

# TIGER TRACKS

Delano Middle School Newsletter



May 2018



Fifth-graders are enjoying the homesteading unit, a 35-year tradition at DMS. See Page 5.

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## Dates to remember

### May

8.....5-6 choir concert, 7 p.m.  
14.....MS PIE, 6 p.m.  
14.....DPIE, 7 p.m.  
15.....7-8 choir concert, 7 p.m.  
16-18.....Grade 5 LLCC trip  
23.....Last day of school;  
half day for students

• For more information, see  
[www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us).



## Springing into action

After a long winter that saw DMS students snowshoeing through campus as late as Thursday, April 19, outdoor activities and sports finally ground into gear just four days later with a middle school track meet on Monday, April 23. From showshoes to shorts, DMS students have found ways to enjoy the outdoors no matter the weather.

## Dedication through challenges

By Barry Voight  
Principal

Greetings, DMS Tigers.  
This issue of the newsletter finds us on short time as the 2017-18 school year comes to a close in just a few weeks.

We have endured a tremendous challenge this year and I want to thank all of the students, staff and parents for their patience and flexibility as we have adapted to our changing surroundings.

The construction we've lived through this year has limited us and tested us. However, these short term struggles will pay dividends as we grow into new



Barry Voight

spaces with new opportunities for student engagement in the

school years to come. Looking back over the year, it is quite amazing to reflect on how drastically our physical environment has changed.

Even more amazing is the continued dedication and effort our students and staff have demonstrated despite these challenges.

I continue to be proud of this community of learners who embrace each other in the shared experience of learning and growth.

Thanks to all of you for making this a memorable school year!



# Middle school office notes

Middle school office staff, including administrative assistants Melissa Koch and Debbie Findley, along with Principal Barry Voight, will be moving to the Delano Intermediate School on Thursday, May 24. Information will be sent to families regarding summer office hours.

We do expect that construction will limit our phone availability throughout the summer and finishing touches are put in the new building and infrastructure changes throughout the district. Staff will still have access to emails and voicemails. Feel free to reach us via these channels. Mr. Steve Schauberger, DMS Assistant Principal, will remain in the high school office over the summer and into next school year as he joins the high school administrative team.



## Math teams have strong showing at Hutchinson meet

Fifth-grade math students attended the regional Math Masters competition on Thursday, April 19, at Hutchinson.

They competed against 23 teams from around the region, and Delano's two teams took fourth place and sixth place. The top six teams

received awards for their performance.

Delano students in Fact Drill included Henry Ulberg, Grace Ulberg, Drew Nielsen and Joey Lamecker. Those in Individual Problem Solving included Lamecker, Nielsen, Justin Noor, Sage Mullen and Mason Hargarten.

Other members of the Math Masters group included Tatum Workman, Sophia Grant, Alex Barta, Tate Olson, Duncan Truax, Jake Schulz, Eli Hemmesch, Russell Hynes, Ryan Phillips, Hunter Allen, Kaleigh Snetsinger, Evalyn Green and Grant Forlitti.

# Stay sharp over the summer months

## Help students find a balance of fun, work and learning



**Steven Schauberger**

**By Steven Schauberger**  
Assistant Principal

Greetings from Delano Middle School! Summertime is here! It will certainly be a long summer break for our students. I encourage everyone to spend quality time together and to find a good balance between creating family memories, working and learning!

Please continue to see that your students read. It is essential to maintain and build that skill. Whether it is a trip to the Delano library, reading on a Kindle or iPad or even a maga-

zine, it will benefit and exercise the brain.

Work or performing small odd jobs also helps maintain good habits and structure for children of any age. It also teaches responsibility while allowing student to earn some extra money.

Finally, find time to start discussing upcoming academic, social and behavioral goals for your student as they enter a new school year.

Delano Middle School offers summer school for math and reading intervention (Mondays-Thursdays from 8:30 to

11:30 a.m.) from July 9 through Aug. 9 for students identified by our Student Support Team (SST).

If your student is identified, he or she will receive an invitation letter soon. Whether you decide to accept or not accept the invitation, please return the bottom portion of that cover letter and include the appropriate Continual Learning Plan(s) (CLPs).

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your family and students' bright futures. These are exciting times!

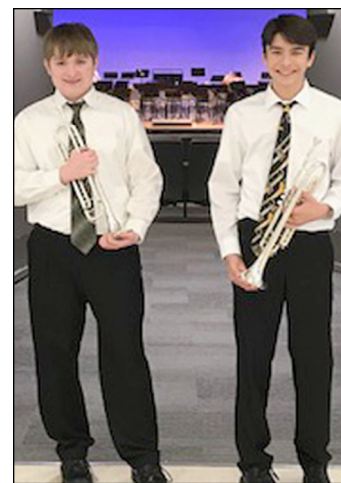




## Coping with winter

As spring proved elusive, DMS students and staff used their creativity to enjoy the seasons.

Above, the softball team left the gym for a practice in the snow, and at right sixth-graders in Mrs. Potter's class went snowshoeing through campus.



Dawson Dailey, left, and Karson Trujillo.

## Dailey, Trujillo chosen for honor bands

Two Delano trumpet players, eighth-grader Karson Trujillo and ninth-grader Dawson Dailey, recently earned places on Minnesota Band Directors Association honor bands.

The bands, which were separated for grades 6-8 and grades 9-10, rehearsed over a 12-hour period on Saturday, April 21, then performed a concert at Kasson-Mantorville High School on Sunday afternoon, April 22.

"This honor band is auditioned and represents the best instrumentalists in the state," said DMS band director Mike Dailey of the MBDA ensembles.

Students auditioned by submitting recordings. They played a set of scales which judges evaluated on evenness and fluidity within a specified tempo. They also recorded a chromatic scale following specified articulations, then played a set of etudes as well.

A total of 268 students from 80 schools auditioned for the grade 6-8 band, and around 80 were chosen. Numbers were not available for the 9-10 band.

## History Day season ends at state

A number of Delano Middle School groups competed at the State History Day competition at the University of Minnesota on April 28.

One team, consisting of Erin Green, Grace Ward and Livia Loecken, earned Honorable Mention honors at the competition for the documentary titled "Eleanor Roosevelt - More than a Wife." They chose the topic because they wanted to explore the progression of women's rights.

Others who qualified for state and their categories included:

- **Performance:** Katie Harder, Faith Tellers, Isaac Jacobson
- **Website:** Victoria Schaffer, Grace Danielson, Aubrey Wittwer



From left, Livia Loecken, Grace Ward and Erin Green prepare their documentary at the state competition.

- **Exhibit:** Larissa Gust, Elizabeth Hajas, Campbell Logan, Nick Black, Tommy Huotari, Jacob Hendrickson

- **Documentary:** Erica Kazin, Megan Westberg, Kiersten Koets, Katherine Baker, Gabby Stoudt, Abby Hohenstein.



# Cookie Lovers headed to global meet

Delano fielded five Destination Imagination teams this year, including two at the elementary level, one from middle school and two from the high school.

Two teams, the Sugar Packets from DHS and The Cookie Lovers from DMS, have advanced through regional and state competition to qualify for the 2018 Destination Imagination Global Finals Tournament.

The global tournament will take place at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Tennessee, May 23-26. It is known as the world's largest celebration of creativity, and involves 1,400 teams from 14 countries.

## *The Cookie Lovers*

The Cookie Lovers are a group of eighth-graders who placed second in their division at the North Metro Regional DI Tournament, and then placed third in their division at the Minnesota Destination Imagination State Tournament.

The team competed in the Maze Craze challenge, which requires participants to design and create a device, a "maze traveler," that can navigate a maze at the competition. Because team members do not know the exact design of the



**Members of The Cookie Lovers team, which placed second at Destination Imagination regionals and third at state, are eighth-graders Lauren Goemer, Becca Reither, Lexi Semeizer, Madeline Engel, Anna Henry and Isabelle Alipour.**

maze until the day of competition, they must create a device that is able to navigate various twists and turns. At the same time, they must also create a prop that can transform inside the maze, and design and create a way to remove an object from the maze.

The Cookie Lovers team consists of Lauren Goemer, Becca Reither, Lexi Semeizer, Madeline Engel, Anna Henry and Isabelle Alipour. Team managers are Chris Semeizer and Stacie Engel.

## *About DI*

Destination Imagination is an international program that encourages the creative process by posing STEAM-based challenges (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) that teams of students must solve.

Parents, team managers, family and friends are not allowed to suggest ideas or force teams in certain directions, but can simply facilitate the acquisition of skills and knowledge.

The various challenges,

which are new each year, are designed by a team of educators and industry experts who target a particular area of the curriculum and its related standards of content and performance. The areas of focus include Technical, Scientific, Fine Arts, Improvisational, Structural and Service Learning.

More information about the Delano teams and their seasons will be available on the district website soon.

## Announcements

### *Early release on last day*

Due to the new school and other construction projects on campus, Delano Public Schools has amended its 2017-18 calendar so that the last day of school on Wednesday, May 23, will be a half day for students. Buses will pick up elementary students for transportation home at 11:30 a.m., and will pick up high school and middle school students at 11:45 a.m. No lunch will be served. The campus will be closed to all students and visitors during the second half of the day.

Dismissing students early will allow teachers to finalize their year in the afternoon, then have a full day to move on Thursday, May 24. Staff for grades 4-6 will move to the new intermediate building, and remaining staff will shift within existing buildings.

### *Watch year-end meal balances*

Beginning Monday, May 14, and continuing through the end of the year, there will be no charging of any amount to purchase a

lunch or breakfast. This helps eliminate negative balances at year end. Any unpaid lunch balances will be placed for collections.

Account deposits must be turned in to the office by 10 a.m. each day to be recorded by lunch time. To check your current account balance, you can log in to Family Access on the Delano Public Schools website ([www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us)) and click on Food Service.

Contact Tracie Erickson with questions or concerns at 763.972.3365 ext. 2136 or [tracie.erickson@delanoschools.org](mailto:tracie.erickson@delanoschools.org).

### *Notify school of address changes*

Moving? Changing schools? If your family is moving out of the school district and will not be attending Delano schools next year, please notify the school office at 763-972-6200. This information is vital for class assignments and staffing needs for the 2018-19 school year.



# Fifth-graders enjoy homesteading

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

Fifth-graders are in the midst of a memorable rite of passage -- the homesteading unit that teaches American history and touches a wide variety of other academic disciplines while simulating life on the frontier.

The unit has become a 35-year tradition at Delano Middle School. Teachers don pioneer attire and delve into economics, math, music, language, science and social studies while sharing about the process of populating the plains.

**'It's been a very fun unit. ... The kids really like it.'**

**Tom Berggren**

"At one time there were so many homesteads around Delano," said teacher Tom Berggren, who at 43 years of teaching in Delano has participated in the unit from the beginning. Homesteading was a process by which citizens were able to claim, improve and eventually own government lands. The Homestead Act was approved

in 1862 and accelerated settlement after the Civil War.

"It's been a very fun unit. The teachers like it and the kids really like it," said Berggren. "It's a chance for the kids to simulate what it's like to farm, what a gamble it is. We talk about some economics like supply and demand. You might have a great corn year and then you don't get any money for it

because everybody's got good corn. And sometimes if there are hardships somewhere else it's good for you because then your cows or pigs are worth more."

Students do extensive journaling and math work, buying crops and animals every year, then calculating what their income will allow them to do for the next farming year.

Aside from theoretical work that covers the process of making a profit on a farm, students also enjoy hands-on activities like making ice cream in Sue Wallinga's room or learning different pioneer games. Teachers split up the fifth-graders and share about various aspects of the time period. John Bingea, for example, covers music. Jacob Olson shares about the Oregon Trail.

It all adds up to an experience that graduating seniors tend to mention as a highlight of their K-12 careers, along with other fifth-grade experiences like the Long Lake Conservation Trip.

Between construction and an early release date this year staff have been pressed to find space and time for the activities.

"This year is a little tougher because we've lost our commons area," Berggren said. "We keep moving around. We're in the amphitheater, the high school media, and the auditorium some of the time. We could be indoors, outdoors, anywhere this year, but we're doing some fun things."



**Fifth-grade teachers ready for a homestead hoedown include, front row from left, John Bingea, Tom Berggren and Jacob Olson. In the back row are, from left, Sue Wallinga, Erin Olson, Karen Shallbetter, Jessica Benker, Rebecca Olmscheid and Jessica Carlson.**



**Students participated in pioneer games like sack races during homesteading week.**





## Designers at work

Above, Melissa Sorenson, left, and Ella Bredahl work on constructing a pull toy from VEX parts as part of their Project Lead The Way Design and Modeling course. Students were tasked with building a mechanism on a four-wheel chassis that could be pulled across a level service. The rotation of the wheels needed to make another part of the pull toy move by means of a gear mechanism. The cam and follower arrangement also required an illustration for the toy feature. At right, Dylan Teig, Faolan Burke and Jack Tuchtenhagen work on their machine.



## Citizens of the Month

Citizens of the Month for March were recently announced. These students took being positive, prepared and academically driven to the next level. Citizens of the Month included fifth-graders Kiersten Kimball and Josh Rodriguez, sixth-graders Ben Kelly and Ella Karke-la, seventh-graders Kaitlyn Malo and Jack Eliason, and eighth-graders Anna Henry and Colton Maass.



## Concert season

Students in grades 5-8 performed band concerts on Tuesday and Thursday, May 1 and 3.



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



Delano Middle School  
700 Elm Ave. E, Delano, MN 55328  
Phone: 763.972.7602  
Website: www.delano.k12.mn.us