

# Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary School Newsletter



November 2021



Wheel Week was a big hit with DES students in October. See Page 2.

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## Dates to remember

### November

- 1.....End of Quarter 1
- 2.....Election Day
- 3.....DQ Night, 5-8 p.m.
- 7.....Daylight Saving Time ends
- 9.....PIE meeting
- 11.....Veterans Day
- Mid-month.....Boosterthon
- 17.....Two-hour late start
- 17.....DQ Night, 5-8 p.m.
- 24-26....Thanksgiving, no school



## Kindness pledge

Delano Elementary students observed Unity Day on Wednesday, Oct. 20, with several lessons and activities. Students signed a kindness pledge, learned how to respond to and prevent bullying behavior, and enjoyed a number of other activities.

## A positive October at DES

By Rachel Schultz  
Principal

The month of October has brought lots of smiles and a positive focus on Kindness at DES.

We highlighted some movement opportunities for kids during October and celebrated Unity Day.

Conferences were very well attended and provided teachers and families an opportunity to connect and learn about how school is going so far for students. Thank you for taking the time to set up a conference with your child's teacher



Rachel Schultz

and for continuing the home/school partnerships.  
We had our Walk, Roll, and

Stroll event for our elementary students that was sponsored by our Health and Wellness Committee. The weather could not have been more perfect! We had lots of scooters, walkers and bikers on the short course and long course.

In addition, our phy. ed. teachers, Mollie Graham and Tim Lyngen, organized Wheel Week for our elementary students. This was a week of wheeling around in our bus parking lot, going through obstacles, and learning new

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# Wheel Week a highlight in PE

By Mollie Graham  
PE Teacher

DES students enjoyed Wheel Week from Oct. 11-15 during physical education class.

Students were encouraged to bring in their helmets and wheels of choice, including bikes, scooters and roller blades. With the help of our wonderful parents, the week

was a success! Parents dropped off 101 bikes, 47 scooters, and 23 sets of roller blades.

The Physical Education Department also collaborated with BikeMN, a program that delivers fleets of bikes and helmets for schools to use and implement into their curriculum. It was a week full of hundreds of wheels and hundreds of smiles.



# Walk, Roll and Stroll returns to Delano

By Mollie Graham  
PE Teacher

As the golden sunset flooded the streets of the Delano community on Monday, Oct. 4, so did the families, wheels and furry friends participating in the Walk, Roll and Stroll.

The event was happily welcomed back by 166 participants after a year off. Members of Delano Elementary School and beyond took part in a family fun fitness night to celebrate their health and wellness, and the beautiful fall colors.

Participants rolled in on bikes, scooters, strollers, tennis shoes and roller blades. To kick off the event, students and families



Participants enjoyed exquisite fall colors during the Walk, Roll and Stroll event on Oct. 4.

were greeted by exciting music and a team of DES teachers and staff. A new addition to the Walk, Roll and Stroll was the flexible start. This year, families had the opportunity to come to the event and start at their leisure. This allowed participants to come and go!

Participants completed one of two courses: the 1.5-mile course, which followed Tiger Drive, or the full 5K mapped out around the Delano campus and Central Park. After completing the course, students and families enjoyed time together with friends and family. The local Coborn's graciously donated tasty snacks and refreshing drinks, which were relished by all.

# Delano educators earn honors

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

Each year teachers from around the region honor a select handful of their outstanding peers to receive Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards.

Four staff members from Delano Public Schools earned the award and were among those honored with a ceremony at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud on Wednesday, Oct. 13. They were DES Dean of Students Paul Ludwig, sixth-grade math and life skills teacher Andrew Waldbillig, DHS math teacher Emilie Kalvig, and Delano Teacher of the Year Monica Kunkel.

In addition, Delano Superintendent Matt Schoen addressed the gathering as the Superintendent of Record for the evening.

"Tonight we honor the incredible courage that it takes to be an excellent educator in these most unusual and trying times," Schoen told the assembly. "The honorees this year deserve special recognition, as they have achieved excellence in their field at a time when educational challenges have never been greater."

Read on for more information about Ludwig, the DES representative for the evening.

## Paul Ludwig

Ludwig has had a varied



Delano educators earning Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards this year include, from left, Paul Ludwig, Monica Kunkel, Andrew Waldbillig and Emilie Kalvig.

25-year career in education, including 23 years serving students in his native Delano. His first 11 years in the field came as an elementary classroom teacher. He then moved into a technology support role before assuming the dean of students position last school year.

Multiple staff members at DES nominated Ludwig for the LEEA honor.

"His approach, demeanor and patience with the kids have been outstanding," said one nomination. "Paul comes to school every day with a positive attitude, goes above and beyond and has been a great support and go-to person for the staff."

"He has been there to help teachers, special ed. teachers and paras through some of the toughest situations," said a

**'His approach, demeanor and patience with the kids have been outstanding.'**

## Nomination statement

second nomination. "He always is approachable and remains calm in situations where that can be hard to do. He is always looking out for the best interest

of the students and staff."

Ludwig, who knew he wanted to work in elementary education since he was a freshman in high school, said he has appreciated the journey so far.

"I have enjoyed the variety of roles and responsibilities," he said. "I went into this line of work because my passion has always been working with and helping kids, and I consider myself lucky to be able to do something that I truly enjoy."

The fact that the award comes through nominations from fellow staff members makes it particularly meaningful.

"Knowing that you are helping make a difference for both our students and staff is what it is all about for me," he said. "Last year was a very challenging year with lots of changes. I was happy to be recognized in a year that had so many challenges."

While each position has had its own advantages, Ludwig said his current role as dean allows him to work with the entire DES population, including staff members, students, and students' families.

"It is something that I really enjoy and look forward to each day," said Ludwig. "I have really enjoyed getting to work with our parents and families at DES. We have an amazing, supportive community, and I feel like we are very supported at DES."



## Book fair runs Nov. 29 to Dec. 10

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

This year's student-only book fair will be held from Monday, Nov. 29, 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! More information will be provided.

# Schultz

from Page 1

skills on wheels. Luckily, we had pretty great weather all the days except for one. More about Walk, Roll, Stroll and Wheel Week on Page 2.

## Unity Day

Unity Day was enjoyed by all at DES. We had a variety of activities planned for us by our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Committee, social worker, and social worker intern.

Some of the activities included making a fish and writing or drawing how to be a good friend. We added those to Kindness Cove. We had a short presentation learning about what a bully is and how we can stand up to bullying. Students also signed a pledge to be kind and include all students. There was a lot of orange in our school on Unity Day, which was on Oct. 20.



Students had the opportunity to sign kindness pledges, and to make a 'pinkie pledge' to be kind, symbolized by coloring their pinkie fingernails orange.





The new gaga ball pit at Delano Elementary is a favorite with students of all grades.

# Refueling at recess

By Rachel Schultz  
Principal

Active minds are fueled by active bodies. Play and movement give kids the chance to release stress and take breaks throughout the school day. While it's important for children to learn how to work while sitting still, we also need to realize when our bodies are telling us to take a break.

Teachers incorporate many ways to bring movement into school, and recess is a daily opportunity for students to have fun with peers and move.

I was able to talk with a couple of our recess paras to get their perspective on the benefits they see for students during recess. I asked them the following questions and received the responses below:

## 1. What positives do you see during recess?

"Unstructured free play. Exercise and movement. I see lots of cooperative play, with friends including others that may not have anyone to play with that day. It's also a wonderful opportunity for the students to get outside in the fresh air and move their bodies!"

## 2. How does recess impact peer relationships?

"Recess is a great time for friends to connect and solidify relationships. Friends that aren't in the same classroom any



longer have the opportunity to connect and play during recess, and new friendships blossom with classmates who have the time to get to know each other better during play time outside. So students get to play with old and new friends, and friends they don't often see during the day. Recess promotes peer relationships in a positive way, for the most part."

## 3. Are there any common challenges at recess?

"It can be difficult to have

group play and to share. To elaborate on peer relationships, sometimes kiddos are excluded from group play without others even realizing. We have a "buddy bench" for those that need a friend, someone different to play with or just a different scene.

There are also challenges to keep following certain playground rules. The most common are playing chase games on and near the equipment, and climbing on and/or up the slides."

## 4. What are the favorite recess activities of students?

"Some favorite recess activities are playing soccer (or football) on the field or turf, playing gaga ball, spinning in the OmniSpin, climbing up to the tower and sliding down, and swinging. Each grade is different. Our friendship swing rarely goes unused during first grade. Our new gaga ball pit is used to the fullest extent by all grades."



# Schools offer help for the holidays

The Delano school social workers are partnering with a local non-profit agency, Friends for a Cause, to facilitate a program called Holiday Helpers.

If you are experiencing hard times right now, we would like to invite you to be a part of this program. The goal of Holiday Helpers is to help you and your family have a bright and merry holiday season by providing each member of your household with gifts and goodies.

Please know that this is a confidential program and your names will not be shared with others. If you are already participating in Love Inc.'s Christmas Program or another similar program, we ask that you decline this opportunity in order for us to help additional families.

If you are interested in participating, email your child's school social worker to express your interest. If you have a child in more than one school building, please only email one school social worker. Please know that depending upon the number of interested participants, more questions may be asked to determine program eligibility.

After acceptance into the program, a form will be emailed to you asking about your family's needs and wants this holiday season along with details on gift pick-up.

**Please contact one of the school social workers by Friday, Nov. 5.**

- Lisa Armstrong, DES  
lisa.armstrong@delano schools.org
- Nicole Gohman, DIS  
nicole.gohman@delano schools.org
- Marie Techam, DHS  
marie.techam@delano schools.org

# Veterans clothing drive ends Nov. 11

Delano Public Schools is conducting its annual clothing drive for veterans in need again this year.

The drive began on Monday, Oct. 18, and ends on Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11. All donated items must be newly purchased.

The clothing drive will continue to support veterans who are hospitalized at local VA hospitals in Minneapolis and St. Cloud, as well as those who are transitioning from the hospitals to independent living. In addition, this drive will support veterans who are undergoing treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder at the Eagles Healing Nest.

The past 18 months have been challenging for all of us, but especially for veterans with mental health needs. With your



Some of the Delano donations from a previous year are dropped off at a VA hospital.

donations, we can help these men and women who have served our country and sacrificed so much continue the healing process and transition to independent living.

Please consider donating the following items.

**For men:** Socks, boxers (M-XL), undershirts (M-XL), pajama pants (large to 2X), T-shirts (M to XL), sweatpants

or sweatshirts (M-XL), jeans (waist 30-42, length 30-34), winter boots (size 9-14), slippers, winter coats, hats and gloves and exercise clothes.

**For women:** Socks, underwear, pajamas, shirts, sweatpants, jeans of any size, slippers with rubber bottoms, exercise clothes and winter boots, hats and gloves.

• If you would like to make a monetary donation, collected funds will be used to purchase the items of greatest need based on the request of each facility.

Make your check payable to Delano Public Schools, and note "veterans clothing drive" in the memo. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this project.

LUNCH					NOVEMBER 2021				
Delano Elementary School									
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday					
Domino's Pizza 1 Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	Meatballs 2 Mashed Potatoes /Gravy Steamed Carrots Roll / Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Chili – Cheesy Breadsticks 3 Tortilla Chips Baby Carrots Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail	Teriyaki Chicken 4 Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple	Walking Tacos- Beef 5 Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit Teddy Grahams					
Orange Chicken 8 Brown Rice Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple	French Toast Sticks 9 Sausage Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Baked Apple Slices	Hamburger 10 Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Baby Carrots Fruit Cocktail	Chicken Alfredo 11 Penne/Chicken/Alfredo Sca California Blend Vegetables Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Italian Dunker 12 Marinara Sauce Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit					
Hot Dog 15 A)BBQ Rib Sand Sun Chips Baby Carrots Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce	Chicken Gravy 16 A)Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Baked Apple Slices	Chicken Nuggets 17 Hashbrown Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail	Cheese Pizza 18 Corn Lettuce Salad Pears	Tacos – Beef 19 Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit					
Chicken Tenders 22 Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Broccoli Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple/Mand Oranges	Corn Dog 23 Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	No School 24	No School Holiday 25	No School 26					
Nachos – Beef / Cheese 29 Lettuce / Onions / Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit	Cinnamon Roll 30 Cheese Omelet Steamed Broccoli Hashbrown Patty Baked Apple Slices								

**DELANO DRAMA PRESENTS**



# OUR TOWN

A landmark in American drama, Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Our Town" tells the story of a small town, Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, in order to tell us the story of every town, the whole world over.

November 12, 13, 18, 19 @7:00 pm

November 20 @2:00 pm

DELANO PAC

[Tickets and info at:](#)  
[Delano Tiger Activities](#)





# Halloween at DES

Delano Elementary students took part in grade-level parades on Friday, Oct. 29, just before Halloween weekend. Superheroes, princesses, monsters, athletes and more roamed the halls during the day, and students enjoyed seeing the costumes chosen by the classmates and teachers.



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