

Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary School Newsletter



December 2021-January 2022



The third-grade Battle of the Books concluded Nov. 23. See Page 2.

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Dance Fit

Dates to remember

December

- 13..School board mtg., 5:45 p.m.
- 15.....Two-hour late start
- 15.....DQ Night, 5-8 p.m.
- 20..School board mtg., 5:45 p.m.
- 23-31....Winter break, no school

January

- 3.....Classes resume
- 11.....PIE meeting, 7 p.m.
- 17.....MLK Jr. Day, no school
- 19.....DQ Night, 5-8 p.m.



Dance celebration

Delano Elementary School's successful Boosterthon fundraiser concluded with a 'Dance Fit' event on Friday, Nov. 19. Students had fun working off plenty of energy in the hybrid dance/work out routine. See Pages 7 and 8 for more information.

Boosterthon a big success

By Rachel Schultz
Principal

Fundraising for schools can provide opportunities for children that school budgets cannot always absorb.

This year our DES PIE committee, chaired by Dianne Pohlmann and Ashlie Erdmann, worked with Boosterthon to support us in our fundraising. The Boosterthon program does a great job of helping staff, students and families understand how to register and track our fundraising progress.

Another component of



Rachel Schultz

Boosterthon that DES enjoys is its character-building component. The 2021-2022 school

year theme was "Sports City World Wide." Students watched five mini-documentaries about real kid athletes who play and live with character. The videos featured diverse students with a range of abilities.

Throughout the fundraiser, classrooms have been able to participate in different challenges and receive special classroom rewards based on their pledges. It has been a wonderful way to build our classroom community and have fun!

We closed our fundraiser by

See Schultz
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Finalists in the Battle of the Books competition included, from left, the third-place team of Caleb Hanson, Zach Lau and Winston Berg; the first-place team of Mabel Kotten, Lillian Ristau and Habry Syverson; and the third-place team of Saoirse Burke, Henry Werth and Leo Rabe.

Kotten, Ristau, Syverson earn gold

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

As regular readers, Lillian Ristau, Mabel Kotten and Habry Syverson made a natural team for this year's third-grade Battle of the Books competition. With 30 teams in the running for gold, however, they knew they had to keep expectations in check.

"Habry was excited," said Kotten. "I was medium, like 'Don't get your hopes up.'"

In the end, however, the trio outpaced all challengers in answering questions from the 12-book list, earning their gold medals on Tuesday, Nov. 23.

Delano Elementary Gifted and Talented teacher Angela Kalthoff introduced the competition to students on Sept. 28, and students had about eight weeks to read the books before competition began.

"My main goal is always to get students reading," said Kalthoff. "I also want to get them reading good literature across a wide range of genres. I love that they pick up books they might never have read before and then end up loving them. This year's list was a new set of books so they are current



From left, Mabel Kotten, Lillian Ristau and Habry Syverson were all smiles following their win in the annual third-grade Battle of the Books competition. There were 30 teams involved in the event.

books and written by some excellent authors."

In the preliminary, semifinal and final rounds teams are asked questions about each of the books, and the number of correct answers are tallied. To prepare for the event, Ristau, Kotten and Syverson decided to be as efficient as possible.

"We split it up into fourths. We were each going to read

four books," said Kotten, but once they began all ended up reading half a dozen or more with some extra review worked in.

"I kind of just speed read it again," said Ristau of one book she went over twice. Her favorite book on the list was "Bob" by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass because of "the storyline of it, how a girl has to help find

her friend a way home." Her second favorite was "A Boy Called Bat."

Kotten's favorite book was "Moo" by Sharon Creech.

"There's a cow named Zora and there's a girl who just moved in and they get to have a big experience. They turn

'I didn't think we really had a shot at first.'

Lillian Ristau

into farmers at the end. It's very interesting," she said, adding that her second favorite book was "Dying to Meet You."

Syverson was not available for the interview after the competition.

Each member of the winning team reviewed practice questions with their parents in preparation for the competition.

"We probably did 30 minutes a day for a few weeks," said Ristau.

All the practice paid off.

**See Battle
Page 3**



Veterans Clothing Drive a success

Thank you to our students, families and staff for your generous support of our annual Veterans Clothing Drive for veterans in need. Over the next few weeks, we will deliver donated items to the Eagles Healing Nest, which provides housing and treatment to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder; the St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA Hospitals Clothing Closets; the Hastings Veterans Home; and the Community Resource and Referral Center in Minneapolis that serves homeless veterans. Here, fifth-graders recently assembled personal hygiene bags for homeless veterans using resources donated during the drive.

Students sing for seniors at the Legacy

Led by music teacher Penny Koets, third-graders from Ms. Warne and Ms. Knisley's classrooms visited The Legacy of Delano on Thursday, Nov. 11, to sing and recite poetry for residents on Veterans Day.

For COVID-related safety reasons, the students performed outside the facility while residents watched from the windows.

"The students had a blast," said Knisley. "To be able to put a smile on our veterans faces was a rewarding experience for the kids. We had a ton of smiles and they sang their hearts out!

The veterans were inside and we were outside, but from the windows I could see many smiles and clapping. I believe we made their day."

Koets agreed that the expedition was a success, and said Legacy staff encouraged the students to come again.

"The kids had a great time sharing their American songs," she said, adding that selections included "America" and "This Land is Your Land." "The residents, although they were inside due to COVID, enjoyed our singing through the windows."



Battle

from Page 2

In the first round they only answered incorrectly three times. After the initial 30 teams were whittled down to nine in the semifinals, however, the intensity picked up.

"At that point we were excited," said Kotten. "I think we got five wrong that time. I was like, 'Oh boy. I don't think we're going to get through this round.'"

Ristau agreed.

"At that point I was thinking maybe we were going to get third, but I didn't think we really had a shot at first," she said.

They advanced to the finals, however, where the last three teams squared off.

"I was pretty nervous," said Ristau.

All went well, however, and then came the big announcement.

"First they announced third and then second, so we were like, 'Whoa! Aaahhh!'"



A live audience was on hand for the final round of competition.

said Kotten of the moment they found out they had won.

"You could tell they had put their work in," said Kalthoff. "The final round was probably the closest I have had in years.

'You could tell they had put their work in. The final round was probably the closest I have had in years.'

Angela Kalthoff

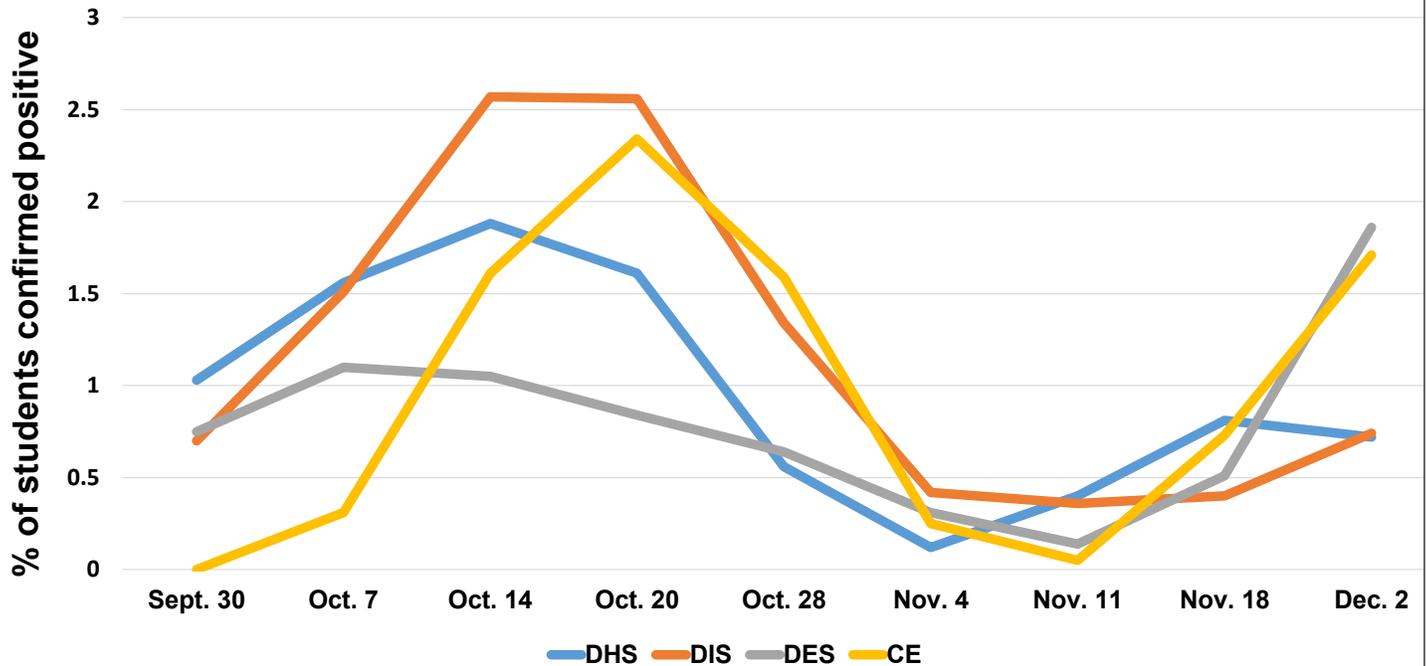
Only a few points separated the top three teams - a great showing by ALL!"

Second place went to the team of Henry Werth, Saoirse Burke and Leo Rabe, and third went to Winston Berg, Zach Lau and Caleb Hanson.

Kalthoff said the event is open to all third-graders, and the teamwork needed to succeed is one of her favorite aspects.

"It is really great to see the students' excitement throughout the competition and discuss what books they are reading," she said.

COVID cases 2021-22 (14-day case rate)



LUNCH

DECEMBER 2021

Delano Elementary School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 6 Domino's Pizza Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 13 Orange Chicken Brown Rice Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 20 Hot Dog A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baby Carrots Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px;"> 27 No School </div>	<div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 7 Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad Dinner Roll Orange Wedges </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 14 French Toast Sticks Sausage Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Baked Apple Slices </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 21 Chicken Gravy A)Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes / Peas Lettuce Salad / Roll Baked Apple Slices </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px;"> 28 No School </div>	<div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 1 Spaghetti – Meat Sauce Green Beans Lettuce Salad Garlic Bread Pears </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 8 Chili Cheesy Breadstick Tortilla Chips Baby Carrots Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 15 Hamburger Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Baby Carrots Fruit Cocktail </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 22 Chicken Nuggets Hashbrown Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px;"> 29 No School </div>	<div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 2 Chicken Nuggets Hashbrown Corn Veggies Fruit Cocktail </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 9 Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 16 Chicken Alfredo Chicken / Penne / Alfredo Sauce California Blend Veg Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 23 No School </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px;"> 30 No School </div>	<div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 3 Hamburger A)Sloppy Joes Sun Chips Lettuce / Tomatoes Pickles Orange Wedges </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 10 Walking Taco Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit Graham Goldfish </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 17 Quesadilla Corn Salsa Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 24 No School </div> <div style="background-color: white; color: #0056b3; padding: 5px;"> 31 No School </div>

Kimball, Workman earn ESSA honor

Support staff are a key to student success at school

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

It takes more than classroom teachers to keep a school running, and four individuals at Delano Public Schools were recently honored with Education Support Staff Awards.

Award recipients included preschool assistant Natalie Kimball, DES alternative delivery of specialized instructional services (ADSIS) behavioral paraprofessional Holly Workman, DIS paraprofessional Joan Gust, and DHS media center assistant Lona Desutter.

Natalie Kimball

Kimball is a relative newcomer to Delano Public Schools Preschool, but has made an immediate impact in her role as an assistant.

"You would think she's been here for years!" said an anonymous nomination statement. "She jumped into the DPSP program as a new assistant (and is) not afraid to ask questions and take initiative to help all building staff in this crazy year! Natalie lights up a room with her personality. The kids and staff in our building love having Ms. Natalie join their group."

Kimball said she sought



Natalie Kimball

out the position because of her enthusiasm for children and because of the enduring impression left by some of her former teachers.

"Being able to spend my days with such amazing kids is definitely why I'm here," Kimball said. "When I was younger in my preschool and elementary school years I was blessed to have amazing teachers. The teachers I had in my early years made such a positive impact on my school years; to this day I'm still in contact with them over 25 years later! To be able to do the same with our future leaders is a dream come true for me. My daily goal is to be the teacher I needed when I was



Holly Workman

younger and to make a positive impact with our students each and every day."

Kimball added that she is honored and thankful to receive the award from her peers and co-workers.

"I'm truly blessed to work with some of the best teachers and educational support staff in our schools," she said. "We definitely couldn't do it without each other. Thank you for this honor. It's truly a blessing to be a part of this wonderful community and district."

Holly Workman

Workman is in her ninth year with Delano Public Schools, having spent four

years as a classroom para and the past five years as the ADSIS behavioral paraprofessional.

"I enjoy working with kids. They can always put a smile on your face!" Workman said.

She added that the opportunity to work with multiple students and teachers on a daily basis, and to stay on the move throughout the day, is an energizing factor.

"I enjoy watching the students grow from the beginning of the school year till the end of the year. It is very rewarding to watch the students reach their goals," she said.

An anonymous nomination statement praised Workman's positive attitude and comprehensive approach to meeting her students' needs.

"Her focus is 100% on helping her students to become stronger emotionally, academically, and mentally," the nomination said. "She is an amazing support system for her students."

In the end, Workman said it is all about working together on behalf of young people.

"It is an honor to be nominated," she said. "It is a team effort with classroom teachers and other staff in the building to help students reach their goals."

Blankets for new homes

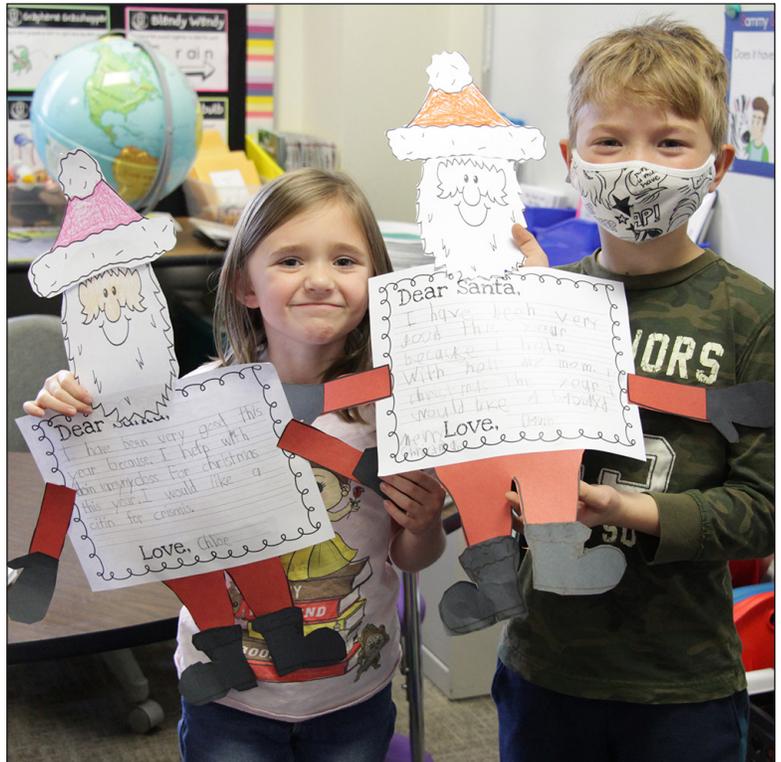
First-grade students worked on a service project during the month of November that resulted in the production of 41 fleece blankets for foster children. Teachers wished to thank everyone who donated funds or fleece to this effort to help others in need.





Seasonal artists

First-graders were busy with seasonal projects earlier this week. Above and below, Ms. Pohlmann's students were engaged in a 'Holidays Around the World' series that combined geography, art and more to outline holiday traditions in 20 countries around the globe. At right and above right, Ms. Conley's students created special letters to Santa.



Join the Wellness Committee

Delano Public Schools is seeking community members, parents, students and school staff to serve on the District Wellness Committee. The committee's main objective is to monitor compliance with the district's student Wellness Policy (No. 533) and the Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 in the areas of student nutrition and education, physical activity, and wellness support (i.e. mental health).

This committee will meet three times during the year and will review data from all three areas above, and from the student wellness goals submitted by each of the three school student wellness committees.

Areas of focus include school lunch and food service, mental health programs, and opportunities for students to participate in community and school physical health activities.

If you wish to help ensure student wellness, contact DHS Assistant Principal Steve Schauburger at 763-972-3365, ext. 1703, or steve.schauburger@delanoschools.org.

Don't miss veterans video

PE teacher Mollie Graham created a video that helped students learn what Veterans Day is and to highlight some family members of students who are veterans.

If you did not get a chance to view the video, which features many talented DES students, see it at <https://bit.ly/DESvets21>.



Schultz

from Page 1

having a grade level dance fit in the gym with glow sticks and a video to guide our students in trying out some new exercise and dance moves!

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to our families and community for helping DES reach our goal. We are partnering with Landscape Structures to add equipment to our playground. While we don't have exact specifics, the equipment will look something like the image included with this article.

Battle of the Books

All third grade students had the opportunity to participate in the Battle of the Books (BOB) competition during the month of November. BOB is organized and facilitated by our Gifted and Talented teacher, Angela Kalthoff.

The goals of the BOB program are to encourage and recognize students who enjoy



DES is partnering with Landscape Structures to add new playground equipment similar to this image.

reading, broaden reading interests, increase reading comprehension, and promote academic excellence comprehension.

Students found a team of three to be a part of and read 12 books. There are three rounds: preliminary, semifinals and finals. I was a guest judge for the semifinal round. It was exciting and showed a true level of dedication among the third-grade students in the semifinals. It came down to a tie-breaker question for the final three teams to be named going into the finals. While it was clear there were some

disappointed teams, there was also an enormous amount of sportsmanship and congratulations to those moving forward.

Not only did I get the pleasure of helping to score the semifinals, I was also able to visit with a few teams to get their perspective on this event.

I talked with Maddie Kraft, Tyson Thompson, Mason McCaustland and Liam Conway. They had some fun responses about their team's experiences in Battle of the Books.

Why did you want to participate?

Liam said that he partici-

pated because if he came in first, his sisters would be really proud of him. Maddie said that her brother did it and it seemed fun. She likes reading and thinks she could win! Mason wanted to see how far he could get in the rounds. Tyson thought he might regret participating, but he doesn't and even thinks his team could get a medal!

What feelings describe participating in BOB?

The feelings that all students mentioned were: excitement, nerves, and fun ... kind of a roller coaster! They all said they don't want to let their teammates down.

Congrats to coach

Jen Weiss, a first-grade teacher at DES, recently earned the Section 6AAA Assistant Coach of the Year award for coaching high school volleyball. Coaching is an important position to develop the talents and skills of athletes, both physically and mentally. Congrats, Ms. Wiess!



Book fair ends on Friday, Dec. 10

"Wanted: Readers!" for this year's DES Book Fair.

This year's student-only book fair began Monday, Nov. 29, and runs through Friday, Dec. 10. Students can make their actual purchases beginning Monday, Dec. 6, through the end of the fair.

There will be three ways to purchase the books: 1) send cash with your student; 2) put money into an eWallet that they can spend at school; or 3) shop online.

This would be perfect timing for holiday shopping!



Dance Fit

Students made the most of their Boosterthon Dance Fit opportunity on Friday, Nov. 19. Using glow sticks and pom poms, they followed along with a dance/workout video and had a great time showing off their moves to their friends.



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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