

# Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary School Newsletter



February 2022



Santa visits, sing-alongs and more highlighted the holiday season. See Page 6.

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## Dates to remember

### February

- 7.....Conferences, 3:30-7:30 p.m.
  - 8.....Conferences, 3:30-7:30 p.m.
  - 9.....Book Character Day
  - 11.....DES Winter Olympics
  - 16.....Two-hour late start
  - 16.....Wear Words Day
  - 21.....Presidents Day, no school
  - 23.....Athlete Day
  - 28...School board mtg, 5:45 p.m.
- March**
- 4.....I Love to Read Carnival



## Happy homes

A few strands of licorice might not seem like the best building material, unless of course you're a first-grader constructing a gingerbread house on the eve of Winter Break. See Page 2 for more on the fun project day.

## A February focus on reading

By Rachel Schultz  
Principal

February is an exciting month at DES! Not only will we have the fun of "I Love To Read" month, but we also get to learn about the 2022 Winter Olympics and have our own DES outdoor Winter Olympics Day.

We have a creative staff that have gone above and beyond to collaborate on activities throughout the month that incorporate both of these events.

"I Love to Read Month" is a celebration that is held each year to encourage reading,



Rachel Schultz

writing and sharing in the joy of literacy. Learning to read and reading to learn is what

elementary school is all about.

We have our youngest learners exploring letters, sounds and words all the way up to our "big kid" third-graders that take those skills to comprehend higher-level texts. Celebrating with all things reading gives students a chance to share in the successes they've had as readers and have some fun!

The 2022 Winter Olympics began on Feb. 4 and end on Feb. 20. The Winter Olympics is a great opportunity to learn about the different countries

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## Gingerbread house builders

First-graders built their gingerbread houses on Dec. 10 in one of the annual highlights of the holiday season. The activity was a chance for students to display their creativity and construction smarts, and was a sticky study in engineering with various building materials, including graham crackers and candy.



# DES earns high marks in new rankings

## U.S. News and World Report ranks Delano No. 25 in state

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

Delano High School has been a regular on the annual list of Best High Schools compiled annually by U.S. News and World Report.

Now it has company.

In December the organization released its first-ever rankings of Best Elementary Schools and Best Middle Schools, and Delano Elementary and Delano Intermediate fared well in the evaluations.

DHS also earned a place on the Best Middle Schools list because it includes grades seven and eight. (Specifics about DES and DHS can be seen in the full article on the district website at [bit.ly/USnewsDelano](http://bit.ly/USnewsDelano)).



Schools were ranked by their performance on state-required tests, graduation and how well they prepare their students for high school.

The top 30% of schools in the state were included on the list.

“This is again evidence that we are achieving educational excellence, and that our entire

staff, in partnership with our parents, are truly dedicated to providing a world-class education for all our students at Delano Public Schools,” said Delano Superintendent Matt Schoen.

### DES specifics

DES ranked No. 25 in the state overall, and No. 18 among traditional public elementary schools.

“When there are over 5,000 schools in Minnesota and Delano Elementary is ranked 25th, that is something to celebrate!” said DES Principal Rachel Schultz. “A long tradition of educational excellence has been fostered in this district for years. At Delano Elementary, there is a culture of teamwork,

grit and dedication that runs deep. This type of culture is what sets our school above others and allows us to set high expectations for our students.”

Schultz added that schools depend on families and communities to bolster their efforts on behalf of students.

“Families want to be a part of this school because their children are cared for each day by outstanding staff that are knowledgeable, engaging and kind,” she said. “I also believe that behind every successful school is a strong community. We are grateful for the partnerships and generosity within our community.”



## I Love to Read Month

February is I Love to Read Month at Delano Elementary School. Aside from an extra focus on reading, there are some fun event days to look forward to. Upcoming Wednesdays will include: Feb 9 - Book Character Day (dress as your favorite book character), Feb. 16 - Wear Words Day (wear a shirt with words), Feb. 23 - Athlete Day (dress like an athlete). The month concludes with the I Love to Read Carnival on Friday, March 4.

## Winter Olympics planned

Delano Elementary will hold its own version of the Winter Olympics on Friday, Feb. 11.

The event will begin with a opening ceremony video, followed by a series of outdoor events for each class. Students will have seven minutes at seven separate stations described below during their turn outdoors.

In order to keep the event manageable, parent volunteers and spectators are not allowed.

### **Torch relay**

Students will divide into groups of four and line up. The first person in line will carry a ball balanced on the tip of a cone to simulate a torch around another cone some distance away, then return and pass the torch to the next person in line on their team. The first team to have all members complete the circuit wins.

### **Bobsledding**

Sleds will be available for students to use at this station. This is a go-at-your-own-pace activity rather than a competition.

### **Dog sledding**

Students will divide into groups of four and take turns pulling each other around in their sled.

There will be an option to race against other groups or start a relay race.

### **Snow forts**

Students will have paddles they can use to dig in the snow piles to create forts and tunnels, and may also play tag on top of the snow pile.

### **Ice hockey**

Teams of six students each will face off in games of outdoor floor hockey. Jerseys will be provided to separate teams. There will be two "hockey rink" areas for students to play.

### **Speed skating**

Students can explore the outdoor ice on their boots. Chairs will be provided for students to push around and pretend they are skating. Students will receive ice safety reminders.

### **Curling**

Students will divide into teams, and each student on the team will get a hockey puck. Pucks will be logo-side up or black-side up to denote which team they belong to.

Students will take turns sliding their pucks toward a cone, with the team that gets its puck closest to the cone earning a point.

## Time is right to become a substitute teacher

Have you ever thought about serving as a substitute teacher? Delano Public Schools is seeking substitutes to help cover gaps in staffing.

Substitute teachers can:

- Choose their own schedule.
- Choose to work close to home or experience many different schools and districts.
- Find jobs through easy online job scheduling.
- Work short- or long-term positions.
- Explore a variety of classroom settings, from primary to secondary levels.

Teachers on Call is the agency that provides substitute teachers in Delano. You can apply with Teachers on Call by visiting [www.teachersoncall.com](http://www.teachersoncall.com), or calling 952-346-1656. Free training is provided to new substitutes.

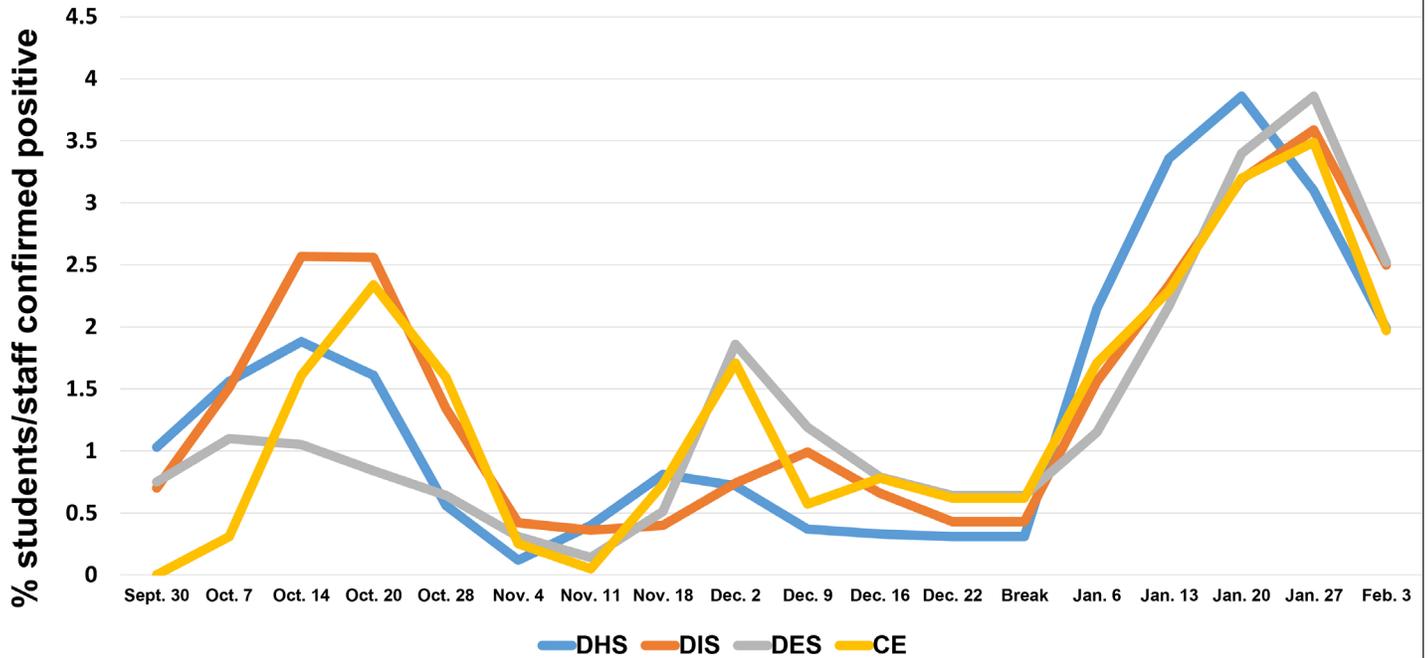
## Schultz

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around the world, sportsmanship, events in the competition, and athletes competing. This topic also lends itself to a variety of reading and writing activities that tie in with our "I Love to Read" month, as well as exploring ways to be active in the winter.

Some special activities to look forward to are dress up days, a carnival, DES-style Winter Olympics and a special presentation at the February School Board Meeting given by some of our first-grade students! Stay tuned for more information that will come from your child's classroom teacher about specific details regarding these two events.

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



## LUNCH FEBRUARY 2022 Delano Elementary School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 Nachos – Beef / Chees Tortilla Chips Lettuce / Salsa / Onions Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit	Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	Italian Dunker Marinara Sauce Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	Chicken Patty / Bun Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers Lettuce Salad Veggies Peaches	Quesadilla Corn Salsa Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit
Domino's Pizza Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes / Co Gravy Steamed Carrots Dinner Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Chili Cheesy Breadstick Tortilla Chips Baby Carrots Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail	Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple	Tacos – Beef Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit
No School Teacher Workshop	Orange Chicken Brown Rice Peas Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple	Hamburger Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Onions / Baby Carrots Fruit Cocktail	Chicken Alfredo Chicken / Penne / Alfredo Sauce California Blend Veg Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	French Toast Sticks Sausage Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Baked Apple Slices
Hot Dog A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baked Beans Baby Carrots Rosy Applesauce	 			

# Schools given ‘Community Caring Award’

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

In recognition of a long, mutually-beneficial relationship, and in light of extraordinary circumstances since the onset of COVID-19, the Delano Loretto Area United Way bestowed a special Community Caring Award on Delano Public Schools last week.

The award recognizes the school district “for being a champion for our communities and students, both in and out of the classroom,” and thanks all district staff for their partnership and service to the community.

Area United Way President Wendy Gilmer and Coordinator Courtney Olson presented the award to school principals and the Community Education director on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

“Obviously the school and our teachers have done a lot in the last two years, and over the decades that they’ve participated with the United Way,”



From left, Delano Loretto Area United Way President Wendy Gilmer presents the Community Caring Award to DES Principal Rachel Schultz, DHS Principal Barry Voight, DIS Principal Katie Thompson, and Community Education Director Eric Erlandson.

said area United Way President Wendy Gilmer. “So we just felt like this is a really good time to give this recognition. We do lean on the teachers, the social workers, the support staff and the administration to help us identify needs in our community, especially the last couple of years. So it’s clear to the community and it’s clear to the

United Way that they’re very deserving of recognition, and we wanted to take the time to do this.”

District staff compete annually to see which buildings can raise the most funding for the Delano Loretto Area United Way, and United Way reciprocates by aiding the schools in various endeavors.

“Sometimes there are niche needs where the school is trying to find funding, and we’ve been able to partner with the school and provide that funding through the money that comes from school staff in a number of different ways. It goes full circle,” said Olson,

**See Award  
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## Delano Loretto Area United Way

presents this

# Community Caring Award

to

## Delano Public Schools

for being a champion for our communities and students, both in and out of the classroom



Our thanks to all teachers, administrators, Community Education employees and support staff.

**Your long-term partnership with the Delano Loretto Area United Way is recognized and appreciated!**



# Santa and singing

December was a festive month, with the annual holiday sing-along and a visit from Santa, as well as caroling with the DHS vocal group Sound Revolution. For more photos of each of these events, see the Delano Public Schools Facebook page.



# Award

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citing Chromebook carts and support for the DIS School Store as recent cooperative projects.

Gilmer said the knowledge of school staff when it comes to community needs is invaluable.

“We know that they’re often on the front line for meeting these needs in our community, and certainly among our youth,” she said. “It’s great to have the school as a resource to help direct us where we can be most impactful with our grants.

**‘We know that they’re often on the front line for meeting these needs in our community, and certainly among our youth.’**

**Wendy Gilmer**  
United Way

“We wanted to recognize that and appreciate how they’ve come together for the whole community, not just through their giving or grant requests, but also how they handle themselves and how they contribute of themselves through their jobs and as members of our community.”

On behalf of all school district staff, Delano Superintendent Matt Schoen thanked the local United Way for the honor.

“We always appreciate our local United Way and the role it has played in supporting our schools over the years, but this recognition is particularly meaningful to us as we strive to serve our students in these challenging times,” said Schoen. “The relationship between us is just one example of what makes Delano a strong community, and a place that continues to foster our tradition of educational excellence with each passing year.”

# Thanks to paras

January 24-30 was Paraprofessional Recognition Week. Delano paras support students and instruction in myriad ways.

Paras at DES include Angela Coccoluto, Tracy Herkenhoff, Frances Karpen, Barb Kenison, Wendy Kramp, Lyndsay Manning, Kerry McIntire, Jennifer McMahan, Rose Nichols, Ryan Rosenow, Jeanne Schansberg, Amanda Seifert, Amy Shaw, Jennifer Tonsberg, Joy Vervais, Heidi Voss, Holly Workman and Jill York.



Delano Public School's

## SAFE SCHOOL TIPLINE

Help us keep our schools safe

 See it...
  Report it...
  Stop it...



To make an anonymous report, scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3fJvSq7>

## New online form streamlines reporting

Our district is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our staff and students at all times. To that end, we would like to take a moment to highlight an updated avenue for reporting concerning behaviors. This new link, available on the home page of the district website (delano.k12.mn.us), is titled as our Safe Schools Tip Line.

Our staff work vigilantly to provide help and support whenever concerns are raised about student safety, including bullying, harassment, self-harm, or other threats. We recognize, however, that there may be times when concerning behavior happens and we are not aware of it, whether it be outside of school hours or on social media.

We are asking you, our students and families, to partner with us in monitoring concerning behavior that may impact the safety of our schools.

Incidents can be reported anonymously on this form by any staff, student, family or community member. We ask that any behaviors that seem suspicious or that are in direct violation of our school policies be reported using this form.

Building administrators will be immediately notified upon submission of the form so we can begin to get help to our students who may need it.

We thank you for your support of our students and schools.



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