

Tiger Cub News

Delano Elementary School Newsletter



November 2022

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Dates to remember

November

- 3.....Cello quartet visit to DES
- 4.....End of Quarter 1
- 6.....Daylight Saving Time ends
- 7...Teacher workshop, no school
- 8.....Election day
- 9.....DQ Night, 5-8 p.m.
(Williams and Westphal)
- 10-18.....Boosterthon fundraiser
- 15.....PIE meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 16.....Two-hour late start
- 23-25...Thanksgiving, no school
- 28..School board mtg., 5:45 p.m.
- 30.....DQ Night, 5-8 p.m.
(Huikko and Knisley)



Ghost buster

Students and staff at Delano Elementary School celebrated Halloween with the annual costume parade and classroom parties and games on Friday, Oct. 28. Above, kindergartners enjoyed a ghost-stacking challenge. See Page 3 for more.

About the science of reading

By Rachel Schultz
Principal

Thank you all for attending our Parent Teacher conferences. We had nearly 100% attendance, which we are very grateful for. We know evenings are busy and appreciate you making this time a priority for your student(s).

During conferences, teachers shared information regarding academics in addition to other social skill areas that we focus on at the elementary level. Reading progress among students is a common point of discussion with families



Rachel Schultz

because reading is part of so many aspects of school and our lives.

Recently, there has been more emphasis on teaching literacy based on the “science of reading.” What does that mean? Supported research provides us with the information we need to gain a deeper understanding of how we learn to read, what skills are involved, how they work together, and which parts of the brain are responsible for reading development.

From this research, we can identify an evidence-based best-practice approach for

See Schultz
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Unity Day

DES students signed a 'Tigers Against Bullying' banner on Unity Day, Oct. 19. In addition, students were encouraged to wear orange, and classes made paper chains, which were linked together to make for full grade-level displays. The idea of Unity Day is to share helpful lessons and emphasize the importance of preventing bullying.



The third-grade reading level milestone

By Paul Ludwig
Dean of Students

Reading well by third grade is one of the many developmental milestones in a child's educational experience.

Literacy development starts at an early age and is the basis for all academic success. Reading well by third grade ensures that a student has a solid foundation of literacy skills to continue to expand their understanding of what they read, make meaning, and transfer that learning across all subject areas.

Instruction that provides the basis for all students to read well by third grade and beyond will help close achievement gaps and ensure that all students are ready for the demands of college and the workplace. From cradle to career, a sustained effort to create quality literacy environments in all of our schools and programs from birth through grade 12 promotes academic success.

As written in MN Statute 120B.12, a school district must adopt a Local Literacy Plan to have every child reading at or



Paul Ludwig

above grade level no later than the end of Grade 3. A Local Literacy Plan must include a process to assess students' level of reading proficiency, notify and involve parents, intervene with students who are not reading at or above grade level, and identify and meet staff development needs. The district must post its literacy plan on the official school district website.

Literacy plan goals

It is the goal of Delano Elementary School and the district to implement the de-

velopmental, accelerated, and preventative reading program requirements that will ensure that students can read on grade level by the end of third grade. Delano Elementary will align Language Arts instruction to meet MN State Common Core Standards.

The plan is designed so that every student will:

- Receive reading instruction which reflects quality researched-based teaching practices.
- Be assessed regularly to plan for instruction.
- Read fluently on grade level before entering Grade 4.
- Receive appropriate intervention services as needed.
- Learn strategies for reading complex content area texts.
- Improve performance on MCA III Reading Test.
- Maintain a balanced approach that integrates Guided Reading and a Basal Reading Program.

This plan, like literacy, will develop over time.

Assessing students

For students in grades K through 3, Delano Public Schools uses FAST (Formative

Assessment System for Teachers) screening assessments three times a year (fall, winter, spring). Students complete these assessments either individually with a teacher or via an electronic assessment on the computer.

FAST results provide an accurate estimate of each student's overall reading achievement. It is important to know that reading well by third grade is just one way Delano Schools assesses your child's reading. Your child's classroom teacher can provide the most complete information about your child's reading.

Using FAST results

How are results from the FAST assessments used?

- FAST results can be used to help teachers understand:
 - Each student's current reading performance compared to age peers.
 - How each student's reading improves over time as compared to peers.
 - Skill areas to focus on in order to support reading development.



Halloween scenes

The annual Halloween Parade took place on Friday, Oct. 28, with each grade level holding its own procession around the school cafeteria. In addition to enjoying the chance to see their classmates' costumes, students also took part in classroom parties and activities.



Larson serving as district's new SRO

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

As a Delano resident, Eric Larson has appreciated the short commute and the district's straightforward approach toward high-quality education in his role as Delano's new School Resource Officer.

Though this is Larson's first full-time SRO position, he has two years of experience serving as a substitute SRO at numerous schools across the county while working primarily in the patrol division of the Wright County Sheriff's Office.

"I've had the opportunity to go to a bunch of different schools and see how they operate," Larson said. "This is a great school. There are a lot of families and people who live in Delano who put education first. This isn't just eight hours a day to occupy your time; this is a launching pad, hopefully."

While officers work where they're assigned, Larson said he didn't hesitate to volunteer for Delano schools when former Delano SRO Shane Hegarty departed over the summer. Some may prefer a level of personal anonymity outside of work, but Larson said that the opportunity to serve as a good role model on and off the clock made the hometown job attractive.

"It shouldn't matter if you treat everybody with respect," he said, acknowledging that his role might sometimes lead to difficult interactions. "It's about transparency, and explaining why I am doing the things I do. The kids will see me in and out of uniform, whether it's patrol brown or SRO black, or even just in shorts and a Twins shirt. I think that's kind of cool. I like that small-town feel."

Career choices

Larson grew up in south Minneapolis and obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in law, crime and deviance. After college he became a corrections officer at the Hennepin County



Eric Larson, a Delano resident and deputy with the Wright County Sheriff's Office, is the new School Resource Officer.

Jail, a position that individuals can hold without a peace officer's license.

"In the jail you can just be a civilian. You don't have arrest rights and you don't carry a gun," Larson said.

In working closely alongside licensed police officers, however, Larson felt drawn to shift lanes. Eventually he completed the requirements and took his first job as a licensed officer with Wright County, where he has worked on patrol for the past six years.

"That's traditionally where most law enforcement officers start and cut their teeth," Larson said. "You take calls, do the late nights and holidays. Up to



Above and below, Larson joined Ms. Ekness' class for the Kindness in Chalk event on Oct. 17.

a month ago I was on the road."

Looking to diversify his experience, Larson put in a letter of interest to join the Wright County's SRO division of about



13 officers, and now has a dedicated district to serve after gaining experience as a substitute. Why was he interested in the school aspect of policing?

"I've been told many times that have I have a good attitude toward policing. I'm easy to get along with, friendly, easy to approach, so my wife actually suggested it," Larson said.

Mission

Whether working with jail inmates, on patrol, or in a school, Larson said his goal is to treat others firmly, fairly, and consistently. He appreciates the values articulated by the TIGER Way (Teamwork, Inclusion, Grit, Excellence and Respect), and said the grade-level meetings conducted by Delano High School administrators at the start of the school year set the right tone for success.

"It just emphasizes that we all know the rules, and we're here to learn," Larson said. "We're all on the same page. The kids know what's expected of them, and they can come in and get a good education. I want to be a good role model and enforce good habits. If kids see enough of that, it becomes normal and they know it's not appropriate to disrespect the rules."

Off duty

Larson's wife is a St. Michael native, and he said the pair chose Delano as their home in 2016 after living closer to the cities previously.

"I don't think I had never been to Delano before then, but we picked the right place," he said.

Neighbors have been friendly and supportive, and Larson said he has enjoyed time at the local parks with his 2.5-year-old child and 9-month-old "goldador" puppy, a golden retriever and Labrador retriever mix.

"Between the two of them, they give me a good run for my money," Larson said.

Substitute teaching is a bright idea.

Pick the days that work for you,
and we'll see you in the classroom.



Get started.
We make it easy.

800.713.4439

teachersoncall.com

Substitutes needed

Delano Public Schools is among many area districts seeking additional assistance from substitute teachers.

Interested, but not sure how to get started? Contact Teachers on Call at 800.713.4439 or see www.teachersoncall.com for information on training and more.

The application process is almost completely online and can be completed in less than one week.

Substitutes do not need to have a teaching license, although substitute roles are available for both licensed and un-licensed roles.

Substitute positions allow

you the freedom to choose where, when, and how much you work. You also enjoy work-free nights, weekends, holidays, summers, and other breaks throughout the school year. There are also opportunities for summer employment.

Substitutes can choose which jobs they take, and are free to explore a variety of districts or only take work from schools on their preference list. They can also choose the grade levels they work.

More information about training, requirements, pay, benefits, frequently asked questions, and more can be found at www.teachersoncall.com.

Schultz

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teaching foundational literacy skills. A key component within the science of reading is knowing how decoding and language comprehension are broken down, yet tied together (pictured). Without having the foundational decoding skills, fluency and comprehension will be more difficult.

Sound walls

“Sound walls” are based on the science of reading. At our school, some teachers are incorporating sound walls for students to reference as they develop as readers. This is more common in grades K-1 because they are a larger part of the early literacy progression.

A sound wall is a way to organize phonemes and spelling patterns for students to reference when spelling and reading words. A sound wall helps students to make sense of spelling patterns that make different sounds.

We know that all kids learn differently, but as we continue to learn more about reading, we are being more purposeful in how we deliver our instruction, so we don't miss key components that are needed for success in both word recog-

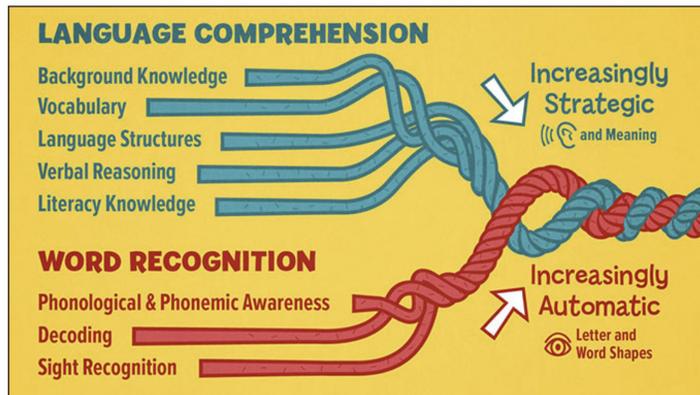
SOUND WALL

Consonants

Stops					Liquids			
/p/	/b/	/t/	/d/	/k/	/g/	/l/	/r/	
pig	bull	turtle	dog	shee- sheep	goat	leaf	rabbit	
Nasals			Affricates		Glides			
/m/	/n/	/ng/	/ch/	/j/	/wh/	/w/	/y/	
monkey	nose gnaw pneumonia	king	chair catch	jelly jam jelly	whale	watermelon	yo-yo	
Fricatives								
/f/	/v/	/th/	/th/	/s/	/z/	/sh/	/zh/	/h/
fish	volcano low	thumb	father they	sun less snake snake	zoo nose buzz	sheep sheep sheep	pressure less pressure	hat

Vowel Valley

The Vowel Valley diagram shows a mountain range with various vowel sounds and example words. The vowels shown are /e/, /i/, /a/, /o/, /u/, /ai/, /oi/, /au/, /er/, /ar/, /or/. Example words include: /e/ (egg, bed, sea, bread, these, sandy, sea), /i/ (igloo, gym), /a/ (banana, father, trap, ham, mad, bad, sad, glad, mad, bad, sad, glad, mad, bad, sad, glad), /o/ (goat, no, show, low, snow, go, over), /u/ (blue, two, blue, two, blue, two), /ai/ (rain, train, pain, main, rain, train, pain, main), /oi/ (boy, coin, oil, oil, oil), /au/ (cow, house, now, now, now), /er/ (her, bird, fur), /ar/ (car, far), /or/ (for, for).



niton and language comprehension.

Math fact fluency

November is Math Fact Calendar Month. Our math committee puts together a calendar for each grade level for

students to practice at home.

The goals are based on math fact standards for each grade level to increase their automaticity of their basic math facts. Automaticity is attained through learning, repetition, and practice.

In math, students have attained automaticity (also known as math fact fluency) when they can easily retrieve basic facts from their long-term memory in all four operations (+, -, ×, ÷) without conscious effort or attention. We start with addition and move along the progression of subtraction, multiplication, and division.

At the end of the month, students will turn in their completed calendars showing their daily practice and will be celebrated! We look forward to seeing our students grow in their math facts.

Thank you for helping them at home by having your child reach this accomplishment.

Supporting the schools

The Coborn's MORE School Rewards program netted \$1,501.86 for DES over the past year. Here, Delano store director Joe Tipka presents Principal Rachel Schultz a check for that amount, with Superintendent Matt Schoen and DIS Principal Katie Thompson holding the check.

To participate, log into [moreRewards.com](https://www.moreRewards.com) and choose your school, then earn points by shopping Coborn's store brands. See [moreRewards.com/school](https://www.moreRewards.com/school) for more information.



Announcements

Candy donations for troops

Delano Elementary is partnering with Blue Star Mothers to collect candy donations to send to our troops. Please bring candy donations to the elementary office. We will accept the donations through the morning of Friday, Nov. 4. Thanks for supporting our troops!

End-of-day changes

If you need to change your child's end of day routine and have forgotten to send a note to school, you will need to contact the school office before 11 a.m. This deadline allows the office to give teachers this information during lunch times so instruction is not interrupted. We understand that emergencies may occur after this time and we will do our best in getting that information to your child. For more information on end-of-day changes and other school procedures, see the Student-Parent Handbook under the Elementary tab on the district website: www.delano.k12.mn.us.

Volunteer at our schools

Delano Public Schools welcomes volunteers and appreciates their efforts on behalf of our students. The district uses the volunteer management system from Raptor Technologies to screen and track volunteers in our buildings. This is the same system currently used for visitor management and ensures safety and security for students, staff and visitors.

The district's risk management policy mandates that all volunteers MUST be registered every year with the district prior to participating in any school-related activity, including field trips.

Registration can be completed at www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun and consists of two parts.

1. Volunteers MUST have a secure background check on file with District 879. The background check is valid for three calendar years and can be accessed via a link on the volunteer page of the district website. The cost of the secure background check is \$12, payable by the volunteer.

2. Volunteers MUST complete -- every school year -- a volunteer application form, which can be accessed and completed at

www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendie Scanlon at 763.972.6200 ext. 1312, or wendie.scanlon@delanoschools.org.

District 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.

This committee will meet three times during the year to 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 by participating on this committee, contact DHS Assistant Principal Steve Schaubberger at steve.schaubberger@delanoschools.org.

District Advisory Council

Delano Public Schools is seeking parent and community members to serve on the District Advisory Council (DAC) for the 2022-23 school year.

The District Advisory Council serves to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving instruction and curriculum in terms of state and local standards. Through that work, the DAC provides recommendations to the school board regarding rigorous academic standards, student achievement goals, and measures consistent with MN Statute B.11.

The DAC membership reflects the diversity of the district and its school sites and includes teachers, parents, support staff, students and other community residents. DAC members must be able to commit to three or four meetings per year.

Interested parents and community members can request an application by contacting Monica Kunkel, Curriculum Coordinator, at 763-973-7601, ext. 1731, or monica.kunkel@delanoschools.org.

Vets clothing drive ends on Nov. 11

The eighth annual new clothing drive for veterans began on Oct. 24 and continues until Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11.

Please consider donating the following items. All donated items must be newly purchased.

For men: sweatpants and sweatshirts (L and XL), zip-up hooded sweatshirts (L and XL), slippers or shower shoes, socks, boxer shorts (M-XL), colored T-shirts (all sizes), white T-shirts (L, XL); winter hats, gloves and coats; pajama pants (L, XL), jeans (32-38), work out clothes; deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste; and body wash.

For women: sweatpants,

sweatshirts and zip-up hooded sweatshirts (M-XL); slippers or shower shoes; socks and underwear (M-XL); colored T-shirts (all sizes); winter hats, gloves and coats (L-XL), pajamas (M-XL), work-out clothes and sports bras, jeans (all sizes), deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and body wash.

• 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.



Walk to School Day

Delano families participated in the national Walk and Bike to School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 12. The event aims to promote healthy lifestyles and highlight safe routes to school for walkers and bikers.

LUNCH					NOVEMBER 2022					Delano Elementary School \$3.50				
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday		
 7 Teacher Workshop No School		1 Beef Nachos Nacho Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit		2 Macaroni and Cheese Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges		3 Pizza Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears		4 Crispy Chicken Tenders Peas Lettuce Salad Roll Peaches						
14 Chicken Patty Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers Veggies Lettuce Salad Peaches		8 Chicken Chompers A) Fish Sticks Romaine Salad – toppings Sh carrots / cukes / tomatoes Cheddar Goldfish Peaches		9 Cheese Ravioli / Marinara Sauce Green Beans Lettuce Salad Garlic Toast Pears		10 Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baby Carrots Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce		11 French Toast Sticks Sausage Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Orange Wedges						
21 Domino's Pizza Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears		15 Walking Tacos Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Goldfish Grahams		16 Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes Peas / Lettuce Salad Roll Orange Wedges		17 Popcorn Chicken Brown Rice Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad Pineapple / Mand Oranges		18 Italian Dunker Marinara Sauce Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit						
28 Chicken Nuggets Sun Chips Green Beans Baby Carrots Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail		22 Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges		23 No School		24 Thanksgiving No School		25 No School						
		29 Cheese Quesadilla Corn Lettuce Salad Salsa Fresh Fruit		30 Orange Chicken Seasoned Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple										

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

All parents invited to hear guest speaker

"MAKE THEM VISIBLE"

Delano High School invites all parents and interested community members to hear a message of inclusion and respect by guest speaker Jonathan Friesen.



JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER
16TH AT 6PM IN THE
DELANO PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER



"JONATHAN'S TALK CHANGES EVERYTHING. HOW I SEE THOSE AROUND ME. HOW I SEE MYSELF. AMAZING." - ATTENDEE, ARC MINNESOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SCAN TO CHECK
OUT HIS WEBSITE:



By Barry Voight
DHS Principal

To help us reinforce the importance of inclusion and respect, Delano High School has arranged for Jonathan Friesen to speak with high school students on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

We'd also like to invite all of our parents and the broader Delano community to the PAC to hear a similar message on Wednesday evening. Please join us for this free event in the PAC at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 16, for the parent/community message of "Make them Visible."

Friesen is an award-winning young adult author, international speaker, storyteller and educator. His 2008 novel "Jerk, California" won the prestigious ALA Schneider Award, "Best Book of the Year." When he's not writing or teaching, Jonathan is traveling, bringing

a message of hope to conferences, schools, prisons and hospitals.

Jonathan grew up experiencing the ostracism of a life with Tourette Syndrome, panic attacks, and epilepsy, and he speaks on the importance of making each other visible. All of us, no matter the age, have questions we ask of those around us. If our questions find positive answers, we feel whole and affirmed. If they receive negative responses or are ignored, the cries of our hearts go unanswered.

Friesen draws from his own life experiences to show how we can reach out to one another. He shows the power we each have to affect the trajectory of those around us.

I invite all of you to visit Jonathan's web page to learn more about his message: <https://jonathanfriesen.com>.

Fire safety highlights

Delano firefighters Mike Jensen, Josh Streich and Brian Anderson visited Delano Elementary on Oct. 13 to talk with students about fire safety. Jensen said it was a good opportunity to tell students about what to do if there is a fire, and discuss the importance of escape plans, smoke alarms and more. Students also enjoyed touring the ladder truck.



Referendum 2022

The Delano School Board has called for an operating levy vote on Nov. 8

2021 result

~~\$970~~

Last fall voters turned down a school district request to increase its per pupil funding by \$600 to a total of \$970, the amount needed to prevent budget cuts for the foreseeable future. As a result, the district trimmed its budget by more than \$550,000 for 2022-23 through staff cuts, fee increases and more.

2022 changes

This year the school board has lowered its overall request and broken it into two questions.

Question 1

\$604.46
per pupil

The first ballot question asks voters to approve a new levy amount of \$604.46 per pupil to replace the expiring levy of \$404.46, an increase of \$200 per pupil.

Tax increase

\$100
per year

on an average home
valued at \$350,000

Question 2

\$250
per pupil

The second question asks voters to approve an additional per pupil funding amount of \$250.

Tax increase

\$122
per year

Total increase

\$222
per year



Question 2 is contingent on Question 1, meaning it cannot pass unless Question 1 is approved.

Potential outcomes

Q1 | **Q2**



If both questions pass, no budget cuts will be needed next school year. Some cuts may still be needed within the 10-year life of the levy, depending on state funding and enrollment changes.



Cuts of approximately \$360,000, or the equivalent of five full-time staff members, would be needed for the 2023-24 school year. In the last four fiscal years overall reductions have totaled \$1.7 million.



Question 2 can only pass if Question 1 is approved. This outcome would mirror the result for two "no" votes below.



The district would lose \$1 million in annual funding when the existing levy expires after the current school year. Resulting budget cuts would be the equivalent of 23 full-time staff members.

See more information at www.delano.k12.mn.us



Chalk day

DES students participated in the annual Kindness in Chalk event on Monday, Oct. 17. The objective is to cover the campus with positive messages and help promote a healthy learning environment.



Holiday Helpers program available

By Marie Techam
DHS Social Worker

The Delano Public Schools social workers are partnering with a local non-profit agency, Friends 4 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. You will receive a form via email asking

about your family's needs and wants this holiday season along with details regarding gift pick-up.

Please contact a school social worker by Friday, November 11, 2022.

The DES social worker is Janelle Olson. Her email address is janelle.olson@delanoschools.org.



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