

# TIGER TRACKS

Delano Middle School Newsletter



February 2018



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Winter Activity Day

## Dates to remember

### February

12.....MS PIE, 6 p.m.  
13.....District PIE, 7 p.m.  
19.....President's Day, no school  
24.....Tiger Fun Fair, 12-4 p.m.  
28.....End of 2nd Trimester

### March

30.....Spring break, no school  
through April 2



Carmen Mannor sets up to film an interview while other students gather to watch during a recent project for The Growl. Shows run every four to six weeks each year.

## The Growl Capturing DMS experiences

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

Anyone looking to catch up on happenings at Delano Middle School can do so in a fun, informative manner through The Growl video program.

Students build skills in script writing, interviewing, video photography, editing and more through the activity, which includes weekly meetings before school. About 25 students in grades five through eight participate, and the goal is to put out a new show every four to six weeks during the school year.

Each program, about 15 minutes in length, contains



Jane Poll interviews John Binge for a feature segment.

interviews with students and staff, clips from events, humorous features and more. The full show is tied together by a

pair of anchors who manage the transitions while learning

See Growl  
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# Focusing on positive relationships

A sense of belonging, empathy and safety are vital to learning

**By Barry Voight and  
Steve Schauburger**  
Principal and  
Assistant Principal

Greetings from Delano Middle School!

Our mild winter and second trimester are flying by quickly! Winter Activity Day was held on Thursday, Feb. 8. This is always a fun event for our students and a highlight of the year. Our staff looks forward to this day as well, as it provides a valuable opportunity to further develop relationships with students in a different environment.

The development of positive relationships among students, and between students and staff, is critical to nurturing an effective learning environment. It is essential that all students feel safe at our school, have a



**Barry Voight**

strong sense of belonging and develop a sense of empathy for others.

This sense of comfort and belonging is tested frequently for individual students as they navigate typical growth experiences. We also face trials



**Steve Schauburger**

within our building that are not so typical, as was the case these past weeks. We want all families to know that we are sensitive to the impact that events in other schools and within our community have on our students.

As an administrative team, we work closely with our dedicated staff, the students and families we serve, and community resources to promote more positive outcomes for all. Our students are now maturing in an age where technology and social media have redefined the school experience. In many ways, both positive and negative, our students are exposed to a great many more things than we as adults had to manage throughout our schooling years.

We want to encourage students and families to continue engaging with us as issues arise. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can assist your student(s) in having a more positive school experience.



## Tiger Pride

Tiger Pride winners for December (left) and January (right) are students who stood out to staff for being positive, prepared or respectful. December winners were fifth-graders Aubrey Barnes and Mirtnesh Westlund, sixth-graders Jaxon Wolf and Jojo Witt, seventh-graders Cooper Nielsen and Nola Bohrsen, and eighth-graders Jacob Noor and Kraya Eagle. January winners were fifth-graders Ellia Aebly and Vinny Vanderheiden, sixth-graders Presley Pawelk and Owen Stowman, seventh-graders Adelle Persian and Jenna Dailey, and eighth-graders Saul Streachek and Maya Rodriguez.



# History Day offers challenges

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

About 60 Delano Middle School students presented in-depth research projects to various panels of judges during the History Day competition on Friday, Jan. 26.

History Day is open to students in sixth grade and eighth grade who are members of the Advanced Language Arts program. This year's theme of "Conflict and Compromise in History" challenged them to not only build a base of knowledge about a topic of their choice, but also offer analysis and an explanation of why that event was significant.

"It really is advanced research because it's not just a copying exercise to write down the facts they learn," said Gwen Briesemeister, the gifted and talented coordinator for Delano Public Schools. "They do comprehensive study of their topic and they need to understand the meaning of it, why we care about it today and why it was significant at that time."

**'It really is advanced research.'**

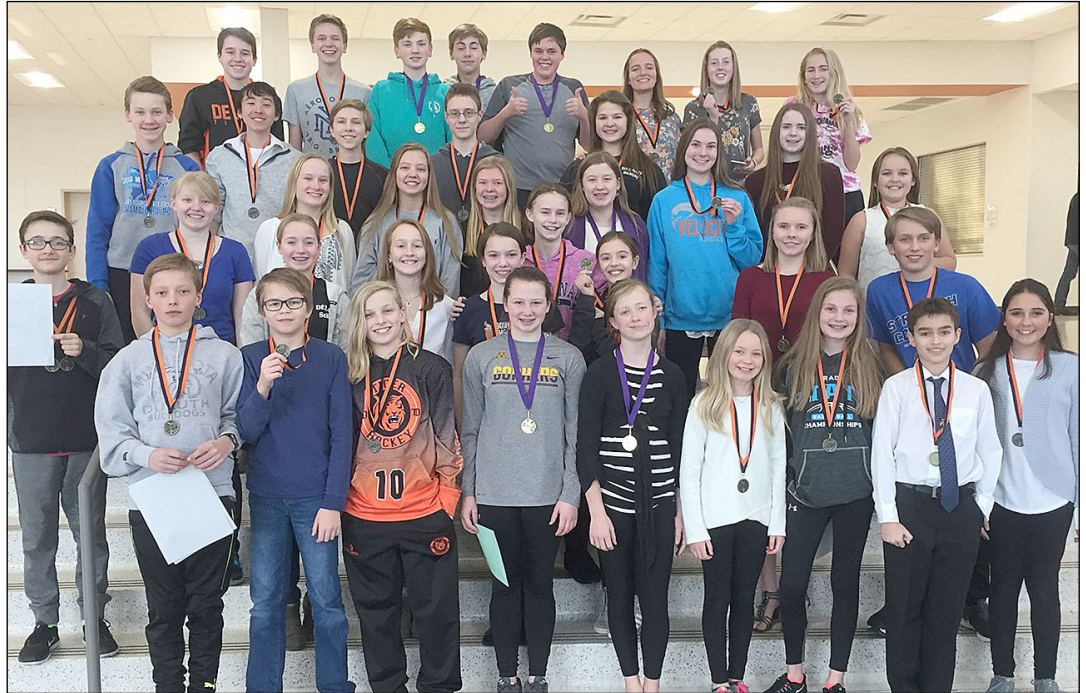
**Gwen Briesemeister**

Students must read a variety of primary and secondary sources, including articles and scholarly journals, and are also required to speak with someone else connected to their topic through an interview or phone conversation.

"It's been interesting. A lot of authors and professors have helped, people who have experienced being part of whatever it is they're studying about," said Briesemeister.

## ***Exhibits and more***

As long as their topic fits the theme, students have a great deal of freedom to choose a



**Students pictured above are those who advanced to the region competition after presenting their work at the Delano History Day competition on Friday, Jan. 26.**



**Isaac Jacobson, Katie Harder and Faith Teller perform a skit on women's rights in the workplace based on the 'Willmar 8' who went on strike in 1977.**

group to collaborate with or to proceed individually. They also can choose one of four ways to present their findings.

The first is to create an exhibit board, a mini museum that only allows them to use 500 words. That limitation forces creativity with visual elements, and encourages a great deal of work with primary

documents that might include quotes or headlines.

A second method is to create a documentary film that must run between eight and 10 minutes. Students may also create a website using a standard set of tools, or choose to do a performance that must incorporate quotes and dates, as well as be entertaining. Per-

formances must also be about 10 minutes long.

"Certain topics lend themselves better to exhibits, others to a performance or documentary," said Briesemeister. "Some kids would just rather do computer work."

## ***Growing in skill***

Because both sixth-graders and eighth-graders are involved, Briesemeister has been able to track the growth of individuals.

"For sixth-graders, it really is a baptism by fire," said Briesemeister. "For a sixth-grader to do an annotated bibliography, to know primary and secondary sources, to write a thesis statement and to prove it – they're only 11 and 12 years old, so it's a powerful activity for them. There are tears, there's happiness, there's frustration. I have the pleasure of being able to work with both grades, so I really do see their growth. That part is really fun."

The regional competition is March 19 at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Students can also advance to state and beyond.



# Growl

from Page 1

to find a comfort zone while speaking on camera.

"Last year our teacher introduced us to the Growl and Julia (Gibson) and I thought it would be fun, so we decided to try it out. It just seemed really interesting," said seventh-grader Maya Bacon.

Richard Gonzalez, also a seventh-grader on the 25-member Growl team, was intrigued by the opportunity as well.

"I joined because I want my career to be in information technology," he said. "This was the first thing that caught my interest after I transferred from Montrose, and it's been fun to interact with people through this."

An effective team needs both people who are comfortable in front of the camera, and those who enjoy editing the sequences behind the scenes. Ideally, the activity gives everyone a taste of both, however.

"We switch around. It's fun to work with the technology and put together segments," said Bacon.

Gonzalez said his favorite part is filming and editing, but said hours of work can sometimes go into short segments.



## Growl members edit a portion of video during a weekly meeting.

Outside of the studio, interactions with other students can be entertaining for Growl members.

"When you take the camera around people freak out," said Bacon. "They either want to be on camera or they try to move out of the way. We're like, 'The camera isn't even on.'"

"You just have to hide it," said Gonzalez. "The fifth-graders get attracted to it and follow you around. There are times it's kind of hard, but you have to work around that stuff."

Prior to the year's first show students receive training in how to write and ask

questions, how to use the equipment such as cameras and microphones, and how to use video editing programs like Final Cut Pro.

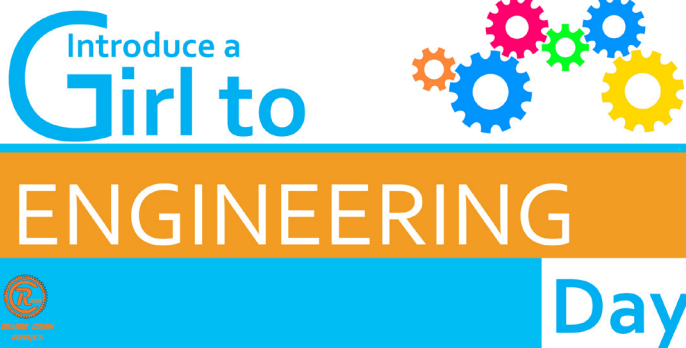
"We use real editing equipment, things they might go out and use in the real world," said Gwen Briesemeister, the gifted and talented coordinator for Delano Public Schools.

Briesemeister added that the students mostly come up with the ideas for the shows themselves. The most recent December edition included excerpts on the Veterans Day program, a feature on the one-act play, a tour of the new DCD room, a feature on Assistant Principal Steve Schauburger, a story on a visit to the Supreme Court, a fashion show highlighting items from the lost and found collection, and more.

Gibson and Bacon said their favorite segment this year has been the introduction of the new teachers, and Gonzalez said his favorite project of the year was doing extensive editing on a math club feature.

"It's not always professional, but I want it to be theirs, and it's fun," said Briesemeister. "It's a process of learning real world skills."


• Watch the latest show at <https://vimeo.com/248093638>.



**Introduce a Girl to ENGINEERING Day**

**Thursday, February 22 6:00-9:00PM**  
old high school gym

<p><b>Hands-on Engineering Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Snack pulley</li> <li>- Toothpick bridge</li> <li>- Elephant toothpaste</li> <li>- Mini water bottles</li> <li>- Light circuits</li> <li>- Extract your own DNA</li> </ul> <p><b>AND MORE!!!!</b></p> <p>Hosted by Delano Robotics</p>	<p>Women engineers will be helping with projects and available for discussion</p> <p><b>Free Refreshments!</b></p> <p><b>Representatives from</b></p> <p>St. Cloud Tech and Community Colleges University of North Dakota University of Minnesota-Duluth Iowa State University North Dakota State University St. Cloud State University and more....</p>
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**TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH, 2018**

**ANXIETY FOR PARENTS**

HELPING TO SEPARATE THE MYTHS FROM REALITY

Join Rob in this workshop as he:

- helps dispel some of the popular myths regarding Anxiety in children
- shares the latest research and information
- explains the two essential components to defeat anxiety
- offers creative and playful strategies to ease and eliminate anxiety

Rob Winkler, MA LP, RPT [www.playmoreandprosper.com](http://www.playmoreandprosper.com)

**PLEASE JOIN US!**  
**FREE Event!**

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**6:30-8:00 pm**  
**Delano**  
**Elementary Multi-purpose room**

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**Rob Winkler is a licensed psychologist and registered play therapist**

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**Childcare available**  
(contact michelle.krueger@delanoschools.org)

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**DELANO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
678 Tiger Drive  
Delano, MN 55328  
763-972-6200

PARENTS, EDUCATORS, AND THOSE WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

RSVP to [michelle.krueger@delanoschools.org](mailto:michelle.krueger@delanoschools.org)

# Standout band musicians honored

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

Four eighth-graders were selected to participate in the Central Minnesota Band Directors Association honor band for grades six through eight on Saturday, Jan. 13, at Elk River High School.

Delano's representatives were Olivia Bekkala on clarinet, Victoria Shafer on oboe, Iain Lee on saxophone and Karson Trujillo on trumpet.

"These students need to be top musicians in their grade to be nominated for this group, but what's more important is that they are great role models for the other students around them," said DMS band director Mike Dailey. "They are leaders in the school and great students to send to represent Delano."

Rehearsals began at 8:30 a.m. and continued through the day, with the 97-member ensemble performing a four-song concert at 5 p.m. The students were chosen from more than 200 nominees.

Delano's musicians said the opportunity to meet students



**Honor band participants were, from left, Olivia Bekkala on clarinet, Victoria Shafer on oboe, Iain Lee on saxophone and Karson Trujillo on trumpet.**

from around the region and tackle some challenging music were the highlights of the day.

"It was cool to compare with other oboe players, and also share some fun tips, like trill keys and different fingerings for notes," said Shafer.

Trujillo, Lee and Bekkala said their favorite thing about band are learning new music

and improving on their instruments. Shafer agreed.

"I like watching how we start our pieces and it's this jumbled mess of sounds, but later it turns into something that is actually kind of pretty," she said.

Dailey said the contributions of each student are much appreciated.

"All of the students are in

more than one instrumental group at the school. They show the dedication and determination that top music students have, and they are looked to for leadership by those around them," he said. "The positive attitude and excitement they have for music really shows, and the ensembles they perform in benefit from it."

## Get qualified for substitute teaching

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at teaching? A two-day workshop is planned for people with a non-education four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited college who would like to become a limited, short-call substitute teacher. Participants will receive training in:

- The process for applying for the two-year license through the Minnesota Department of Education
- The substitute teacher's role in the classroom and district
- The basics of classroom management, instruction, and child development
- Communication skills
- Awareness of legal issues relating to students and a teacher's obligations.

The workshop takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21, and from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, at Resource Training & Solutions (137 23rd Street S, Sartell).

There is a fee to attend. To register, go to [www.resourcetraining.com](http://www.resourcetraining.com), enter the course code in the "Search for Events" box located to the right on the homepage, then follow the prompts. The course code is 9998. For more info, visit [www.resourcetraining.com](http://www.resourcetraining.com).



## Cloud in a jar

**As part of a unique science experiment, students in Gerrit van Bergen's science class created a cloud in a jar using water vapor, warm air, cold air, smoke and air freshener. Here, Cassie Grangroth and Trent Techam watch the results of their efforts.**



# Citizens of the Month

Citizens of the Month for December were recently announced. These students took being positive, prepared and academically driven to the next level. Citizens of the Month for December included fifth-graders Michael Melco and Grace Caple, sixth-graders Isaac Rousu and Saydee Knisley, seventh-graders Maya Bacon and Jake Oja, and eighth-graders Livia Loecken and Rilee Klaers.



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://moreRewards.com/school) for more information.

### Tiger Fun Fair

The Tiger Fun Fair runs from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Tiger Activity Center. The fair includes games, inflatable jump houses, prizes, concessions, a silent auction, gift card raffle and more. In addition, girls age K-4 from the Tigers Dance Camp will perform with the dance team.

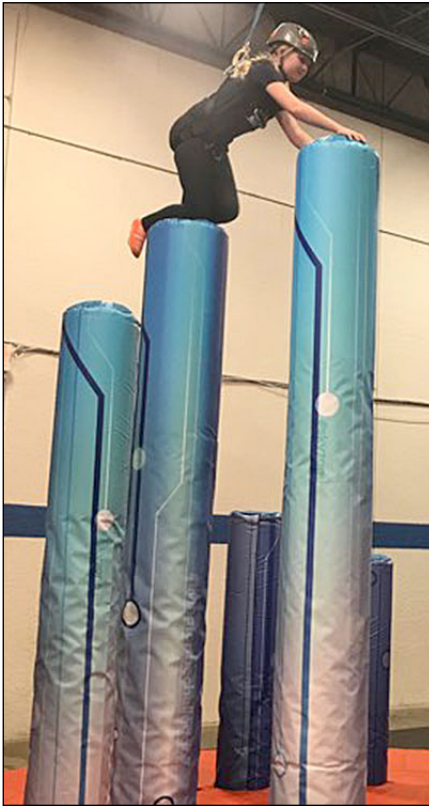
Many volunteers are needed for the event. Anyone who would like to help can sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0949a5ab29a0f58-2017>. Volunteers will receive a voucher for the concessions. Wristbands for entry are \$10 for school-age children and \$5 for children under 5. Parents get in free.

### Second trimester ends soon

The second trimester of the 2017-18 school year ends on Wednesday, Feb. 28, for both the middle school and elementary school.



# Winter Activity Day



Delano Middle School students and staff enjoyed Winter Activity Day on Thursday, Feb. 8. Destinations included the Mall of America, Powder Ridge, Sky Zone, Grand Slam, Big Thrill Factory, Delano Lanes and more. The day is a way to build positive relationships among students and staff.



Tiger Tracks is published by Delano Middle School. Editor, Paul Downer, District Office, 763.972.3365, ext. 2111, paul.downer@delanoschools.org



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