary recently had the opportunity to see, handle and learn about various Ojibwe artifacts from the Plains Art Museum in North Dakota.

standards were updated. The exhibit fulfills a requirement to include Minnesota American Indian tribes and communities.

“We like that it provides hands-on artifacts that students can interact with,” Kurth and Ludwig said in a joint statement. “Initially, when kids first see the items, they are excited to learn about the items and interact with them.”

The tribe’s connection to its

land and the animals on it were evident, from the feather fan and drum to a display about gathering wild rice.

“We hope students learn about the Ojibwe culture and how they used nature to

enhance artwork,” said Ludwig and Kurth. “We hope to expand our students’ perspectives of other cultures and ways of life. Students get to see actual artifacts and learn what these items are used for.”



Members of Melanie Kern’s first-grade class examine some Ojibwe artwork.



First-grade students learn about a rawhide drum from teacher Melanie Kern.



Intermediate update meeting on Nov. 29

An informational meeting to update the public about the development of plans for Delano Intermediate School will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29, in the middle school auditorium.

Construction on the school is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2018, and it will open for education next fall.

Those who attend the meeting, hosted by Delano Middle School Principal Barry Voight, will hear information regarding grading and homework policies, schedules, life skills classes and more.

Offer effective homework help

By Greg Hinker
Assistant Principal

My family and I have had many exciting changes in the last month, but not without some struggles.

Trying to find time each evening to prioritize homework was turning out to be a challenge, but my wife and I were committed to establishing routines that would help our children.

Below are some important reminders we found from PBS.org.

Homework help

Wondering how to help your children with homework – or how to get them to do it without a struggle? Here's how.

• **What's the point of homework?** "Homework is designed to help students reinforce key concepts, process and solidify new information, provide time for extra practice of skills, and reflect on how much they've learned," said teacher Susan Becker, M.A. in education.

However, approaches to homework vary from district to district, school to school and teacher to teacher. Some schools don't give children homework until the second grade, while others start in kindergarten. Some teachers create original homework, while other use or modify prepared work sheets.



• **Don't do the homework for your child.** Most teachers use homework to find out what the child knows. They do not want parents doing their children's homework, but do want parents to make sure homework is completed and review any mistakes to see what can be learned from them.

• **Don't take over your child's projects.** Teachers do not want parents doing their kids' projects. Instead, they want parents to support their kids' learning and make sure they have what they need to accomplish a task. Check with your child's teacher for his policy and review it with your child.

• **Set up a good space to work.** All children need the same thing: a clean, well-lit space. But keep in mind that each child may work differently; some will do their work at

the kitchen table and others at their desks in their rooms.

• **Pay attention to your child's rhythms and help him find the right time to begin his work.** Some children will work best by doing homework right after school; others need a longer break and must run around before tackling the work. Most will need a snack.

If your child does after-school activities, set a homework time before or after the activity, or after dinner. Whatever routine you choose, help your child stick to it.

• **Find out how your child studies best.** "You should find the ways your child likes to study. For example, some kids will learn spelling words by writing them out, others by closing their eyes and picturing them and saying them aloud," said Becker.

"The sound environment is also important," said Michael Thompson, Ph.D. "Some kids may want to listen to music. Some are helped by being in the middle of noise; others need absolute quiet."

• **Don't hover – but stay close by.** Keep in mind that it's their homework, not yours, but remain available in case you are needed.

"The ideal setup would be for a parent to be reading nearby while the child is studying because then you both are doing your educational work

together, but that's not always possible," said Thompson.

"A parent may be working out of the home, or need to be working in the home and cooking dinner. So if you are home, stay close, and if you are not there, have another adult check to make sure it's going OK. And remember that all homework is not equal, so not everything will need your rapt attention."

• **Limit media exposure.** Turn off the TV and the iPod when your child does homework – and the computer too, unless it's being used for research. You might start by asking how much time he thinks he should spend on this, and negotiate from there. Remember, you have the final word. And keep in mind that if you watch TV when your child can't, the plan may backfire.

• **Let the teacher know if you gave your child a lot of homework help.** "If your child needs extra help or truly doesn't understand something, let the teacher know. Write on the assignment, 'done with parental help,' or write a separate note," advises Thompson.

If your child resists, explain that homework is used to practice what you know and to show the teacher what you need help learning more about – so it's a parent's job to let the teacher know.

Schools unite against bullying

October was National Bullying Prevention Month. Each year Delano Elementary School students are taught how to know, recognize, and handle bullying in different situations.

Staff members help students understand different kinds of bullying and the role of the bystander, and encourage students to report bullying. Overall, it is important for teachers, paraprofessionals, students, and parents to work together to eliminate bullying. The following will explain what bullying is and what family members can do to help.

What is bullying?

According to the United States Health Department's bullying program, Stop Bullying Now, bullying happens when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose and the person being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself.

According to the program, examples of bullying include:

- Punching, shoving and other acts that hurt people physically
- Spreading harmful rumors about others
- Keeping certain people out of a group
- Getting one group of people to gang up on others
- Teasing people in a mean way.

Cyberbullying

Bullying can also happen online. Cyberbullying is when children or teens bully each other using the internet, cell phones, or other technology.

This can include:

- Sending mean texts, emails or instant messages
- Posting nasty pictures or messages about others
- Using someone else's username to spread rumors.



Students sign a Unity Day banner on Wednesday, Oct. 25.



Kindergarten students wore orange for Unity Day, as did many other students and staff around the district.

Know the signs

Bullying can be a tough thing to deal with, especially if it is your child who is being bullied. If you're a parent concerned about bullying, it's important to recognize the signs and know what you can do to help.

According to the Stop Bullying Now program, signs your child might be getting bullied include:

- Fear or reluctance to go to school in the morning, or complaining repeatedly of headaches or stomach pains
- Sad or depressed emotions, or unexpected mood shifts, irritability and sudden outbursts of temper
- Bad dreams or crying while asleep
- An appearance of social isolation with few – if any – real friends. This student may rarely be invited to parties or to the homes of other kids. A fear of rejection may lead a student to shun others.
- Loss of interest in school work and declining grades.

How can family help?

To help children overcome bullying, parents should:

- Learn as much as you can about bullying among children and youth
- Talk with children in your family about bullying and your expectations about their behavior
- Be watchful for possible signs of bullying among children in your family
- Take immediate action if you suspect bullying
- Work with school personnel and other adults in your community to prevent and reduce bullying.

Making it end

Even though bullying has been in schools for decades, it is important to change the trend and do what we can to eliminate it. There is a lot of research that indicates severe bullying can lead to negative outcomes later in life. Teachers, students and parents need to work together to put an end to bullying and provide a safe learning environment for all children.

For more information on bullying, go to www.stopbullying.gov.

If you know of an instance when your child was bullied, you can report the incident at <http://www.delano.k12.mn.us/elementary-school/information/des-bully-report>.

DES PIE presents Apex Fun Run

The Apex Fun Run will serve as a fundraiser for the DES Partners in Education (PIE) group later this month.

The nationwide Apex program will work on leadership and fitness with students from Nov. 15-29 while they raise pledges to help the school. This will be the group's only fundraiser for the rest of the year.

During the Apex Fun Run, students are challenged to obtain pledges for the laps they will run on Wednesday, Nov. 29, to help their school.

Students will run for 30 minutes and average 26-36 laps, with a maximum lap limit of 36 (each lap is 1/16th of a mile).

Sponsors can pledge \$1, \$2, \$5 or any other amount for each lap students run.

All participants will receive an access code that allows you

to enter pledges online. The Apex Fun Run is for every student, regardless of financial giving. All students will receive Apex bands, race-day lap counters, and team awards. Parents are welcome to come to the run.

How to help

- Help connect your child to potential sponsors (family or friends) to acquire pledges.

- Ask your child about the "United" character lessons, and download the "Apex Fun Run" app.

- Come to the Apex Fun Run and invite others.

- Volunteer for the race! Parents are needed to help cheer on students and mark laps. If you would like to volunteer for your student's race, sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0949a5ab29a0f58-apex>.



Fire prevention month

October was Fire Prevention Month, and elementary students enjoyed the chance to visit with members of the Delano Fire Department. These first-grade students from Nicole Jensen's class viewed equipment, learned safety tips and more.



Announcements

Candy collection days return

This year Delano Elementary is participating in Allina Health's Halloween Candy Collection, an event that promotes healthy living, including candy in moderation, exercise and proper dental care.

On Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 1-2, Delano Elementary will have a collection box at school to collect candy donations (store-bought and individually-wrapped) from students. The collected candy will be donated to programs that send gift boxes to troops overseas. For each pound of candy collected, Allina Health will donate \$1 to local food shelves.

If Delano collects the most candy (in pounds per student) of the participating schools in the area, DES will win \$250 toward equipment to help improve the health of the school, along with other health and wellness prizes from Allina Health. We hope you will use this as an opportunity to talk with your children about the importance of eating candy in moderation, and to help them get excited about donating their surplus candy in a way that will benefit others.



Thank you in advance for encouraging your children to participate in this program. Direct questions to Michelle Krueger, DES Social Worker, at 763.972.6200 ext. 4273 or michelle.krueger@delanoschools.org.

Clothing drive for veterans

Delano Public Schools is conducting a clothing drive for veterans in need. The drive began on Monday, Oct. 23, and will end on Friday, Nov. 10. All donated items must be newly purchased. Previously worn items will not be accepted.

The donated clothing will be given to the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs Hospital to assist with veterans' needs. These veterans, many of whom are homeless at admission, typically are hospitalized for 60 to 80 days.

When they are well enough for discharge, the hospital staff works to ensure that their basic needs are met. Please consider donating one of the following items:

For men: Socks, boxers, undershirts, T-shirts, sweatpants or sweatshirts, jeans (waist 28-32, length 30-34), winter boots, flip flops, slippers with rubber bottoms.

For women: Socks, underwear, pajamas, shirts, sweatpants, jeans of any size, winter boots, flip flops, slippers with rubber bottoms.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, collected funds will be used to purchase winter coats, hats and gloves. Make your check payable to Delano Public Schools, and note Veterans Clothing Drive in the memo.

Filling the food shelf

Delano Elementary School second-graders had the opportunity to learn about community service and good citizenship through efforts to collect food for the area food shelf. Instructor Nate Uselding reported that 17 large boxes of food were filled.



ES 2017-18

November

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Lunch Prices: \$ 2.80 Elementary School. Milk varieties offered at all schools. Meal account can be viewed on Family Access. Payment</p>		<p>Hamburger Sun Chips; Baked Beans Lettuce; Tomato; Onions Pickles; Baby Carrots Fresh Fruit Mix</p>	<p>Chicken Parmesan California Blend Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pears</p>	<p>Cheese Quesadilla Spanish Rice Black Bean Salsa Lettuce Fresh Fruit</p>
<p>Hot Dog A - Philly Beef Steak Sub Sun Chips Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce</p>	<p>Chicken Gravy A - Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes; Roll Lettuce Salad; Peas Orange Wedges Apple Crisp</p>	<p>Chicken Nuggets Tri Tater Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail</p>	<p>Pepperoni Pizza Lettuce Salad Corn Pears</p>	<p>Tacos-Beef Lettuce/Cheese/Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Mix Frosted Graham Cracker</p>
<p>BBQ Chicken Drumstick Brown Rice Steamed Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple</p>	<p>Corn Dog A-Fish Sandwich Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce</p>	<p>Italian Dunkers A-Chef Salad Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit Mix</p>	<p>Chicken Patty on Bun A - PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers; Lettuce Salad Veggies; Peaches</p>	<p>Hamburger A - Sloppy Joe Waffle Fries Lettuce; Tomato; Fruit Cocktail</p>
<p>Nachos - Beef & Cheese Lettuce; Onions; Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Mix OJ Cup</p>	<p>Cinamon Roll Omelet; Tri Tater Steamed Broccoli Yogurt Cup Orange Wedges</p>	<p>Spaghetti w/ Meatballs A-Egg Salad Sandwich Garlic Bread Lettuce Salad Green Beans Pears</p>	<p>Holiday No School</p>	<p>Holiday No School</p>
<p>Dominos Pizza Cheese/Pepperoni Lettuce Salad Green Beans Pears</p>	<p>Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes Country Gravy Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad; Roll Orange Wedges</p>	<p>Chili w/ Breadstick A-Ham & Cheese Sandwich Tortilla Chips Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail</p>	<p>Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Oriental Vegetables Pineapple; Lettuce Salad Ice Cream Cup</p>	



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