

Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



December 2019-January 2020



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December menu

Dates to remember

December

3.....5-6 choir concert, 7 p.m.
12.....5-6 band concert, 7 p.m.
18.....Two-hour late start
23-31.....Winter break

January

1-3.....Winter break
6.....Classes resume
15.....Two-hour late start
17.....Fourth grade field trip
17.....DIS Party, 3:15 to 5:15 p.m.
20.....MLK Day, no school
20.....Conferences, noon to 6 p.m.
21.....Conferences, 3:30 to 7 p.m.
24.....End of DIS Semester 1



Thought in action

Students in Teresa Campbell's WIN (What I Need) class construct an activity that will require participants to exhibit critical thinking skills while participating. Critical thinking is a focus of the class during the months of November and December, following a growth mindset theme in September and October. See Page 2 for more information about the project.

Zero Hour offers opportunities

By Barry Voight
Principal

Greetings, DIS families.

At this point in the school year all of our programs are in full swing. Students and staff are immersed in learning, and the weeks seem to be flying by.

This being our second year in the building, it has been exciting to watch the evolution of our programming as both students and adults become accustomed to the daily experience of DIS.

I've used this column to provide information to families and the community at large



Barry Voight

regarding some of the unique offerings that DIS provides its students. This month, I want

to revisit Zero Hour Wednesdays to remind everyone of its purpose, discuss some changes, and thank the volunteers who help make this program possible.

Zero Hour Wednesdays

Zero Hour Wednesdays (starting school each Wednesday at 9 a.m. instead of 8 a.m.) allows DIS to offer unique experiences to our students that they will probably not have access to in the "typical" school schedule.

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WIN time focuses on critical thinking

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

For sixth-graders at Delano Intermediate School, WIN (What I Need) time has provided an opportunity to not only get individualized help in math, reading and other subjects, but has also been a chance to build skills in other areas.

The WIN course is built into the schedule opposite specials like music, art or physical education classes. While it opens a door for students to get extra academic help during the school day, there are also group lessons and activities to make sure all have a meaningful task to accomplish, even if they are completely caught up with their other course work.

This year there are four main lesson themes within WIN, aside from the extra classroom help. The theme for September and October was to cultivate a growth mindset in students, challenging them to think outside the box and be open to learning new things. The sec-



Students work to create activities that will require participants to exhibit critical thinking skills in Teresa Campbell's WIN class.

ond theme in November and December focuses on critical thinking. Themes after the new year will include cultural com-

petency and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

"We are learning beneficial life skills," said sixth-grade teacher Teresa Campbell, who designed the sixth-grade WIN lessons along with Tammy Wermager.

In mid-November, a challenge for students was to develop a game or activity that was accessible to all ages and that required participants to exhibit critical thinking skills. Examples of such skills included visual-spatial awareness, teamwork, memory, multi-tasking, strategy, emotional control,

listening, etc.

To accomplish that task, students created board games and card activities, as well as more kinetic options like mini basketball challenges connected to a game a memory.

"I'm a big fan of doing

'If you can learn something, and then apply it and demonstrate it, that is much more useful than just sitting there at your desk.'

Teresa Campbell

hands-on work," said Campbell. "If you can learn something, and then apply it and demonstrate it, that is much more useful than just sitting there at your desk."

The collaborative nature of the projects, which required students to create activities in groups of two or three rather than alone, was another opportunity for students to build skills in teamwork and compromise.

"We've seen some really good things and had some really cool conversations," said Campbell. "I'm just so proud of them, how they have discussed it together as a group and made their decisions and followed through with creating something from scratch."





MacKay Hoglund, right, and Zach Frommelt read “I Am The Flag.”

Folds of our flag

Members of the Delano American Legion conducted a flag folding ceremony on Friday Nov. 8, in a pre-Veterans Day event at DIS. Here are a few moments from the morning’s program.



Above, students recited the Pledge of Allegiance at the close of the ceremony. At left, Emery and Avery Klahpake read “What the National Anthem Means to Me,” written by Megan Griep.

Executive Functioning Skills

Self-monitoring is the ‘black belt’ of skills

Self-monitoring can be thought of as the “black belt” of executive functioning skills. While none of the executive functioning skills will fully develop until early adulthood, self-monitoring is the last to fully develop and really requires proficiency in the other executive functioning skills to fully utilize.

Self-monitoring refers to the ability of an individual to stand back and take a global view of oneself in a situation, reflecting on their actions and abilities, and also on their thinking. Metacognition, thinking about your thinking, serves a critical

purpose in helping individuals to improve over time.

Once a student learns to self-monitor, the motivation to initiate tasks, sustain attention, etc. becomes intrinsic rather than extrinsic. A self-monitoring individual is less reliant on adult feedback and can look around to observe the proficient skills of others and make the appropriate adjustments for self-improvement.

Development

How can we develop self-monitoring in the classroom and at home?

The first step toward assisting in the development of self-monitoring is realizing what a challenge it poses to our students. While it won’t fully develop until long after our students have matriculated beyond our reach, we can lay the foundation for effective self-monitoring now.

One way to do this is to scaffold students’ self-monitoring efforts through effective questioning. Prompting students to ask themselves, “What is my problem with _____? What is my plan? How did I do?” etc. will develop students’ self-monitoring vocabulary

and clue them in to which questions they will eventually be asking of themselves.

Modeling this internal dialogue for students is also extremely helpful.

Another important aspect of self-monitoring is having clear and distinct criteria for success in the given task. It is difficult for anyone to adequately assess their progress toward a goal if that goal is ambiguous or not well defined.

Engaging students in the development of that success criteria is helpful for students trying to determine what success does and does not look like.

Treats for troops

The post-Halloween Treats for Troops drive netted a nice haul of tasty snacks that will be given to Blue Star Mothers of Wright County. During the holidays, that group will send the candy, along with cards, letters and more, to service members overseas.



Potter earns teacher leadership award

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Four staff members from Delano Public Schools received Leaders in Educational Excellence Awards during a ceremony at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud on Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Those honored were DHS media center specialist Monica Kunkel, DES Title 1 teacher Karla Vieau, sixth-grade teacher Sara Potter, and DHS Spanish Teacher and current Delano Teacher of the Year John Fitzer.

Potter represents DIS

Potter is in her 10th year of



Sara Potter

teaching, including her third in Delano.

"I got into education to help

others and to foster students' curiosity and love of science," she said.

A statement nominating Potter for the honor noted that her strengths in science make her a resource for other staff members.

"Sara is phenomenal to team with because she is so organized and patient," the nomination said. "She is very knowledgeable in science and helpful to all teachers in the building as she fulfills the role of science facilitator."

While Potter has made her mark in that subject area, she is also active on many other committees and task forces, and makes a point to support

teachers and students alike in their extra-curricular activities.

"Some of my favorite aspects of teaching are helping students discover their own talents, watching students learn something exciting for the first time, and the relationships I build with my students," Potter said.

"I am so honored to receive this award. I work with so many wonderful people here at Delano and on my sixth-grade team that are just as deserving of this award. As I look down the halls of DIS I see so many dedicated teachers and feel honored to be recognized among them."

Announcements

Book drive to benefit classrooms

In an effort to bolster classroom libraries, Delano Public Schools will hold a book drive during January conferences (Jan. 20 and 21) and during the month of February, which is "I Love to Read Month."

What can be donated? New or gently used books that are appropriate for K-8 students; books that are classics, are well-loved, or have a copyright date of 2010 or later; or money for book bins and shelves to support classroom libraries. Books that are not in good condition or age-appropriate will be recycled. Why are donations needed? Research indicates that K-8 classrooms should have about 350 books within each room to support a literature-rich experience for young readers. This year's literacy initiative, and the adoption of the new K-4 language arts curriculum, rely heavily on this concept.

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.

Families will be notified by the school district's instant parent contact system for emergency school closings. 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 emails.

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."



Elf at lunch

Delano Intermediate students were treated to a preview of the high school's "Elf the Musical" production during lunch on Thursday, Nov. 14. Here are some of the scenes from the mealtime event.



Voight

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Extended recess, learning new games, developing skills with video production, and service learning are just a few of the opportunities students have access to as a result of Zero Hour.

Our staff benefit as well since Zero Hour provides additional time for collaborative discussions about how we can improve student experiences and outcomes within the variety of classes we offer.

Zero Hour has evolved over the summer as a result of feedback from students, staff and

families. Previously, students were surveyed to identify their areas of interest and scheduled within activities. This practice meant activities had to be limited due to space, and some students weren't able to access their desired activities. In addition, relying on surveys meant that students weren't exposed to new things that they might find interesting.

As a result, all students and staff have been intentionally scheduled on a rotation so that all students will access all activities. The supervising staff members rotate through the activities with their students so we are better able to build and

sustain student-staff relationships across grade levels.

Thanks is due

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the following individuals and groups for making some of these experiences possible.

- **DES staff:** Thank you for hosting our student aides and allowing them to learn valuable skills by assisting your students.

- **Nicolle Berg:** Thank you for connecting us with 4H and the University of Minnesota Extension Program to bring the Engineering/Design Club

to our students. Your volunteer efforts, both through outreach and instructing this program, for the past year and a half are truly appreciated.

- **Pete Dubay:** Thank you for filling in and assisting with our young engineers. Your technical expertise is a blessing for our students.

- **Wendy Gilmer:** Thank you for connecting us to Junior Achievement and instructing selected students on financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of our staff should you have questions or concerns about your child's education.



Standout students

October Tigers of the Month at DIS were chosen for exhibiting kindness. Students who received honors included fourth-graders Claire Taylor, Ellie Fix, Rowan Johnson and Dean Pennala. Fifth-graders included Addison Owens, Adrianna Esler, Brody Heimark and Jacob Barta. Sixth-graders were Brynn Spanier, Logan Wermager, Owen Plese and Gavin Pryde.

LUNCH		DECEMBER 2019			Delano Intermediate School \$2.95
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Chicken Drumstick Mashed Potatoes Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple 2	French Toast Sticks 3 Sausage Tritater Broccoli OJ Cup	Hamburger 4 Sun Chips Baked Beans / Baby Carrots Lettuce / Tomatoes Pickles / Onions Fruit Cocktail	Teriyaki Chicken 5 Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce / Pineapple Fortune Cookie Ice Cream Cup	Soft Chicken Tacos 6 Lettuce / Cheese Salsa Fiesta Black Beans Fresh Fruit	
Hot Dog 9 A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baby Carrots Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce	Chicken Gravy 10 A)Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes / Peas Lettuce Salad Roll Baked Apple Slices	Chicken Nuggets 11 Tritater Green Beans Veggies Bread Fruit Cocktail	Cheese Pizza 12 Corn Lettuce Salad / Toppings Pears	Walking Tacos 13 Lettuce / Toppings Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Teddy Grahams	
Crispy Chicken Wrap 16 Lettuce / Toppings Pineapple	Corn Dog 17 Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	Italian Dunkers 18 Corn Lettuce Salad / Toppings Fruit Cup	Chicken Patty / Bun 19 A)PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers / Veggies Lettuce Salad Peaches	Chili 20 Cheesy Breadstick Baby Carrots / Lettuce Fresh Fruit Sugar Cookie	
Winter Break 23 No School	Winter Break 24 No School	Winter Break 25 No School	Winter Break 26 No School	Winter Break 27 No School	
Winter Break 30 No School	Winter Break 31 No School				



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



Delano Intermediate School
683 Tiger Drive, Delano, MN 55328
Phone: 763.972.7602
Website: www.delano.k12.mn.us