

# TIGER TRACKS

## Student Growth Through Learning Opportunities

Welcome back Tigers! It is always energizing to start a new school year. Our students are eager to re-engage with friends and participate in activities. Teachers are awash with new ideas and a rejuvenated spirit. Parents are happy to reinstate normal routines. While the preparation for each new school year feels familiar, we must acknowledge that our students are experiencing new challenges as they get older. I want to encourage our parents to continue talking to their students about their school experiences. I also want to especially thank our staff who consistently go out of their way to build relationships with our students.

The development of relationships between students and adults is essential to helping them grow into successful learners and accountable adults. The more we learn about our students, the better we are able to assess students' needs and create optimal learning opportunities. Learning opportunities occur throughout our day, both in things we do and things we don't do for our students. As the school year started, parents were making several trips to school with items that students had forgotten at home. I want to encourage all parents to allow their students to go without these things in the future. It is not always in the best interest of students for us to save them from their mistakes. These, too, are learning opportunities for our students that are just as important as the ones we carefully create in our classrooms every day.

An important factor in creating learning experiences for students is the method of grading we employ in our classrooms. As it stands now, there is quite a variety of grading systems among the middle school course offerings. Moving forward, it is our goal to more closely align our practices to support "Grading for Learning." This is an extensive process that will be fine tuned over the years. It is essential that a student's grade in a particular course communicate what that student knows and is able to do related to the academic standards of the course. DMS teachers do a wonderful job of creating standards-based learning experiences; we simply want to reinforce these experiences through ethically sound grading practices. As such, do not be surprised to learn of grading system changes over the course of the year as your students move from trimester one to trimester two and three. Changes are the result of our constant efforts towards professional growth and development.

DMS staff looks forward to meeting you all at our first conference of the year. **Please note that conferences will be held on Monday, October 17 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.** As always, do not hesitate to reach out to us with questions or concerns. We know that this will be an excellent school year!

- **Barry Voight**  
Principal



## Welcome New Teachers!

DMS would like to welcome our new teachers this year. The front row includes: **Jessica Shogren-Carlson, Special Education; Kellie Makela, Language Arts Interventionist; James Bigot, Special Education.** The back row includes: **Britney Latzig, 6th Grade; Andrew Schultz, 6th Grade; Autumn Heitzman, Social Studies.** We are very excited to have this new staff on board!

## Why are these Students Walking on Eggs?



6th grade students at Delano Middle School participate in **Silent Sustained Reading (SSR)** in classrooms on a daily basis. This time is meant for quiet reading time, team building activities or to catch up on assignments.

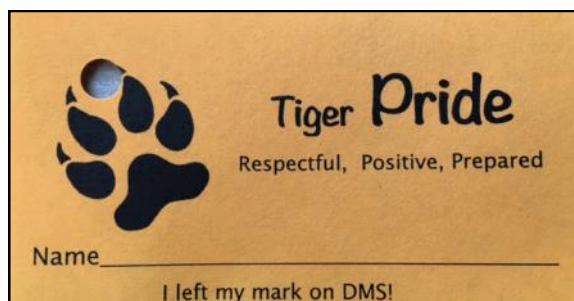
Looking at the pictures to the left and right, students were participating in a unique challenge during SSR time. Mr. Schultz's 6th grade class walked on eggs! This challenging activity was a team building activity that taught them how to trust the teacher, each other and themselves. The students had a blast participating in the egg walking activity and they proved that eggs are stronger than we all might think!



## TIGER PRIDE AT DMS

Greetings from Delano Middle School! The 2016-17 school year is off to an amazing and productive start. It is so hard to believe that we have completed a month of school already. I am so proud of our students, staff and families. We have started off the school year with so many positive events, strong communication and wonderful opportunities that benefit our students and community. A special THANK YOU goes out to Barb Roy and her crew for their outstanding production of ***Beauty and the Beast!***

Our ***Tiger Pride Recognition Program*** continues this year as our staff recognizes students and each other for the positive contributions and choices they make each day. The main themes of the program are Respect, Positivity and Preparedness. As students demonstrate one or more of these characteristics, our staff immediately calls attention to the behavior, reinforces his/her good choices and awards them a Tiger Pride slip for a monthly drawing. More information will be forthcoming about our end of the trimester Tiger Pride Celebration in November.



DMS students have so much going on in their lives that it is important for them to balance the four A's: Attendance, Academics, Activities and Attitude. Please help them get enough sleep, nutrition and "down time" with friends and family. When we work together and create a balanced approach we can accomplish the fifth A: Achievement!

In the upcoming months, I hope to roll out a helpful resource for parents and families to work with our staff to better assess and improve on some of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) results. One of the resources is called ***Pearson Perspective***. It is a program to help identify sub strand areas in reading, math and science from the MCA results using the Learner Locator Number assigned to the student in the MCA results letter that was mailed to parents in late August. The many online resources can help pinpoint and practice areas of needed improvement such as literature or inferencing in reading texts or probability and number sense in math, etc. A similar program called ***Write-to-Learn*** will also be available to help teachers and parents develop their students' writing skills. Look for more information on the middle school website under the "Testing" tab. A follow up letter and helpful user/parent guide will be available by mid-October.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your students. It is an exciting time to be a Delano student, educator, parent and community member!

- **Steve Schaubberger**  
Assistant Principal

# DMS Students Attend WE Day 2016

WE Day 2016 combined energy of live concerts with the inspiration of incredible stories of leadership and change. DMS students and staff, sporting their "Defy Stereotypes" t-shirts, were part of 18,000 attendees who joined together at the Xcel Energy Center on Tuesday, September 20.

WE Day brings together world-renowned speakers and award-winning performers each year to celebrate their contributions and kick-start another year of change.

Buzz Aldrin, now 86, spoke about the importance of educational programs to inspire the next generation of space exploration. Other speakers and performers included Paula Abdul, George Takei from Star Trek and Disney Channel star Sabrina Carpenter. This special event has evolved from a single event nearly eight years ago into a series of 14 stadium-sized events held across Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. This past year, 200,000 students attended WE Day and left inspired to create change at local and global levels.



**What did the WE Day attendees learn?** WE is Everyone. Anyone can make a difference. WE believes in the democratization of impact. There are myriad ways to participate both through giving back and our daily choices. WE believes in the inclusive nature of doing good and that anyone can apply their individual passion to a collective world-changing impact. DMS 7th grader Sophie Stevens was enthusiastic and moved by WE Day 2016, she expressed, *"Whether it is cleaning up the community, or supporting a presidential candidate, everyone brings something different to the table, and gives an opportunity for change to happen. Though change can seem intimidating to some and even frightful to others, your actions can have a large impact on our world. Change starts here. Change starts with you."*

## DMS Welcomes New Nurse



Delano Middle School welcomes Natalie Langford, LPN, to the position of middle school nurse. Natalie received her LPN from Rasmussen College. She recently worked at North Clinic and Sunrise Senior Living. Natalie lives in Buffalo with her husband Jake, and their two children. Her family enjoys camping, spending time at the cabin and boating. Welcome Natalie!

## Get Started Today...

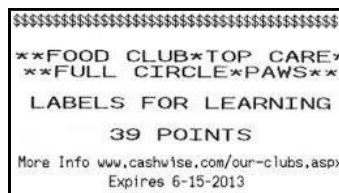
## Collectibles Campaign!



Delano Middle School is kicking off the Collectibles Campaign. Please help us raise funds by collecting General Mills Box Tops, Coborn's Labels for Learning, Campbell's Labels for Education and My Coke Rewards. All you need to do is collect the items and send them to school with your student(s) in a plastic bag labeled with their name and homeroom or first period teacher's name on it. This can be done **AT ANY TIME THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR**. There is also a collection box located in the DMS Media Center.

The funds raised will go towards technology, classroom rewards, field trips and more. **Last year the efforts of our students, parents and staff resulted in 10 free Chromebooks for our students!**

We want to thank all of you for your support of the campaign last year and hope you will jump on board with us once again and start clipping those boxtops, labels and reward points!







## Volunteers: You Make a Difference!

Whether you have just a few hours a year or several a month, there is an opportunity to share your skills and interests. Volunteers are invaluable to the success of our students and make a positive impact on our school and community. Last year volunteers contributed more than 8,000 hours in a variety of roles, such as classroom helpers, site based committee members and chaperones. Not sure what role interests you? Take a look at the list below and you can find additional information/descriptions on the Delano Schools website.

For more information or to register as a volunteer, please visit [www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun) or call 763.972.3365, ext. 2333.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Check the volunteer opportunities in which you are interested and return with your registration paperwork

### Elementary School Opportunities

Battle of the Books \_\_\_\_\_  
 Book Fair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Classroom Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teacher/s name \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coborn's Labels for Learning \_\_\_\_\_  
 DI Team Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
 Drama Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elementary Art Show \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elementary Office Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
 ES Site Base Team \_\_\_\_\_  
 Field Trips \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hearing & Vision Screening \_\_\_\_\_  
 Math Lab \_\_\_\_\_  
 Media Center Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project Judge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Publishing Center \_\_\_\_\_  
 Science Fair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Talent Development Assistants \_\_\_\_\_  
 Volunteer On Call \_\_\_\_\_

### PIE Volunteer Opportunities

APEX Fun Run \_\_\_\_\_  
 Back to School Movie Night \_\_\_\_\_  
 Box Tops for Education \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dairy Queen Night \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fall Fundraiser \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fall Concession stand \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Fun Night \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fish Fry \_\_\_\_\_  
 Memory Book \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spirit Wear Sales \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teacher/Staff Appreciation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nov. \_\_\_\_\_ May \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tiger Dash and 5K Run \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tiger Fun Fair \_\_\_\_\_

### Middle School Opportunities

After School Snack Program \_\_\_\_\_  
 Battle of the Books \_\_\_\_\_  
 Box Tops for Education \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cafeteria Friendly Presence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Campbell's Soup Labels \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chaperoning Activities \_\_\_\_\_  
 Classroom Helpers \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cookie Dough Fundraiser \_\_\_\_\_  
 DMS PIE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DI Team Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
 Drama Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hearing & Vision Screening \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lunch Server \_\_\_\_\_  
 MS Year Book \_\_\_\_\_  
 MS Site Base Team \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project Judge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Council Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Talent Development Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teacher/Staff Appreciation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Use me as a resource \_\_\_\_\_  
 e.g. (profession, hobbies, travel, languages)  
 Volunteer On Call \_\_\_\_\_  
 Winter Activity Day Registration \_\_\_\_\_

### High School Opportunities

After School Snack Program \_\_\_\_\_  
 Box Tops for Education \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cafeteria Friendly Presence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coborn's Labels for Learning \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commencement Day Help \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Jr. Parents) \_\_\_\_\_  
 DI Team Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
 DHS PIE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Drama Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Friendly Presence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hearing & Vision Screening (Gr. 10) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 HS Site Base Team \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lunch Server \_\_\_\_\_  
 Media Center Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Motivational Speaker \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prom Events Help \_\_\_\_\_  
 Red Cross Blood Drive \_\_\_\_\_  
 Talent Development Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Use me as a resource \_\_\_\_\_  
 (eg. profession, hobbies, travel, languages)  
 Volunteer On Call \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth As Resources Board Member \_\_\_\_\_



*DES Outside Movie Night*



*Homecoming Concessions*

## Interested in Naming the Academic Wings in Delano's New Intermediate School?



Community and staff groups have worked collaboratively with Wold Architects and ICS Consulting to create a building plan that is suitable for 4-6 students. In doing so, academic classrooms have been clustered in houses. These houses need names. We will not be identifying the houses as 4th grade or 5th grade because demographic changes may require us to move teachers or grades within the building. If you refer to the picture above, you will notice the Wold has identified two of the houses as "River" and "Forest". These names are just place holders. In order to pick names that are emblematic of the Delano community or curricular goals, we are embarking on a crowd sourcing campaign to solicit a list of choices.

If you would like to submit your house name ideas, please go to  
<https://goo.gl/forms/xS9Z839TAsdc0oZG3>

***Thank you in advance for your input!***

### DMS Student Artwork on Display!



Come to Delano Public Library's Annual Art Show from Saturday, October 1 through Monday, October 31. Donna Rice, a glass artist, will be presenting at the library on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m. In addition, Delano Middle School student art projects will be on display during this wonderful event!

*"Every child is an artist.  
The problem is how to remain  
an artist once he grows up."*

*- Pablo Picasso*

### October Calendar

12	Picture re-take day	
17	Cookie Dough Pick-up	4-6 pm
	HS Cafeteria	
	MS Conferences	4:30-7:30 pm
	MS P.I.E. Meeting	6 pm
20-21	MEA - NO SCHOOL	



***Middle School Homecoming Fun!***