

Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



December 2021-January 2022



DIS students heard from a youth author on Dec. 2. See Page 6.

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Dates to remember

December

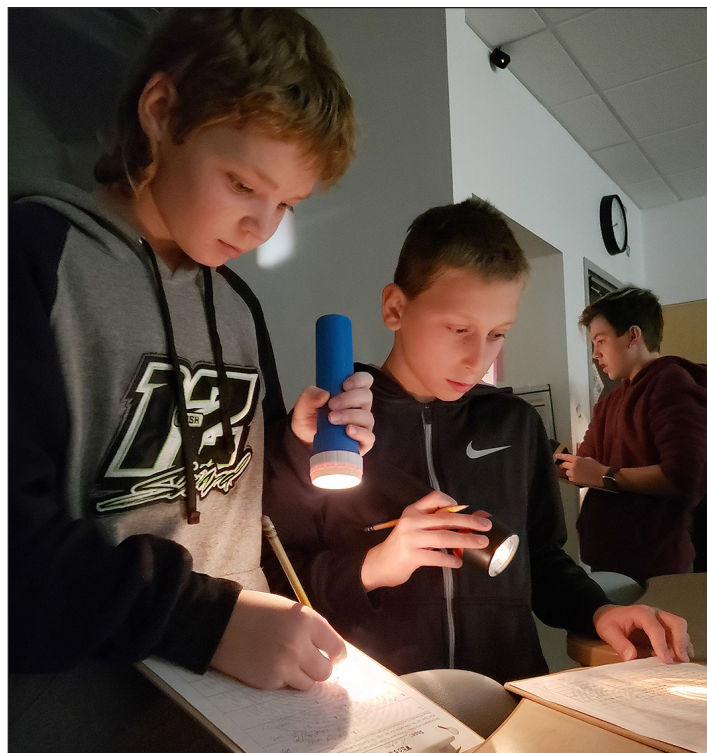
9.....Gr. 5-6 choir concert, 7 p.m.
10.....Mid-quarter
15.....Two-hour late start
16...Gr. 5-6 band concert, 7 p.m.
23-31....Winter break, no school
January
3.....Classes resume
17.....MLK Jr. Day, no school
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Sentence sleuths

Students untangle grammatical mysteries

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator



A dark room. Spy music. Evidence strewn from wall to wall – a mystifying mix of fragments, conjunctions and run-ons.

Enter the sentence sleuths.

Sixth-graders in Teresa Campbell's language arts class recently enjoyed a grammatical version of the popular whodunit game "Clue." Wielding flashlights and clipboards, they made their way around the classroom, from clue to clue, diagnosing problems with sentence structure. Each correct answer yielded additional evidence and helped students narrow down the who, what and where of the "crime."

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Measuring student progress

By Katie Thompson
Principal

Greetings, families, and welcome to December! We are looking forward to a month of fun and festivities. Even though we are not quite to the semester mark just yet, something about making it to Winter Break feels like a reason to celebrate all of the progress we've made this year in spite of ongoing pandemic challenges.

One way we measure progress at DIS is through the use of universal screeners. A universal screener is an assessment given to students to measure their



Katie Thompson

mastery of basic skills in math and reading against a benchmark for students their age.

These screeners aren't necessarily an assessment of state standards mastery. Rather, they are a way for us to quickly identify students who are not meeting grade-level benchmarks and who may need additional support. They also allow us to celebrate those students who are not only making progress, but through their participation in our interventions are making remarkable gains!

The assessment tool DIS uses for screening is called FAST. It only takes a portion

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Sleuths

from Page 1

Suspects included Mr. Phonics, Mrs. Spell, Miss Vocab, Dr. Grammar, Coach Lit and Professor Essay.

"We should do this more often," student Olivia Kempffer told Campbell after she and her partner, Ivadel Hoepfner, became the first detectives to crack the case.

The pair said they loved the dark room, using flashlights to make their way, and working as a team to figure out the puzzle.

"It's more fun, more interactive, and that makes it a little easier than when you're just sitting at your desk," said Kempffer.

'It's more fun, more interactive, and that makes it a little easier than when you're just sitting at your desk.'

Olivia Kempffer

Campbell agreed that incorporating some action into a grammar lesson was beneficial for all.

"This is a good class. They've really soaked it up," she said. "They're boisterous too, so it's really good for them to have this type of movement activity that they've been missing out on over the past year. They've just had to sit and face forward (because of COVID mitigation measures). But this year we've been able to bring some of these types of learning activ-



Above and below, students enjoyed a game of grammatical 'Clue' that challenged them to correctly diagnose issues with sentence structure to solve a mystery.

ities back, and look at them – they're all so engaged."

Lance Halonen and Charlie Reiffenberger were next to finish.

"I like how all the clues were set up. It was fun to figure out," said Reiffenberger. "Some were challenging and some weren't as hard as I expected."

Campbell said the class had spent the past few weeks studying sentence structure – fragments, run-ons, and simple, compound and complex sentences – with more conventional lessons and worksheets.

"But I like to take the next step where they have to apply what they've learned in a fun and creative way," she said. "I just want them to enjoy it. Learning is fun."



Thompson

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of the student day to administer, and the data is very useful for our teachers. During our two-hour late start in December teachers will dedicate their time to reviewing this data to make decisions about how best

to continue supporting student progress.

Measures of progress

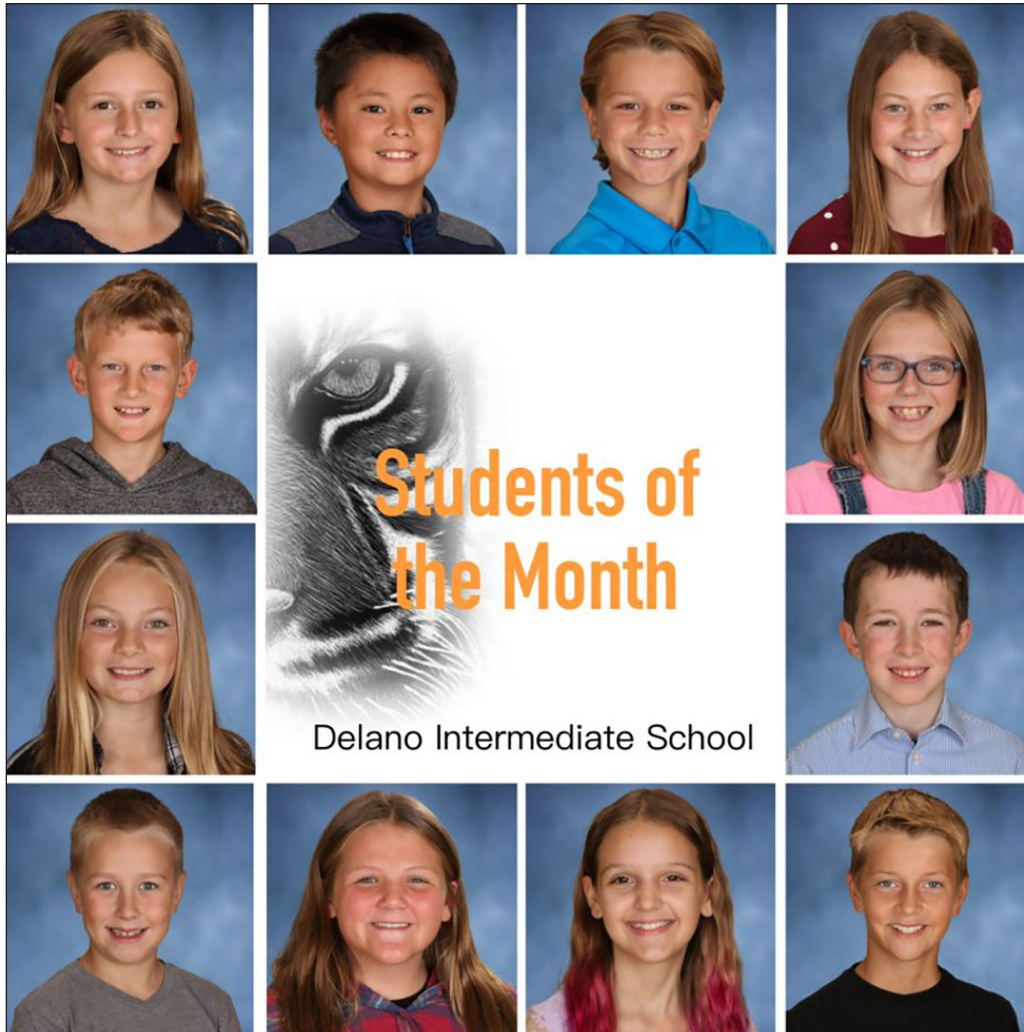
At DIS we also know that there are a hundred other ways to measure progress at school. Sometimes progress is a student finally mastering their trapper keeper as an organizational tool. Sometimes progress

is a student making a new friend when she thought she had none. Sometimes progress is a student reading a book in a new genre, and discovering they really like it.

It is important to realize that while pandemic learning loss is real, there isn't a school in the nation unaffected by COVID. In that way, we're all in this

together! If all we focus on is where we wish our students were – academically, behaviorally, socially – we might forget to celebrate where they are now and how they are growing.

We thank our staff and also our parents for your ongoing encouragement and support of your students. Here's to a year of progress!



Students of the Month for October were recognized for showing kindness. Those honored included the following:

4th grade - Anna Vervais, Lauren Krysan, Eli Matsuda, Isaac Nielsen
5th grade - Lyla Millard, Andelyn Streich, Jacob Werth, Mason Erdman
6th grade - Ruby Gunia, Ivy Hoepfner, Blake Pietila, Briar Bekkala

Join the Wellness Committee

Delano Public Schools is seeking community members, parents, students and school staff to serve on the District Wellness Committee. The committee's main objective is to monitor compliance with the district's student Wellness Policy (No. 533) and the Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 in the areas of student nutrition and education, physical activity, and wellness support (i.e. mental health).

This committee will meet three times during the year and will review data from all three areas above, and from the student wellness goals submitted by each of the three school student wellness committees.

Areas of focus include school lunch and food service, mental health programs, and opportunities for students to participate in community and school physical health activities.

If you wish to help ensure student wellness, contact DHS Assistant Principal Steve Schauburger at 763-972-3365, ext. 1703, or steve.schauburger@delano.schools.org.

Gust earns support staff honor

By Paul Downer
 Communications Coordinator

It takes more than classroom teachers to keep a school running, and four members of the Delano Public Schools staff were recently honored with Education Support Staff Awards.

Award recipients included preschool assistant Natalie Kimball, DES alternative delivery of specialized instructional services (ADSIS) behavioral paraprofessional Holly Workman, DIS paraprofessional Joan Gust, and DHS media center assistant Lona Desutter.

Joan Gust

Gust has a knack for supporting students when needed, but also for stepping back to give students the ability to learn independently and grow on their own, according to an anonymous nomination submitted on her behalf.

"Joan Gust has done such a nice job working with a couple students whose emotions and behaviors can be up and down from moment to moment," the nomination said. "She is always kind, calm, patient, and truly wants the best for these students."

'She is always kind, calm, patient, and truly wants the best for these students.'

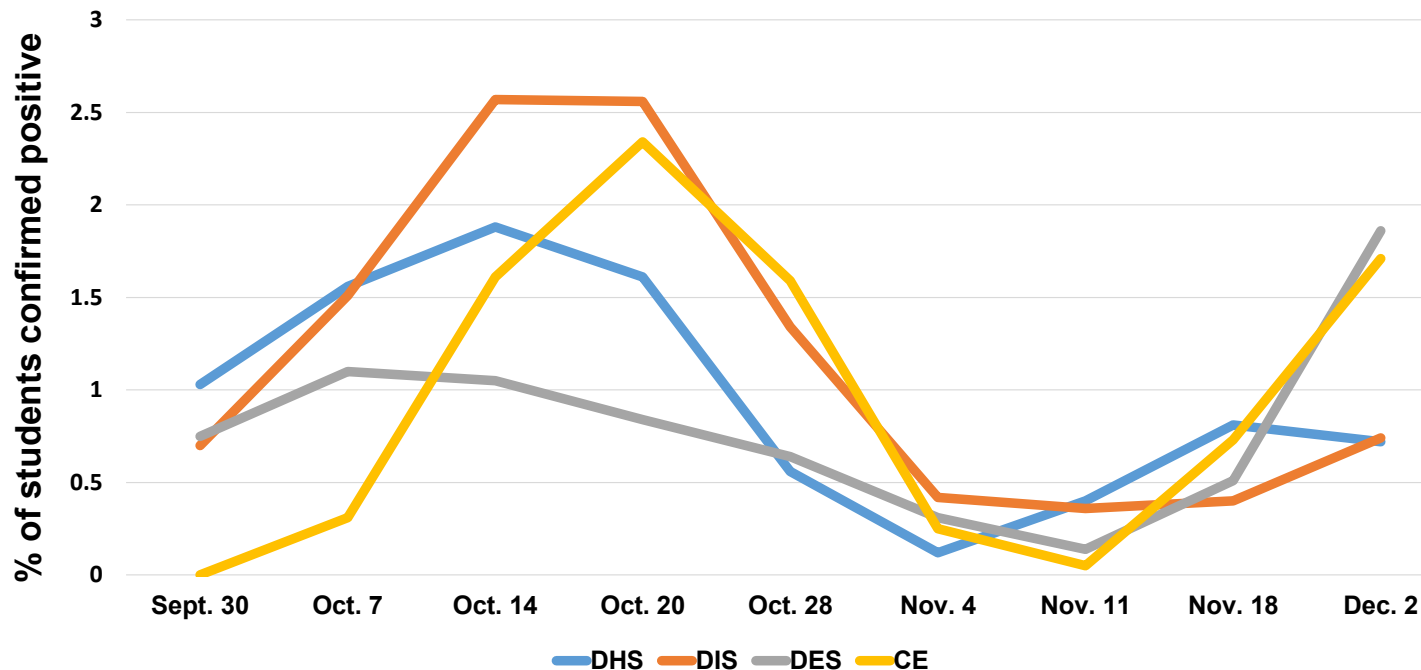
Nomination

Gust said the award is a nice indication that her efforts are appreciated by her co-workers. Her favorite aspects of her job include "working with students, helping them be successful in school and seeing their accomplishments."



Joan Gust

COVID cases 2021-22 (14-day case rate)



<div> LUNCH </div> <div> DECEMBER 2021 Delano Intermediate School </div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Spaghetti – Meat Sauce 1 Green Beans Lettuce Salad Garlic Bread Pears	Chicken Nuggets 2 Hashbrown Corn Veggies Fruit Cocktail	Hamburger 3 A) Sloppy Joes Sun Chips Lettuce / Tomatoes Pickles Orange Wedges
	Chicken Patty 7 Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad Dinner Roll Orange Wedges	Chili 8 Cheesy Breadstick Tortilla Chips Baby Carrots Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail	Teriyaki Chicken 9 Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple	Walking Taco 10 Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit Graham Goldfish
	French Toast Sticks 14 Sausage Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Baked Apple Slices	Hamburger 15 Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Baby Carrots Fruit Cocktail	Chicken Alfredo 16 Chicken / Penne / Alfredo Sauce California Blend Vegetables Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Quesadilla 17 Corn Salsa Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit
Orange Chicken 13 Brown Rice Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple				
Hot Dog 20 A) BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baby Carrots Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce	Chicken Gravy 21 A) Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes / Peas Lettuce Salad / Roll Baked Apple Slices	Chicken Nuggets 22 Hashbrown Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail	No School 23	No School 24
No School 27	No School 28	No School 29	No School 30	No School 31



Veterans Day

DIS hosted members of the Delano American Legion for a flag folding ceremony on Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11. Students learned the meaning of each fold of the flag, heard readings from their peers on 'What the National Anthem Means to Me' and 'What the Pledge Means to Me,' and more. See the story on Page 7.



Author visit

Young writer provides an example

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Sixth-graders engaged in learning about the writing process had a unique opportunity to hear from a youth author on Thursday, Dec. 2, when Ryan Massmann visited Delano Intermediate School.

DIS teacher Tammy Wer-mager introduced Massmann, a ninth-grade student from Albany, telling a grade-level assembly of students in the commons that she learned about Massmann and his work at the Book Nook in Delano.

Students listened to a presentation from Massmann about how he became an author, then had an opportunity to ask questions and have him sign their copies of his historical fiction novel.

The writing process

Delano students are currently learning about creative writing, story elements, plot lines, and other elements of writing, so the visit was well-timed.

"This is all about writing, how I started to write, and what I'm doing now," Massmann told his audience at the beginning of his presentation, adding that reading is the first step to writing. "I've always loved reading, seeing someone's story, or a fictional character's story. I just think it's amazing that you can immerse yourself in another world through reading."

Massmann said he started writing seriously around fifth or sixth grade, and made two or three attempts to write a book before producing his current novel. The inspiration for his book came while he was playing "Battlefield 1," a World War I video game.

"Like many of you, I enjoy playing video games," he said during his presentation. "It gave me inspiration to look into these people's stories. ...



Ryan Massmann signed books and visited with DIS students after his presentation on Thursday, Dec. 2. Sixth-graders are currently studying the writing process.

It gave me an idea of what I wanted to write about."

His book, "The Forgotten Struggle," focuses on the war from the perspective of a German soldier, which Massmann said was a purposeful choice to emphasize the humanity of the soldiers on both sides and to

'I used writing as a vent for my own emotions and experiences.'

Ryan Massmann

share a fresh perspective.

"The hardest part was forming the characters in my mind," he said. "You want them to be like real people, so I used writing as a vent for my own emotions and experiences."

He started the 149-page story in sixth grade and finished it while he was in seventh grade, attempting to write about a paragraph per day while balancing, school, free time and his writing project.

"Multiple times I almost quit because I thought I couldn't be

good enough to write a book and actually have people read it," he said, adding that the genre of historical fiction can be difficult because "it requires imagination, but you also have to be true to the time period."

Worried about failure, Massmann didn't even tell his parents about his project until the book was nearly finished. He wrote it on Google Docs and eventually shared it with friends to gather feedback and critiques.

Publishing

Once finished, Massmann said his parents agreed to help him explore the publishing process. After finding out that the publishing company would keep a percentage of the proceeds from book sales if he pursued the regular publishing option, Massmann opted to self-publish his book, which was cheaper and would allow him to keep all the proceeds.

Still, the process was not inexpensive or easy. Over the course of about four months a publishing company helped edit the work and create a book cover, and in the end

Massmann said that publishing his book cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000, which his parents helped him to pay.

Massmann then began working to sell his book, attending events at places like the Book Nook to share his story. Those efforts have paid off. He has sold hundreds of copies, paid back his parents in full, and is now making a profit.

Next steps

Students asked if he would consider writing for a career.

"I just want to keep it as a hobby," Massmann said. "If it became a job then it might become an inconvenience to write."

Massmann is already writing a follow-up novel and aims to complete a trilogy in the future.

"Writing is a massive task," he said, but added that his advice to new writers would be to not let fear of failure or of publishing cost deter them from trying.

• "The Forgotten Struggle" is currently available at the Book Nook or on Amazon.



Veterans Clothing Drive a success

Thank you to our students, families and staff for your generous support of our annual Veterans Clothing Drive for veterans in need. More than 250 clothing items and 80 personal hygiene bags were collected. Donated items will go to the Eagles Healing Nest, which provides housing and treatment to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder; the St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA Hospitals Clothing Closets; the Hastings Veterans Home; and the Community Resource and Referral Center in Minneapolis that serves homeless veterans. Here, fifth-graders recently assembled personal hygiene bags for homeless veterans using resources donated during the drive.

Ceremony a chance to show respect

In honor of Veterans Day, Delano Intermediate School held a flag folding ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 11 (see photos on Page 5).

Members of the Delano American Legion explained the significance of each fold of the American flag to an in-person audience of fourth-grade students. Fifth- and sixth-graders watched a livestream of the event from their classrooms to reduce crowding in the commons.

"Our theme for the month of November, as you guys know, is respect," said DIS Principal Katie Thompson to the student audience at the opening of the program. "This is one really great way that we can show respect to the people who have served our country."

A few sixth-graders also took an active role in the program. Kaysi Arvola and Max Schmit read "What the National Anthem Means to Me," written by Delano student Megan Griep in 2015. After the playing of the national anthem, Braylee Rue and Lincoln Hanson read "I am the Flag." And following the ceremonial flag folding Marissa Bunn and Lachlan Mitchel read "What the Pledge Means to Me," an essay written by Delano student Brett Norling in 2014.

The program concluded after students recited the Pledge of Allegiance and administrators thanked Legion members for coming.

"We very much appreciate their service," said Thompson, adding that students should make a point to thank any other veterans they know as well.



Students read patriotic poems and essays during the program.

DIS Store offering online and weekend sales

Students from the Delano Intermediate School Store will be at the outdoor market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during Delano's Old-Fashioned Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Holiday merchandise will be available, including hand-made and 3D printed items. The store was started last school year to teach students business skills, and all proceeds go back to the store to grow the business.

In addition, student-de-

signed or student-created apparel is available for purchase online at <https://all-seasonssports.chipply.com/DelanoDIS/>, or by scanning the QR code below, through Wednesday, Dec. 8.



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