

TIGER TRACKS

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



March 2019



See photos from the fourth-grade concert on Page 4.

At a glance

Page 2

Why make up days?
Sheridan Story
Students of the Month

Page 3

Battle of the Books

Page 4

Fourth-grade concert

Page 5

Jazz Festival
March Menu

Page 6

History Day
MN Student Survey

Page 7

Snowshoe class
Announcements

Page 8

Time management

Dates to remember

March

11-15.....Spring Break
18.....IS PIE, 6 p.m.
18.....School board listening session, 7 p.m.
25.....School board mtg., 7 p.m.
30.....Tiger Fun Fair, noon



Book dynasty

From front to back, Drew Nielsen, Joey Lamecker and Grant Forliti receive their medals and congratulations from classmates after their Battle of the Books victory on Feb. 12. It was the team's unprecedented third victory. See Page 3 for more.

The benefits of homework

By Barry Voight
Principal

Greetings, DIS families. A high quality education provides students the opportunity to explore their whole world within the context of the content standards followed in school.

As a result, students will have homework from time to time during the course of their experience at Delano Intermediate School. Of course, the homework demands placed on our fourth-graders are less



Barry Voight

significant than those placed on our sixth-graders.

Homework tasks are an excellent opportunity for students to develop executive functioning skills as well. With that said, DIS staff members don't want our students' lives to be fully consumed by homework activities.

During the planning stages for DIS, staff and parents serving on the Homework Task Force agreed that students needed to participate in community activities, family

See Voight
Page 8

Food program available

By Nicole Gohman
School Social Worker

Healthy eating is so important for children. At Delano Intermediate School, we have worked hard to ensure students receive a healthy breakfast and lunch each day to support their developing brains and bodies.

Research states that children who eat three meals daily are higher achievers in school and have a lower rate of absenteeism.

We are excited to share a new opportunity to support families at DIS. The Sheridan Story is a free weekend food program that will now be offered to all DIS families. A special thank you to Crow River Church in Delano for partnering with The Sheridan Story in order to allow our families to participate. Participation permission slips went home in your child's backpack on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

The Sheridan Story strives to make a difference in children's lives by focusing on "food gaps" -- the times when the children aren't at school to access meal programs. Students enrolled in the program will receive a bag of nutritious food each week.

Participation in The Sheridan Story Weekend Food Program is completely optional and confidential. Please note that each family is able to receive one bag of food per child who attends DIS. Please complete one green permission slip for each child in your family who attends DIS. Be sure to mark which type of food bag you would like the child to receive.

If you have further questions about the program or need another permission slip, contact DIS School Social Worker Nicole Gohman at 763.972.7602 ext. 1515 or nicole.gohman@delanoschools.org.



Students of the Month

Delano Intermediate School recently named its Students of the Month for January. 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 Taylor Olson and Jackson Jorgenson, fifth-graders Katelyn Daluge and Isaac Miller, and sixth-graders Hailey Vetruba and Jonathan Rogers.

Why make up school days?

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Many parents have wondered why Delano is planning to make up all of its school days canceled due to weather so far.

There has also been some confusion stemming from the governor's announcement that schools do not need to make up days.

So why are make-up days important to Delano Public Schools?

"The district has long maintained the philosophy that every student contact day is vitally important," said Superintendent Matt Schoen. "The instruction our teachers provide to students is the main

reason Delano Public Schools has maintained educational excellence and ranked among the top school districts in the state."

Schoen added that Delano is not content to meet minimum state requirements regarding instruction hours, but will hold itself to a high standard.

"As educators, we all value the time we have with students in our classrooms," he said. "When our activities department cancels a game, there are immediate calls to reschedule it. We should value our academic days in the same way."

One day that will not be made up, due to highly unusual circumstances, is the Feb. 8 closure because of a heating

problem in the high school. Staff members did report for work that day.

"Because this particular day was a very unique situation, the district decided to facilitate an alternative to a student make-up day. However, the district will continue to follow the school board-approved calendar and add student make-up days at the end of the school year due to additional closures, if necessary," said Schoen. "We feel that every day counts to provide a world-class education."

See the Announcements section for more information about scheduled make-up days.



Participants in the finals included, from left, third-place team Luke Logan, Garrett Pennala and Edison Binsfeld; first-place winners Drew Nielsen, Joey Lamecker and Grant Forliti; and second-place team Wyatt Nelson, Joey Taylor and Isaac Duis.

Nielsen, Forliti, Lamecker go out on top

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

A powerhouse team notched a final victory for what has become a Battle of the Books dynasty on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Sixth-graders Drew Nielsen, Grant Forliti and Joey Lamecker finished first out of 49 teams from grades four through six in the DIS competition, riding off into the sunset with the third such win for Nielsen and Lamecker, and the second for Forliti, who joined the other two a year after their first win.

"I really wanted our last year to be a win," said Nielsen, who along with Lamecker took fourth place as third-graders in their first competition, narrowly missing the finals.

They made sure never to come so close, only to fall short, again. But their final year was also the most challenging.

"This year there were more teams, but the teams also seemed to be better than they were before because they got a better percentage of the questions right," said Lamecker. "Plus, the questions were harder than the last year. So this is probably my favorite year to win it, because it's our last and hardest year."

In the roughly 15 years of Battle of the Books competitions, Gifted and Talented Instructor Gwen Briesemeister



The last win was the sweetest because of the difficult questions and strong competitors.

could not remember another group that had won three times.

"It is rare. In fact we have teams that were first place last year that didn't even make it into the semifinals this year, so it's hard to do," Briesemeister said. "They are a standout, and they've won pretty handily too."

The path wasn't easy this year, however, as the team managed to inch through the early rounds by barely passing their opponents.

"We had a losing streak for a little bit in the semifinals and I did not think we were going to make it," said Nielsen.

When the final three teams squared off, however, the trio used quick reflexes to buzz in first and encyclopedic knowledge of the books they had read to create significant separation.

"In the final round we kind of crushed it," said Forliti.

Favorite books

Battle of the Books is intended to encourage reading in a wide variety of genres, and this year's competitions in third grade and grades four through six certainly accomplished that objective.

"Reading is very important, and this is just another way to get kids to read," said Briesemeister. "When you think collectively about how many kids were involved with reading through the Battle of the Books competition, it's phenomenal. It's well over 200 kids, maybe 225. It's at least 25 percent of the populations of those grades."

The first-place winners were unanimous in the choice of their favorite books: "The Un-

wanted," a fantasy tale by Lisa McMann, and "The Boy on the Wooden Box," a Holocaust story with a "Schindler's List" connection by Leon Leyson.

"I liked 'Unwanted' because it's kind of like 'Harry Potter,' and 'Harry Potter' is my favorite book," said Forliti. "And also for 'Boy on the Wooden Box,' the only books I usually read are historical, about World War II."

Lamecker also has a deep interest in World War II history, and said "The Unwanted" was "like 'Harry Potter' meets 'The Hunger Games.'"

Each member of the team read all the books on the reading list, some more than once, so that when questions were posed at competition they could converse and collectively decide on the proper answer.

In the end, the team said that three Battle of the Books victories is a fun legacy to leave.

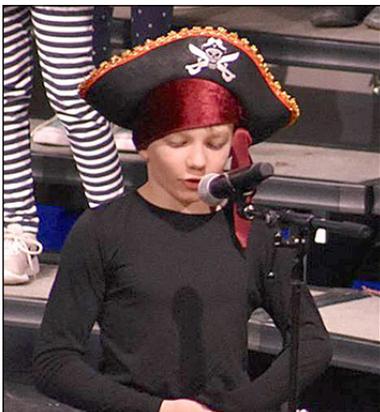
"It's a high record to break," said Nielsen. "You'd have to win every year that you have the chance to win. That would be something."

• The DIS Battle of the Books runners-up were fourth-graders Isaac Duis and Joey Taylor with sixth-grader Wyatt Nelson. Third-place finishers were fifth-graders Luke Logan, Edison Binsfeld and Garrett Pennala.



Show time

It's concert season, and fourth-graders led off a string of upcoming shows with their program, 'Sail Away on a Song,' Tuesday evening, Feb. 26. The seafaring theme was punctuated with percussion, recorders and plenty of actions. Here is a look at the show, which included selections like 'Skye Boat Song,' 'I Pirate I Will Be,' 'Lost at Sea' and more.



Fifth Jazz Festival arrives March 7

Appearances by a variety of jazz bands, and a performance by professional jazz musicians, are slated for the Performing Arts Center Stage Thursday, March 7, at Delano High School.

Delano Public Schools will host its fifth annual Jazz Festival beginning at 9:45 a.m. This is a non-competitive event. The goal is for middle and high school jazz students to see bands from five different schools perform, and to have the chance to work with professional musicians.

The featured group this year is the "JazzMN Orchestra." The ensemble, the Twin Cities' premier professional jazz orchestra, performs a broad range of jazz repertoire spanning classic and contemporary styles, showcasing outstanding jazz musicians from throughout the region and featuring world-class guest artists.

Now 20 years old, the



JazzMN Orchestra will conduct clinics with students during the day, then perform a feature concert at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, in the Performing Arts Center.

JazzMN Orchestra has featured international jazz artists such as Bob Mintzer, Nicholas Payton, Rob McConnell, Gordon Goodwin, Paquito D'Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, Phil Woods, James Moody and Dave Weckl.

JazzMN will provide clinics

during the day and will hold a master class in the afternoon. The day will conclude with a JazzMN concert in the Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.

This will be a high energy concert you don't want to miss! Tickets for the concert are \$10

for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. To purchase tickets in advance, contact Mike Dailey at Delano Intermediate School.

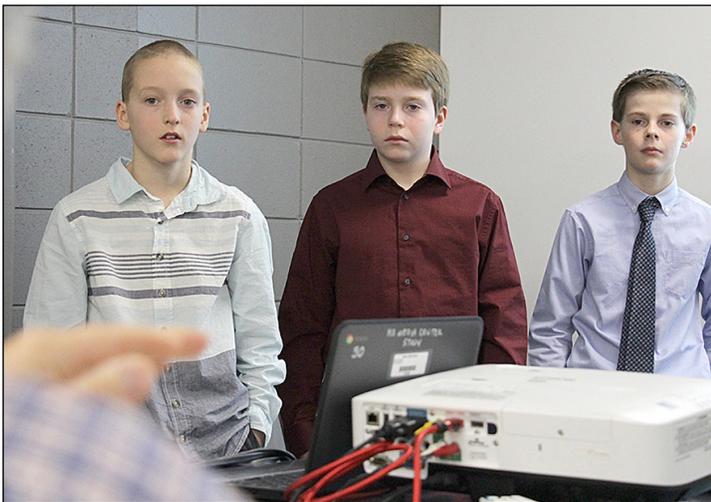
Performances by student ensembles during the day are also open to the public.

| LUNCH | | | | | MARCH 2019 | | | | | Delano Intermediate School | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Monday | | | | | Tuesday | | | | | Wednesday | | | | | Thursday | | | | | Friday | | | | |
| Popcorn Chicken 4 Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Pineapple | | | | | Corn Dog 5 Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce | | | | | Italian Dunkers 6 Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit | | | | | Chicken Patty / Bun 7 A)PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Lettuce / Veggies / Crackers Peaches | | | | | Tacos – Beef 1 Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Frosted Graham Cracker | | | | |
| Spring Break 11 | | | | | Spring Break 12 | | | | | Spring Break 13 | | | | | Spring Break 14 | | | | | Spring Break 15 | | | | |
| Chicken Drumstick 18 Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Pineapple | | | | | Cinnamon Roll 19 Cheese Omelet Steamed Broccoli Tritater Apple Juice / Orange Wedges | | | | | Spaghetti – Meatball 20 Garlic Bread Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears | | | | | Chicken Nuggets 21 Tritater Veggies / Corn Lettuce / Bread Fruit Cocktail | | | | | Hamburger 22 A)Fish Sandwich Waffle Fries / Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Orange Wedges | | | | |
| Dominos Pizza 25 Cheese / Pepperoni Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears | | | | | Chicken Patty 26 Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Steamed Carrots Lettuce / Roll Orange Wedges | | | | | Walking Taco 27 Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Fiesta Beans Fresh Fruit Teddy Grahams | | | | | Teriyaki Chicken 28 Brown Rice Oriental Veg / Lettuce Pineapple / Fortune Cookie Ice Cream Cup | | | | | Tomato Soup 29 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Lettuce / Carrots Goldfish Fruit Cocktail | | | | |



History presentations

Students in sixth grade and eighth grade presented research projects in a variety of formats on History Day, Feb. 21. Above left, Caden Rock and Carson Purkey share their exhibit on 'Roberto Clemente's Legacy.' Above right, Andrew Cummings and Eli Hemmesch present their website about 'The Manhattan Project.' Below left, Henry Ulberg, Hunter Allen and Jack Hohenstein listen to judge feedback after their documentary 'The Oklahoma City Bombing, Tragedy in the Heartland.' Below right, Kaitlyn Pink, Sophia Grant and Grace Ulberg prepare to show their website about Billie Jean King. This year's theme focused on triumphs and tragedies in history.



MN Student Survey coming on March 6

Delano Public Schools is asking students in grades five, eight, nine and 11 to participate in the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey (MSS).

Federal law requires school officials to notify parents of this school activity. The survey is conducted in schools across our state every three years.

Questions on the survey are about many topics relating to young people's lives. The survey asks about how well school is going, future plans, out-of-school activities,

physical and mental health, relationships, substance use and more.

This useful information about their thoughts and behaviors helps communities and schools develop effective programs and provide better services.

The Minnesota Student Survey will be administered on Wednesday, March 6, at Delano Intermediate School. If you have questions about the survey, or would like to review a copy of the survey, please contact the school office at 763.972.7602.

This survey is anonymous. To prevent individuals or families from being identified, students do not provide their names, student identification numbers or other personal information.

This survey is voluntary. You may choose to have your child not take the survey by completing and returning an opt out form available from the school office.

Students may also decline to take any part of the survey or the whole survey. They are informed of that option by staff.

Snowfall sets record

When life gives you snow, wear snowshoes. That's exactly what DIS students did in physical education classes recently to enjoy some outside exercise in spite of the deep snow cover. Last month became the snowiest February on record for the Twin Cities area.



Announcements

Late starts planned for 2019-20

With the release of the 2019-20 school calendar have come a number of questions regarding the two-hour late starts planned for the third Wednesday of each month. The late start will allow the district to implement a new literacy initiative.

Two common questions have arisen: What time will buses run on the late start days? And what happens to Zero Hour at the intermediate school?

On two-hour late start days, buses will run two hours late as well, just as they currently do for weather delays. Child care options will be provided through Community Education programs like Tiger Kids Club. Additional information regarding logistics will be provided before the next school year.

At the intermediate school, Zero Hour will continue on the Wednesdays when there is not a two-hour late start.

Weather make-up days

After extreme cold resulted in the cancellation of school Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 29-31, make-up days will be in effect.

Make-up days set before the beginning of the school year included Monday, Feb. 18, which was President's Day, 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.

For an explanation of Delano's philosophy regarding make-up days, see the article on Page 2.

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.

Executive Functioning Skills

Time management a key skill for life

Time management skills are essential for people of all ages. Students in fourth through sixth grades are developing this skill in preparation for success in school and for the rest of their lives.

Time management is the capacity to estimate how much time is available, how best to allocate time, and how to stay within time limits and deadlines. The overarching sense that time is important is critical to this skill.

In the classroom

How can we develop it in the classroom?

DIS staff members work with students in the development of time management by, first, providing realistic expectations for activities to be completed in a given amount of time.

Students are also provided with daily schedules that allow them to understand how much time is left for a given activity, and we assist with prioritizing activities within the allotted time.

As students get older and participate in larger projects, these projects are presented in smaller chunks to begin with, and students are given intermittent deadlines for various pieces of the project to be completed.

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|---|--|--|
| <p>Impulse Control The capacity to think before you act; the ability to resist the urge to say or do something that allows us the time to evaluate a situation and how our behavior might impact it.</p> | <p>Working Memory The ability to hold information in memory while performing complex tasks. It incorporates the ability to draw on past learning or experience to apply to the the situation at hand or to project into the future.</p> | <p>Emotional Control The ability to manage emotions in order to achieve goals, complete tasks, or control and direct behavior.</p> |
| <p>Flexibility The ability to revise plans in the face of obstacles, setbacks, new information or mistakes. It relates to an adaptability to changing conditions.</p> | <p>Sustained Attention The capacity to maintain attention to a situation or task in spite of distractibility, fatigue, or boredom.</p> | <p>Task Initiation The ability to begin projects without undue procrastination in an efficient or timely fashion.</p> |
| <p>Planning/Prioritization The ability to create a roadmap to reach a goal or to complete a task. It also involves being able to make decisions about what's important to focus on and what's not important.</p> | <p>Organization The ability to create and maintain systems to keep track of information or materials.</p> | <p>Time Management The capacity to estimate how much time one has, how to allocate it, and how to stay within time limits and deadlines. It also involves a sense that time is important.</p> |
| <p>Goal-Directed Persistence The capacity to have a goal, follow through to the completion of the goal and not be put off or distracted by competing interests.</p> | <p>Self-Monitoring (Metacognition) The ability to take a step back and take a bird's eye view of oneself in a situation - to observe how you problem solve. It includes self monitoring and self-evaluation.</p> | |

At home

How can it be developed at home?

First and foremost, parents/guardians can be sure to place realistic demands on our students with daily chores and projects. Allow students to make mistakes and follow through with natural consequences.

When planning the day, have your student assist with prioritizing tasks, estimating how much time they expect each task to complete. When estimating/prioritizing, it is important to be clear with the expectations for successful completion of the tasks.

It is also helpful to review your predictions at the end of the activity, or end of the day,

to see how close their predictions were to what actually transpired. This will help students to develop an understanding of expected timelines for their common chores and activities around the home.

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

Voight

from Page 1

activities, and other informal recreational activities to have a well-rounded educational experience.

Homework's purpose

The purpose of homework is three-fold. First, homework provides students the

opportunity to reinforce and practice the skills learned during the school day.

Second, homework may provide students the opportunity to enrich and extend their learning.

Finally, independent reading is always encouraged, as reading is foundational to all learning. Independent reading has the tendency to inspire curiosity and exploration, traits we aspire for all learners to possess.

For more complete information about homework practices at Delano Intermediate School, I encourage you to refer to the handout linked on the school website under "Information." I encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher if you have specific questions about the homework practices in their specific class or you are discovering that the homework is unmanageable for your student.



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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