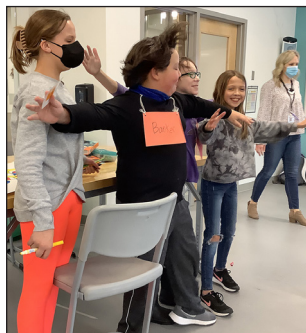


Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



February 2022



Find out more about the Discovery project in fifth grade on Page 6.

At a glance

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Safe Schools Tip Line

Dates to remember

February

7.....Conferences, 3:30-7:30 p.m.

8.....Conferences, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

16.....Two-hour late start

21.....Presidents Day, no school

Mall Madness

Business unit promotes creativity

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator



Fourth-graders put their business skills to the test in the annual Mall Madness event prior to Winter Break.

Students in the gifted and talented program picked up valuable experience in starting their own business, brainstorming products, marketing their materials and conducting sales as part of the unit.

"I like how people come up to you and ask for the products because it kind of gives you joy," said Rayna Schaefer, who presided over a busy bath bomb booth in the Delano Intermediate School commons on sale day, Dec. 14.

See Mall
Page 8

Measuring student progress

By Katie Thompson
Principal

Greetings, families. I can't believe it is February already! Oftentimes the winter months can bring on the doldrums in schools, so we are very excited to start some fun new traditions at DIS this month!

I Love to Read Month

The intermediate school will celebrate I Love to Read Month in February, which is a new tradition for us here at DIS. Our language arts team has put together some fun activities that will promote an interest



Katie Thompson

and love of reading among our students.

For example, students will

share their favorite reads on a "Sweet Treats" display in our commons area, and we will have fun dress up days each Friday. Stay tuned for more information!

Tiger Tickets

As shared in the past, we have been working on adding an incentive component to our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) plan at DIS.

Starting on Feb. 1, students will be able to earn Tiger

See Thompson
Page 2

DIS earns high marks in new rankings

U.S. News and World Report ranks Delano No. 13 in state

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Delano High School has been a regular on the annual list of Best High Schools compiled annually by U.S. News and World Report.

Now it has company.

In December the organization released its first-ever rankings of Best Elementary Schools and Best Middle Schools, and Delano Elementary and Delano Intermediate fared well in the evaluations.

DHS also earned a place on the Best Middle Schools list because it includes grades seven and eight. (Specifics about DES and DHS can be seen in the full article on the district website at bit.ly/USnewsDelano).



Schools were ranked by their performance on state-required tests, graduation and how well

they prepare their students for high school.

The top 30% of schools in the state were included on the list.

"This is again evidence that we are achieving educational excellence, and that our entire staff, in partnership with our parents, are truly dedicated to providing a world-class education for all our students at Delano Public Schools," said Delano Superintendent Matt Schoen.

'Our experienced and dedicated teaching staff, as well as a support staff with high standards for excellence, are a huge factor in our success.'

Katie Thompson

DIS specifics

DIS ranked No. 13 among Minnesota middle schools overall, and No. 9 among traditional public middle schools. DIS Principal Katie Thompson said that rating can be attributed in part to skilled staff and families who value education.

"In reading about the other schools on this list, you'll notice that our building ranks very high, 92.5%, in the category of teachers with three years of experience or more," she said. "Our experienced and dedicated teaching staff, as well as a support staff with high standards for excellence, are a huge factor in our success. We also have hardworking students and supportive families. It makes DIS a great place to be."

Thompson

from Page 1

Tickets to spend at our Tiger Store for demonstrating Tiger PRIDE at DIS.

The store will have prizes students can "purchase" using their tickets, and also passes for fun activities like extra recess or being an office helper.

Specifically, Mr. Hinker and Ms. Thompson are visiting classrooms this week to talk about Tiger Pride and "Habits of a Scholar." These habits include:

- Being focused and resisting distraction.
- Sustaining attention.
- Being ready to learn.
- Being independent and dependable.
- Being engaged and on-task.
- Being in control of behavior and emotions.

We are resetting our focus on being the best students and staff we can be. The students and staff are excited to begin this fun new program. Feel free to ask your students about it at home, and about what they are

doing to earn recognition as a Tiger Scholar!

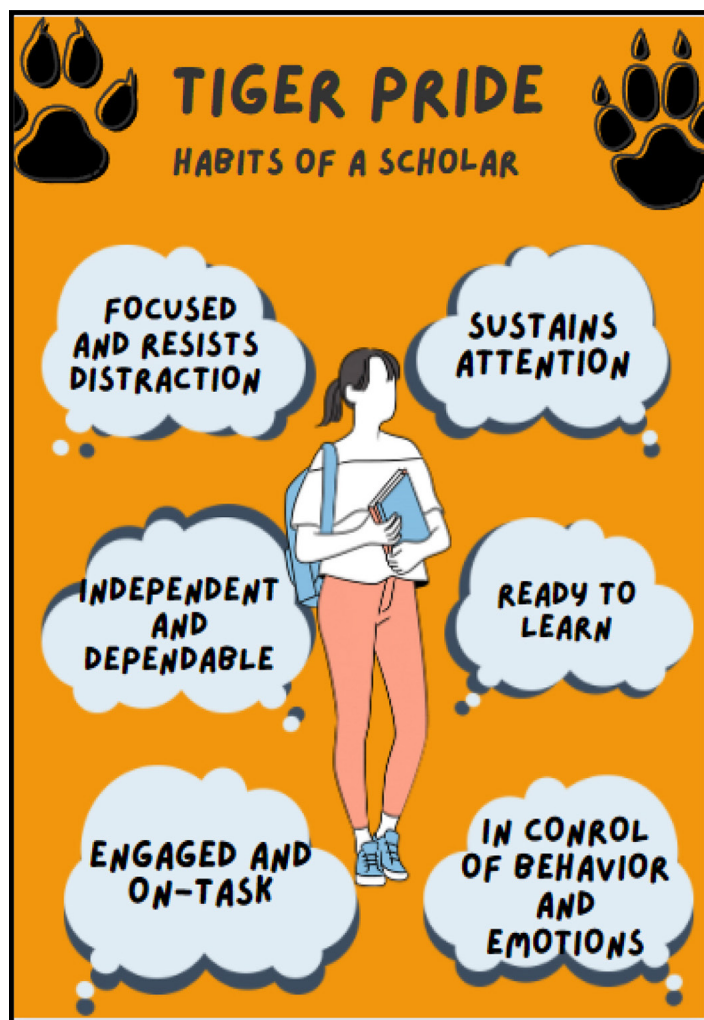
Give Back Week

Finally, toward the end of February, we will kick off our "Give Back Week" campaign.

We believe at DIS that connecting our students to the world around them is very important. We will ask students to participate in some fundraising activities to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, as well as the Ronald McDonald House.

We hope to inspire empathy in our students and empower them to make a difference. We thank you in advance for your support of these endeavors.

I am so thankful to our dedicated staff and hardworking students who are willing to engage in new experiences at this point in our school year. This year has been another challenging year, and we are always looking for ways to focus on the positives here at DIS. We know February will be a month full of fun and positivity because of our strong school community. Thank you for your partnership!



It's a good time to become a substitute teacher

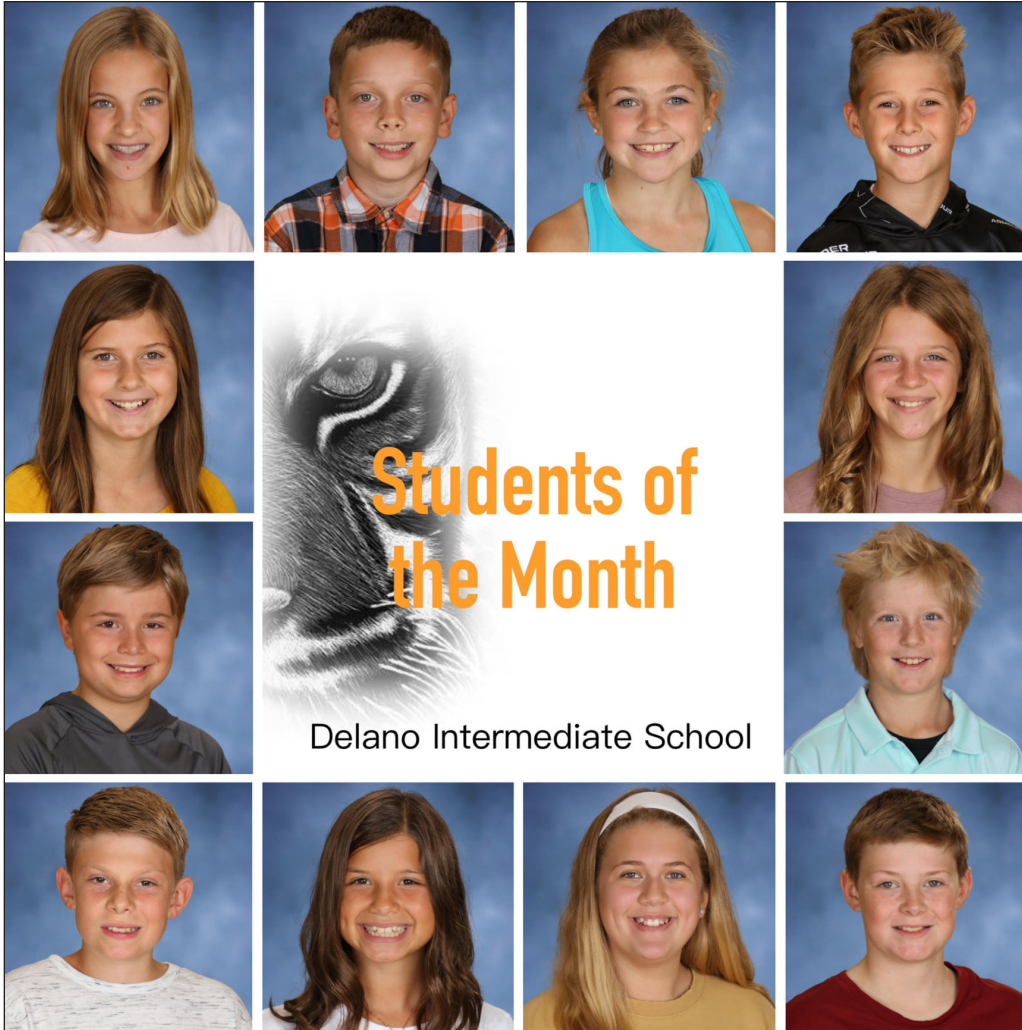
Have you ever thought about serving as a substitute teacher? Delano Public Schools is seeking substitutes to help cover gaps in staffing.

Teachers on Call is the agency that provides substitute teachers in Delano. You can apply with Teachers on Call by visiting www.teachersoncall.com, or calling 952-346-1656.

Substitute teachers can:

- Choose their own schedule.
- Choose to work close to home or experience many different schools and districts.
- Find jobs through easy online job scheduling.
- Work short- or long-term positions.
- Explore a variety of classroom settings, from primary to secondary levels.

The hiring process is relatively simple, and free training is provided to new substitute teachers.



Delano Intermediate School announced that the following individuals earned Student of the Month honors for November. They included:

4th grade - Madison Mays, Ava Peterson, Nolan Praught, Colten Nemec

5th grade - Peyton Bright, Maddie Knisley, Ross Kraft, Leighton Peterson

6th grade - Louisa Anderson Granja, Shelby Obrecht, Brevin Aamodt, Reese Otto

Hands-on science

Students in Sue Wallinga's fourth-grade class recently studied the science of weathering and erosion.

As part of the unit, students had to create a dam to reroute water that was released from a bucket at the top of a sand tray. Their mission was to create a dam to reroute the water, and also to keep the dam from falling over from the force of the water.

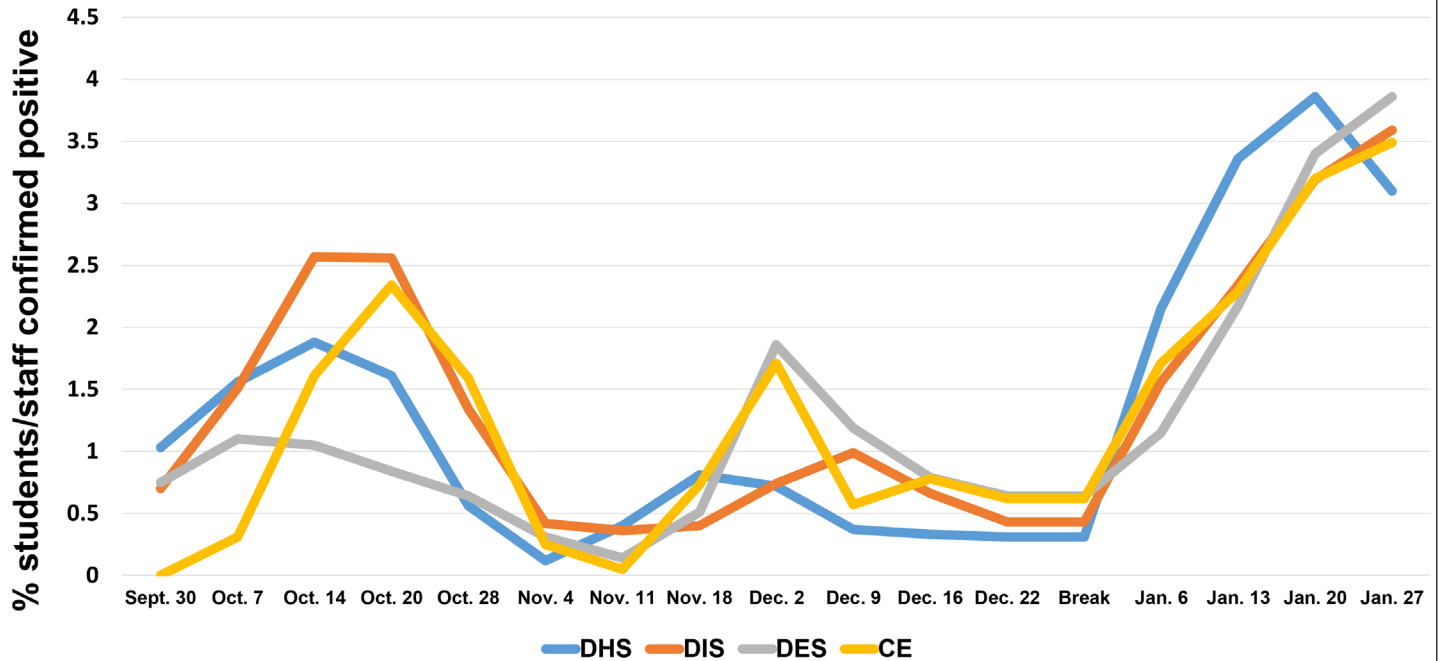
In the next experiment, the students had to use the dam and rocks to keep a birdhouse from falling over the edge of the sand.

"It is all part of our science standards for fourth grade. The kids loved it," said Wallinga. "They enjoyed seeing how the water eroded the sand to create rivers and canyons."




Students created dams and performed a few experiments to learn more about the science of weathering.

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



FEBRUARY 2022

Delano Intermediate School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 Nachos – Beef / Cheese Tortilla Chips Lettuce / Onions / Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit	Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	Italian Dunkers Marinara Sauce Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	Chicken Patty A)PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup/Crackers Lettuce Salad Veggies Peaches	Quesadilla Corn Salsa Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit
Domino's Pizza Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	Cinnamon Roll Cheese Omelet Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Baked Apple Slices	Spaghetti – Meat Sauce Green Beans Lettuce Salad Garlic Bread Pears	Chicken Nuggets Hashbrown Corn Veggies Roll Fruit Cocktail	Hamburger A)Sloppy Joes Sun Chips Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Onions Orange Wedges
No School Teacher Workshop	Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Steamed Carrots Dinner Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Chili Cheesy Breadstick Tortilla Chips Baby Carrots Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail	Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple	Tacos – Beef Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Fiesta Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit
Hot Dog A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baked Beans Baby Carrots Rosy Applesauce	Orange Chicken Brown Rice Peas Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple	Hamburger Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Onions / Baby Carrots Fruit Cocktail	Chicken Alfredo Chicken / Penne / Alfredo Sauce California Blend Veg Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	French Toast Sticks Sausage Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Baked Apple Slices

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider
Menu subject to change bases on product availability

Schools given 'Community Caring Award'

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

In recognition of a long, mutually-beneficial relationship, and in light of extraordinary circumstances since the onset of COVID-19, the Delano Loretto Area United Way bestowed a special Community Caring Award on Delano Public Schools last week.

The award recognizes the school district "for being a champion for our communities and students, both in and out of the classroom," and thanks all district staff for their partnership and service to the community.

Area United Way President Wendy Gilmer and Coordinator Courtney Olson presented the award to school principals and the Community Education director on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

"Obviously the school and our teachers have done a lot in the last two years, and over the decades that they've participated with the United Way,"



From left, Delano Loretto Area United Way President Wendy Gilmer presents the Community Caring Award to DES Principal Rachel Schultz, DHS Principal Barry Voight, DIS Principal Katie Thompson, and Community Education Director Eric Erlandson.

said area United Way President Wendy Gilmer. "So we just felt like this is a really good time to give this recognition. We do lean on the teachers, the social workers, the support staff and the administration to help us identify needs in our community, especially the last couple of years. So it's clear to the community and it's clear to the

United Way that they're very deserving of recognition, and we wanted to take the time to do this."

District staff compete annually to see which buildings can raise the most funding for the Delano Loretto Area United Way, and United Way reciprocates by aiding the schools in various endeavors.

"Sometimes there are niche needs where the school is trying to find funding, and we've been able to partner with the school and provide that funding through the money that comes from school staff in a number of different ways. It goes full circle," said Olson,

See Award
Page 7

Delano Loretto Area United Way
presents this

Community Caring Award

to

Delano Public Schools

for being a champion for our communities and students, both in and out of the classroom



Our thanks to all teachers, administrators, Community Education employees and support staff.

Your long-term partnership with the Delano Loretto Area United Way is recognized and appreciated!

Students strike off for the New World

Fifth-graders recently embarked on a simulation of the journey taken by European settlers in the early 17th century in a popular unit known as Discovery.

Students began by splitting into groups of four to six to form their Spanish, French or English colony. Then they loaded their ships and sailed to the New World, through wind and sea spray generated by fans and spray bottles, hoping to keep all their ships afloat.

Upon reaching the New World, the colonists were tasked with figuring out how to survive and thrive in their new surroundings. That process included the creation of their own laws and the assigning of tasks to help support the colony. Individuals served as governors, mappers, bankers, or traders who negotiated with other colonies and the natives to acquire needed goods like land, guns, food, horses and farm animals.

Every year the colonists had to farm, fish and hunt to feed themselves, as well as deal with the weather, make trades, defend against occasional attacks, and hope for a little luck in trying to find success in the new land.

"The biggest learning comes in communicating and collaborating as a team," said fifth-grade teacher Jake Olson. "[The students] are also gaining an



Above and above right, students simulated a stormy sea passage and competed in contests to represent colonial conflicts.

understanding of the struggles of early colonists and their interactions with the natives."

The unit has been a tradition enjoyed by Delano students for more than 30 years.

"Students historically have mentioned the Discovery simulation as one of their more enjoyable activities because it is so unique to the usual school experience," said Olson. "It's a chance for them to be on a team, make decisions, and compete with other teams for a common goal of survival."



Part of establishing a colony's identity involved creating a proper poster.



Door decor

A DIS door decorating contest just before Winter Break was a hit with students and staff alike.



Award

from Page 5

citing Chromebook carts and support for the DIS School Store as recent cooperative projects.

Gilmer said the knowledge of school staff when it comes to community needs is invaluable.

"We know that they're often on the front line for meeting these needs in our community, and certainly among our youth," she said. "It's great to have the school as a resource to help direct us where we can be most impactful with our grants.

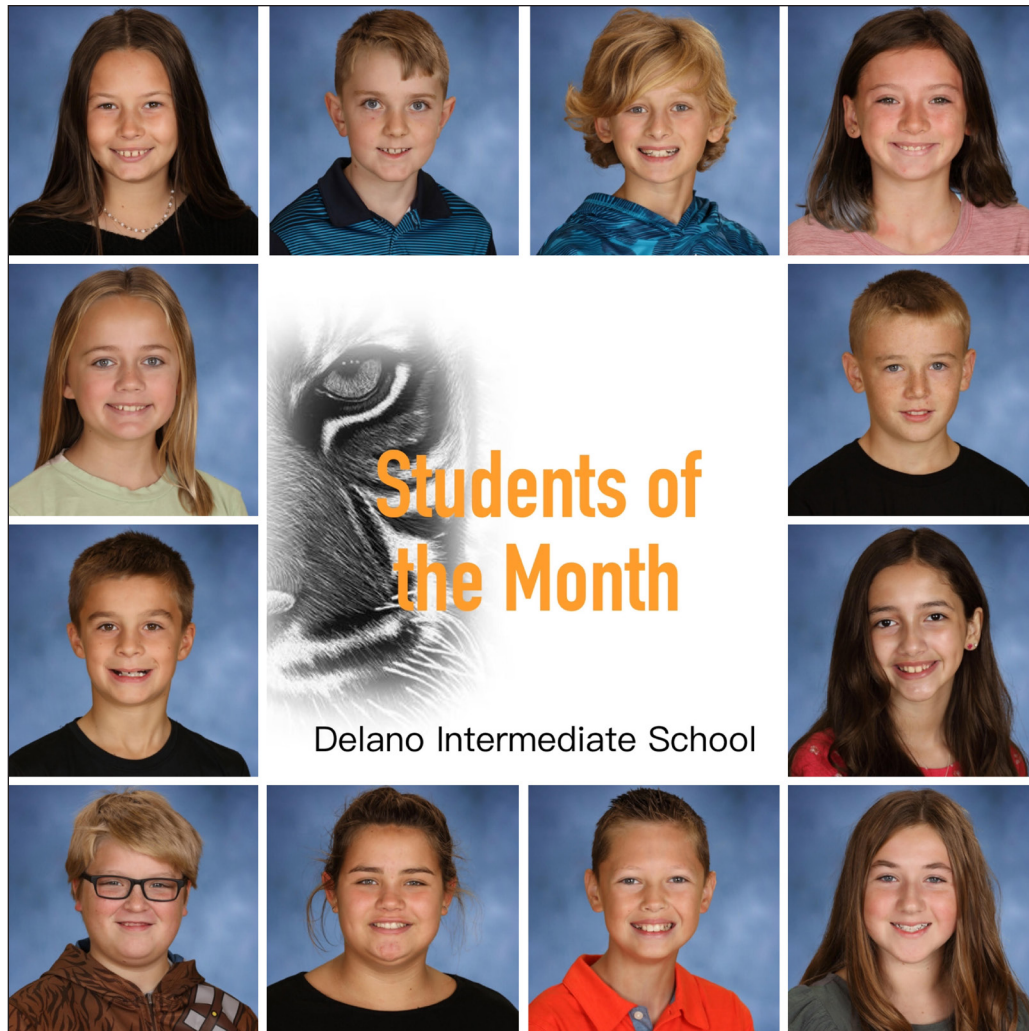
'We know that they're often on the front line for meeting these needs in our community, and certainly among our youth.'

Wendy Gilmer
United Way

"We wanted to recognize that and appreciate how they've come together for the whole community, not just through their giving or grant requests, but also how they handle themselves and how they contribute of themselves through their jobs and as members of our community."

On behalf of all school district staff, Delano Superintendent Matt Schoen thanked the local United Way for the honor.

"We always appreciate our local United Way and the role it has played in supporting our schools over the years, but this recognition is particularly meaningful to us as we strive to serve our students in these challenging times," said Schoen. "The relationship between us is just one example of what makes Delano a strong community, and a place that continues to foster our tradition of educational excellence with each passing year."



Students of the Month for December were recognized for showing independence. Those honored included the following:

4th grade - Maia Nee, Owen Palmlund, Louis Stuart, Tessa West

5th grade - Addison Daluge, Cam Erickson, Colbert Jorgenson, Kinley Razo

6th grade - Carson Dusbabek, Elliette Frederickson, Gavin Tesmer, Shelby Wainer



Bowling time

DIS students had the opportunity to move beyond the typical physical education activities and enjoy an outing at the bowling alley this winter.



Mall

from Page 1

Keegan Anderson's stress ball station was another popular stop for many of the shoppers coming from other fourth-grade classrooms. Asked what his favorite aspect of the event was, in between customers, Anderson said it was the authenticity of the experience.

"I'm enjoying making money and interacting with people," he said.

In addition to developing a product, marketing and sales, students also learn about some of the logistics behind operating a business, including securing loans, obtaining business licenses, tracking expenses, determining prices and evaluating outcomes.

Bennett Wentzel ran a shop featuring his own drawings of the planets. What had he learned during the Mall Madness process?

"A lot about how to do checks and get a license," he said.

"It's fun to learn about business and to make your own posters," agreed special keychain entrepreneur Andrea Lozano.

Blake Ditsch had one of the more versatile products, a collection of pandemic-proof smiley badges.

"They have a bunch of uses. I don't think I even know all of the uses yet," he said. "Even if you have a mask on, you can still have a smile."

Ditsch said part of the



A wide variety of products and crowds of motivated customers highlighted the annual Mall Madness event at Delano Intermediate School on Dec. 14.



Displaying their wares and interacting with customers was a fun culmination to the business unit.

process was discovering what items sell better than others.

"It's been a fun thing. I've liked it because it can help teach you about money and it can also teach you, if you're going to run a business, what you should sell and what you shouldn't," he said.

Finn Jackola said the reaction of the customers to the products was one of the best aspects of the day.

"It was great just seeing the excitement of everyone as they were coming around and going, 'Ooooooh,'" he said, adding that his homemade page-cor-

ner bookmarks were a hot commodity. "I mainly learned what it's like to run a business and what it's like to count your money. I made a lot of cash."

Lily Bardal had one of the more unique products in the sale: homemade ornaments made from clay.

"We kilned them and then we glazed them and then we kilned them again. My brother helped me a little bit," she said.

Bardal also discovered one of the keys to sustaining economic success in a small community -- a practice known to local business owners everywhere.

"It's nice that you can help the other businesses. So it's like you're one big business, just with separate products," she said. "You all work together. This is really fun to do and it's just a great experience to have."



Students enjoyed interactive games and purchased unique products from their classmates.



Thanks to paras

January 24-30 was Paraprofessional Recognition Week. Delano paras support students and instruction in myriad ways. Paras at Delano Intermediate School shown here include, front from left, Jen Trujillo, Debra Nelson, Tammy Pulis, Joelle Strandquist and Renee Yahnke. In the back, from left, are Samantha Peterson, Kris Tharp, Amy Underhill, Alyson Gilder and Joan Gust. Not pictured is Kim Harder.



Delano Public School's SAFE SCHOOL TIPLINE

Help us keep our schools safe



See it...



Report it...



Stop it...



To make an anonymous report, scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3fJvSq7>

New online form streamlines reporting

Ensuring safety should be a collective effort by students, staff and parents

Our district is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our staff and students at all times. To that end, we would like to take a moment to highlight an updated avenue for reporting concerning behaviors. This new link, available on the home page of the district website (delano.k12.mn.us), is titled as our Safe Schools Tip Line.

Our staff work vigilantly to provide help and support whenever concerns are raised about student safety, including bullying, harassment, self-harm, or other threats. We recognize, however, that there may be times when concerning behavior happens and we are not aware of it, whether it be outside of school hours or on social media.

We are asking you, our students and families, to partner with us in monitoring concerning behavior that may impact the safety of our schools.

Incidents can be reported anonymously on this form by any staff, student, family or community member. We ask that any behaviors that seem suspicious or that are in direct violation of our school policies be reported using this form.

Building administrators will be immediately notified upon submission of the form so we can begin to get help to our students who may need it.

We thank you for your support of our students and schools.



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