

Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary School Newsletter



May 2022

At a glance

- Page 2
Imagination Fair
- Page 3
Imagination Fair
- Page 4
Book fair
Exercise equipment
May menu
- Page 5
Author visit
- Page 6
Reading Corps
Walk to School Day
- Page 7
Kindergarten Roundup
Announcements

Dates to remember

- May
- 4.....Grade 2 field trip
 - 4-5.....Kindergarten field trips
 - 11.....Grade 2 field trip
 - 12.....Writer's Workshop
 - 13.....Grade 3 field trip
 - 16-19FAST testing
 - 17PIE meeting, 7 p.m.
 - 18Two-hour late start
 - 20DES Field Day
 - 21Tiger Fun Fair
 - 24Grade 3 tour of DIS
 - 26Kindness in Chalk
 - 26Grade 1 music concert,
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
 - 31.....DES picnic lunch day
- June
- 1.....Grade 1 field trip
 - 2.....Kindergarten field trip
 - 3.....Last day of school



Read about the Imagination Fair on Page 2.



Author in house

Award-winning Minnesota author Mary Casanova shared writing tips, stories and more with K-3 students on Wednesday, April 27. Her presentation concluded with a humorous re-enactment of her book 'One Dog Canoe.' See more on Page 5.

Setting students up for success

By Rachel Schultz
Principal

Assessments given in schools are a way to gather information on student progress to make educational and instructional decisions.

Teachers and school districts use a variety of assessment types to guide instruction and support students. The MCAs (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) are the statewide assessments that third-grade students took in April in the areas of reading and math. We work hard as a school to set the students up for success when



Rachel Schultz

taking these tests, knowing that they are longer tests. Our third-graders pre-

pared for the tests in a variety of ways, but kept the regular school day activities as the priority. Students learn different strategies to find answers in texts, how to navigate the test site, take practice tests, and learn ways to reduce nerves and stay positive when they come across a difficult question or problem they may not know.

We also create an adjusted schedule and environment that helps support our students' ability to be successful. Our food service staff contributes to

See Schultz
Page 6

Unlimited exploration on display

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Around 90 erudite scientists, engineers, mathematicians and more shared their knowledge with the world during the Delano Elementary School Imagination Fair on Thursday, April 21.

The young scholars explored important questions like which pants are the fastest at the park, what types of milk make the best tie-dye swirl, how to keep sliced apples from browning, and whether ooze is best classified as a liquid or a solid.

There were also nature-based explorations of subjects like currents, bird counts, hurricanes, ocean zones, the life cycle of a frog, and the causes of extinction in wildlife.

Demonstrations explored whether various items would float or sink, how much weight different kinds of paper could hold, and whether baking soda and vinegar could cause a balloon to pop.

Several students took time to share about their projects with the *Tiger Cub News* during the fair. Read on for their insights.

Jake Hunt

In case one ever has to escape from a falling airplane in a hurry, it may be helpful to know that the size of a parachute does matter in determining how fast you descend.

Sixth-grader Jake Hunt uncovered that practical bit of knowledge by constructing several parachutes from trash bags, string and washers, then dropping them from the top of a stairway and timing their fall. "In the end we figured out that size does matter, because the bigger surface has a lot more air pushing on it. The smaller one, there is less air pushing up, so it goes down faster," Hunt said.

How did he come up with the idea?

"Windmills gave me the idea. I thought it would be real-



Nick Iwanczuk created a popular demonstration that tested the strength of various types of paper products.



A number of demonstrations and active experiments treated fair-goers to some fun surprises.

ly interesting to do something with air, because air affects things in many ways," Hunt said.

As it turned out, parachutes were more user-friendly than windmills.

"They seemed more doable and easier to work with. It would be kind of hard to build a ton of windmills," said Hunt. "And you would have to

worry about the wind being too strong and destroying the windmills."

Mia Risdall

Second-grader Mia Risdall decided to delve into some experimental farming.

"I knew I was going to do something with plants, because our family loves plants. Then it came to me that I should water

them with three different liquids and see which one made the plants grow best," she said.

She planted green bean seeds in three different pots. She then treated one seed to a drink of water, another to a dousing of milk and a third to pop. The results were partially as expected, but also included a surprise.

"I didn't think pop would work because it's filled with sugar and is very fizzy," Risdall said. "I did think that milk would work, but apparently it rotted," Risdall said. "I didn't think about milk being rotten. If it's rotten it doesn't work. So those two didn't grow at all."

She did end up with one healthy green bean plant nourished by water.

"It was really fun. I liked seeing the water one grow," she said.

Lincoln Gaalswyk

Second-grader Lincoln Gaalswyk took the opportunity provided by the fair to

See Fair
Page 3

Fair

from Page 2

expand his knowledge of natural disasters.

"I really like learning about natural disasters," he said. "I read some books so I know a little bit about some of the other things, like tornadoes and tsunamis and stuff, but not really hurricanes. So I wanted to learn more about hurricanes."

He searched for articles and watched videos online to gather information, then put together a display explaining how hurricanes form, where they are most common, why they can't survive over land, and more. The exhibit came alive with a fan causing the poster-board's banner to flutter in the wind, and a "hurricane in a jar" demonstration that Gaalswyk saw online and repeated for fair-goers.

"I tried it once and I thought it looked really cool. So I said I would do it three times today, but I've already done it four times," he said.

So with his expanded knowledge of natural disasters, which one does he find most interesting?

"Probably hurricanes because they're the most dangerous, I think," Gaalswyk said. "They are way bigger than I thought they were. The biggest one was as big as half of the United States, so I thought that was really interesting."

Cale Nester

Cale Nester, a third-grader, explored what baseballs are



Hands-on displays were a hit as the Imagination Fair returned to the DES gym on Thursday, April 21.

made of at different levels of play, from T-ball to the major leagues. How did he come up with that idea?

"I signed up for the fair. When I got home the next day I was looking for ideas in my room," said Nester. "And then I looked outside and I saw this baseball laying on the ground. I thought, 'That would be cool! There's an idea.'"

Nester gathered a soft T-ball, a little league ball and a major league-level ball and cut them open to examine their construction.

"The best part was cutting them open," he said. "When we cut the (major league) one in half it was really hard because it had this core, and it had a

ton of thread."

Overall, Nester said that baseballs made for higher levels of play were made of harder materials, and that preparing for the project was a good experience.

"It was a pretty random idea," he said. "It just goes to show that things can be random, and they can turn out to be exciting."

Emma Janzen

Second-grader Emma Janzen decided to explore whether the brand-name Lucky Charms cereal or the generic Marshmallow Mateys cereal were a better value.

"My dad thought of it because we were eating lucky

charms a lot," Janzen said. "We took a picture of the cost of each, and then we divided the price by the weight."

It turned out the generic brand was two cents cheaper per ounce, but that only tells part of the story. Which one tastes better?

"I like the Marshmallow Mateys better," said Janzen. "It was a lot of fun. The best part was probably doing the math and dividing it."

Nick Iwanczuk

Second-grader Nick Iwanczuk created a popular demonstration that tested the strength of various types of paper products, from tissue paper to cardboard.

"I didn't know what to do so I looked up some ideas on Google and saw a balance one. That gave me the idea of weight," said Iwanczuk. "Then I saw a bunch of paper in our house so I got the idea of how much weight can different paper hold."

To do the tests, he brought buckets, various weights, a scale and a calculator. He filled the buckets with weights while suspending them from one type of paper or another to see at what weight the paper broke. He then crunched the numbers with a calculator to rank the papers from weakest to strongest.

What was his favorite part of the experience?

"Mostly when I'm just testing things," Iwanczuk said. "It just feels good to do it. You're doing experiments, basically."



Happy Camper Book Fair runs from May 2-13

By Jennah Verhey
Media Specialist

Delano Elementary School's Happy Camper Book Fair runs from Monday, May 2, through Friday, May 13.

The purchasing period for this year's STUDENT-ONLY fair is Monday through Friday, May 9-13.

There are three ways to purchase the books:

- 1) Send cash with your student.
- 2) Put money into an eWallet that they can spend at school.
- 3) Shop online at bit.ly/DESBookFair22. This website contains an interactive book flyer for browsing the options available at this year's fair.

This is the perfect timing to stock up on some books for summer reading!



School seeking exercise items

My name is Jon Wissink (Mr. Jon), and I'm asking for donations of lightly used exercise equipment. It would need to be in good condition, and be easily moved in and out of a room.

We are looking for items such as stationary bikes, treadmills, cable row machines and stair-stoppers.

In consultation with the occupational therapist who works with our school, we know that students who struggle with inattention and hyperactivity benefit from intense physical activity for 10-15 minutes before core academic instruction; it helps them achieve higher levels of focus and academic retention.

Please contact me if you have any of the above items that you would like to donate. Thank you for considering!

Email: jon.wissink@delanoschools.org
Phone: 763-972-6200, ext. 1347

LUNCH					MAY 2022 Delano Elementary School				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Domino's Pizza Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Steamed Carrots Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Hamburger Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes Pickles / Onions / Carrots Fruit Cocktail	Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple	Walking Taco Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit	2	3	4	5	6
Orange Chicken Brown Rice Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple	French Toast Sticks Sausage Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Applesauce	Italian Dunkers Marinara Sauce Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes / Gravy California Blend Veg Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Macaroni and Cheese Green Beans Lettuce Salad Roll Fruit Choice	9	10	11	12	13
Hot Dog A)BBQ Rib Sand Sun Chips Baked Beans Carrots Rosy Applesauce	Chicken Gravy A)Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Chicken Nuggets Hashbrown Green Beans Veggies Dinner Roll Fruit Cocktail	Pizza Corn Lettuce Salad Pears	Tacos – Beef Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit Goldfish Grahams	16	17	18	19	20
Cooks Choice	Cooks Choice	Cooks Choice	Cooks Choice	Cooks Choice	23	24	25	26	27
Chicken Day	Italian Day	Hot Dog Day	Breakfast Day	Mexican Day					
Memorial Day No School	School BBQ / Picnic				30	31			

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider
Menu subject to change based on product availability

Casanova shares writing tips at DES

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

Writing can be hard work. It can be intimidating. But the effort is worth it to express yourself and form connections with others.

That was part of the message that prolific author Mary Casanova shared with students at Delano Elementary School during a visit on Wednesday, April 27.

“Writing is a way of taking a what’s in your heart and your head and putting it on paper,” she told students during one of four presentations she made to each grade level. “When you do that you are communicating with another person in a real meaningful way.”

The author of familiar picture book favorites like “Utterly Otterly Day” and “One Dog Canoe,” among nearly 40 published books that range up to young adult novels and historical fiction, shared about some of her life experiences that led to her stories. She also shared writing tips, ways to manage writer’s block, the importance of writing what you know, the research process, starting strong, and the benefits of revision.

Her presentation concluded with a humorous re-enactment of “One Dog Canoe” by student volunteers, stuffed animals and



Student volunteers and their furry friends piled into the ‘One Dog Canoe’ during the grand finale of author Mary Casanova’s presentation about writing on April 27.

a few entertaining props.

“Students typically get very excited when they get to meet an author of books they have read,” said first-grade teacher Dianne Pohlmann, who helped arrange for the visit. “We have several of Mary Casanova’s books in our media center, and Mrs. Verhey has been sharing them with students.”

The school regularly brought in artists of various kinds to inspire students prior to the COVID pandemic, and Casanova’s appearance was a welcome return to those special opportunities for students.

“We always try to bring in Minnesota authors or illustrators. Sometimes we are able to bring in well-known authors or illustrators and sometimes we find new authors,” said Pohlmann. “Students benefit from having this experience because they get to learn about the writing process from a published author.”

Writing tips

During her presentation, Casanova emphasized that every student and adult in the room had stories that only they could tell.

“A lot of writing, a lot of creating, is listening to ideas that come your way by grabbing them and writing them down, painting them” or capturing them in some other form of expression, Casanova said.

She decided she wanted to be an author in high school, but the road to getting published was littered with hundreds of rejection letters before she finally broke through and began to have success.

Because writing anything reveals something about the writer, Casanova said it can be a little scary to create a story. But in terms of getting started and beating writer’s block, Ca-



sanova had one simple tip.

“Write your first draft faster than fear can stop you. You can clean it up later, but don’t let fear slow you down,” she said.

She also encouraged students to create an engaging opening, and then fill in the details later.

“Drop your reader into a place where something is happening. Give the reader a reason to wonder what is going to happen next,” she said.

Everyone can write from what they know, she added, explaining that many of her stories come from her life on



**See Author
Page 6**

Author

from Page 5

the border of northern Minnesota.

“That’s what fiction writers do. We start with what we know and then we add our imagination,” she said. “It’s so much fun.”

Students can also write effectively about things they don’t have personal experience with by doing research. Casanova explained that process by talking about some of her stories that she has set in other parts of the world. Another key to effective writing is to engage the five senses of taste, touch, smell, hearing and sight.

“You have to think about what your character is experiencing, otherwise your writing will be about as tasty as cardboard,” she said.

A final tip was to not be scared of revising a written work. As an example, Casa-



nova said her book “One Dog Canoe” was revised 32 times before it was published.

Aspiring authors

Pohlmann said that hearing from authors helps students to understand and appreciate the writing process, and is an opportunity for them to envision themselves as creators.

“Our goal is to expose students to books and help them find joy in reading and writing,” she said. “It’s a great time to highlight our

publishing center, which has opened again after being closed during COVID while we couldn’t have volunteers. Students are able to take what they learned from the author and write their own books to be published in the publishing center. Their books get typed by our volunteers and then they choose a cover and special binding tape to make their book feel like a traditional published book.”

• The visit was funded by the Delano Public Library.

Become a Reading Corps tutor

Would you like to help kids learn to read? Become a Minnesota Reading Corps tutor!

We are looking for two new tutors at DES for the 2022-23 school year to work with students in kindergarten through third grade. No experience is needed; Reading Corps provides all the training and support you will need! Perks of being a tutor include a weekly stipend, educational award, federal student loan forbearance and interest repayment, and health insurance (for those who work 35 hours per week only). The most important qualification is your passion to make a difference!

For minimum requirements and additional details, visit join.readingandmath.org or call 866-859-2825.

Schultz

from Page 1

supporting students by preparing breakfast for our third-grade students on testing days to make sure they start the day off with a good meal.

While MCAs provide the state and our school district with information about our strengths and growth areas, it is one test. There is always more to every student and classroom than the result(s) of this test. We focus on the success of their effort, attitude and perseverance – not just the result.

Imagination Fair

Our Science Committee organized the DES Imagination Fair that was held on April 21.

Our goal for the Imagination Fair was to encourage a child-made project, model, or working experiment that is well thought out and carefully displayed.

Projects incorporated



Principal Rachel Schultz at the Imagination Fair.

science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM subjects). Students were present at the Imagination Fair, if possible, to explain and answer questions about their project. The projects were not judged, but all participants were recognized. A few of the students were able to share their projects at the April School Board meeting. Great work, kids!



Wed. May 4, 2022

Delano Public Schools
is participating in Walk to School Day on
Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Join children and adults around the world to celebrate the benefits of walking and bicycling.

About our event:

Step 1: Look on your school’s website for the DPS Safe Routes to School Walk and Bike Map.

Step 2: Plan a safe route (per the map) to walk to school on May 4, 2022.

Step 3: Practice your route ahead of time to see how long it takes. Tell your family what route that you’re taking.

Step 4: Walk to school on May 4, 2022. Leave earlier and dress up/adjust for the weather!

Learn more at
walkbiketoschool.org

Walk to School Day is coordinated in the U.S.A. by the National Center for Safe Routes to School.





Class of 2035

Delano Elementary hosted Kindergarten Roundup on Monday and Tuesday, April 11-12. The event was an opportunity to welcome the Class of 2035 to the building, allow families to meet teachers, share more about the kindergarten experience, and generally help incoming students and families get oriented.

Announcements

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 2022-23 school year.

County seeking foster families

Delano Public Schools partners with Every Meal to offer a free weekly food program to all students. Every Meal is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships. Every Meal strives to make a difference in children's lives by focusing on food gaps like weekends, school breaks and summer, when students can't receive food in school.

The program is free for all families. There are no enrollment qualifications. Students enrolled in the program will receive a bag of nutritious, nonperishable food each week. Every Meal does not

collect information from families; privacy is protected. Families may enroll in the program anytime throughout the school year. Families may choose from a variety of different weekend meal bag options.

For more information, or to sign up, contact DES social worker Lisa Armstrong at lisa.armstrong@delanoschools.org or 763-972-6200.

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, and find jobs through easy online job scheduling. They can work short- or long-term positions, and can 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, or calling 952-346-1656. Training is free.



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