

Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary School Newsletter



March 2020



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Dates to remember

March

2.....Kindergarten Round-Up for last names A-K, 5:30-8 p.m.

3.....End of Trimester 2

5.....Kindergarten Round-Up for last names L-Z, 5:30-8 p.m.

9-13.....Spring break, no school

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

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

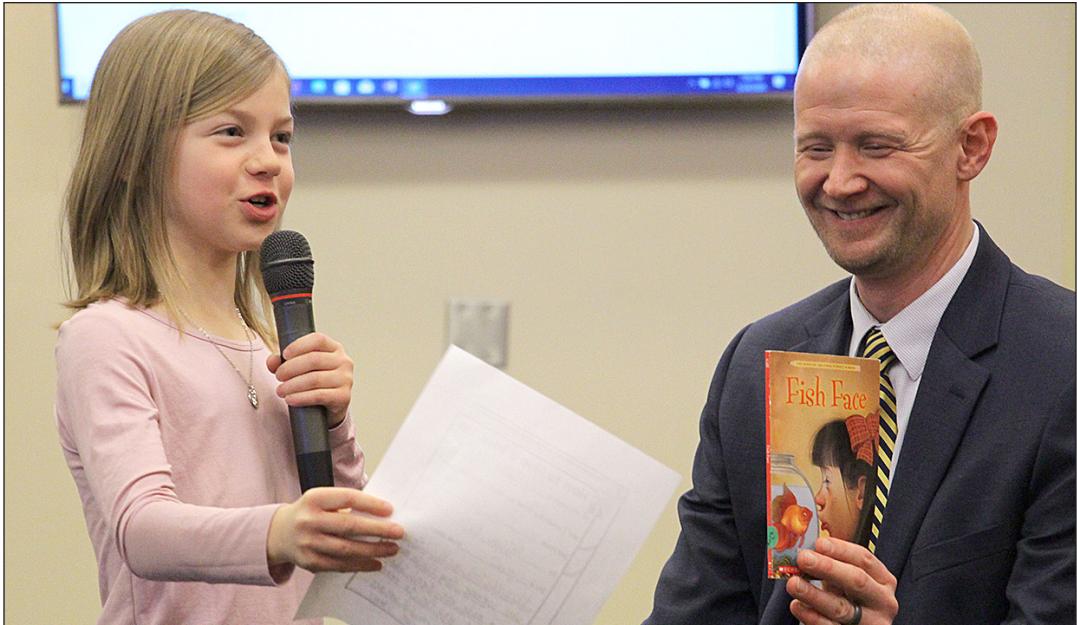
18.....Two-hour late start

18.....DQ Night, 5 p.m.
(Hackman, Williams)

26.....Grade 2 field trip

28.....Tiger Fun Fair, 12-4 p.m.

Find us on...



Students from Delano Elementary School attended the school board meeting on Monday, Feb. 24, to present their own Book Talks to school board members as part of 'I Love to Read Month.'



Book Talks

Sharing the love of reading

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children."
-Jim Trelease

By Darren Schuler
Principal

Each month I have enjoyed highlighting some of the initiatives and changes we have seen with our new Benchmark Reading Series and our District Literacy Initiative.

One of my favorite new activities that students and staff have been excited about this



Darren Schuler

How to give a Book Talk

Book Talks are an opportunity for students to introduce books that they have enjoyed reading to others.

Typically students give an opening statement that sets the scene and introduces themselves and the name of the author.

Second, students give a short summary of the plot of the book and introduce the main character. Third, students give an opinion of the book and why they would recommend it

school year is the "Book Talk" process and our "Book Talk Tuesday" videos.

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Author shares journey at DES

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

As someone who debuted as a children's author and illustrator just after her retirement as a teacher, Debbie Hoven had a message for students when she visited Delano Elementary earlier this week.

"You're never too young, you're never too old," she said. "Don't be afraid to challenge yourself and step outside your box."

Hoven, now the author of three children's books, spoke to students in kindergarten through third grade about her writing and illustrating work on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 3-4 as part of the school's "I Love to Read Month" festivities. She also shared a few tips about getting started.

"Kids sometimes think they can't draw a whole picture, but just start with something small and then you have something build off of," she told a group of third-graders on Tuesday afternoon.

She added that it helped her to lightly sketch her illustrations with a pencil before adding the finishing touches with colored pencils, markers or paint.

Origins as an author

As a lifelong preschool and elementary teacher in Alexan-



Author-illustrator Debbie Hoven shares about the process of creating a book on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

dria, Villard and Glenwood, Hoven said she realized toward the end of her career that she had always challenged her students and others to pursue their dreams and take on challenges, but she had not yet pursued her own wish to become a children's author.

"As a teacher I always wanted kids to get into art and words and drawing," she said.

"Then I decided that instead of just getting everyone else excited about it I wanted to do it myself."

She attended a class by Minnesota author and illustrator Nancy Carlson, and was initially intimidated by the high school art instructors and other professionals who were also there. However, she determined that she was going to give writing and illustrating her best shot.

"I felt like a kindergartner drawing, but I could write with words," she said.

After learning a great deal about various artistic mediums like paints and the proper types of paper to use with each, Hoven's assignment from the class to create a story focusing on an inanimate object led directly to her first book, "Light Up the Year."

The idea sprung from a mundane task as she took the Christmas lights down from her garage. She imagined the lightbulbs coming to life and brightening up other events

throughout the year, and a publishing company she spoke with was enthusiastic about the unique concept. With built-in lessons for young ones about the months of the year, the

'You're never too young, you're never too old. Don't be afraid to challenge yourself and step outside your box.'

Debbie Hoven

book was published in 2014.

An ABC book about Minnesota living, "Norman Loves the Lake," followed in 2015, and Hoven's third book, "Light Up the States" about the regions of the United States followed in 2018. That work earned the national Mom's Choice Award.

Experiences

Hoven shared about the publishing process with students, showing a number of errors made at the press, including book copies with extra pages, or with the pages inserted upside down.

She also encouraged students to look at pictures and use them for models as they work on their own drawings. As examples, her presentation walked students through "Light Up the States" and showing the photos that inspired her illustrations along the way.

"It's not cheating to have a picture to look at," she said. "Lots of illustrators keep picture files."

In the end, she answered a variety of student questions and encouraged their own creativity.

"Keep writing. Keep drawing," she said. "And save your good quality things in a folder where you can come back to them."



Students learned a few illustrating techniques during the presentation.



Concert night

Second-graders performed their concert on Thursday, Feb. 27, in the Delano High School Performing Arts Center. Here are a few scenes from the evening.





Friday, Feb. 21, was Read with a Stuffed Animal Day, which these first-graders thoroughly enjoyed.



Reading a February focus

'I Love to Read Month' concludes with carnival

By Greg Hinker
Assistant Principal

During February, DES celebrated "I Love to Read Month." Events and activities were scheduled throughout the month to cultivate a love for reading in students.

Teachers invited guest readers and planned reading-themed activities.

On Feb. 3 we kicked off the month with a school-wide D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) time. That also marked the beginning of the Team Hinker vs. Team Schuler Reading Challenge. The classes on each team kept track of their reading minutes for the month. The team with the greatest number of total minutes was crowned the champion.

Special events were planned for the end of each week. Students brought in stuffed animals, blankets and towels, wore hats and clothes with words, and met with their buddy classroom for reading activities.



Greg Hinker

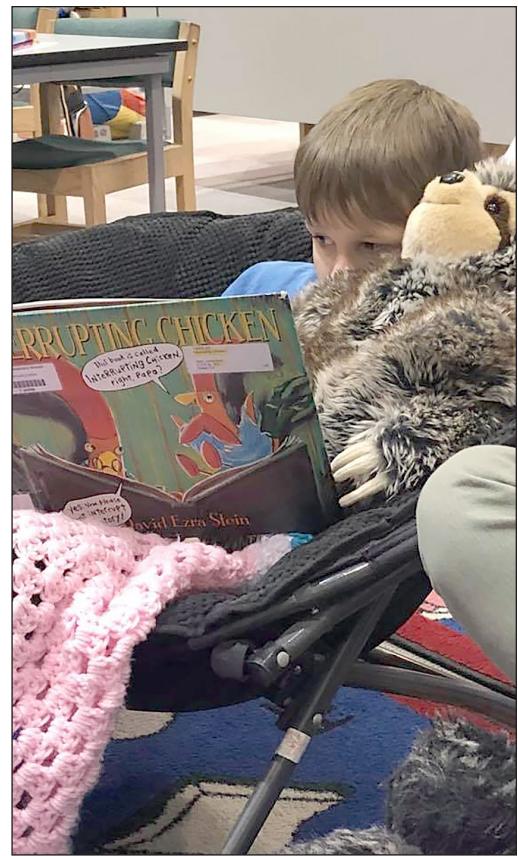
Students participated in "I Love to Read Month." bingo. The bingo boards had 25 different reading challenges. Each time a person completed five tasks and got a bingo, their name was entered into a drawing for one of two new bikes.

On Feb. 11 we hosted the DES Family Read-In. Families were invited to bring books, blankets, pillows, flashlights, and stuffed animals, and find a cozy spot in the elementary

school to enjoy some time relaxing and reading. Teachers moved some of the cozy furniture from their classroom libraries and a small selection of books out into common areas for families to enjoy. Mystery readers read their favorite stories throughout the evening.

On Friday, March 6, the Reading Carnival will be the grand finale of "I Love to Read Month." A carnival will be set up in the gym and classes will each have a time to visit and play. There will be an obstacle course, games, scooter races, music and finger nail painting. This will be a great finish to our month-long celebration!





Read-In

DES students and their families turned out for a unique 'Read-In' night on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Participants were encouraged to bring in books, blankets, pillows, flashlights and stuffed animals, and to find a comfortable place to read around the school building. A total of 10 'mystery readers' also read to groups of students.



Health unit moving minds at DES

The Delano Elementary School Physical Education department kicked off its Health Moves Minds service learning project on Feb. 24.

The program is run through SHAPE America, and is a social-emotional learning initiative geared toward giving students the tools they need to keep their bodies and minds healthy.

During the unit classes will talk about mindfulness, emotional regulation, managing stress, staying healthy through exercise, and the power of helping others.

As an additional part of the program, the school is raising money to purchase new physical education equipment that will replace old equipment, and to expand options in order to offer new movement opportunities for students.

The overall objective is to help create a more active and healthy environment in our school, which will ultimately help students physically, emotionally, socially, and academically.

Of the funds raised, 25% will go to Delano Special Olympics, matching the 25% that will benefit the PE program at the elementary. In addition, a portion of the proceeds



Students learned techniques for how to manage a busy mind and reduce stress with the help of a parachute and ball game during a recent session.

will also be used to develop essential teacher resources, and to advocate for health and physical education at the state and national levels.

To donate (available through March 13), see the DES team page online at <https://donate.shapeamerica.org/team/262053>.

At right, a variation of a freeze tag game gave students tools to discuss their feelings.



Above, the parachute game was a hit with students. At left, students answer questions about emotions.

Pirates and magic in upcoming play

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

A play featuring more than 80 of Delano's budding young actors from grades 2-6 will take place later this month.

"Magic Tree House: Pirates Past Noon" is an adoption of Mary Pope Osborne's award-winning fantasy adventure book from the Magic Tree House book series.

This time around, Jack and

Annie's tree house takes them to an exotic island filled with exciting creatures -- and with pesky pirates. Here, the two discover the power of friendship and the simple pleasures in everyday life.

"It's going to be a huge group," said director Joe Lawrence. "I want them to learn the basics of acting and design, learn to collaborate, and the main thing is to have fun -- shouldn't be hard since

everyone loves to pretend to be a pirate or a parrot or a starfish or a lobster."

Plot and performances

The two siblings return to visit the magic tree house on a dreary day and find a book where the sun is shining and the waves are crashing. They decide to travel to this tropical place, but soon realize they are in the 18th century Caribbean, a time and place frequented by

pirates. The siblings meet Captain Bones, a mean old pirate who captures them and forces them to help him find buried treasure.

It's up to Jack and Annie to find their way back to the tree house and make their way home.

Performances will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, March 19-20, and at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Learn how to become a short-call substitute teacher

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at teaching? A two-day workshop is planned for people with a non-education four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited college who would like to become a limited, short-call substitute teacher. Participants will receive training in:

- The process for applying for the two-year license through the Minnesota Department of Education.
- The substitute teacher's role in the classroom and district.
- The basics of classroom management, instruction, and child development, as well as communication skills.

- Awareness of legal issues relating to students and a teacher's obligations.

The workshop takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, and from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, at Resource Training & Solutions (137 23rd Street S, Sartell).

There is a fee to attend. To register, go to <http://www.resourcecoop-mn.gov/>, enter the course code in the "Search for Events" box located to the right on the homepage, then follow the prompts. The course code is 8693. For more information, visit <http://www.resourcecoop-mn.gov>.

LUNCH		MARCH 2020					Delano Elementary School \$2.95				
		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
2	Hot Dog A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baked Beans Baby Carrots Rosy Applesauce	3	Chicken Gravy A)Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes / Peas Lettuce / Roll Baked Apple Slices	4	Chicken Nuggets Tritater Green Beans Veggies / Bread Fruit Cocktail	5	Cheese Pizza California Blend Veg Lettuce Salad Pears	6	Cheese Quesadilla Refried Beans Lettuce / Salsa Corn Fresh Fruit		
9	No School Spring Break	10	No School Spring Break	11	No School Spring Break	12	No School Spring Break	13	No School Spring Break		
16	Popcorn Chicken Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Pineapple	17	Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	18	Italian Dunkers Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	19	Chicken Patty / Bun A)PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers / Veggies Lettuce Peaches	20	Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Goldfish Lettuce Veggies Fresh Fruit		
23	Nachos – Beef / Cheese Lettuce / Onions / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit	24	Cinnamon Roll Cheese Omelet Steamed Broccoli Tritater Apple Juice Cup Orange Wedges	25	Spaghetti – Meatballs Garlic Bread Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	26	Chicken Nuggets Tritater Corn Veggies Fruit Cocktail	27	Hamburger A)Egg Salad Sandwich Waffle Fries Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Onions Orange Wedges		
30	Domino's Pizza Cheese / Pepperoni Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	31	Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes / Roll Country Gravy Steamed Carrots Lettuce Orange Wedges								





Schuler

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to others. Finally, the students wrap up the book talk by reading a quote from the book, asking the audience a question or using a cliffhanger to hook in the audience!

Book Talk Tuesday

Each Tuesday during the 2019-2020 school year, selected students and staff have been able to share their favorite

At left, DES students presented book talks to the school board on Feb. 24.

book via video to all K-3 classrooms. This has been a great way to introduce new book characters, titles, and specific authors to our students and staff. After the Book Talk, the selected student gets their photo and book displayed in our school display case.

I would encourage you to take some time this school year to model the Book Talk process at home with your own personal favorite children's book. Children who see their parents demonstrating the love of reading have a greater chance of being a successful reader themselves in the future!

Announcements

Kindergarten Round-Up

Delano Elementary School invites you to attend Kindergarten Round-Up on Monday and Thursday, March 2 and 5, for children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2020. (Note the date change on the first night).

Families with last names beginning with A through K should attend on Monday, March 2, and families with last names beginning with L through Z should attend on Thursday, March 5. If you have a conflict on your assigned evening, please come on the alternate evening.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and special activities will begin at 6:05 p.m. The evening will include an informational meeting for parents while children participate in classroom activities, and concludes around 8 p.m. Children and parents will have the opportunity to meet the exceptional and caring DES staff, tour the school, participate in fun activities, and learn about the kindergarten program.

Those who have not received a kindergarten registration packet, or who are new to the area, can contact Delano Elementary School at 763.972.6200.

Tiger Fun Fair arrives March 28

The annual Tiger Fun Fair will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 28. 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 bicycles, class-themed baskets, and more.

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. More than 100 volunteers are needed for the event. Sign up to help at bit.ly/FunFair20.

DIS orientation night planned

Save the date for a DIS orientation night for third-graders and their families. The event will take place at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 11. Information will be provided about third-graders' transition into fourth grade at the intermediate building.

School board listening session

Members of the Delano School Board will host a listening session at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 16, in the Delano High School media center.

All are invited for an informal discussion of topics that will be announced beforehand. Members of the public are welcome to come and share comments, questions and suggestions. A survey with potential topics will be emailed to district families. Two or three board members, along with appropriate school staff, will attend the one-hour session to share information and hear feedback.

The listening session is not an official meeting and no action will be taken, but feedback will be shared with the entire board to inform members as they make decisions going forward.



Tiger Cub News is published by Delano Elementary School. Editor, Paul Downer, District Office, 763.972.3365, ext. 1911, paul.downer@delanoschools.org



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