

# Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary School Newsletter



December-January 2018-2019

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## Dates to remember

### December

19.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.  
(Goudy, Hegland)

24-31.....Winter break

### January

1.....Winter break

8.....ES PIE meeting, 7 p.m.

9.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.  
(Williams, Burns)

21.....Martin Luther King  
Jr. Day, no school

21.....Conferences and  
book fair, noon-8 p.m.

24.....Conferences and  
book fair, 4-8 p.m.

For more information on events,  
see [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us).

Find us on...



## Taste of success

Delano Elementary School's annual Apex fundraiser culminated in the Apex Fun Run on Tuesday, Nov. 27, in the Tiger Activity Center. Following the run, select students had the opportunity to squish a pie into the face of Apex staff member Two Step to celebrate. See more photos and information on Page 5.

## Pedestrian safety night Dec. 18

By Darren Schuler  
Principal

Student safety continues to be at the forefront at Delano Public Schools. With the addition of the new Delano Intermediate School, we have experienced pedestrian and vehicle safety concerns at different locations within our campus.

The area of most concern has been the crosswalk at the intersection of Tiger Drive and County Road 30 on the northern edge of our campus. We urge student pedestrians heading to DIS to use the crosswalk across from the



**Darren Schuler**

hockey arena instead. Pedestrian safety around DES and DIS is an area that we will continue to monitor.

In an effort to gather more information from parents and community members, we are hosting a special Campus Pedestrian Traffic Meeting for all interested parents and community members at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, in the Delano Intermediate School Flex Lab. The purpose of this meeting is to gather and share ideas with interested school patrons who have children that are pedestrians in this area.

We hope to share ideas, discuss long term plans, and discuss perspectives on how to make this a safe entry to our campus.

# Peers recognize Uselding as a leader

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

Whether helping to create innovative learning spaces like the Imaginarium at Delano Elementary, goading students and staff members with his Wisconsin sports preferences, or bringing an infectious enthusiasm to the classroom, second-grade teacher Nate Uselding has made his mark in Delano.

This year co-workers have rewarded him by nominating him for a Leadership in Educational Excellence Award, which Uselding received at the 27th annual Award and Recognition Ceremony hosted by Resource Training & Solutions in Sartell on Wednesday, Oct. 24.

"I was blown away when I learned that my peers nominated me for this award and I want to thank them for helping me be successful in teaching," Uselding said. "Receiving the



**Nate Uselding**

LEEA Award is a great honor, and I'll continue to represent leadership to our school community in the future."

Other educators honored at the event were Delano Intermediate speech clinician Mary Somers, and Delano High School representatives Shalyn Tordeur, School Within A School instructor; and social

worker Marie Techam, the 2017-18 Delano Teacher of the Year.

## **Advocate and resource**

A nomination statement submitted to the district's Staff Development Committee cited Uselding's work on behalf of both his students and his peers.

"Nate is a strong advocate for all of his students. He enjoys implementing the latest strategies in the classroom and is often a (resource) to others in his building," said the nomination. "He has created technology opportunities in a variety of ways and has been an integral player as the elementary moves forward to add a maker space to the building."

Uselding is in his fifth year at Delano.

"This is a second career for me, as my first degree was soil science and I worked in the turf industry as a superintendent," said Uselding. "After

having kids, I stopped working to stay home with them. This turned out to be the best decision of my life because I realized that I needed to do this for a living."

Uselding prides himself on making strong connections with students and fellow teachers.

**'Nate is a strong advocate for all of his students.'**

## **Nomination letter**

"You'll always catch me with a smile on my face, and my goal is to make learning fun," he said. "I believe in developing young citizens by building their confidence, improving self-esteem, and allowing time for self-reflection. Ultimately, I want students to love learning as much as I embrace teaching."



## Lessons in gratitude

More than 30 employees from Liberty Diversified International visited DES over the course of a week to share 'Gratitude in a Box...the Power of Thank You!' Each DES classroom received a box that included thank you notes for the students to send to someone of their choice. Classrooms also received a \$25 check which they could pay forward to a deserving person or group that could use the donation. Thank you to DES parent and LDI employee Alla Johnson for her time and effort in organizing this wonderful program for DES students!

# Walsh presentation draws a crowd

Though the weather was cold and rainy, more than 50 parents came out to Erin Walsh's "Say Yes to No" presentation on Monday, Nov. 5.

"She is a dynamic speaker who identified practical strategies for setting boundaries in ways that help kids manage big feelings, build self control, and understand their impact on others," said DES social worker Lisa Armstrong. "Ms. Walsh used stories, warmth and humor to explain parenting strategies that foster self discipline and respect in children.

"A big thank you to Ms. Walsh for coming out to speak, the United Way, for the grant money that helped to cover the costs, and also to all the wonderful, caring parents who came and helped to make the night successful."



**Erin Walsh spoke at DES on Nov. 5. She was instrumental to the development of the MediaWise movement and worked for 10 years at the National Institute on Media and the Family before creating Mind Positive Parenting in 2010.**

## Attendance is vital to student success

**By Greg Hinker**  
Assistant Principal

This time of year we like to remind parents of our student attendance policy. We believe attendance at school is vital and that there is a direct correlation between attendance and the degree of student success or failure. The following is taken from our Parent Handbook:

### **Attendance policy**

The district policy is based on the belief that regular, consistent attendance is closely tied with the quality of education your child receives at the elementary school. This policy defines what excused and unexcused absences are. A record of excused and unexcused absences and the number of tardies will appear on your child's report card.

### **Absences and tardies**

For the safety of students, it is important to verify absences. Parents are asked to confirm absences from school by calling the attendance line at 763-972-6200, ext. 2100, before 7:30 a.m. If parents do not verify



**Greg Hinker**

absences and their child does not arrive at school, school personnel will attempt to contact parents. If contact does not occur, absences are unexcused.

The following absences and tardies are considered excused: student illness, serious illness or death of a family member, medical appointments which cannot be scheduled outside of school, court appearances and family vacations. Family vacations are strongly encouraged during regular school vacation periods. The school must be notified prior to any vacation.

The following absences

are considered unexcused: babysitting, shopping, hair appointments, working at home, oversleeping, missing the bus, running late, car trouble, not knowing school schedule, and other incidences as determined by administration.

Students who are tardy must have a parent note and report to the office to receive a pass. The pass must be presented to the teacher when arriving in the classroom.

Excessive absences and tardies will be recorded in the following manner:

- 3 unexcused tardies = 1 unexcused absence
- 3 unexcused absences (9 tardies or combinations of unexcused absences and tardies) = 3-Day Educational Neglect Referral filed with the county.
- 5 unexcused absences (15 tardies or a combination of unexcused absences and tardies) = 5-Day Educational Neglect Referral filed with the county.
- 7 unexcused absences (21 tardies or combinations of unexcused absences and tardies) = 7-Day Educational Neglect/Child Maltreatment Report filed with the county.
- 10 or more absences or

tardies: Part of our attendance procedure is to send letters to parents stating our concern about a student's attendance if the student reaches at least 10 absences or tardies. Even though some of those may be excused, a letter may still be sent to communicate our concern.

**Regular, consistent attendance is closely tied with the quality of education your child receives.**

After 10 absences, a doctor's note may be required to excuse any more absences. Excessive absences and/or tardies may lead to a child protection referral being filed with appropriate county officials addressing educational neglect.

It is our goal to work with families to improve school attendance. Studies have shown that regular school attendance is one of the major factors in predicting student success.



## Visit from veterans

Elementary students enjoyed a Veterans Day program organized by kindergarten teacher Lauren Kessler on Friday, Nov. 9. Several of Kessler's family members with military experience, along with parents and relations of students, also attended and shared about their experiences. Students also watched short videos, practiced marching and standing at attention, and learned about some of the safety equipment used by service members.



## Third clothing drive for veterans a success

The Third Annual Clothing Drive -- Honoring Those Who Served, Helping a Veteran in Need, was a success again this year.

Students and their families donated clothing, coats, hygiene kits and more, which were then delivered to two organizations, the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs Hospital and the Community Resource and Referral Center of Minneapolis.

A total of 114 hygiene bags were assembled and given to the center in Minneapolis after the Trick or Treat for Toiletries campaign organized by the Grade 7-8 Student Council. The Grade 9-12 Student Council also contributed money to complete the hygiene bags.

"The CRRC was pleased with the amount of hygiene bags and several were distributed to veterans in need while we



**Students gathered the hygiene bags for transportation to veteran centers.**

were still at the facility," said Ginny Schuelke, who organized the three-week drive along with Karla Otterness.

A total of 420 new clothing items were similarly well received in St. Cloud.

"The St. Cloud VA Hospital was thrilled

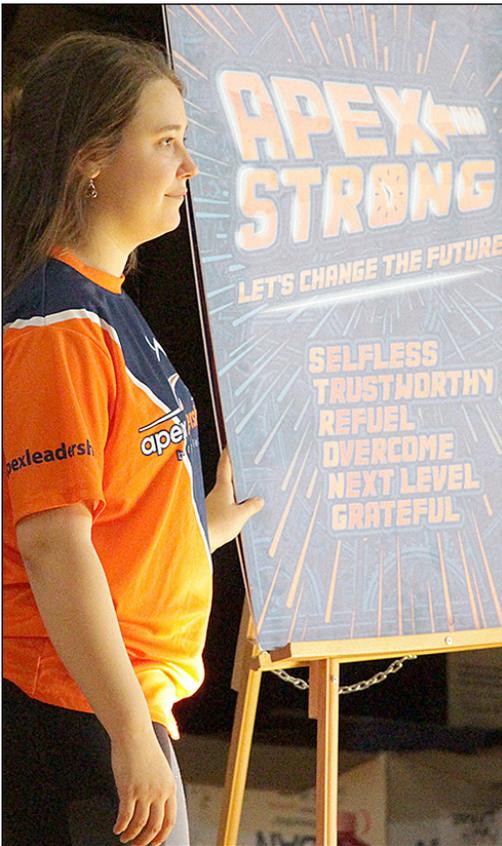
and very thankful with the items that were delivered. As winter sets in, the needs increase and this helps to add to their available resources," said Schuelke.

Last year Delano's donations arrived just as the hospital's supplies were running out. This year statewide contributions have increased, so the overall stocks were in better shape.

"However, there continues to be a need for items and they are grateful for our continued support, particularly at a high-need time of the year," said Schuelke.

Overall, Delano donations were slightly down this year, but many donors also contributed hygiene bags.

"We are very grateful to be a part of such a generous and giving school community," the organizers said in a thank-you statement just prior to Thanksgiving.



## APEX effort

Delano Elementary held its annual Apex fundraiser in November, which combined character lessons with a fun run to support the school. Students focused on “STRONG” values: selfless, trustworthy, refuel, overcome, next level and grateful. Details on the amount raised were not available in time for this newsletter.



# Health reminders for the winter

## By Delano Health Services

During the peak illness season, please be conscious of our policies to keep our students and staff healthy.

Students with vomiting, diarrhea, an undiagnosed rash, or a fever of 100 degrees or higher must stay home from school until they are symptom-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and feel well enough to participate in the classroom.

As you may know, head lice cases are common among school-aged children. Recently, we have seen several cases of lice, so Delano Health Services would like to offer education to support you and your child if your home is impacted. The guidelines we follow are based on evidence-based practice and research by many reputable sources.

## What are head lice?

Head lice are tiny, wingless insects that live close to the human scalp. The eggs, also called nits, are tiny tear-drop-shaped eggs that attach to the hair shaft. Nits often appear yellowish or white and can look like dandruff but cannot be removed or brushed off.

The nymph, or baby louse, is smaller and grows to adult size in one to two weeks. The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed and is tan to grayish-white. An itchy scalp is a common symptom of lice. Although not common, persistent scratching may lead to skin irritation and even infection.

## Who is affected by lice?

Head lice are not related to cleanliness. In fact, head lice often infest people with good hygiene and grooming habits. Infestations can occur at home,

school, or in the community.

Lice do not fly and are mostly spread by direct head-to-head contact -- for example, during play at home or school, slumber parties, sports activities or camp. Less often, lice are spread via objects that have been in recent contact with a person with head lice, such as hats, scarves, hair ribbons, combs, brushes, stuffed animals or bedding.

## What to do about an infestation?

If you think your child has head lice, it is important to check your child's head for lice and nits. If live bugs are found, your student must receive a treatment before coming back to school. For questions about proper treatment options, either visit the Centers for Disease Control website (<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/>

head/treatment.html), or call your school nurse for resources.

## What is a parent's role?

Parents should be checking their child's head regularly at home. Please inform the school if lice are found at home.

## What is the school nurse's role?

If it is suspected that a child has head lice, your child's head will be checked along with their siblings' heads. If live lice are found, your child needs to be picked up from school to receive treatment.

Research no longer supports classroom-wide checks. We will happily provide resources reflecting evidence-based practice with facts, treatment options, and prevention and control information.

LUNCH					DECEMBER 2018					Delano Elementary School S2 85				
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday		
Chicken Drumstick	3	French Toast Sticks	4	Hamburger	5	Chicken Alfredo	6	Quesadilla	7					
Brown Rice		Sausage Links		Sun Chips		Penne Pasta		Refried Beans						
Peas		Tritater / Broccoli		Baked Beans		A)Chicken Salad Sandwich		Lettuce / Salsa						
Lettuce		OJ Cup		Lettuce/Tomatoes/Pickles		Lettuce Salad		Fresh Fruit						
Pineapple				Baby Carrots		California Blend Vegetables								
				Fruit Cocktail		Orange Wedges								
Hot Dog	10	Chicken Gravy	11	Chicken Nuggets	12	Cheese Pizza	13	Tacos – Beef	14					
A)BBQ Rib Sandwich		A)Polish Sausage		Tritater		Corn		Lettuce – Cheese – Salsa						
Sun Chips / Baby Carrots		Mashed Potatoes / Peas		Green Beans		Lettuce Salad		Refried Beans						
Baked Beans		Lettuce Salad / Roll		Veggies		Pears		OJ Cup						
Rosy Applesauce		Baked Apple Slices		Fruit Cocktail				Frosted Graham Cracker						
Popcorn Chicken	17	Corn Dog	18	Italian Dunkers	19	Chicken Patty – bun	20	Hamburger	21					
Brown Rice		Potato Smiles		A)Chicken Caesar Salad		A)PBJ Sandwich		A)Sloppy Joes						
Steamed Vegetables		Baked Beans		Corn		Chicken Noodle Soup/cracker		Waffle Fries						
Lettuce		Veggies		Lettuce		Lettuce Salad		Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles						
Pineapple		Rosy Applesauce		Fresh Fruit		Veggies		Orange Wedges/ Cookie						
						Peaches								
	24		25		26		27		28					
	31													

## Tips for Jan. 21, 24 conferences

Winter conferences will be held from noon to 8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 21, and from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24. 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.



## 'Bridge in a Bag'

Third-grade students participated in the Minnesota Department of Transportation's 'Bridge in a Bag' STEM outreach program on Monday, Nov. 26. Two MnDOT engineers helped students get a hands-on look at the everyday work of engineers and construction workers. The Bridge UP! Curriculum is designed to get students excited about the real work of transportation planning, design, and bridge construction. Bridges created by students were able to support 200 pounds of weight.



## Esler earns support staff award

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

DES Head Custodian Lucas Esler was recently honored with an Education Support Staff Award by Resource Training & Solutions in Sartell.

Esler, who came to Delano a year and a half ago, received multiple nominations for the award from DES staff. Each of the nominations voiced appreciation for his friendly demeanor to students and staff alike, and his constant smile.

"Lucas has been a great addition to DES ... we are lucky to have him," said one nomination.

"He responds to our needs within moments of talking to him or emailing him," said another. "He works very hard for our elementary school."

Esler appreciated the recognition.

"There are many things I enjoy about my job here:



**Lucas Esler**

saying hello to the kids in the hallway with a wave or a fist bump, working with all of the Delano Schools staff and teachers, and having pride in maintaining the school," he said. "I was very proud

to receive the honor of this award. It makes me feel like I am an important part of the school, and that the things I do are appreciated and make a difference."

# Blankets for foster children

First-grade students created 22 fleece blankets for children in foster care with the help of donations from their families during the month of November. The community service project was completed on Friday, Nov. 16. Embroidered messages like 'You are Loved,' 'You are Strong' and 'You are Amazing' were added to the blankets as well. A special thank you to DES parents Sara Kvasnicka and Jill VanBeusekom for your assistance with this project. DES first-graders have been learning about kindness and performing acts of kindness each week this year.



## Announcements

### *School closing information*

School may be closed for the day, started late or dismissed early due to weather conditions, emergencies, utility outages or other conditions that threaten the health and/or safety of our students and staff.

Families will be notified by the school district's instant parent contact system for emergency school closings.

The following news media outlets will also be notified: WCCO 4 TV, KSTP 5 TV, KMSP 9 TV and KARE 11 TV.

Families are encouraged to have a plan in place for their students when emergency closings, late starts or early dismissals occur. Watch for calendar changes and possible make-up days due to school closings communicated via school publications, Skylert parent emails, phone calls, the district website, Facebook and Twitter.

If you would like to receive a text message, you must set this option up in your family access account. Log into your account and on the left, click on Skylert. You can list your phone number under "Text Message Numbers" and check the categories for which you want this option applied. Then click "Save."

### *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. Volunteers are invaluable contributors to the success of our students and make a positive impact on the school and community.

Last year volunteers contributed more than 8,000 hours in a variety of roles, such as classroom helpers, site base committee members and chaperones. Not sure what role interests you? Find additional information and descriptions on the Delano Schools website.

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. 1912.

### *Changing end-of-day routine*

If you need to change your child's end of day routine and have forgotten to send a note to school, you will need to contact the school office before 11 a.m.

This deadline allows the office to give teachers this information during lunch times so instruction is not interrupted. We understand that emergencies may occur after this time and we will do our best in getting that information to your child.

For more information on end-of-day changes and other school procedures, see the Student-Parent Handbook: [https://www.delano.k12.mn.us/docs/DES/18-19/STUDENT\\_PARENT\\_HANDBOOK\\_2018\\_19.pdf](https://www.delano.k12.mn.us/docs/DES/18-19/STUDENT_PARENT_HANDBOOK_2018_19.pdf).

### *Earlier Kindergarten Round-up*

District families should take note that Kindergarten Roundup will be a month earlier this year, taking place in February rather than March. The dates for this year are Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 19 and 21.



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