

TIGER TRACKS

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



April 2019



Several History Day projects have advanced to state. See Page 2.

At a glance

Page 2

Students of the Month
History Day to state
Math tutors needed

Page 3

Kindness project
Testing dates

Page 4

Track and Field dates
Sign up for band

Page 5

Math Masters
April Menu

Page 6

High School Musical

Page 7

Prioritization, planning

Page 8

Announcements

Dates to remember

April

15.....IS PIE, 6 p.m.
16.....Testing begins, see Page 3
19.....No school, holiday break
22.....Make-up day, school in session
22.....School board mtg., 7 p.m.
26-27.....DHS musical, 7 p.m.



Kindness in a bag

Sixth-graders Noah Gunia and Maia Timonen pack personal care bags on Tuesday, March 26. The entire grade level worked together to provide useful items for those in need as part of an emphasis on kindness. See Page 3 for more.

MCA season has arrived

By Barry Voight
Principal

Dear DIS families,
As we move into the spring season at school, DIS staff begin planning for our students to take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs).

It is likely that every member of our community has a different opinion on the value of the MCAs as a measure of student/school progress.

I'm taking this opportunity to share mine, and to encourage all of our students to do



Barry Voight

their very best during this assessment season.

Not the full picture

First, let me say that MCA results are not the most important aspect of our work at Delano Intermediate School. It is easy for all of us to become short-sighted in the presence of our scores and miss the big picture.

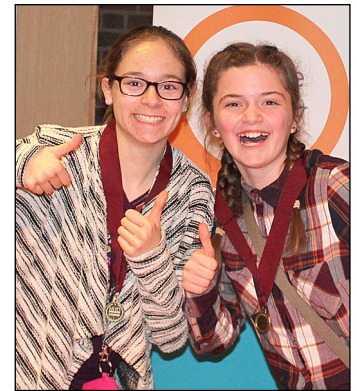
While the MCAs do provide us with one perspective about how our students are performing relative to grade level benchmarks in the areas of

See Voight
Page 3



Students of the Month

Delano Intermediate School recently named its Students of the Month for February. These students stood out because they were on time, prepared, respectful, took pride in their work, had good attendance and good grades, and went above and beyond what was expected. Those honored included fourth-graders Brita Fredrickson and Lincoln Hargarten, fifth-graders Haley Sims and Max Mauch, and sixth-graders Kendall Kraus and Grant Forliti.



Anneka Zaun and Clara Lawrence are headed to state History Day.

History projects to state

Three projects by sixth-grade students are moving on to the state level in the History Day competition.

In the website category, Kaitlyn Pink, Sophia Grant and Grace Ulberg advanced with their Billie Jean King project.

In addition, Clara Lawrence and Anneka Zaun advanced in

See History
Page 5

Math tutors sought for 2019-20 at DIS

Delano Intermediate School is looking for math tutors to assist students during the 2019-20 school year.

In Minnesota, less than 60 percent of eighth-graders are proficient in math. You can make a difference by giving your time and talent to help students build their skills and confidence!

Tutors work with pairs of students during school hours throughout the school year. No matter if you're a recent grad, career changer, stay-at-home parent or retiree, you can make a great tutor.

No experience? No problem. Tutors receive great training, so they are well equipped to help



students grow.

Part-time and full-time positions are available. Tutors commit to serving 35, 25, or 18 hours a week throughout the school year. Opportunities begin in August 2019.

Perks for tutors

- Build your skills, network, and resume.
- Receive a paid stipend every two weeks.
- Earn up to \$4,200 for college tuition or student loans. Tutors 55 and older may gift

In Minnesota, less than 60 percent of eighth-graders are proficient in math.

the award to their child, grandchild, stepchild or foster child.

• Free health insurance and child care assistance for those who qualify.

Ready to be the change for struggling students? Learn more at ReadingAndMath.net.

Questions can be sent to join@servetogrow.org, or call 866.859.2825.

Sixth-graders focus on kindness

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Over the past month, sixth-graders at Delano Intermediate School have put an emphasis on developing kindness at the school, community and regional level.

‘We want to teach simply how to give back.’

Tammy Wermager

That focus culminated in the preparation of personal care bags on Tuesday, March 26, that will be distributed to those in need.

“We hope to instill awareness of others outside of Delano and continued empathy for those who are not like us,” said sixth-grade teacher Tammy Wermager. “We talked to the students on how one small act can make a bigger difference. We want to teach simply how



Winners of the kindness essay contest were, from left, Jaidyn Workman (third place), Brynn Spanier (first place) and Amelia Frailey (second place).

to give back.”

Each of the sixth-grade classrooms was assigned a certain item to contribute to the care bags. Items included water bottles, socks, chapstick, gums/mints, toothpaste and toothbrush, deodorant, hand sanitizer, hand wipes, granola bars and other hygiene materials.

“Our great students and their generous families donated the items,” said Wermager, adding that the grade level teachers also contributed certain items to the collection.

A majority of the bags will go to First Covenant Church in Minneapolis, which also serves as a homeless shelter.

Wermager volunteers there on a monthly basis along with a handful of others, and those individuals will also keep a few bags in their cars to hand out as needed.

Aside from the Kindness in Chalk and Rock Your Socks

**See Kindness
Page 7**

Voight

from Page 1

reading, math and science, it overshadows the depth and breadth of the valuable learning that occurs within these walls.

The MCAs don't necessarily report on our students' ability to think critically, solve conflicts, manage executive functioning skills, or collaborate effectively with their peers. These are all areas that are essential for developing healthy, contributing members of our future society beyond academic proficiency. These are skills and attributes that our staff at DIS value and work to develop on a daily basis.

Valuable information

With that said, I do believe that MCAs are important so long as we frame the scores in the correct context. While the MCAs are not able to provide us with highly detailed information about student proficiency relative to every single standard addressed in reading and math classes, it does provide us with the best standardized and norm-referenced measure for student proficiency.

DIS testing schedule

April 16: Grade 5 Science
April 23-24: Grade 4-5 Reading
April 25: Grade 6 Reading
April 30/May 1: Grade 4-5 Math
May 2: Grade 6 Math

As our staff teams analyze MCA data, in concert with other metrics and classroom information, it allows us to make instructional decisions on how to best support our students' academic growth. The key piece here is that the MCA score a student receives is just one of many data points that inform our decision making.

School effectiveness

While the MCA is a benefit for individual students, it is, perhaps, more beneficial as a schoolwide effectiveness measure. Analysis of MCA trends among our students helps us to identify gaps in our curriculum. Understanding these gaps helps us to improve our programming so that we can systematically improve the level of support for all of our learners.

Students need support

With that said, I'm hoping that all of our parents work with the school staff to encourage and support our students during this testing season. We don't want students to be paralyzed with anxiety heading into the MCAs. We certainly can reinforce that one MCA test is not going to make or break a student's educational career.

It is our goal that students simply do their best; truly, that is all that we can ever ask of our students. Our staff will be reinforcing this by encouraging them to take their time, check their answers, and other strategies that are always good practices for producing quality work.

Parents can help by making sure their students are well rested and eat a healthy breakfast, and by reinforcing the importance of giving their best effort. It is also very helpful to make sure your students are present at school on their scheduled testing days.

As always, please let me know if you have questions regarding MCA testing or any other aspect of DIS programming.

Save the track dates

Families are encouraged to save the following dates for the DIS track and field days. Fourth-graders will enjoy their track day from 8 to 11 a.m. on Monday, May 20. Fifth grade will follow the same day from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sixth-graders will run from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 21. Spectators are welcome, and volunteer opportunities are available. Contact volcoord@delanoschools.org for information.



Time to consider signing up for band

By Mike Dailey
Band Director

Students interested in joining band in fifth grade, and their families, should keep the upcoming activities in mind.

End of April/early May

All fourth-graders will see a band instrument demonstration. At this demonstration they will see the various musical instruments that are options for them to play next year in band.

After the demonstration, each student will have a sign-up sheet on which they can indicate their top two choices of instrument if they participate in band.

May 9-10

Students will test instruments during school. The students will bring the form they filled out during the demonstration and have the opportunity to test their top two (or possibly more) choices. Eckroth music will have professionals there to see where the students' strengths are and to guide them to the best instrument choice for them.

Percussion

We start a maximum of six percussion students each year. I will evaluate any student that wants to be in percussion after



Students should consider whether or not they would like to be in band, and take part in preparatory activities in the coming weeks. Above, new band students participate in the free band camp last August.

school on Thursday or Friday, May 9-10, or Monday, May 13. The evaluations will take five to 10 minutes per student.

I will do the evaluations on a first-come first-serve basis starting at 3:15 p.m. each day in the intermediate school music room. We would like percussion students to have two years of formal piano lessons to help play the mallet instruments.

The evaluations will consist of rhythm reading, rhythm matching, tempo matching, note naming, a bell piece and a major scale. All materials will be provided. Please email me what day your student is

planning to try out at mike.dailey@delanoschools.org.

Sign-up night

Wednesday, May 15, is the official sign-up night for the fifth-grade band of 2019-20! I will have two brief informational parent meetings in the intermediate school music room. The meetings will be at 4:30 and 6 p.m.

After the meeting you can sign your child up for band and, if needed, rent an instrument and/or buy supplies from Eckroth Music.

Signing up for band is, of course, optional. All students wishing to join the band must

have an instrument that works well. To facilitate this, Eckroth Music will rent instruments and will also have someone at the sign-up night who can inspect an instrument you may already have.

What students need

All students participating in band will need a quality working instrument, lesson book ("Traditions of Excellence Book 1"), oils or cleaning supplies for their instrument and a music stand.

Percussionists will need one additional book: "Alfred Drum Method Book 1."

Free band camp

A free band camp is scheduled for Aug. 19-22 in the intermediate school music room. Sections will meet together Monday through Thursday each day to learn all of the basics and to get started before the first day of school.

- Flutes and oboes (8-8:45 a.m.), clarinets (8:45-9:30), saxophones (9:30-10:15), trumpets and French horns (10:15-11), trombones and baritones (11:15-noon) and percussion (noon to 12:45 p.m.)

Please add the camp dates to your calendar and make every effort to get your students there. This camp is a huge advantage for the students that attend!



Regional winners

The sixth-grade Math Master teams dominated the regional competition last month, placing first, second and fourth. Delano also won multiple individual awards in the problem solving category and individual fact drill. Delano White took first, Delano Blue was second and Delano Red was fourth. Duncan Truax took first place overall in the individual category.



Kaitlyn Pink, Sophia Grant and Grace Ulberg show their website on Billie Jean King at the local competition.

History

from Page 2

their performance about "The Blizzard of 1888."

Another performance by Fayte Saxowsky and Isabella Cocoluto on "The Salem Witch Trial" also moved on to state.



Fayte Saxowsky and Isabella Cocoluto.

LUNCH				
APRIL 2019				
Delano Intermediate School				
Delano Intermediate School \$2.90				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Crispy Chicken Wrap Lettuce Salad toppings Pineapple	French Toast Sticks Sausage Tritater Steamed Broccoli OJ Cup	Hamburger Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Baby Carrots Fruit Cocktail	Cheese Ravioli Garlic Breadstick California Blend Vegetables Lettuce Salad Applesauce	Cheese Quesadilla Corn / Salsa Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit Sherbet Cup
Hot Dog A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baked Beans Baby Carrots Rosy Applesauce	Chicken Gravy A)Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes / Peas Lettuce Salad / Roll Baked Apple Slices	Chicken Nuggets Tritater Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail	Pizza Cheese / Pepperoni Corn Lettuce Salad Pears	Tacos-Chicken/soft shell A)Fish Sandwich Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Frosted Graham Cracker Fresh Fruit
Popcorn Chicken Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple	Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	Italian Dunkers Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	Chicken Patty – Bun A)PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Lettuce / Crackers / Veggies Peaches	No School Holiday
Nachos – Beef / Cheese Lettuce / Onions / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit	Cinnamon Roll Cheese Omelet Steamed Broccoli Tritater Orange Wedges Apple Juice Cup	Spaghetti – Meatballs Garlic Bread Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	Chicken Nuggets Tritater Corn Veggies Fruit Cocktail	Hamburger A)BBQ Pork Sandwich Waffle Fries Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Orange Wedges
Domino's Pizza Cheese / Pepperoni Green Beans Lettuce Pears	Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes Country Gravy / Carrots Lettuce Salad Roll Orange Wedges			

DELANO DRAMA PRESENTS:

Disney's

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL ON STAGE



at the
**DELANO
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER**

Students
\$5
Adults
\$7

**APR
26**

7PM

**APR
27**

7PM

**MAY
2**

7PM

**MAY
3**

7PM

**MAY
4**

1PM

Tickets available online at: **delano.k12.mn.us**



Students write kind notes to include with the personal care bags. The notes added a personal dimension to the support effort and gave students an opportunity to express kindness in words as well as actions.

Kindness

from Page 3

events, and some mini activities in the life skills class, Wermager said kindness has not previously been the focus of a grade-wide effort.

"However, we pride ourselves on the daily modeling we do to show kindness," she said. "I know each class talks and models kindness as the students come in for the class and leave their class. We set

high kindness expectations, and students are able to witness their teachers showing kindness in various ways. This is a fantastic group of students."

Essay

In addition to the care bags, all DIS students in grades four through six had the opportunity to participate in a new kindness essay contest put on by the Lions Club and United Way.

Fifth-grader Brynn Spanier took first place and received a \$50 blank check to designate

to her favorite local non-profit organization – the sponsoring organizations' way of paying kindness forward to other groups.

"Kindness can not only change you, but can also change the people around you," wrote Spanier in her essay, adding that "if you do something kind every day it makes you calmer, healthier and happier."

Sixth-grader Amelia Frailey took second place, and fifth-grader Jaidyn Workman took third. Both received \$25

blank checks to donate to organizations of their choice.

"Kindness isn't something you do for money. It's not for what you get in return," said Frailey in her essay. "It is something you do out of the heart."

Workman specifically thanked the school janitors, nurses and teachers for their efforts on behalf of students.

"You should always choose kind. (Their examples are) why we have such great kindness in Delano," she said.

Executive Functioning Skills

Developing prioritization and planning

The executive functioning skill of planning/prioritization encompasses the ability to create a roadmap to reach a goal or complete a task.

It also involves being able to make decisions about what is important to focus on and what is not important.

How can the skill of planning/prioritization be developed at home and in the classroom?

'I do, we do, you do'

Similar to all generic instructional strategies, the development of this skill is aided by the "I do, we do, you do" model. This model is effective for adolescents who are developing their pre-frontal cortexes, and you'll notice that this cycle of "I do, we do, you do" occurs over years.

The model means that for very young students, you will do the planning and prioritizing for your student and help

them to follow through on those plans.

As students begin to enter grades four through six, the planning and prioritizing can be a shared effort. This is especially true for larger tasks. Intermediate students may be able to plan and prioritize simple tasks in a short list.

As students get into high school, they can be more independent in the planning stages and for larger projects. Teachers and parents can assist with these strategies by providing visual cues and prompts. Chores, homework assignments, projects, family trips, etc. all provide excellent opportunities for students to develop these skills. The following tips, prompts and questions can help:

- For younger students, break long task lists into shorter, manageable chunks. Introduce the next list after the initial list is effectively completed.

- Walk through the planning process (use a template).

- Have them apply a plan to a simple task and gradually prompt to do more of the planning themselves.

- Ask questions to get your child to prioritize. (What do you need? What should you do first?)

- You've got three things you have to do for homework tonight. What's your plan?

- Wow! You followed your plan. Did it help to think about the steps before you started?

- Can you think of any time you use planning for something you want to do? (Examples: saving money for something, playing a video game like Minecraft). What happens if you don't plan well?

- For more resources on executive functioning skills, visit the DIS collection at bit.ly/EFSatDIS.

Announcements

Reduce stress, optimize health

Caring deeply for your child or youth with disabilities can be stressful, and that stress can impact your health and well-being.

The PACER Center (8161 Normandale Blvd. Minneapolis) will host a guided lesson for parents, caregivers and professionals featuring L. Read Sulik, a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist, on two dates in April. The first session is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, and the second is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, April 29. Register online at <http://bit.ly/SulikPACER>.



L. Read Sulik

Sometimes the best thing you can do for the children you care about is to take better care of yourself. Learn how to use scientifically proven techniques to reduce your stress and start a journey to optimize your health and well-being.

Weather make-up days

After extreme weather resulted in the cancellation of four school days earlier this year, make-up days will be in effect. Dates when school was canceled due to weather included Jan. 29-31 and Feb. 20.

Make-up days set before the beginning of the school year included Monday, Feb. 18, and Monday, April 22. In addition, two days have been added to the end of the school year, so class will be in session through Thursday, June 6.

Additional days will be added to the end of the school year, if necessary, during the remainder of the year.

A fifth canceled day that will not be made up, due to highly unusual circumstances, is the Feb. 8 closure due to a heating problem in the high school. Staff members did report for work that day.

Food assistance offered

The Sheridan Story is a non-profit organization that provides free food for students over the weekend. Their focus is to help fill in food "gaps" -- the times when children are not at school to access meal programs. Students participating in The Sheridan Story program will receive a bag of food that will be discreetly placed in their locker every Friday before leaving school.

If you are interested in participating in The Sheridan Story program, please fill out the enrollment form at bit.ly/SheridanFood.

If you have further questions about the program or need another permission slip (slips were originally sent home with students on Feb. 19), contact DIS School Social Worker Nicole Gohman at 763.972.7602 ext. 1515 or nicole.gohman@delanoschools.org.

There is no criteria to participate in The Sheridan Story, and all information is kept confidential. For information regarding the Sheridan Story please visit: www.thesheridanstory.org.

County seeking foster families

Wright County is seeking foster families who will allow children experiencing difficult situations to remain in their school.

"We try to keep foster children in their current school district to allow for more stability in their already unstable lives," said Wright County Case Aide Valerie Steele. "We are trying to reach every community to help spread the word about the need of additional foster parents in each Wright County city."

Wright County has a pressing and ongoing need for foster families. All children need a safe home where people will nurture and respect them. Children enter foster care due to significant life factors, often including abuse or neglect. The overall goal of foster care is to provide children with a temporary, stable and caring family setting until they are reunited with their family or until a permanency plan is established for them.

If you would like more information about becoming a foster parent, contact Marisa Ferguson at 763-682-7484 or marisa.ferguson@co.wright.mn.us.

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, 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, visit www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun.



This e-newsletter is published by District Communications Coordinator Paul Downer. Contact Paul at 763.972.3365, x1911, or paul.downer@delanoschools.org.



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