

Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary School Newsletter



March 2019



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Dates to remember

March

5.....End of ES 2nd Trimester

6.....DQ night, 5-8 p.m.
(Ward, Kurth)

11-15.....Spring Break

18.....School board listening
session, 7 p.m.

19.....ES PIE, 7 p.m.

25.....School board mtg., 7 p.m.

29.....Second-grade field trip,
Minnesota History Center

30.....Tiger Fun Fair, noon

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Author-illustrator Derek Anderson walked students through the process of creating characters and stories during a workshop on Monday, Feb. 25.

Creativity comes alive

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Creativity, author-illustrator Derek Anderson told students at Delano Elementary during the first day of his residency on Feb. 25, is not about whimsical fancies of the imagination or momentary flashes of inspiration.

Rather, it is the product that results from steady application of effort within the constraints of everyday deadlines, obligations and obstacles.

Anderson would know, as he endured the disappointment of regular rejection from publishers before breaking through to create or contribute to more than 25 children's books, earn



Students take part in writing and drawing their own stories during the workshop.

various awards and find his name on bestseller lists compiled by the New York Times and Publishers Weekly.

"Creativity is fierce," he told

students, explaining that initial failure is an opportunity to adjust and try again. Over time,

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Second-grade stars

Second-graders put on their concert in the Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Feb. 28. Here is a look at the proceedings.



Why reschedule canceled school days?

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Many parents have wondered why Delano is planning to make up all of its school days canceled due to weather so far.

There has also been some confusion stemming from the governor's announcement that schools do not need to make up days.

So why are make-up days important to Delano Public Schools?

"The district has long

maintained the philosophy that every student contact day is vitally important," said Superintendent Matt Schoen. "The instruction our teachers provide to students is the main reason Delano Public Schools has maintained educational excellence and ranked among the top school districts in the state."

Schoen added that Delano is not content to meet minimum state requirements regarding instruction hours, but will hold itself to a high standard.

"As educators, we all value

the time we have with students in our classrooms," he said. "When our activities department cancels a game, there are immediate calls to reschedule it. We should value our academic days in the same way."

One day that will not be made up, due to highly unusual circumstances, is the Feb. 8 closure because of a heating problem in the high school. Staff members did report for work that day.

"Because this particular day was a very unique situation, the district decided to facili-

tate an alternative to a student make-up day. However, the district will continue to follow the school board-approved calendar and add student make-up days at the end of the school year due to additional closures, if necessary," said Schoen. "We feel that every day counts to provide a world-class education."

See the Announcements section for more information about scheduled make-up days.



Paras at DES include Linda Grangroth, Margaret Grgas, Joan Gust, Tracy Herkenhoff, Barb Kenison, Wendy Kramp, Missy Larson, Lyndsay Manning, Kerry McIntire, Jenny McMahan, Rose Nichols, Ryan Rosenow, Amy Shaw, Tammy Stern, Darlene Sundheim, Jenny Tonsberg, Annika Tulkki, Holly Workman and Renee Yahnke.

Paras enable inclusive education for all

By Darren Schuler
Principal

The week of March 4 is Paraprofessional Appreciation Week at Delano Elementary.

The focus of paraprofessional support with students is to teach students the use of certain skills, and for the students to use those skills independently.

Merriam-Webster defines a paraprofessional as a trained aide who assists a professional person (such as a teacher or doctor), but our paraprofes-



Darren Schuler

sionals do so much more!
Paraprofessionals work

closely with students who need special assistance in the classroom.

The paraprofessional is the student's first resource when they need extra learning support. Paraprofessionals work with classroom teachers and special education staff to modify and adapt regular classroom learning and homework so that their work is similar to that of their peers.

Paraprofessionals receive training in behavior de-escalation, bloodborne pathogens, behavior data collection,

specific student disabilities, building student independence, and much more.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of outstanding paraprofessionals at DES that care deeply about the students they support. I am constantly reminded of their passion for their students by observing them create inclusive opportunities for learning for all students.

Thank you for a job well done!



Diaper drive

Kindergarten students recently completed their community service project by collecting diapers and wipes for Love Inc. Over 1,700 diapers and nearly 4,000 wipes were collected. Thank you, kindergarten students and families, for your support!

Report to PARENTS

Effective Homework Help

Students with parents who are involved in their education are more likely to earn higher grades, adapt well to school, and pass their classes. But is there a point when parents can be too involved—specifically, with homework? Consider these scenarios:

- Your child's big science project is due tomorrow, but her schedule has been so busy lately that she hasn't had time to finish it herself. You want her to get a good grade, so you end up doing most of the work for her.
- Your daughter's entry for a school poetry competition seems pretty bad so far. You suggest phrases that sound better. When the awards are announced, your daughter comes home and says, "We won!"
- Your son's math homework packet is a big part of his grade, but he's having trouble with a few of the concepts. You wonder if it's okay to help him with some of the answers?



If parents end up taking over homework tasks—as in the first two examples—involvement can quickly turn into interference. Use these strategies to reasonably support your child as he or she tackles assignments.

First, create conditions conducive to learning. Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit space to do work, away from the TV or other distractions.

Help your child learn time management. Set a time each day for doing homework, and block off time on the weekends for working on big projects. Make sure your child has a planner. Create a visual calendar at home to help your child keep track of assignments.

Be positive. If your child is losing steam while completing homework, reinforce the importance of school. If your child is frustrated with a project or a tough new concept, be encouraging.

Guide, don't do. Don't do homework for your child. Instead, help your child understand assignments by discussing concepts. Have your child walk you through the way he or she learned to solve a problem, and try to come up with a hands-on method to practice it.

For instance, if your child is struggling with basic division, gather pennies or paper clips, count the total, and, together, divide them into groups of five, six, or seven.

Brainstorm together. Challenge your child to come up with a variety of ideas for projects. If your child is

writing a poem, brainstorm ideas he or she could write about rather than telling him or her what to say.

When your child does homework, you should do work, too. If she is reading an essay, you can read the newspaper. If he is working on math problems, you can balance your checkbook. This shows your child that the skills he or she is learning are related to adult tasks.

Stay informed. Talk with your child's teacher. If your child is consistently having trouble with a specific topic, let the teacher know.

Web Resources

The **National PTA's Homework Help Web page** offers strategies to help parents cut homework stress and maximize learning.
<http://bit.ly/PTAhomeworkhelp>

Visit the **Department of Education's homework portal** for resources on study skills and helping kids get organized.
www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/homework



Global School Play Day

First-graders enjoyed a successful ‘Global School Play Day’ on Wednesday, Feb. 6. Throughout the day students were able to go to different first-grade classrooms of their choice to take part in art, building/blocks, games, Imagination activities and dramatic play. Students were also able to bring toys along, or spend time playing with toys in the classroom. ‘I was really proud of how well the whole class handled today,’ said teacher Nicole Jensen. ‘I noticed “The Tiger Way” being used all day! Respectful, Responsible, Safe and Kind.’

Kids Heart Challenge underway at DES

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

DES students began the Kids Heart Challenge on Valentine’s Day, a familiar program put on by the American Heart Association.

During the campaign, which concludes March 5, students learn jump rope skills and how their heart works while raising money to help kids with “special hearts.” They also prepare for success in terms of physical and emotional well-being.

“Talking with kids early and often about taking care of their hearts, that’s one step we can take toward having healthy adults later in life,” said Summer Hagy of the American Heart Association, who visited Delano on Thursday, Feb. 14, to kick off the event.

A portion of the funds raised go back to the DES physical education program,



Students listen to jump rope instructions during the first day of the Kids Heart Challenge on Feb. 14.

and phy. ed. teachers were able to access lesson plans that tied the campaign into their normal activities.

“We want to engage all students, regardless of if they decide to raise funds or not,” said Hagy.

Hagy said the American Heart Association aims to raise awareness through the campaign, which then leads

to donations. Donations fund research, which ultimately provides hope.

DES participation

Why is DES participating? Cardiovascular diseases and strokes are the leading cause of death in Minnesota (25.9 percent).

Hagy said that one in 100 people are born with heart de-

fects, so many can, or eventually will, be able to relate to the work done by the American Heart Association.

“Many of us know someone who has been affected, and our fundraising efforts through the American Heart Association can really make a difference,” said DES physical education teacher Tim Lyngen. “Over the last decade, death rates from heart disease and stroke have been declining, and the American Heart Association’s advocacy, quality and research efforts have played a major role in this. Partnering with the Kids Heart Challenge provides us with a great opportunity to educate students about heart health and preventative care while engaging in a fun and exciting community service project.”

More information can be found at american.heart.org/kidshartchallenge/.

Author

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that approach yields a well-honed skill.

As the Edina resident walked students through the writing and character-creating process, however, he left room for some magic amidst the methods.

“What we do is look for the extraordinary within the ordinary,” he said, instructing students to draw a shoe, then prompting them to build a story around it. Where did it come from? What does it allow its wearer to do? Who is their character? What obstacle is the character facing, and how does the shoe fit into that struggle?



Above and below, Derek Anderson talks students through the creative process during a workshop.

Anderson encouraged students to think broadly and continually ask questions to build a backstory, the foundation for their tale. Students were eager to share the elements of their characters and stories, and spent time writing or drawing to flesh out the details.

During his time at DES, a highlight of “I Love To Read Month,” Anderson outlined a relatable career arc that began when his kindergarten principal hung one of Anderson’s drawings in his office. From there, students learned what it takes to develop into a professional writer or illustrator.

“It’s the best job in the world,” said Anderson. “I get to make things up.”



Social, emotional and behavioral skills

By Greg Hinker
Assistant Principal

Students at DES work hard every day to achieve academic excellence. They are listening, sharing, following directions, learning new things, and completing challenging tasks.

Often, students are also working collaboratively on challenging activities or games. When you think about it, that is an awful lot to expect from small children. Students need a tremendous number of social, emotional and behavioral skills to be successful with all of these demands.

Research is telling us that these skills are not inherent and actually need to be taught. The approach of DES is to



Greg Hinker

explicitly teach, practice and rehearse the skills and behaviors that students need to be successful during the school day. We do not assume that

students come to us with the skills to successfully navigate all situations socially or behaviorally. Teaching and fostering these skills is part of our work every day.

There are numerous examples of strategies used by teachers that are intended to support student acquisition of social, emotional and behavioral skills. Examples include:

- Morning meetings.
- Yoga calm.
- Frequent reinforcement and recognition.
- Energizers and brain breaks.
- Co-created classroom rules.
- School-wide expectations that are taught and rehearsed.
- Group projects.

- Assigned roles in groups.
- Community building activities.
- Posted learning targets.
- Logical consequences.
- A focus on non-cognitive skills like grit, perseverance, acceptance and sportsmanship.
- The Second Step SEL curriculum.

Providing students with the skills to be successful emotionally, socially and behaviorally establishes a sound education foundation.

With this foundation, students are equipped with the skills and tools to achieve the educational excellence Delano is known for.



Rounding up

About 140 students and their families came out for Kindergarten Round-up on Feb. 19 and 21. Students participated in a variety of fun activities while parents received information about the kindergarten program and met the DES staff. Families were also able to tour the school.

 LUNCH					MARCH 2019 Delano Elementary School					Delano Elementary \$2.85				
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday						
Popcorn Chicken 4 Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Pineapple		Corn Dog 5 Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce		Italian Dunkers 6 A)Chicken Salad Sandwich Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit		Chicken Patty / Bun 7 A)PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Lettuce / Veggies / Crackers Peaches		Tacos – Beef 1 Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Frosted Graham Cracker						
Spring Break 11		Spring Break 12		Spring Break 13		Spring Break 14		Spring Break 15						
Chicken Drumstick 18 A)Egg Salad Sandwich Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Pineapple		Cinnamon Roll 19 Cheese Omelet Steamed Broccoli Tritater Apple Juice / Orange Wedges		Spaghetti / Meatballs 20 A)Chicken Caesar Salad Garlic Bread Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears		Chicken Nuggets 21 Tritater Veggies / Corn Lettuce / Bread Fruit Cocktail		Hamburger 22 A)Fish Sandwich Waffle Fries / Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Orange Wedges						
Dominos Pizza 25 Cheese / Pepperoni Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears		Chicken Patty 26 Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Steamed Carrots Lettuce / Roll Orange Wedges		Walking Taco 27 Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Teddy Grahams		Teriyaki Chicken 28 Brown Rice Oriental Veg / Lettuce Pineapple / Fortune Cookie Ice Cream Cup		Tomato Soup 29 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Lettuce / Carrots Goldfish Fruit Cocktail						



Math night

Kindergarten students had the opportunity to participate in a 'Math Mindfulness' night at Coborn's on Monday, Feb. 4. Students went on a scavenger hunt through the store while connecting school math to real-world math. Upon completion of the night, students were given a goodie bag compliments of Coborn's. A second-grade night on Feb. 7 was postponed to March 7 due to weather. Additional Math Mindfulness activities include work with budgets and fun math problems.





Cast of characters

Superheroes, dinosaurs, the Cat in the Hat, the Lorax, the Man in the Yellow Hat, Piggy and Elephant, and more made an appearance at Delano Elementary on Friday, Feb. 22, for Book Character Day. Here are a few of the participating staff members.

Announcements

Late starts planned for 2019-20

With the release of the 2019-20 school calendar have come a few questions regarding the two-hour late starts planned for the third Wednesday of each month. The late start will allow the district to implement a new literacy initiative.

Two common questions have arisen: What time will buses run on the late start days? And what happens to Zero Hour at the intermediate school?

On two-hour late start days buses will run two hours late as well, just as they currently do for weather delays. Child care options will be provided through Community Education programs like Tiger Kids Club. Additional information regarding logistics will be provided before the next school year.

At the intermediate school, Zero Hour will continue on the Wednesdays when there is not a two-hour late start.

Volunteers needed for Fun Fair

The annual Tiger Fun Fair will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 30. The whole community is invited to attend. Attractions include eight large inflatables, including all new obstacle courses and jousting.

Wristbands are \$10 for school age children and \$5 for pre-K and under. Parents get in free. Food is sold separately and will be available all day in the concessions area. There will be a huge raffle where parents can purchase tickets for \$1 each or 25 tickets for \$20. Raffle prizes include two bicycles.

Families with financial hardship are encouraged to contact DES Social Worker Lisa Armstrong at 763.972.6200, ext. 1315, or lisa.armstrong@delanoschools.org. The goal is that every child who wants to attend gets the opportunity. About 200 volunteers are needed for the event. Sign up to help at bit.ly/FunFair19.

County seeking foster families

Wright County is seeking foster families who will allow children experiencing difficult situations to remain in their school.

"We try to keep foster children in their current school district to allow for more stability in their already unstable lives," said Wright County Case Aide Valerie Steele. "We are trying to reach every community to help spread the word about the need of additional foster parents in each Wright County city."

Wright County has a pressing and ongoing need for foster families. All children need a safe home where people will nurture and respect them.

Children enter foster care due to significant life factors, often including abuse or neglect. The overall goal of foster care is to provide children with a temporary, stable and caring family setting until they are reunited with their family or until a permanency plan is established for them.

If you would like more information about becoming a foster parent, contact Marisa Ferguson at 763-682-7484 or marisa.ferguson@co.wright.mn.us.

Weather make-up days

After extreme cold resulted in the cancellation of school Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 29-31, make-up days will be in effect.

Make-up days set before the beginning of the school year included Monday, Feb. 18, which was President's Day, and Monday, April 22. In addition, one day has been added to the end of the school year, so class will be in session on Wednesday, June 5.

Additional days will be added to the end of the school year, if necessary, during the remainder of the year.

For an explanation of Delano's philosophy regarding make-up days, see the article on Page 2.



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