

Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary School Newsletter



May 2019

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May

4.....Tiger Dash, 8:30 and 9 a.m.

8.....DQ Night, 5-8 p.m.

(Soupir, Lindquist)

13.....Grade 1 Track and Field

Day, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

14.....Grade 2 Track and Field

Day, noon to 2:30 p.m.

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

15.....Grade 3 Track and Field

Day, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

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

21.....School board listening

session, 7 p.m.

22.....DQ Art Night, 5-8 p.m.

(Langton, Scanlon)

23.....Grade 1 concerts,

6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

24....Grade 1 Grandparents Day

June

5.....School picnic

5-7.....Weather make-up days

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Find us on...



Young explorers

Children and families turned out for the DES Art Fair and Imaginarium Explorium on Thursday, April 25. See more photos on Page 6.

Bridging the academic gap

By Darren Schuler
Principal

The end of another school year is near, the days are getting longer, and the testing season at Delano Elementary is coming to a close.

When I was a classroom teacher I remember the pride I had watching my students leave the classroom on the final day of the school year. It would amaze me to see the growth that had occurred physically, emotionally and academically in my students during a school year.



Darren Schuler

Today, as a principal, I have the same enthusiasm for the student success that occurs

throughout a school year. With that being said, it continues to be important to keep school and academics a focus during those relaxing and enjoyable summer months. So often students experience the “summer slide” academically from not reading and using the skills they were taught during the school year.

We ask that this summer you take time to help your child bridge the academic gap during the summer months.

See Schuler
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Play preview

Cast and crew members of Delano High School's spring production, "High School Musical," stopped by the elementary to treat the youngsters to a preview of the show during their lunch hour on Friday, April 26. They performed a few scenes and a song, and mixed in with the younger students to chat. Their efforts to promote the show paid off, as the first two performances featured large crowds in the Performing Arts Center. Three shows remain at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, May 2-3, and at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 4.



Schuler

from Page 1

We would encourage you to have your child stay mentally sharp by reading on a daily basis, practicing math facts, or even writing a letter to a family

member each week. Many of our teachers will be sending out reminders about the online subscriptions that our students have access to during the summer.

If you are looking to check out new books this summer, our elementary will have

"Open Media Center" hours from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays (July 17, 24, 31, and Aug. 7).

The Delano Public Library is also a fantastic option for children and parents during the summer, with weekly programs and a summer reading

program. To access the Delano Public Library website, go to <https://griver.org/locations/delano>.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Tiger Dash is on May 4

The annual Tiger Dash 5K/1 Mile Cub Dash is on Saturday, May 4. The 1-mile run begins at 8:30 a.m. and the 5K begins at 9 a.m. Proceeds benefit the PE program.



Survey feedback will provide guidance

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Earlier this school year Delano Public Schools conducted a survey of students, staff and families to gather input about school climate and the strategic plan.

The Panorama survey was conducted from Nov. 19 through Dec. 7, 2018, and asked participants to weigh in on topics like student-staff relationships, perceptions about safety, student engagement, and more.

“We appreciate everyone who took the time to respond to this survey,” said Superintendent Matt Schoen. “The feedback provided will help us make informed decisions regarding our strategic plan and our daily efforts toward continuous improvement.”

Although certain segments of the school community have been surveyed periodically for specific purposes, it had been several years since a general district-wide survey was conducted. Similar surveys will take place in the future to give constituents a consistent opportunity to provide feedback and to allow the district to identify themes.

Strong relationships

About 92 percent of Delano students in grades 3-12 responded to the survey that asked questions related to school climate.

One highlight was that students generally feel they have good relationships with their teachers. In grades three through five, 78 percent of

students said they had positive relationships. In grades six through 12, 82 percent of students said they felt respected by their teachers.

That rapport extended to teachers and families, with 71 percent of teachers reporting

‘The feedback provided will help us make informed decisions regarding our strategic plan and our daily efforts toward continuous improvement.’

Matt Schoen

that they have positive relationships with the families of their students.

Parents and guardians also reported an extensive level of support for their students in the home, with more than 70 percent saying they talk with their children about class activities, help them understand content, know their child’s friends well and help their children learn to do things for themselves.

Safety and climate

Delano students tend to feel safer in school than their peers around the nation.

Seventy-four percent of students in grades three through five responded favorably when asked if they felt safe at school, and 66 percent of students in grades six through 12 also replied favorably. Both numbers were about 10 percent higher than average national results.

Family responses were consistent with student safety perceptions, with 68 percent

replying favorably.

In terms of overall school climate, about 75 percent of students in grades six through 12 said their school was characterized by positive or neutral energy rather than a negative atmosphere.

One key to positive energy, of course, is confident and competent staff members. Nearly 80 percent of teachers responded in a positive fashion to questions about perceptions of their own professional strengths and areas for growth.

Areas to grow

At all levels of the district, school officials would like to see higher numbers in the area of student engagement. Survey questions asked students if they were excited about going to class and what they learned there, if they were excited to participate, and if they talked about ideas from their classes outside of class time.

In grades three through five, 54 percent of students responded favorably, but in grades six through 12 only 23 percent responded favorably.

“We are confident that increased staff collaboration and student data analysis will increase student engagement,” said Director of Teaching and

Learning Joe Vieau, adding that an ongoing shift in classroom instruction from an emphasis on lecture formats to class discussions, small group work and self-selected projects will foster more active learners.

Although few visitors to school events and activities such as Homecoming would question students’ sense of belonging in grades six through 12, district officials saw room for improvement.

“We’ll keep an eye on those numbers in future surveys, but in everyday observation there does seem to be a strong sense of school spirit,” said Vieau.

Strategic plan feedback

There were 206 responses from parents about how effective the four main pillars of the strategic plan have been: facilities: curriculum, professional development and technology.

In facilities, 89 percent either agreed or strongly agreed that the plan was working well, a positive sign as the district’s largest ever building project came to completion.

In curriculum, 77 percent either agreed or strongly agreed that the plan was on target. In professional development, 80 percent agreed or strongly agreed, and in technology 86 percent either agreed or strongly agreed.

“We are pleased to see that our families believe our strategic plan has been effective since it was established in 2013,” said Schoen. “We are currently updating the plan to create a roadmap for the next five years as we continue our pursuit of educational excellence.”

Tips to help students finish strong

The right tools, examples, routines and goals can make a difference

By **Greg Hinker**
Assistant Principal

High school seniors are not the only ones who experience “senioritis,” or the “end-of-the-year-blues.” Elementary school students can also begin to shut down and dial back their efforts toward the end of the year. It’s important to help children finish strong.

Here are a few tips to help students stay focused on school, and their learning, until the last bell rings.

Refresh school supplies

After months of hard work and lots of time spent in the classroom, many students are left with less-than-ideal supplies. At this point, most pencils, markers and crayons



Greg Hinker

have seen better days. It is hard to do your best work when you don’t have the right materials.

Lead by example

Kids learn by example and are quick to adopt our attitude.

If your child hears you talking about how you wish it was summer, or how you can’t wait for school to be over, he or

‘Goals are a good way to keep students motivated and on-task toward the end of the school year.’

she will likely adopt the same mindset. Avoid talking negatively about school homework, etc., in front of your child.

Stick to your routines

When it is warm and light outside, it can be more difficult to enforce bed time. Spring

sporting events are starting up, which can mean late practices.

It is super important to help your child continue to get a good night’s rest through the end of the school year. Stick to your child’s regular bedtime and continue to make time for homework and reading.

Set reasonable goals

Finally, set one or two reasonable and reachable goals. Goals are a good ways to keep students motivated and on-task toward the end of the school year. Help your child select one or two small goals to accomplish.

Some ideas include moving up a reading level, memorizing their addition facts or having a certain number of positive behavior days.

LUNCH					MAY 2019					Delano Elementary School S2 85				
Delano Elementary School														
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday						
Popcorn Chicken Brown Rice Peas Lettuce Pineapple 6		French Toast Sticks Sausage Tritater Broccoli OJ Cup 7		Tomato Soup 1 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Goldfish Baby Carrots Lettuce Applesauce		Teriyaki Chicken 2 Brown Rice Oriental Vegetables Lettuce / Pineapple Fortune Cookie / Ice Cream		Walking Taco 3 Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Teddy Grahams						
Hot Dog 13 A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baked Beans Carrots Rosy Applesauce		Chicken Gravy 14 A)Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes Peas / Lettuce / Roll Baked Apple Slices		Hamburger 8 Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Baby Carrots Fruit Cocktail		Chicken Alfredo 9 Penne Pasta California Blend Vegetables Lettuce Salad Applesauce		Quesadilla 10 Corn / Salsa Lettuce Orange Wedges						
Chicken Drumstick 20 Brown Rice Peas Lettuce Pineapple		Corn Dog 21 Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce		Chicken Nuggets 15 Tritater Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail		Cheese Pizza 16 Corn Lettuce Pears		Soft / Crispy Beef Taco 17 Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit						
Holiday 27 No School		Cooks Choice 28		Italian Dunkers 22 A)Chicken Salad Sandwich Corn Lettuce Fresh Fruit		Chicken Patty – Bun 23 A)PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Lettuce / Crackers / Veggies Peaches		Meatballs 24 Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Carrots / Roll Lettuce Orange Wedges						
Cooks Choice 29		Cooks Choice 30		Cooks Choice 31		Cooks Choice 31		Cooks Choice 31						

Reading Corps tutor sought for 2019-20

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Without a firm grasp of reading skills, learning can be an uphill climb for young students.

Over the past 11 years Delano Elementary School has been able to offer extra help for those who need it through the Minnesota Reading Corps program, and now the school is seeking an additional tutor to carry on that tradition during the 2019-20 school year.

Sue Dehne, Rhonda Lemmon and Stephanie Wu filled the tutoring positions for the current year. Dehne will step away this summer after four years as a tutor at DES, and said she will miss the relationships she was able to develop with students and staff members alike.

"It was a perfect schedule for me as a mom, and the staff was wonderful," she said. "With the kids, I really enjoyed all the different personalities. Working with them one on one, you get to know them so well because you have that individual time. Sometimes they come back here and sometimes you just see them in the hallway. There are just a lot of familiar faces, so I'll be sad to not see every-



From left, Rhonda Lemmon, Sue Dehne and Stephanie Wu served as reading tutors for 2018-19.

body next year."

Lemmon and Wu were first-year tutors in 2018-19, and while Lemmon is not returning next year due to a change in family circumstances, she said she enjoyed the opportunity and would certainly consider returning as a tutor in the future.

"Being part of a team that has a mission to help kids that need the extra help, it's very rewarding," she said. "It's definitely worth the effort you put into it."

Wu will be the only returning tutor next year, and said a

combination of engaging work with students, family-friendly hours that match her children's school schedule, and educational benefits that tutors enjoy made continuing in the role an attractive proposition.

"The biggest thing is just seeing the kids when they hit their goals, how happy they are," she said. "It's so rewarding to see them succeed."

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.

"You don't have to be experienced in education as long as you're willing to learn and work with kids," said Dehne. "It's not like anybody should be scared away by not having that in their experience."

In addition to building their skills and resume, tutors receive a paid stipend every two weeks and earn up to \$4,200 for college tuition or student loans. Tutors 55 and older may gift that education money to their child, grandchild, stepchild or foster child. Free health insurance and child care assistance is available for those who qualify.

Part-time and full-time positions are available. Tutors commit to serving 35, 25, or 18 hours a week throughout the school year. Opportunities begin in August 2019.

Anyone who would like to find out more about becoming a tutor for next school year is welcome to contact DES Basic Skills teacher Lisa Downer at lisa.downer@delanoschools.org, or see ReadingAndMath.net.

"I'm hoping I get some help," said Wu with a laugh. "It's good to bounce things off each other and learn from each other."

'Garden Families' needed for summer

By Heather Walberg
SPED Teacher

It's spring and time to think about gardening!

Did you know the Delano Elementary School has a garden? It started in the summer of 2015 with just a few raised beds planted by a summer school classroom. Since then it has grown to 14 raised beds, a picnic table, an arbor, and last year we had over 10 classes participating.

We have herbs, flowers and rhubarb growing perennially, and a variety of other fruits and veggies each summer, such as pumpkins, beans or tomatoes.



Students check out vegetables yielded by the garden during the last school year.

Different classes help out with planting, upkeep, and har-

vesting during the school year. We have also had local volun-

teers help out with watering and weeding in the summer when school is not in session.

Watch your email for a link to sign up as a Garden Family. Garden Families get to water, weed and harvest in the garden for a day to help keep our garden happy and growing even when school is out.

We are also in need of good compost to get our garden off to a great start. Please contact darren.schuler@delanoschools.org or heather.walberg@delanoschools.org if you are interested in donating compost.

Come by and check out the Delano School Garden and see what is growing!



Art and imagination

Parents, students and staff members filed through the multipurpose room to check out student artwork, and also enjoyed a variety of activities at the Imaginarium Explorium on Thursday, April 25.



Young writers build composition skills

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

From song lyrics to essays, and from spooky stories to humor, 30 third-graders at DES honed their composition skills through the Writers Workshop program earlier this year.

"There were a lot of different topics and they gave you a lot of different ways to think about writing," said Landon Lundquist, one of the participating students.

Students were chosen for the program by their teachers, then had the option to participate or not.

"I just wanted to become a better writer," said Ruby Gunia, explaining why she was willing to take on some extra work. "Now if I have to write a story I know how to conference it and edit it."

"Now writing is not as hard as it used to be, and it's way more fun because we know more about what to do," said Emma Ristau-Warne.

The eight-week program began in January and ended in March, with all 65 participating students across third and fourth grade contributing one of their works to a final anthology. During each week students had a new assignment to stretch and develop their creativity.

"Each week would be a different topic," said Gifted and Talented Coordinator Gwen Briesemeister, who oversaw the fourth-grade group. "One week they would try to develop comedy by overusing a word in their writing. Another project was to look at a certain books and then try to model the same patterns the author was using. They also did songwriting. We generally tried to do something more obscure that they don't normally do in their classes."

Caitlin Champeau said her favorite topic was the mystery story, and Gunia said she liked developing the spooky story based off a picture. Lundquist said his favorite exercise was to



The Delano Elementary Writers Workshop group members show off their completed anthologies. A final author and artist conference will take place in May.



Students sign one another's anthologies after completing their final editing.

build a story based off a series of five pictures.

Each week the writers returned with their completed assignment and met in small groups to share their work and practice giving suggestions to one another.

"It helped them learn to present their work so it sounds interesting, and how to listen to a story and give feedback," said Briesemeister. "They talked

about character development or interesting words or ideas the writer might have."

Though sharing their work with peers was a bit intimidating at first, students gradually learned to appreciate the process.

"Even though it could sometimes feel a little embarrassing, we definitely got better at that during Writers Workshop," said Ristau-Warne.

After completing all of the assignments, students chose one to put through the full editing process, type up and submit for the anthology.

What was the most difficult aspect of the program for the young authors?

"I'd say the hardest part was probably starting the story," said Lundquist. "Once I had the topic I could keep writing, but I never really had a good way to start."

Pushing through those types of challenges helped students develop their skills, however, and they have already noticed the benefit in their other classes.

"Now when we have to write three paragraphs it's like, 'That's easy,'" said Champeau. "I wish Writers Workshop kept going through fifth and sixth grade."

Now that the anthology was completed in April, just one highlight of the program remains: a trip to the College of St. Benedict for the Young Authors, Young Artists Conference in May.

"There is a keynote speaker, and they get to choose to go to three different breakout sessions on writing and illustrating and storytelling," said Briesemeister. "There are actual artists who have books for sale. It's pretty exciting for them to be on campus. They love that."



Tiger Fun Fair

The Tiger Fun Fair on Saturday, March 30, brought in the usual large crowd to enjoy carnival games, inflatables, food and a silent auction. The event was put on by the DES Partners in Education group. Here is a look at some of the action.

Announcements

Weather make-up days

Extreme weather has resulted in the cancellation of five school days this year, and make-up days will be in effect. Dates when school was canceled due to weather included Jan. 29-31, Feb. 20 and April 11.

Make-up days set before the beginning of the school year included Monday, Feb. 18, and Monday, April 22. In addition, three days have been added to the end of the school year, so class will be in session through Friday, June 7.

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

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

Watch year-end meal balances

Beginning Tuesday, May 28, and continuing through the end of the year, students will not be allowed to purchase a lunch or breakfast if their meal account has a negative balance. Any unpaid lunch balances will be placed for collections.

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

Contact Tracie Erickson with questions or concerns at 763.972.3365 ext. 1917 or tracie.erickson@delanoschools.org.

Field trip season has arrived

It's field trip season at Delano Elementary, and there is a substantial list of fun and educational experiences on the schedule. Field trip dates for parents to remember include:

- May 13-14: Kindergarten field trip to The Works/Como Zoo.
- May 17: Grade 3 field trip to Fort Snelling.
- May 22, 29: Grade 2 field trip to Eastman Nature Center.
- May 31: Grade 1 field trip to the Minnesota Zoo.

Notify school of address changes

Moving? Changing schools? If your family is moving out of the school district, whether or not your students will continue attending Delano Public Schools next year, please notify the DES office at 763-972-6200 for DES, 763-972-7602 for DIS, or 763-972-7601 for DHS. This information is vital for class assignments and staffing needs for the 2019-20 school year.

County seeking foster families

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

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.



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