

TIGER TRACKS

Delano Middle School Newsletter



November 2017



Three singers have been selected to represent Delano in a state honors choir. See page 3.

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Dates to remember

November

10...Vets Day program, 9:30 a.m.
23-24.....Thanksgiving break
28....Gr. 7-8 choir concert, 7 p.m.
29.....End of first trimester
29.....Intermediate school update, 6 p.m. in auditorium
30....Gr. 5-6 choir concert, 7 p.m.

December

9...Jr. High One Act Play Festival
18....Gr. 7-8 band concert, 7 p.m.



Community art

From left, seventh-graders Hannah Werder, Grace Carver, designer Samantha Krampf and Richard Gonzalez show the banner they painted for display in the Delano community as part of a special project in Laura Holland's class. See Page 6 for the story.

DMS poised for change

By Barry Voight
Principal

Greetings, DMS Tiger families. Big changes are coming to DMS over the next month due to construction.

It is expected that the new high school entrance will open on Monday, Nov. 20. At that time, the middle school entrance (Door 8) will be shut down so that work can begin on the diving well addition to the pool.

Please continue to use the tennis parking lot as our drop-off and pick-up zones. A safe walking path through the exist-



ing drive lane immediately in front of school will be available for students to safely access the

front of the building without walking through the parking lot. Your cooperation with traffic so far has been tremendous. Thank you!

Once the new entrance is available, students will have access to the new and improved cafeteria and office spaces. The only element to complete in this area will be the cafeteria floor. It will remain concrete until the summer so the final work can be completed in an uninterrupted manner. All students and visitors can visit

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Intermediate update meeting on Nov. 29

An informational meeting to update the public about the development of plans for Delano Intermediate School will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29, in the middle school auditorium.

Construction on the school for grades 4-6 is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2018, and it will open for education next fall. Those who attend the meeting, hosted by Delano Middle School Principal Barry Voight, will hear information regarding grading and homework policies, schedules, life skills classes and more.

An outstanding coach, PE teacher

Longstreet honored with Leadership in Educational Excellence Award

By Paul Downer
Communications Coord.

Jamie Longstreet, a physical education teacher at DMS for the past 18 years, was recently honored with a Leadership in Educational Excellence Award.

Longstreet was recognized along with three other Delano staff members at the 26th annual Award and Recognition Ceremony hosted by Resource Training & Solutions on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

Other Delano teachers honored included Ginger Diethart, reading interventionist at DES; third-grade teacher Charlene Warne, and high school social worker Marie Techam.

Dedication stands out

An anonymous nomination submitted to the district's Staff Development Committee



emphasized Longstreet's value.

"Time put in is an understatement with this guy. I'm not really sure if the man sleeps," said the nomination. "He is constantly finding new things to do and try with his PE classes. Gauntlet, Yoshi, Quadrant Three Step, Lacrosse, Tabata workouts – whether it's a new

activity to try or a completely new unit, he makes PE what it is supposed to be: diverse in what's offered, engaging to

'He makes PE what it is supposed to be.'

LEEA nomination

students, and an activity that is fun and something that students see a benefit in doing (for life)."

The nomination also pointed out that Longstreet coaches at the JV level, where mid-level athletes hope to take the next step. In most cases, the nomination said that Longstreet enables them to realize their full potential.

"It is an honor to be nominated by colleagues; however,

I am really just doing my job to the best of my ability every day," Longstreet said. "Physical fitness is an important component to leading a healthy life and I get to be an introductory part of that process for students."

Longstreet said his job is "a lot of fun," and that he enjoys helping students develop skills in leadership and teamwork.

"Jamie Longstreet is a leader in education in a subject that is often looked at last because it isn't a 'core' subject or it's just fun and games," said the nomination. "(But) ... look at what he has done with his students and athletes from beginning to end, and then decide if he helped prepare them for the real world; you won't find many that have done as much."

Voight

from Page 1

the main high school office to access office staff and the administrative team.

Students will also notice changes to the inside of the

building in the coming months. Temporary construction walls and other safety measures will be employed in the halls to isolate students from construction.

Over time, we will be losing access to the middle school commons as a gathering

place and hallway. We will be adjusting our procedures and schedule to accommodate these changes as they arise. A few of our teachers and other service providers within the building will be changing locations as well; they will be sure to communicate with their students

in advance to help with this transition.

Thank you again for your continued support of our learners and for your flexibility and patience as we continue our transformation at DMS.



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

Standout singers earn honors

By Paul Downer
Communications Coord.

Three Delano Middle School choir students will perform with a statewide honor choir later this month.

Seventh-graders Katelin Weber and Bella Molitor, along with eighth-grader Autumn Langdon, have been chosen to sing with the 150-member American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota Select Honors Choir. They will perform at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi on Saturday, Nov. 18, as part of the ACDA state conference for choral directors.

"I'm very pleased for Autumn, Bella and Katelin. They represent the level of excellence we work toward in our choir classes," said middle school choir director Sandy Meyerson. "We have many fine singers, and I know that these three will represent Delano well in the state honors choir. I've observed their hard work



Katelin Weber, Autumn Langdon and Bella Molitor have been selected to perform with a state honors choir.

and dedication to improve at every rehearsal and the joy they take in performing. Their willingness to accept challenging repertoire, set goals for personal excellence, and work

with the choir as a team make them well-prepared for the experience of honor choir."

Each of the students has enjoyed making music as a part of their school experience.

"I enjoy singing immensely," said Langdon, a soprano 2 who has sung in choral groups since fourth grade. "Music is open to interpretation, and you can always improve."

Weber and Molitor said the opportunity to engage the heart is what they enjoyed most as musicians.

"I like singing because you can show emotion," said Weber, a soprano 1.

"I like choir because I can express myself," said Molitor, a soprano 2.

The ACDA of Minnesota organizes six honor choirs per year for students in grades four through 10. More than 2,400 students audition each year for those choirs, and about 800 are selected to participate.

"It's a joy to work with all our fine singers at DMS, and to have our program recognized with the inclusion of three singers in the 2017 honor choir," said Meyerson.

Staying positive, and keys to homework success

By Steve Schauburger
Assistant Principal

Greetings from Delano Middle School! The first trimester is flying by so fast! Our students are doing very well. Every day I see examples of students working hard to do their best.

Despite the construction, I see beautiful student artwork displayed in the halls and smiles on the faces of students, staff and families. Being positive over the course of a school year is a challenge. It is more than just an "attitude." Remaining positive requires practice, coping skills and flexibility.

Thank you for your help in teaching students to adapt to changes and how to cope when something doesn't go as planned. As a staff, we work hard to have positive dialogues with students and families. Our



goal is to listen first in order to understand.

Homework

Middle school is a time to adjust to the steep learning curve for homework. We highly recommend setting effective routines, habits and expectations to help students achieve their goals and reach their

learning standards. Please consider your plan. An effective routine is for your student to write their homework assignments in a planner of some sort. Check the teachers' websites for additional information and calendar details.

Next, set aside the same time in the afternoon or evening to complete homework. Choose the same comfortable (and well-lighted) place in your home for your student to complete work. Finally, trust but verify with your student that he/she has their homework completed by having them share the details with you.

Middle school is the time to start tilting the balance to the student to be more independent and accountable for his/her own homework habits. It is a gradual process. Celebrate and reward for a job well done!

Finally, we offer homework

help for all students after school (3-4:30 p.m.) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. A staff member supervises the students in the fifth-grade commons computer lab. Students are expected to sign in and sign out. If they leave the homework help area, they must remain in the middle school commons and wait quietly for their ride at Door 8.

However, these waiting locations will most likely change to the new front entrance of the high school near Thanksgiving as we begin to close down the middle school office entrance. Please look for these updates as they occur.

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

Students step up for safety

By Paul Downer
Communications Coord.

Two Delano Middle School students have taken it upon themselves to help promote safety for pedestrians on the Delano Public Schools campus.

Justin and Kyra Machakaire, a brother and sister in grades seven and six, respectively, now don traffic vests and wield a "School Stop Patrol" flag as crossing guards almost every morning and afternoon at the entrance to the bus parking lot on the north side of the high school-middle school building.

"Unless we're sick or have something else we have to do, we're pretty much there every day," said Justin.

That includes bad weather days. On Friday, Nov. 3, the Machakaire siblings took their 15- to 20-minute afternoon shift amidst heavy snow and a wintry breeze.

"We want to get more kids doing this, because if there are days that me and my sister absolutely can't do it, then we need other people to step in and take that day and help out," said Justin. "Who knows, the day we're not there an accident could happen."

DMS Principal Barry Voight explained that the crosswalk that leads from the school up the hill toward the elementary and a large student parking area needs more attention this year than most, because while buses formerly entered there and then exited the other direction around the school, construction this year means that buses are both entering and exiting, along with private vehicles.

"We needed to really focus on student safety there this year," Voight said. "We've always had somebody at the intersection at the end of the day, but never in the morning before school. With more students parking at the top of the hill, there is a greater need to control traffic and students."



Volunteer Kyra Machakaire helps ensure safety for classmates on Friday, Nov. 3.



Kyra and Justin Machakaire hope to expand the number of student crossing guards.

Though the middle school has not used student crossing guards in the past, Voight said the Machakaire siblings approached him early in the school year for permission to take up the task. They explained that the idea came from their summer participation in Legionville, where they were trained as crossing guards and also picked up other skills in water safety, canoe safety, first aid and more.

"The most impressive part is that they're the ones that sought us out, and it's always nice to see kids that want to

help out and make a difference and volunteer their time," said Voight. "It was entirely their own initiative that led to this. Had they not come to see me we would have been managing traffic in that intersection all year long without some additional help, just trying to piece together staff to get it done. So they provide some consistency, that's for sure. We're grateful for their service."

District administrators provided some additional training specific to the intersection – giving instructions on where

to stand and pointing out that buses have the right-of-way rather than pedestrians, for example. There is often a staff member present also, though Voight pointed out that the students can actually be more consistent at times because they aren't subject to meetings, parent phone calls and other demands on a teacher's time.

Both Justin and Kyra said they hope more students will get involved so additional crosswalks around campus can be covered.

"We've tried to get a couple of other kids to join. There have been a few who seemed interested, so I've been trying to encourage them," said Kyra. "It's only one crosswalk that we're doing. We'd like to cover all the crosswalks."

Voight said any interested students could visit him to talk about the opportunity and get connected to training.

"The staff and I have talked about that too, because there are certainly more intersections that could use crossing guards up and down Tiger Drive," he said. "There might be opportunities to grow."

Sweet cookie dough success

Delano Middle School wishes to thank everyone who participated in the cookie dough fundraiser this year, particularly the students and families who sold the cookie dough.

The fundraiser netted about \$19,500 for Delano Middle School, surpassing last year's total funds raised by nearly \$2,500.

Volunteers, both students and adults, distributed 2,194 boxes of cookie dough. That was an increase of 82 boxes over last year's total of 2,112.

Delano Middle School truly appreciates your dedication and support!



Citizens of the Month

Citizens of the Month students for the month of September were recently announced. These students took being positive, prepared and academically driven to the next level. Citizens of the Month included, front from left, fifth-graders Jake Schultz and Annela Zaun, and sixth-graders Katelyn Snidarich and Carson Stone. In the back row, from left, are eighth-graders Brynn Strube and Jacob Noor, and seventh-graders Sydney Kazin and John Otto.

Announcements

All welcome to Vets Day event

The Delano community is invited out to the Tiger Activity Center at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 10, for the annual Veterans Day program.

Dr. Timothy Roth, a 2001 DHS graduate and member of the Navy from 2006-15 who also graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 2010, will be the keynote speaker.

In addition, winners of the American Legion's scholarship essays will read their work and be recognized, and the VFW Post Patriot's Pen essay winner will also be recognized.

Bus transportation from the American Legion at 240 Babcock Blvd. W. will be provided at 8:45 a.m., and all are welcome to attend.

Join the wellness committee

Delano Public Schools is seeking parents and community members to participate in a district-wide wellness committee.

The committee will identify general goals, evaluate current efforts and more during two meetings per year, one in early December and another in April.

Three areas of focus will be nutritional education for students and staff, physical activity programming for students and staff, and student/family wellness.

Delano Middle School Assistant Principal Steve Schauburger is the district wellness coordinator. He would like the committee to

include parents or community members, students, and a variety of staff members, including food service personnel, health and physical education staff, social workers, teachers and administrators.

Clothing drive for veterans

Delano Public Schools is conducting a clothing drive for veterans in need. The drive began on Monday, Oct. 23, and will end on Friday, Nov. 10. All donated items must be newly purchased. Previously worn items will not be accepted.

The donated clothing will be given to the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs Hospital to assist with veterans' needs. These veterans, many of whom are homeless at admission, typically are hospitalized for 60 to 80 days.

When they are well enough for discharge, the hospital staff works to ensure that their basic needs are met. Please consider donating one of the following items:

For men: Socks, boxers, undershirts, T-shirts, sweatpants or sweatshirts, jeans (waist 28-32, length 30-34), winter boots, flip flops, slippers with rubber bottoms.

For women: Socks, underwear, pajamas, shirts, sweatpants, jeans of any size, winter boots, flip flops, slippers with rubber bottoms.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, collected funds will be used to purchase winter coats, hats and gloves. Make your check payable to Delano Public Schools, and note Veterans Clothing Drive in the memo.

Art boosts community spirit

By Paul Downer
Communications Coord.

The artistic talents of Delano Middle School seventh-graders will be visible around the streets of Delano next year, as a unique partnership continues with the city.

Out of 69 students in Laura Holland's first-trimester art class, designs from 18 students were chosen by a group of anonymous staff members for conversion to light pole banners. All of Holland's students then worked in teams of four to finish painting the banners before the end of October.

'It gives them a sense of pride and ownership of pride and ownership here to do their best work.'

Laura Holland
Art instructor

"The banners are a lot of fun and the kids enjoy making them for sure," said Holland, who is in her fourth year at Delano. "The kids look forward to this."

The partnership with the city to display student-designed and painted banners began years ago. Banners are hung around downtown, on the highway bridge and in other locations for one to three years, with older student banners coming down at the end of each school year to make room for the new designs.

This year students were encouraged to create their banners with the themes of kindness or safety, but were not limited to those subjects. All 69 students created a design that uses specific techniques, and finalists were chosen for the painted banners based on quality and variety.

"It's going to be fun being around town, seeing my banner and saying, 'Hey, I made



From left, Nadia Slavek, Samantha Krampf and Ruby Taylor-Keller show their design plans.



From left, Julian Maeder, designer Lily Balsiger and Riley Geiser display their banner, which will be hung on a light pole next summer.

that. That one is mine," said Nadia Slavek, one of the design winners whose banner featured the fireside offering of a hot drink amidst snow-capped pines.

Another winner, Samantha Krampf, said staff members had plenty of good options to choose from.

"I was not expecting mine to get chosen because I saw a lot of other projects and I thought they were really good," she said. Her design (shown on Page 1) featured a pair of ice skaters, one giving the other a hand up after a spill.

Working as a team

After the 18 final designs were chosen, students were split into four-person teams for the painting process. Ruby Taylor, another winner, said that input from other students improved the final product.

"The others changed it and made it look better," she said.

Slavek agreed.

"There were a lot more ideas from working with a group. I actually liked how it turned out more than if I had just painted it myself," she said.

Teamwork and cooperation were keys to the project.

"You want to go with your plan, but the group has other ideas and you need to be

able to work with those too," said Krampf.

The banners are made of a plastic-type canvas, and student used four coats of acrylic paint to bring their designs to life. Getting the details right was difficult, and the process took patience.

"If you made a mistake on one day you couldn't just fix it right away. You had to wait for the paint to dry," said Slavek.

Holland worked with the students on their technique, making sure no brushstrokes were visible unless that was an intentional technique, and at the end of the year she will lacquer coat the paintings to make them weatherproof for as long as they are publicly displayed.

"This is a good project," said Holland. "It gives them a sense of pride and ownership and responsibility in here to do their best work."

Designers selected

Aside from Slavek, Krampf and Taylor-Keller, the other students whose designs were chosen included Abby Menk, Trevor Narlock, Adelle Persian, Parker Sjomeling, Brielle Wuolett, Jonathan Kivisto, Meghan Erwin, Ava Peterson, Lauren Scanlon, Danielle Green, Josh Groff, Brynlee Watkins, Lily Balsiger, Peyton Snetsinger and Jade Wissbroecker.