

Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



February 2020



See Page 2 for a feature about the Mall Madness event.

At a glance

Page 2

Mall Madness

Page 3

Support staff award

MCA test dates

November standouts

Page 4

December standouts

Announcements

Page 5

Semester Celebration

Page 6

Choir concert

Book battle preview

February menu

Page 7

Student leading drive

Health updates

Page 8

Band photos

Persistence

Sheridan Story

Dates to remember

February

14.....Workshop day, no school

17.....Presidents Day, no school

19.....Two-hour late start

25.....Grade 4 concert, 7 p.m.



Working for wildlife

These students keep a close eye on their progress as they construct a wood duck house on Friday, Jan. 17. The activity was part of the Semester Celebration day, which included various service learning projects in addition to fun events.

Celebrating times of transition

By Barry Voight
Principal

Greetings, DIS families.

As I reflect upon the first half of our year and look forward to the second, I can't help but think of this point in time as one of significant transition.

Now is the time when we really start to see our students grow and change. Transitions can be significant moments in time that need to be celebrated and nurtured in our students.

Students age 9-12 have a unique magic about them; they begin to blossom as little people. No longer is a fourth-grad-



Barry Voight

er just a bigger version of a third-grader; he or she is a well-seasoned practitioner of

the fourth grade and the larger intermediate school world.

As this issue is published, our sixth-graders are already looking ahead at their high school careers, meeting with DHS staff to plan classes and registration. Fifth-graders have learned all about the LLCC trip coming up in May and are anxiously awaiting their opportunity to engage in this wonderful Delano tradition.

As we embark on the second half of our year, it is important for us to celebrate

See Voight
Page 4

Mall Madness an exciting venture

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Fourth-graders experienced a taste of the business world through the Mall Madness unit that ended shortly before winter break.

"I really like this unit because it's super creative to make stuff and sell it," said Emma Ristau from behind her bracelet counter during a brisk day of sales on Wednesday, Dec. 18. "Everyone had a really great time with the idea of making money, with math attached to it."

Twenty-three students in the talent development unit participated in the venture, which began in October. The process included learning about marketing and advertising, managing a checkbook, and many of the other steps it takes to create a product and run a business, including getting a business license and taking out a loan.

"We learned how to do checks and deposits, so I liked that," said Maria Droogsma, who found a strong market for her magnetic clothes pins.

Customers came from all eight fourth-grade classes, which passed through the DIS commons in shifts to peruse the offerings.

"My favorite thing is kids coming to buy our stuff like it's a real business," said Rowan Johnson, who was peddling a special brand of orange and black Delano bracelets. "It's really fun."

Ella Jepma, who was busy selling reindeer cups with the customer's choice of candy, agreed.

"It took a little bit of time to make everything and get everything organized, but it's really fun," she said, adding that seeing her classmates' preferences made the activity an enlightening "get-to-know-you kind of thing."

Talent development coordinator Heidi O'Donnell said that after selling their products



Christmas ornament merchant Dane Loecken passes out one of his many tiger-themed products on Mall Madness day, Dec. 18.



Ella Jepma's reindeer candy cups were a popular item with shoppers.

students had a chance to see if they made a profit based on how many items they sold and how they set their prices.

"Most of them did great. They were really happy with their success," she said.

Some of the hottest selling items included soft swords ("making family fights fun," according to Thomas Depa), stress balls, and anything involving food. Christmas ornament merchant Dane Loecken

had planned ahead to take advantage of the season.

"I chose ornaments because a couple of months ago I knew I would be selling these around Christmas time," he said. "They're tiger ornaments because our mascot is a tiger."

While each student was required to create at least 15 items, O'Donnell said that most students ended up wishing they had a

larger inventory because sales were so strong. Still, there was satisfaction in seeing the high demand for their products.

"Some of them said that was the best part, putting their 'sold out' sign on display," said O'Donnell.

Aside from imparting some real-world math and business skills, the objective of the unit is to open students' eyes to some of the possibilities they

can pursue both now and in the future.

"I want them to see how a business can be started from a simple idea, and that you're never too young to come up with something and make a difference," said O'Donnell.

Cookie connoisseur EJ McCaustland appreciated that approach.

"What I like about it is it helps us prepare for when we're adults," he said. "It helps us manage selling and things like that."

The engagement of the students made the unit a memorable experience for all involved.

"The kids were really motivated, and they really made this unit come to life," said O'Donnell. "Without their ideas and enthusiasm and dedication to it, it wouldn't have been the success that it was."

• A video featuring interviews with many of the students on Mall Madness day is available on the Delano Public Schools Facebook page.

Schreyer earns support staff award

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Three staff members from Delano Public Schools recently received Education Support Staff Awards from Resource Training & Solutions during a recognition banquet in Sartell.

Food service director Kris Larson, high school IT coordinator Michael Patterson, and intermediate school Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services (ADSIS) paraprofessional Stephanie Schreyer were nominated by Delano district staff members and chosen from a field of candidates to receive the honors.

Stephanie Schreyer

Schreyer is currently in her fifth year working in behavior and math interventions, and previously served as a special education para for the district. She was the only one of Delano's three award-winners who was able to attend the banquet in person.

"I am extremely honored," said Schreyer. "I work with



Stephanie Schreyer

so many truly dedicated, hard-working, and amazing colleagues. To be chosen from this talented group is truly special. Not only did I receive the award, but I was treated to dinner and an awards banquet. It was a fabulous night being honored and recognized."

She said that making connections with students is one of the things she enjoys most about her job.

"When I take the time to build relationships with my

students it pays off because they want and choose to work hard for me, and (this) results in success!" Schreyer said. "It feels really good when you see a student succeed and you know you played a role in helping that happen."

Schreyer said that the opportunity to serve alongside skilled and dedicated staff members is another highlight of her work that motivates her on a daily basis.

"I work with an amazing team in a very positive environment," she said. "This positive culture inspires me to give back my very best and to always find ways to improve myself, which of course results in improvements for the students."

Schreyer has enjoyed her work so much, in fact, that she is pursuing a degree in elementary education and anticipates earning her license in the next few months.

In nominating Schreyer for the Education Support Staff Award, a fellow staff member said that Schreyer makes a pos-

itive impact on many students and staff members every day.

"She has a fair and realistic approach when working with her students," the nomination said. "She validates their concerns and helps them create achievable goals."

The nomination also noted that Schreyer has been helpful in informing other staff members about data-collection tools and in working to develop the district's e-learning capabilities.

"Stephanie always has a smile and is approachable by both students and staff," said the nomination.

Schreyer said a highlight of the banquet night was meeting and taking a photo with Kat Perkins from The Voice, who served as the keynote speaker. Overall, she felt deeply grateful for the recognition.

"It was really an amazing honor and I feel lucky to be part of such an amazing team of colleagues," Schreyer said.

• More information about Larson and Patterson is available in the high school's February Tiger Territory newsletter.



Excellence in empathy

November Students of the Month at DIS were chosen for exhibiting empathy. They included fourth-graders Brynn Hopkins, Ella Jepma, EJ McCaustland and Gavin Schafer; fifth-graders Morgan Engelmann, Elaina Jergens, David Lozano and Connor Menard; and sixth-graders Presley Bright, Allie Morsching, Isaac Miller and Luke Gilliland.

MCA Testing Schedule

Please make sure your students are not absent on the following days.

April 14
Grade 4 Reading
April 16
Grade 5 Reading
April 21
Grade 5 Math
April 22
Grade 6 Reading
April 23
Grade 4 Math
April 28
Grade 6 Math
April 30
Grade 5 Science

Students of the month

December Students of the Month were chosen for exhibiting the quality of independence. They included fourth-graders Lydia Holman, Maria Droogsma, Cooper Watkins and Lance Halonen; fifth-graders Alexis Zens, Alyssa Lee, Carson Rock and Crosby Nielsen; and sixth-graders Addison Olson, Liviah Quast, Keagan Schmatz and Grayson Poppler.



Voight

from Page 1

the efforts of our students and, hopefully, instill in them the ability to find their place in the broader world and appreciate others.

Positivity, Respect, Independence, Dependability and Empathy are the traits we aspire for our students to develop beyond academia. For these reasons, we've recently facilitated a Semester Celebration. This was an opportunity to engage with our students,

celebrate their efforts, and give back to our community. As a result of the service learning projects on that day, we've gifted 100 public servants with gift bags, made duck houses to support wildlife habitat, brightened the days of senior center visitors and assisted living residents through decorations, and more.

I want to extend a huge thank you to volunteers Allison Bukowski and Ann Hayes for playing such key roles in making these service projects a reality.

As always, thank you for entrusting us with the care of your student, and please don't hesitate to reach out.

Announcements

Book drive to benefit classrooms

In an effort to bolster classroom libraries, Delano Public Schools will hold a book drive 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.

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 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.

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."

Clothing, book giveaway Feb. 13

Free clothing is available to all families with children ages 0-18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, at Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo, located at 1200 Hwy. 25 S. The Blessing Closet will offer many new and slightly used clothing items for kids and their parents with no restrictions, qualifications or requirements. Free books will also be available. Everyone is welcome.

Seasonal safety reminders

Please remember to drive safely and attentively through campus during the winter season. Sight lines may be impeded in some areas by snow banks, and icy surfaces are common. Please remind your students that pedestrians should only cross Tiger Drive at the ice rink or tennis courts where a crossing guard is on duty. No crossings should occur at County Road 30. While facilities staff work to keep sidewalks cleared during winter weather, remember to use the "penguin shuffle" to avoid falls, and beware of ice that may be concealed beneath thin layers of snow. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a safe winter season.



Time to celebrate

DIS students enjoyed an abbreviated Semester Celebration on Friday morning, Jan. 17. Events included service projects benefiting the senior center and nursing homes, the food shelf and first responders. There was also wood duck box building, sledding, swimming, and opportunities to emphasize Tiger Pride values. The day's festivities were curtailed when school let out early due to a winter storm.





Singers perform

The fifth- and sixth-grade choirs performed their winter concerts on Tuesday, Dec. 3, under the direction of Sandy Meyerson.



Big turnout for Battle of the Books

A total of 177 students on 61 teams will square off in the annual Battle of the Books competition Monday through Thursday, Feb. 10-13, at Delano Intermediate School.

Before the competition students gather their own two- or three-person teams, then read books from an assigned list over a two-month period to prepare.

The Battle of the Books contest is set up like a game show. A question is asked and each team writes its answers on a white board and holds the board up to the judges during a predetermined time period.

Each team earns points for correct answers. Students are required to remember details from their books and to identify in which book the details are found.

Benefits of the competition are that students may end up reading certain genres that they



More than 60 teams have signed up this year.

may not normally choose on their own, and they also learn how to collaborate with one another to absorb information and reach a common goal while having fun.

The contest is open to students in grades 3-6. The third-grade elementary school competition involved 34 teams and ended on Dec. 5.

The intermediate competition, involving grades 4-6, begins with preliminary rounds on Monday and Tuesday, continues with semifinals on Wednesday and concludes with the finals on Thursday.

<div>  LUNCH </div> <div> FEBRUARY 2020 Delano Intermediate School </div> <div> Delano Intermediate School \$2.95 </div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Popcorn Chicken 3 Brown Rice Carrots Lettuce Pineapple	Corn Dog 4 Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	Italian Dunkers 5 A) Fish Sandwich Corn Lettuce / Toppings Fresh Fruit	Chicken Patty – Bun 6 A) PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers / Lettuce Veggies Peaches	Tomato Soup 7 Grilled Cheese Sand Goldfish Lettuce / Toppings Baby Carrots Fruit Cup
Nachos – Beef / Cheese 10 Lettuce / Onions / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit	Cinnamon Roll 11 Cheese Omelet Steamed Broccoli Tritater Apple Juice Orange Wedges	Spaghetti – Meatballs 12 Garlic Bread Green Beans Lettuce Pears	Chicken Nuggets 13 Tritater Veggies Corn Fruit Cocktail	No School 14 Teacher Workshop
No School 17 Holiday	Chicken Patty 18 Mashed Potatoes / Co Gravy Steamed Carrots Lettuce / Roll Orange Wedges	Hamburger 19 French Fries Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Baby Carrots Fruit Cocktail	Teriyaki Chicken 20 Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Pineapple / Fortune Cookie Ice Cream Cup	Walking Taco 21 Lettuce / Toppings Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Teddy Grahams
Chicken Tenders 24 Mashed Potatoes Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple	French Toast Sticks 25 Sausage Tritater Steamed Broccoli OJ Cup	Cheese Pizza 26 Green Beans Lettuce / Toppings Pears	Ravioli 27 Cheese Twist Breadstick California Blend Veg Lettuce Orange Wedges	Build Burrito 28 A) Quesadilla Lettuce / Toppings Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit

Collection drive runs through Feb. 7

DIS student leading drive to support hospitalized children

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Out of difficult circumstances, a multi-state movement has emerged to share comfort and hope with hospitalized children.

Kimberly Rogers, a fifth-grader at Delano Intermediate School, is bringing that movement to the Delano community through a collection drive for Jessie's Toy Box from Monday, Jan. 20, through Friday, Feb. 7.

Jessy's Toy Box is a charitable non-profit that gathers toys, gift cards and other items and delivers them to hospitals for children age 0-18 to help brighten their day. It is named for Jessie Habermen of Wyndmere, North Dakota, who was born with health challenges that required him to undergo 15 surgeries, including two open heart surgeries, before he died at 8 years old in 2018.

Just prior to one of his procedures, at age 4, Jessy was given a toy that helped him endure the treatment. In 2015, with the help of his parents, Jessy began collecting toys for other children and delivering them to hospitals. Over the next three years word of his efforts spread via radio and TV.

Before his final surgery, Jessy asked his parents if he could still do Jessy's Toy Box if his heart was fixed. Although Jessy did not survive, his parents



Kimberly Rogers

promised him they would continue his mission to get a toy to each child undergoing a procedure.

Delano connection

Rogers aims to help since her father, Steve, and Jessy's father were good friends. She remembers Jessy as an energetic youngster who loved nerf guns and had a mischievous streak.

"When he died it was really sad because our family was really close to his," she said. "He was a really good kid."

Even before Jessy's death, Rogers said her family would donate birthday gifts to Jessy's Toy Box. Now, they hope to add the support of the whole Delano community.

"When Jessy passed away my dad made a promise that he would do whatever he could to



Family friend Jessy Habermen started Jessy's Toy Box to help others before his death in 2018.

keep it going," said Rogers. "I thought that was a great opportunity for me to help out."

Donations of new toys or items can be brought to the Delano High School office during the drive, and the Rogers family will then deliver the items to hospitals around the area.

"What I'm hoping to accomplish is that people here will help donate to other kids," said Rogers. "There are some who know hospitals too well, almost like it's their second home. This is just to help them calm down. If any of us went to the hospital I'm sure we would be scared too. Getting a gift helps keep them calmer for their procedures, so they don't get worried about what's going to happen. That was what happened for

Jessie when he was getting an infusion."

DHS counselor Elise Boleman said that all are encouraged to donate, not just families who have students in school, and that the high school was chosen as a drop-off site because it has the most traffic for various events.

Boleman said that contributions will be brought to local hospitals that might be overlooked by others who donate to higher-profile facilities, and urged donors not to forget about teens.

"I would encourage families to think about what it would be like if their child was going through this. What are some things that their child would like to have during those tough times to make it easier?" she said.

Boleman added that it is inspiring to see Rogers taking the lead on such a big endeavor.

"Her initiative at such a young age, and the kind of composure she carries herself with, it's so impressive," Boleman said. "Her ability to see the position she's in, to see the position that other people are in, and to find ways to help other people - I can only hope that other students follow in her footsteps and set the same kind of example."

For more information about Jessy's Toy Box, see <https://jessystoybox.com>.

Take action to keep students healthy this winter

By Kirsten Olson
DIS Nurse

The cold and flu season is here, and these sicknesses are making their way through the school.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, influenza is widespread. This is evident by confirmed cases of influenza in the district and the frequency of students showing flu-like symptoms.

To prevent widespread flu in the school,

we recommend your child stay home from school if experiencing flu-like symptoms.

Flu symptoms include fever, dry cough, sore throat, headache, extreme fatigue and body aches.

If your child has a fever and one of the other symptoms, keep your child home for at least 24 hours after his or her fever is gone, without medication. Your child should feel well enough to participate in school before returning.

To help prevent the flu and other colds,

remind your child to practice good hygiene habits:

- Wash hands frequently.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid being around those who are sick.

If you have any questions or other health concerns, feel free to contact the school nurse at 763-972-7602 ext. 1520.



Musical moments

Members of the fifth-grade band prepared for their Dec. 12 concert under the direction of Mike Dailey on Friday, Dec. 6.

Executive Functioning Skills

Goal-directed persistence requires building blocks

Goal-directed persistence is a complex skill that is derived from a series of other executive functions. It is defined as the ability to have a goal, follow through to completion of said goal, and not be put off by competing interests.

In order for students to be successful with this skill, they need to first develop the executive functioning skills

of response inhibition, task initiation, time management, planning/prioritization, and more.

It is easy to understand that goal-directed persistence is one of the later skills to fully develop.

Development

How can we develop goal-directed persistence in the

classroom and at home?

Like all executive functioning skills, we must first identify the reasonable and age-appropriate expectations that will scaffold the learning of the skill.

First and foremost, it is helpful to model goal setting and work with students to create short-term goals first, and extend the length of time those

goals are achieved as development and readiness occur. This can often be achieved by starting with a larger, longer-term goal and breaking it down into its component pieces.

Offering rewards in the form of points or token objects can help motivate students toward achievement of goals and help them to recognize progress.

Sheridan Story helps cover food gaps

The Sheridan Story, a weekend food program, is once again available to DIS families this year. The non-profit's mission is to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships.

The organization strives to make a difference by focusing on food gaps -- the times when children aren't at school to access meal programs. The Sheridan Story offers food over the weekends, summers and extended school breaks.

The program is free for all families, and no qualifications are required for enrollment. No information is collected for enrollment, and privacy is protected for participating families. Those

interested can sign up at any time during the school year, and school staff will discreetly place food bags in students' backpacks on Fridays during the school year.

Families can choose from a variety of food bags that contain nutritious, non-perishable food, including fruits, vegetables, proteins, grains and soups or entrees.

For more information, contact DIS Social Worker Nicole Gohman at nicole.gohman@delanoschools.org or 763.972.7602 ext. 1515. A signup form is available at <http://bit.ly/SheridanDIS>.



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