

TIGER TRACKS

DMS Encourages Family + School Partnership

Seasons Greeting Tigers!

I want to take the opportunity to briefly celebrate a positive start to the 2016-17 school year. We have sent 8th graders to Henderson, 6th graders to the History Museum, and are introducing all of our students to new and challenging learning opportunities. Choir students successfully performed in their first concerts and the bands are feverishly preparing for their concerts this week. 7th grade art students have also finished the first round of Delano Banners that will soon decorate the town. Whether it be swimming, speed ball, collecting leaves, or taping each other to create a transparent mannequin in order to portray the body's systems in health class, it is always exciting to watch students engage in the learning process.

Recently, Delano Middle School staff, in conjunction with Student Council, conducted our first Tiger Pride assembly of the year. On November 22, students gathered to recognize students for their dedication to school pride and cooperation with our school values. We recognize students in many ways (Citizen of the Month, Hall of Fame and Tiger Pride). While we make sure to recognize these students with certificates and Facebook posts, we wanted to honor their contributions to DMS with their peers as well. Approximately 150 certificates were awarded to students for: Being respectful, Being positive and Being prepared. We will have another Tiger Pride assembly on May 5, 2017.

DMS staff would also like to thank students and parents for their cooperation as we endure the learning process as educators. We are in constant pursuit of getting better. The learning process is not easy and certainly not always comfortable. We will certainly make mistakes along the way. While we always try to reinforce this bumpy road to students, we, as staff, experience these same hiccups in the search for growth. We hope that you continue to share in this journey with us through your participation and continuing to provide specific feedback on how we can continue to develop the family school partnership. Wishing you an enjoyable holiday season!

Barry Voight, Principal

P.S. Winter is fast approaching. Inclement weather will cause school events to be cancelled. Please make sure that your students have a plan for how to react in the event of a cancellation. When these events happen, we can't assure that messages will be delivered to students on time despite our best efforts. Parents can stay attuned to activity updates/cancellations by calling the Activities Information Line at 763.972.6505.



Congratulations Patriot Pen Essay Contest Winners!

"The America I Believe In" was the theme 8th graders at Delano Middle School were given to express their patriotism in the 2016 Patriot Pen Essay Contest. The winners of this year's contest shared thoughts of courage and honor, while enlightening the judges with their heartfelt essays. They each received a certificate, American flag and a cash prize. In addition, first place winner, Adia LaFromboise, shared her essay at the Veteran's Day celebration held in the Tiger Activity Center on Friday, November 11. The Patriot Pen Essay Contest is held each year. This contest teaches students to reflect on what it means to be an American. It also helps them embrace what it means to fight for your country and the purpose of Veteran's Day.

A special thank you to all the students that participated and to American Legion Post 377 for sponsoring this contest.



Ashton Esco, Bridget Sundheim and Adia LaFromboise proudly display their Patriot Pen Essay awards.

#WeCare Day 2016



Decorating DMS



Thanking Veterans for their Service



Packing Bags of Necessities for the Homeless

Each December DMS students use their talents to make the world a little brighter for people in our schools, community and beyond. Love Inc., Delano Food Shelf and Golden Living Center are just a few of the many organizations impacted by this activity. THANK YOU to those that donated the numerous items that made this day a success!



Bringing the Sounds of the Season to Coborn's

Career Class PATHWAYS Introduced at DMS

We are very excited to introduce a new elective class being taught this year to our 7th grade class: Pathways. Pathways was designed to teach students college and career readiness curriculum, while supporting the World's Best Workforce initiative passed by the state in 2013. The intention behind World's Best Workforce is to close the achievement gap and to ensure that all students are college and career ready as well as graduate from high school by giving students opportunities to take career interest inventories, to explore post-secondary options, and to be taught job employability skills.

At the beginning of the class, each student will create their own career portfolio using the Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS). Students will use their portfolio in order to save information regarding career interests, short and long-term goals, and personality characteristics. The curriculum focuses on key content from MCIS as well as other important life skills. Some highlights of the class include:

- Career Interest Inventory
- SMART Goal Writing
- Qualities for Success
- Job Shadow
- 4-Year Planning for High School
- Resume Writing
- Personal Finance
- Basic Living Skills

We hope that each student will enjoy learning about themselves and how their unique individual personalities shape their career interests, the goals that they set, and the decisions that they make.

*- Sarah Rothstein
DHS Guidance Counselor*

Thank You for Helping Clothe Veteran's in Need!



Delano staff members Ginny Scheulke and Karla Otterness delivered 780 new clothing items and 5 winter coats to the St. Cloud VA Clothing Center on November 23. The staff was thrilled to receive such a large donation at a time when there is such a great need. Thank you to all students, families and staff that made the clothing drive a wonderful success!

Upcoming Events

December

7	MS Site Base Meeting	7 am
10	Junior High One Act Play Festival	
12	7th/8th Grade Band Concert	7 pm
15	5th/6th Grade Band Concert	7 pm
19	MS PIE Meeting	6 pm
23-30	Winter Break - NO SCHOOL	

January

2	Winter Break - NO SCHOOL	
4	MS Site Base Meeting	7 am
9	8th Grade Parent/Student Registration Meeting - <i>DMS Auditorium</i>	4 or 6 pm
12	8th Grade Parent/Student Registration Meeting - <i>DMS Auditorium</i>	7:30 pm
16	Teacher Workshop - NO SCHOOL	
	MS PIE Meeting	6 pm

Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences - More Info to Come!



**Happy Holidays to all our
middle school families!**

Upcoming Events and Reminders from DMS

The weather is starting to turn cold and wet. We look forward to helping keep our students healthy, warm and safe. Please remember to help your student dress for the weather. All middle school-aged students need to have a dry hat, coat and gloves/mittens and boots. Please help our students establish those good habits and routines (nutrition, sleep, life balance) each evening and morning before school. Also, please plan ahead for inclement weather by leaving earlier in the morning to accommodate for the traffic around the school reconstruction.

Attendance

Regarding school attendance during the cold and flu season, it is very important to work as a team. Please report absences to the school as soon as possible and call our school nurse, Natalie Langford, if you have any questions or doubts about sending your student to school if they are not feeling 100%. You can reach Natalie at 763.972.3365, ext. 2334. We do not recommend that students with a high fever or with severe flu or vomiting attend school. However, a proactive goal should be to prevent two-day absences from becoming four-day absences if at all possible. Also, please try to schedule family vacations and events around the school calendar so as to maximize student learning and contact time.

Events

We celebrated #WeCare Day on Friday, December 2, from 8-10 a.m. This was a great opportunity for students to serve others in school and throughout the community. On Tuesday, January 31, Climb Theater will present to each grade level. Fifth and sixth graders will see the interplay entitled "Self Control", while seventh and eighth graders will view the interplay "Step Up, Stand Out" about bullying prevention. These interplays involve some volunteer student participation and real-life learning applications. Winter Activity Day will be held on Thursday, February 2. More details will follow when they are available.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your students. It is an exciting time to be a Delano student, educator, parent and community member. Wishing you and your family good health and great memories with friends and family during the holidays!

- Steven Schauburger, Assistant Principal



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