

TIGER TRACKS

Delano Middle School Newsletter



October 2017



Sixth-graders in Teresa Campbell's class learned about the importance of a story's setting with a unique drawing project. See page 4.

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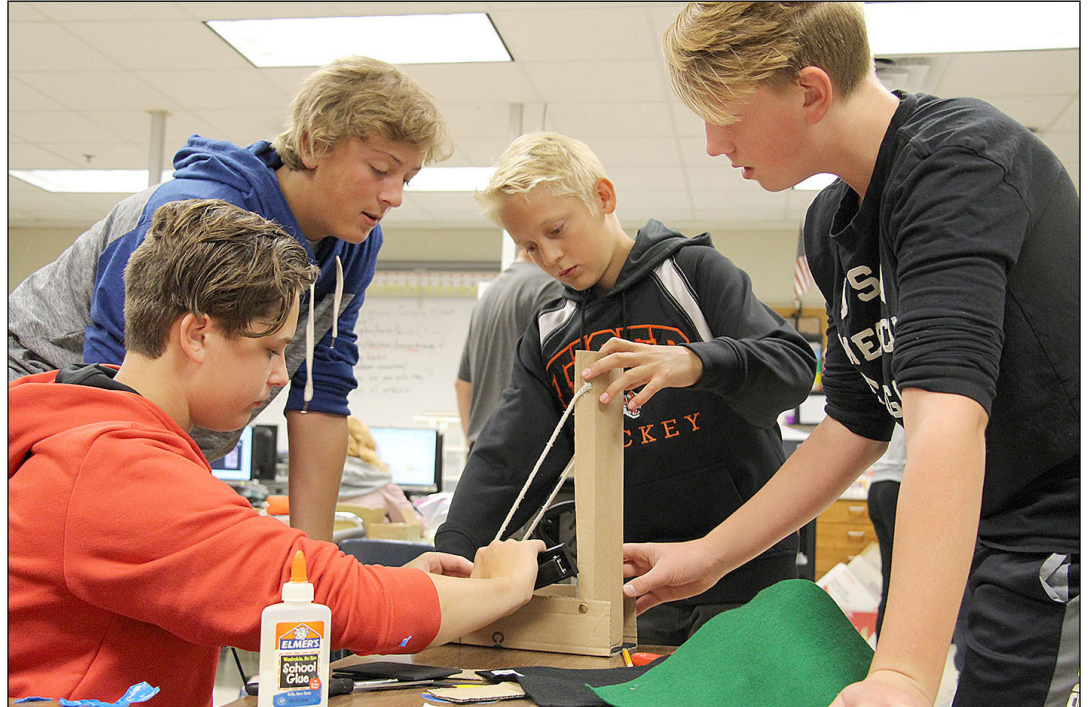
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Volunteering options

Dates to remember

October

- 11.....Picture re-takes, 8 a.m.
- 16.....Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- 19-20.....MEA break, no school
- 23.....Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- 23.....Cookie dough pickup, 3-6 p.m.



Young engineers

From left, Thomas Laskey, Colin Lommel, Craig Halonen and Adam Johnson construct a foot orthosis to aid people with cerebral palsy in Tory Spanier's Project Lead The Way course titled Design and Modeling. See Page 3 for more on the project.

Proficiency on the rise

By Barry Voight
Principal

I am proud to report that during the 2016-17 school year we added to the proud tradition of academic excellence at Delano Middle School.

A total of 81.3 percent of DMS students demonstrated proficiency on the 2017 Reading MCA-III. In addition, 84.2 percent of DMS students demonstrated proficiency on the 2017 Math MCA-III.

These performances by our students and staff are the highest proficiency rates since the implementation of the most



recent version of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment. More importantly, over 83 per-

cent of students in math and 80 percent of students in reading demonstrated average or high growth in their performance from the previous year.

The results on the Science MCA-III are also admirable. Our rate of 67.7 percent proficiency is over 12 points higher than the state average.

Overcoming obstacles

Continuing this tradition of excellence will be a little more challenging this year. With construction ongoing

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inside the middle school/high school, we are challenged to stay patient and flexible during our pursuit of excellence in education through a rigorous curriculum and increasing student engagement.

We have already experienced trials in the early weeks of the school year. Internet outages, HVAC troubles and more have tested our resolve already. Some of these obstacles have been construction-related and some have not. Nevertheless, our students and staff have tackled these obstacles head on with positivity and cooperation.

We thank all of you for your patience during these inconvenient times. Major changes will begin to occur in November. We expect that the main entrance to the high school will open in the middle of November. At that time, the middle school office will be shut down and relocated to newly vacated spaces within the building. We will be sure to send out information to students and parents as it becomes available. We will also be shutting down the middle school commons at some point this fall.

Beyond grades

In addition to the academic excellence we continually strive for, and the continued transition due to construction, our Site Based Leadership Team is embarking upon the implementation of strategies to improve the social-emotional development of our students.

A positive school climate is essential to promote holistic learning opportunities for our students. During the first week of school students were introduced to our school's expectations and shown a unique video about "doing the little things." I also invite you to participate in our efforts. View the video at <https://youtu.be/vIW2HFgnIA>. After watching the video ask, "What is my dollar? Who is my Larry?"



New staff at DMS

Delano Middle School welcomed a few new staff members in August. They are, from left: Tina Prior (nurse), Kristina Hougum (math), Kristy Klaphake (SLD), Teresa Campbell (sixth grade) and Sara Potter (sixth grade).

Healthy habits for success

By Steve Schaubberger
Assistant Principal

Greetings from Delano Middle School! The weather will soon start to turn cold and wet. We look forward to helping keep our students healthy, warm and safe.

Please remember to help dress your student for the weather. All middle school-age students need to have a dry hat, coat, gloves/mittens and boots.

Please help our students establish those good habits and routines (nutrition, sleep, life balance) each evening and morning before school.

Also, please plan ahead for inclement weather by leaving earlier in the morning to accommodate for the traffic around the school reconstruction.



Attendance

Regarding school attendance during the cold and flu season, it is very important to work as a team.

Please report absences to the school as soon as possible and call our school nurse, Tina Prior, if you have any ques-

tions or doubts about sending your student to school.

Of course we do not recommend that students with a high fever or with severe flu (or who have vomited) attend school. However, a proactive goal should be to prevent two-day absences from becoming four-day absences if at all possible.

Also, please try to schedule family vacations and events around the school calendar so as to maximize student learning and contact time.

Finally, let's work as a team to communicate the importance of excellent school attendance and its impact on student achievement.

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

An introduction to engineering

By Paul Downer
Communications Coord.

A unique course at Delano Middle School is introducing students to engineering and challenging them to learn in new ways.

In September, members of Tory Spanier's Design and Modeling class were given the task of crafting a foot orthosis to help people with cerebral palsy.

"It's been fun to try something new and see what you can create," said eighth-grader Ethan Unrein.

The Project Lead the Way program focuses on science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM subjects. Spanier said that projects typically encompass an engineering branch, biomedical branch or computer science.

Design process

In this case, students were challenged to build a foot orthosis just days after school began, and later were introduced to an established design process.

"We throw that first project at them, have them design something to get their feet wet, and then afterward you step through each of the different phases of the design process and share more detail about how to use it," said Spanier. "So Design and Modeling is about



Cole Koets, left, and Bradyn Addicks prepare to test their model.

trying to add another problem-solving method to their tool belt. We ask them how their process could have been better if they had used this process."

The sequence includes everything from defining the problem and generating concepts to creating sketches and engineering drawings. Later steps include building a model prototype, testing it, modifying it and ultimately reaching the optimal solution. Students work together in teams, which also challenges them to build collaborative skills.

"It can be quite frustrating because there are lots of different ideas and a lot of them

best solution, but it can also be really hard."

To help eliminate individual bias in favor of any given idea, students are introduced to a concept called the decision ma-

'It's been fun to try something new and see what you can create.'

Ethan Unrein

trix. The matrix helps students evaluate each concept based on things like cost, materials needed and difficulty, and provides a tool for ranking the concepts after that evaluation.

Whether or not students maintain an interest in the engineering field going forward, Spanier said there is value in the course for all participants.

"Maybe they won't choose a career in engineering, but at the basic level there is a problem-solving approach they can take out of it, or maybe it makes them a better consumer to understand how things are made and why things are made that way," said Spanier. "It helps them understand that engineering is involved in everything they see and touch and do in their lives."



Garrett Lokken, left, and Lauren Goemer construct a prototype.

don't work," said eighth-grader Cole Koets. "Learning how to work together gives you the



Mapping new terrain

Gerrit van Bergen's science students recently created topographical 3D models. Each group drew their own map, then cut the map out and transferred it to cardboard sheets to show elevation. They were required to include two peaks, one crater, one river and an ocean. Brian Allison's classes also did a similar project using topography to create a paper map of elevation changes.

The setting makes the story

By Paul Downer
Communications Coord.

Sixth-graders in Teresa Campbell's reading classes have been studying the various elements of a story, and they recently worked through a unique project that helped them appreciate the importance of a story's setting.

"We have discussed how the tone or mood of a story can/does change when the setting has been changed," said Campbell. "We have evaluated setting images and familiar stories."

To complete the lesson, students worked in groups to create a picture that took a familiar story but placed it in a new setting. Combinations that students came up with included David and Goliath at school, Cinderella with dinosaurs, and Harry Potter at the beach.

Campbell said the goal was for someone viewing the picture to understand the scene's impact on the five senses, and also describe how the mood or tone might have changed from the original story.

"My students have jumped into this project with enthusiasm," said Campbell shortly before the unit ended. "Their pictures are really looking great. They have also demonstrated team work, collaboration, and true enjoyment in learning."



From left, Hannah Lehrke, Ben Kelly and Sylvester Crawford work on their poster.



Easton Vaughn, Shelby Brouwer, Sidney Schmit and Boston Pryde display their work. At right, Audrey Belt and Alexis Lange enjoy their project.



Announcements

Artists on display at the library

Artists from Delano Middle School have their work on display at the Delano library through the month of October.

The library is hosting its 32nd annual Art Show from 1 to 6 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6-7.

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 in the program and earn extra funding for schools.

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, #ease, 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.

Fall Play



‘Disney’s Mulan Jr.’

Nearly 70 students overcame obstacles resulting from summer construction to put on their fall play, ‘Disney’s Mulan Jr.’ Sept. 14-17. ‘Kids in drama learn to be team players,’ said director Barb Roy. ‘They learn to be responsible. They learn to stretch their imaginations and creativity.’

Photos courtesy of the Delano Drama Boosters



Kindness in Chalk



Delano students of all ages participated in the first district-wide Kindness in Chalk event on Wednesday, Oct. 4. Staff members also took part in covering the sidewalks around campus and a portion of the community with positive messages.

Support the Tigers through DMS PIE

Delano Middle School Partners In Education (DMS PIE) is a volunteer organization of parents and staff committed to enhancing students' education and the overall school environment. DMS PIE facilitates fundraising efforts that help finance special events throughout the year, which ultimately benefits students, the school and staff.

DMS PIE is active with various events, including the cookie dough fundraiser at



the beginning of the school year. This year the group is also holding a pledge drive

for those who are not interested in cookie dough but who would still like to contribute. Funds that are raised will help cover the cost of technology and enrichment opportunities for all students.

Any community members with an interest in DMS are encouraged to attend PIE meetings, which generally take place the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the school.

Volunteer to make a difference

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 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 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.

Elementary School

Battle of the Books _____
 Book Fair _____
 Classroom Helper _____
 Teacher/s name _____
 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

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

After School Snack Program _____
 Box Tops for Education _____
 Cafeteria Friendly Presence _____
 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 _____
 (e.g. profession, hobbies, travel, languages) _____
 Volunteer On Call _____
 Youth As Resources Board Member _____



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