

TIGER TRACKS

Delano Middle School Newsletter



December 2017-January 2018



Students in fifth and sixth grade took part in We Care Day on Nov. 30. See page 4.

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Jr. High One Act Play

Dates to remember

December

9....Jr. High One Act Play Festival

14....Gr. 5-6 band concert, 7 p.m.

18....Gr. 7-8 band concert, 7 p.m.

25-31.....Winter break

January

1.....Winter break

8, 11....8th grade parent/student
registration meetings

15.....Martin Luther King
Jr. Day, no school

15.....Conferences, 5-8 p.m.



From left, eighth-graders Kylie Schwoch, Max Brainerd, Owin Bischke, Tommy Huotari, Justin Dalum and Cohen Lofstedt manipulate the stream bed during a lab project in Brian Allison's earth science class.

Building a river system

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

It isn't often that eighth-grade earth science students have an opportunity to watch a river carve new paths through erosion, but a unique tool in Brian Allison's classroom has changed that.

In mid-November Allison set up a homemade stream table in his room, allowing students to create their own river routes, then watch as the flow of water changed the river bed before their eyes. It was an engaging conclusion to a unit on river processes, which also included a field trip to the Rush River in Henderson the previous month.



Students took a field trip to the Rush River near Henderson and the Minnesota River valley in October.

"This is just a scaled down version of a natural river system," said Allison, who used an old door as the base for his table, then constructed the sides with spare wood and finished the box with silicone and a coat of paint. The box is filled with

purpose-made plastic grains that don't discolor the water like natural sand, but show the same process of erosion.

During a river process lab, about 30 gallons of water in

See River
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Maintain routines for success

Middle school commons will close for construction after break

By Barry Voight
Principal

Season's greetings, DMS Tigers.

While we've already experienced the bitter temperatures of an upcoming winter season, we've been lucky to enjoy the fall season a little longer. Nevertheless, winter looms in the coming weeks.

This is always an extremely busy time of year for our students and staff. Holiday celebrations abound, activity schedules seem to pile up throughout the weeks, and the weather keeps us huddled inside much of the time. I want to encourage all students and parents to embrace the changing seasons this year and fight back against our past winter tendencies.

Themes of charity and goodwill flow throughout our lives during the holidays. It is especially necessary that we



Barry Voight

extend these values to those we encounter on a daily basis.

The daily construction obstacles we face at school are certain to provide some extra challenges for us.

Patience, forgiveness, and flexibility will serve all of us well as we soldier on through the school year.

Consistency important

Middle level students are creatures of habit. As much as possible, maintain the routines you've established for your children throughout the start of the school year. Bed times, homework time, and time for recreation get thrown off this time of year with the limited daylight and extra activities.

Maintaining these daily rituals for your children will allow them to make the most of their experiences at school and at home. The winter weather often forces us inside for long periods of time in Minnesota. For those of us with students who aren't in sports or other outdoor activities, push your kids out the door and let them run off some steam.

Regular physical activity is crucial for adolescent development. When the weather makes this impossible, reading a good book is always a wonderful substitute.

Commons closing

One quick construction update for this issue: When students return from winter break in January, new walls will be constructed in the middle school commons area.

While some details are still being configured, we know that students will not be able to pass through the commons as has been the norm for many years. We will be ready to provide alternative routes for students and make accommodations as needed, even though we don't know exactly what those will be.

The one change we already know for sure is that students will not be allowed to congregate in the commons as they wait for the 7:45 a.m. bell. Starting in January, students will all be expected to wait in the cafeteria until the bell rings, releasing them to their lockers.



Tiger Pride

Tiger Pride winners for October (left) and November (right) are students who stood out to staff for being positive, prepared or respectful. October winners were fifth-graders Kiernan Dehne and Annabelle Wentzel, sixth-graders Isaac Jacobson and Emma Treptau, seventh-graders Christian Eichers and Sophie Gorrill, and eighth-graders Tynoe Mellgren and Kylie Schwoch. November winners were fifth-graders Tristan Rychly and Amelia Nelson, sixth-graders Katelyn Snidarich and Easton Vaughn, seventh-grader Xavier Elgren, and eighth-graders Austin Kramp and Mary Grgas.

River

from Page 1

a reservoir are pumped to the head of the table, which gradually slants downward back toward the reservoir. Then gravity takes over and river beds of the students' design begin the process of evolving.

"They're making observations of how a river changes over time, how it starts and tends to flow straight, like young rivers do, and then given enough time it will start to meander and develop curves like the Crow or the Minnesota or the Mississippi," said Allison.

The idea for the stream table came from a conference Allison attended, where a company from Illinois advertised them for \$1,500.

"They do great work with earth science and river systems, but \$1,500 was too much for us," he said, adding that his homemade table, including the pump, cost less than \$50 to build. The expensive part was the plastic fill, which came in three 50-pound boxes from a manufacturer in Connecticut. The boxes were about \$50 each,



Students learn about layers of glacial till during an October field trip to Rush River County Park in Henderson.

but the shipping cost was triple that due to the weight.

Allison has included his stream table in the unit for about the past six years, and said it has added a fun, interactive element to the lessons.

"It's made it more enjoyable, I think, because they can see it. It's not just an outdoor topic where you have to go visit a river. This brings a river to them," Allison said

Students experiment by

replicating spring snow melt, creating a dam and more.

"For them it's like playtime, but they're learning," said Allison. "They try to modify it as much as they can. Sometimes it works and sometimes the river has its own mind and does its own thing."

River visits

In October students continued a decade-long practice of visiting the Minnesota River valley, as well as Rush River

County Park near Henderson, to see real rivers in action. Why not simply visit the Crow in Delano?

"We go there because the Minnesota River, when it was formed, cut so deep," said Allison. "It cut through three layers of glacial fill. When we go to the Rush River County Park, we can access the remnants of those glacial till layers. The Crow is only cut into the top layer of glacial till. There is no base level that's low enough for what we need."

There is also the simple fact that wonders of nature can often go overlooked in the hustle of everyday life.

"We make a stop on the Minnesota River to see how big that river valley is," said Allison. "Most people here aren't aware of it, or as they go through it they're listening to music and just aren't paying attention to what is around them."

Thanks to some active learning both in the classroom and abroad, lack of awareness in regard to rivers and their actions should not be much of an issue for Delano students in the years ahead.

Nutrition a vital component of wellness

By Steve Schauberger
Assistant Principal

Greetings from Delano Middle School! The first trimester is in the books. We have accomplished so much together as a team of staff, students and families.

It was fun to celebrate the accomplishments at our Delano Middle School Tiger Pride Assembly on Nov. 29. Students were recognized in several categories, including Tiger Pride (respectful, positive and prepared), Hall of Fame (academic improvement and outstanding performance), and Citizens of the Month (attitude, academics and character).

A special thank you goes out to Ms. Briesemeister and her GROWL students for the wonderful video summ-



Steve Schauberger

arizing students' achievements this fall!

Focus on nutrition

As we head into the second trimester, I'd like to challenge, encourage and educate our stu-

dents and families about one of the important parts of our district wellness policy: nutrition promotion and education.

As you may know already, we comply with the nutritional requirements of the Federal School Lunch Program. We are also working tirelessly to improve and meet SMART Snack guidelines in competitive food and beverages (vending machines, fundraisers and after school snacks) made available to students in the school.

However, we also ask for your help in discussing with your student(s) what foods and beverages he or she should bring to school for their bag lunch, classroom celebration treats and snacks.

We encourage families to talk about nutritionally balanced and healthy choices.

Try to challenge him or her to think out of the box and try new items. It is so important to work together as a consistent team so our students understand that the sooner they make independent and healthy choices, the better it will be for their health in the long run. The link below is a fun way to see if a snack meets the smart snack guidelines. You will need to enter the "per serving" information from the packaged food.

View the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Smart Snack Calculator at <https://foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/calculator/>.

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

Service learning with We Care Day

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Students in fifth and sixth grade helped serve their younger peers, as well as senior citizens, on We Care Day this year.

On Thursday, Nov. 30, students Nathan Ness, Maddison Meister and the rest of the fifth-grade class headed up the hill to Delano Elementary. Ness helped second-graders make snowflake decorations, and Meister helped kindergartners paint wood cars, make paper chains and snowflakes, and play board games.

"It was nice being in the elementary again," said Ness. "I enjoyed doing the snowflakes again because I did the snowflakes (when I was younger too)."

Meister also enjoyed the excursion, intended as a service learning opportunity for the middle school students.

"I liked being with the kindergartners because they're little kids and they're so cute," she said.

Fifth-grade teacher Sue Wallinga said that aside from an opportunity to serve as role models to the younger students, the event helps middle schoolers recognize the value in selfless service.

"We want them to learn the importance of helping others and the importance of giving back to your community," Wallinga said. "In this case the kids were giving back to the elementary teachers and kids and helping them out, because when they were little they were helped by the bigger kids."



Fifth-grade students helped with arts and crafts at the elementary on We Care Day.



DMS students did with projects, read stories, and served as role models for younger students.

Sixth-graders also made decorations for the nursing home and assisted living facilities in town.

As for the fifth-graders, Wallinga said the chance to

return to their old stomping grounds was an exciting prospect.

"They were hoping to see some of their old teachers. They were really excited to go

back," she said. "Many of them have gone back for different activities and events, but to go during the school day was a really neat thing for them to do."

In all, the visit lasted about an hour and 45 minutes, and Meister said the experience was one she hopes to repeat.

"You feel like a leader with the little kindergartners," she said. "I hope we can do this more in sixth grade and seventh grade and eighth grade, because it's so fun."

Wallinga said We Care Day will continue after the shift to Delano Intermediate School next year, and fourth-graders will have the opportunity to get involved at that point.

"It's just really important for kids to be involved in the community," she said. "This is a way for them to see that they can help and bring happiness to other people."

Follow these tips to stay healthy this winter

By Tina Prior
DMS Nurse

Here are some important tips to keep our school and community healthy this winter season.

- Washing your hands or using hand sanitizer is your best defense.

- Cover your mouth or raise your arm and sneeze into your sleeve or elbow.

- Don't give germs the chance to jump from place to place. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Throw dirty tissues in the trash right away.

- It's harder for germs to infect a healthy body. Take care of yourself by eating

healthy, getting enough sleep and exercising regularly.

- Disinfect surfaces that are touched often.

- Get your flu shot! It is not too late.

- Stay home if you are vomiting, have diarrhea, or a temperature of 100 degrees or higher until you are symptom free for 24 hours without medications.



Citizens of the Month

Citizens of the Month students for the month of October (left) and November (right) were recently announced. These students took being positive, prepared and academically driven to the next level. Citizens of the Month for October included fifth-graders Caiden Anderson and Adelyn Fiecke, sixth-graders Campbell Gilles and Madelyn Czech, seventh-graders Logan Plese and Brielle Wuollet, and eighth-graders Kylie Pietila and Dillon Mrnak. Citizens of the Month for November included fifth-graders Tatum Workman and Bella Cocoluto, sixth-graders Cael Olson and Emily Wessel, seventh-graders Abby Menk and Richard Gonzalez, and eighth-graders Maya Rodriguez and Tommy Huotari.

Announcements

School closing information

School may be closed for the day, started late or dismissed early due to weather conditions, emergencies, utility outages or other conditions that threaten the health and/or safety of our students and staff.

Families will be notified by the school district's instant parent contact system for emergency school closings.

The following news media outlets will also be notified: WCCO 4 TV, WCCO Radio, KSTP 5 TV, KMSP 9 TV and KARE 11 TV.

Families are encouraged to have a plan in place for their students when emergency closings, late starts or early dismissals occur. Watch for calendar changes and possible make-up days due to school closings communicated via school publications, Skylert parent emails, phone calls, the district website, Facebook and Twitter.

If you would like to receive a text message, you must set this option up in your family access account. Log into your account and on the left, click on Skylert. You can list your phone number under "Text Message Numbers" and check the categories for which you want this option applied. Then click "Save."

Volunteer at Delano schools

Whether you have just a few hours a year or several a month, there is no shortage of opportunities to share your skills and interests at Delano Public Schools. Volunteers are invaluable contributors to the success of our students and make a positive impact on the school and community.

Last year volunteers contributed more than 8,000 hours in a variety of roles, such as classroom helpers, site base committee members and chaperones. Not sure what role interests you? Find additional information and descriptions on the Delano Schools website.

For more information, or to register as a volunteer, visit www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun or call 763.972.3365, ext. 2333.

New school rewards program

Support for a school district can come in many forms, but anyone who wishes to aid the Delano schools through the Coborn's school rewards program should be aware of a change in how the program works this fall. Coborn's is starting its new paperless MORE School Rewards program, which replaces the former Labels for Learning. There are three steps to participate.

1. Designate your preferred school (DHS, DMS or DES) by logging into moreRewards.com or the MORE Rewards mobile app. Click the Rewards tab at the top of the page, then the School Rewards tab.

2. Shop Coborn's for the store brands (Food Club, Full Circle, Top Care, Paws, Tippy Toes and more) to earn points for your preferred school.

3. The points your school earns will increase its share of a total available pot of \$150,000 that is distributed among participating schools. The more points a school earns, the larger its piece of the pie will be. See moreRewards.com/school for more information.

Junior High One Act Play



The Junior High One Act Play Festival took place on Saturday, Dec. 9. These photos of 'Small Actors' were from the school performance Friday, Dec. 8.



'Small Actors' takes a look at those who don't get the big parts.



Some less than reputable family members showed up to see Emily's performance.



Amy Snell played the lead role of Emily, a girl who longed to be Juliet.



A large cast made the play come alive.



The classic Capulet and Montague battle played out rapidly.



Iain Lee and Sydney Wuerger played the roles of Romeo and Juliet.



Maria Moliter and Hunter Elwood played the roles of Emily's parents.