

Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



December 2022-January 2023



Math students in fifth grade are participating in The Stock Market Game. See Page 3.

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Dates to remember

December

8.....Gr. 5-6 choir concert, 7 p.m.

15.....Gr. 5-6 band concert, 7 p.m.

19..School board mtg., 5:45 p.m.

21.....Two-hour early release

22-31....Winter break, no school

January

1-2.....Winter break, no school

3.....Classes resume

16.....MLK Jr. Day, no school

20..End Quarter 2, early release



Patriots' pledge

Fourth-graders at Delano Intermediate School recited the Pledge of Allegiance during the flag folding ceremony on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The program featured students and area veterans. See Page 4 for more photos.

Becoming a piece of the PIE

By Katie Thompson
Principal

I am excited to take some time in this month's newsletter to share about our newly revived Partners In Education (PIE) team at DIS.

As a new school five years ago, which plunged into the uncertainties of a pandemic shortly after opening, identifying ways to involve our parent base has been difficult, to say the least. We are grateful for the parents who did partner with our leadership over the last four years to continue to support staff and students



Katie Thompson

during this time to keep valuable experiences alive for our students.

This year, however, we were ready to revisit the possibility of forming an independently functioning PIE team, facilitated by officers and operating on adopted by-laws for the benefit of our amazing kids at DIS. Last spring a core group of parents – Bobbie Dahlke, Amy Palmlund, Marjorie Hegstom, and Toni Zitzloff – took on the roles of officers of the new DIS PIE.

From the beginning, these dedicated parents have consistently put a great deal of

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Gohman, others honored for leadership

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Each year Delano Public Schools staff members honor a few outstanding individuals with Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards.

On Nov. 2, DES physical education teacher Mollie Graham, DIS social worker Nicole Gohman, DHS language arts teacher Kellie Makela, and 2021-22 Delano Teacher of the Year Ashley Johnson, who teaches English Language Learners, received their awards at the regional award banquet in St. Cloud.

Graham and Makela will be featured in their respective building newsletters. A full feature about Johnson as the Teacher of the Year is available at <https://bit.ly/TeacheroftheYear22>.

Nicole Gohman

Gohman has channeled a lifelong desire to help others, particularly children, into a school social work career. She is in her 11th year as a social worker, and eighth year with Delano Public Schools.

"I grew up loving school and knew I wanted to spend my time working in a school, so being a school social worker is a perfect role for me," Gohman said. "I strive to make school a safe place for all students where they feel heard, cared for, and a sense of belonging."

Multiple individuals nominated Gohman for the LEEA honor.

"Nicole is a strong advocate in making sure all students feel safe and welcome walking into school each day," said one anonymous nomination. "She goes out of her way to be helpful to both students and staff."

Another nomination noted that



Delano educators receiving Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards on Nov. 2 included, from left, DIS social worker Nicole Gohman, English Language Learner Instructor Ashley Johnson, DHS language arts teacher Kellie Makela and DES physical educational instructor Mollie Graham.

Gohman has a knack for meeting the social and emotional needs of students, and that the students she serves look forward to meeting with her.

"The benefits of her professional counseling are evident in students (social and emotional) growth," the nomination said. "DIS students, families and staff are fortunate to benefit from her heartfelt work."

In addition to counseling, Gohman helps shape a positive school climate and supports the entire student body as a Student Council advisor, as a partner with the United Way program, and as an organizer of special events like Unity Day, Kindness in Chalk and Mental Health Awareness Week.

"I love that I get to work with so many

students on a variety of topics and skills," said Gohman. "I get to incorporate enjoyable learning tools into my sessions with students, such as games, movement, art, reading, play doh, and Legos! I feel especially fortunate to be able to witness students' growth during their time at DIS, as I typically work with students beyond one year of school."

"I feel incredibly honored to receive this award. The teachers and support staff within Delano Public Schools are outstanding and they are all extremely deserving of this award. I feel fortunate to have been nominated and selected to represent Delano Intermediate as the LEEA recipient this year."

Thompson

from Page 1

intentionality behind every decision they have made. The goal of this newly formed group is to investigate and support a wide variety of ways that they can partner with the school to provide learning experiences that all DIS students may not otherwise be able to access. Here are a few ways they have already stepped up for DIS!

- Volunteering: We have been fortunate to have PIE

organize parent volunteers to work at one of the school athletics concession stands, provide beverages and goodies for parent-teacher conferences, and most recently, work at the DIS book fair.

Due to budget constraints, we were seriously considering not running the book fair this year, and our parents have come to the rescue to help make this event happen for our kids. This is all because of our PIE group and their team of volunteers!

- Student opportunities: Additionally, this team has

already financially supported student experiences at Eagle Bluff Environmental Camp for sixth grade and Camp Friendship for fourth grade. They have also made possible the implementation of a math fact practice tool, along with a student newspaper program for our fifth-grade students.

At DIS, we are continuing to work as a building team to find the best ways to engage our DIS parents with what is happening in our school. Teaming with our PIE members and team of volunteers is a great start! I would like to encourage

you to email Delanopie22@gmail.com to request to be added to their membership and/or volunteer list.

Meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month at 6:15 p.m. at DIS. And finally, if you have a passion for promotion, PIE is also seeking a parent willing to take on the role of communications officer. Please contact the same email as above if you are interested.

One step at a time, we are creating the community we want for all of our kids, and you can be an important piece of that PIE!

Stock game builds financial literacy

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Fifth-grade math students at Delano Intermediate School are building financial literacy and analytical muscle through The Stock Market Game.

Brian Zjawiony of Wells Fargo recently visited the school to share about investing and the stock market.

In addition to the visit from that subject matter expert, students are regularly engaging in the same activities as stock traders in the business world.

‘The Stock Market Game simply leads students to look at numbers and analyze them in a critical manner.’

Jacob Olson

DIS teacher Jacob Olson said there are about 60 students who, along with a partner, get \$100,000 to invest in the stock market. Their results mirror the actual market, and teams compete to see who can make the most money by the end of the year.

“This is an activity a student mostly does when they have



Brian Zjawiony of Wells Fargo found an enthusiastic audience when he visited Delano Intermediate School to share about investing and the stock market.

extra time throughout a school day or at home,” Olson said.

Actions include interpreting various charts to see how different companies are performing, and researching online to find good companies to invest in.

“Students collaborate with their partner to make investment decisions like choosing to purchase or sell of different stocks,” said Olson. “The Stock Market Game simply leads students to look at numbers and analyze them in a critical manner.”



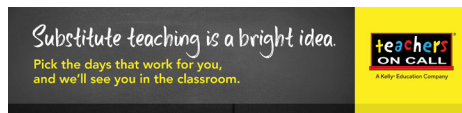
Explore becoming a substitute teacher

Delano Public Schools is among many area districts seeking additional assistance from substitute teachers.

Interested, but not sure how to get started? Contact Teachers on Call at 800.713.4439 or see www.teachersoncall.com for information on training and more.

The application process is almost completely online and can be completed in less than one week.

Substitutes do not need to have a teaching license, although substitute roles are



available for both licensed and un-licensed roles.

Substitute positions allow you the freedom to choose where, when, and how much you work. You also enjoy work-free nights, weekends, holidays, summers, and other breaks throughout the school year.

There are also opportunities for summer employment.

Substitutes can choose which jobs they take, and are free to explore a variety of districts or only take work from schools on their preference list. They can also choose the grade levels they work.

More information about training, requirements, pay, benefits, frequently asked questions, and more can be found at www.teachersoncall.com.



Featuring the flag

Delano area veterans came to Delano Intermediate School on Friday, Nov. 11, to share a little about their service and conduct a flag-folding ceremony that explains to students what each ceremonial fold of the flag represents. Students also read a number of patriotic essays and poems. Here is a look at some of the activity from the annual event.



Student speakers and readers in the program included James Ballhagen, Molly Hitchings, Gabby Belin, Lillian Pettit, Kade Danielson and Isaac Pohlmann.



Another successful drive to aid vets

The eighth annual clothing drive for veterans was a success.

The effort by school staff and families netted 350 new clothing items, and monetary donations were used to purchase winter boots for 10 female veterans who are undergoing treatment at the Eagles Healing Nest. The boots were purchased at the request of that facility's director.

"On behalf of Delano Schools, I would like to thank the Delano community and staff for your continued support of our Annual New Clothing Drive," said drive coordinator Ginny Schuelke. "Thanks to your generosity, we will be supporting male and female veterans undergoing treatment and healing at the



Eagles Healing Nest, as well as veterans receiving treatment at

the St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA Hospitals. Donations will

be delivered over the next two weeks."

Farm to School highlights local food

Intensity, First Kiss, Zestar and Honeycrisp! Each of these unique, Minnesota-grown apples made an appearance in the Delano schools cafeterias in October, in celebration of National Farm to School Month.

All of the apples were supplied by local growers: Knapton's in Greenfield, Yellow Dog in Delano and Gilchrist Orchard in Buffalo.

Now, as we move into the winter months, school meals will feature hot dogs from local beef producers at Thousand Hills Cattle Company. Watch for these on an upcoming menu!

We have been able to highlight these great local products in our menus thanks to a grant we received from the Minnesota Farm to School program.

Farm to School, run by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, connects students to our regional farmers by serving locally grown foods in school meals and teaching students about local agriculture.

We have applied for additional grant-funding for 2023 and are excited to feature even more locally grown items on future menus. Stay tuned

for more delicious details in the coming months! In the meantime, check out Farm to School in Minnesota to learn more (<https://extension.umn.edu/about-farm-school/farm-school-minnesota>), and be sure to ask your kids what they had for lunch!

Standout students

Students of the Month for October, recognized for being grateful, included fourth-graders Ayla Olson, Sloan Demeules, Henry Werth and Ryker Beck; fifth-graders Payton Torola, Mary Pietila, Jack Halonen and Gage Olson; and sixth-graders Lexi Thomas, Madison Schmitt-Heim, Sammy Juopperi and Zach Potter.



Record DASA scholarships this year

Student support organization seeking new members

Delano Area Scholarship Association (DASA), formally known as Dollars for Scholars, is a well-established, volunteer-run organization that provides scholarships to Delano High School seniors for post-secondary education.

Since 1986 this group has awarded over \$1 million dollars in scholarships to students that have participated in our program.

The scholarship money is raised through a combination of efforts between student fundraising activities and generous donations from Delano community businesses and private individuals.

This year, a record 69 stu-



The Delano Area Scholarship Association is seeking new members to help students continue their schooling.

dents have started the process of qualifying for a scholarship by taking part in our fundraising. Later this spring, each student will complete an application highlighting their school, community and work

activities. Applications will be reviewed anonymously by the DASA committee and awarded scholarships at the DHS Senior Awards event in May.

The Delano Area Scholarship Association commit-

tee (DASA) is comprised of parents, teachers and local residents dedicated to helping students fund their post-secondary education. Many of our current members have served over 15 years with this organization. Due to this longevity, the DASA committee has become a highly successful, well-organized program.

DASA is currently seeking new members from all parents in the district to replace outgoing members and lead this committee into the future. If you are interested in this rewarding and fulfilling opportunity, please contact us at delano.scholarship@gmail.com.

<div>  LUNCH </div> <div> DECEMBER 2022 Delano Intermediate School </div> <div> Delano Intermediate School \$3.50 </div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <div>Hot Dog-from local beef farm 5</div> <div>A)BBQ Rib Sandwich</div> <div>Potato Smiles</div> <div>Baked Beans</div> <div>Baby Carrots</div> <div>Rosy Applesauce</div>	<div>Beef Nachos 6</div> <div>Nacho Cheese / Salsa</div> <div>Refried Beans</div> <div>Lettuce Salad</div> <div>Fresh Fruit</div>	<div>Macaroni and Cheese 7</div> <div>Steamed Carrots</div> <div>Lettuce Salad</div> <div>Orange Wedges</div>	<div>Taco Joe 1</div> <div>Tortilla Chips</div> <div>Black Beans / Salsa</div> <div>Lettuce Salad</div> <div>Orange Wedges</div>	<div>Polish Sausage 2</div> <div>Mashed Potatoes</div> <div>Peas</div> <div>Lettuce Salad</div> <div>Roll / Pears</div> <div>Chocolate Chip Cookie</div>
<div>Hamburger 12</div> <div>Sun Chips</div> <div>Corn</div> <div>Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles</div> <div>Fruit Cocktail</div>	<div>Chicken Chompers 13</div> <div>Romaine Lettuce – toppings</div> <div>Sh Carrots / Tomatoes / Cukes</div> <div>Cheddar Goldfish</div> <div>Peaches</div>	<div>Spaghetti / Meat Sauce 14</div> <div>Green Beans</div> <div>Lettuce Salad</div> <div>Garlic Toast</div> <div>Pears</div>	<div>Pizza 8</div> <div>Green Beans</div> <div>Lettuce Salad</div> <div>Pears</div>	<div>Teriyaki Chicken 9</div> <div>Brown Rice</div> <div>Peas</div> <div>Roll</div> <div>Lettuce Salad</div> <div>Pineapple</div>
<div>Chicken Patty Sandwich 9</div> <div>Potato Wedges</div> <div>Veggies</div> <div>Lettuce Salad</div> <div>Peaches</div>	<div>Chicken Gravy 20</div> <div>A)Polish Sausage</div> <div>Mashed Potatoes / Peas</div> <div>Lettuce Salad / Roll</div> <div>Orange Wedges</div>	<div>Walking Tacos 21</div> <div>Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa</div> <div>Refried Beans</div> <div>Fresh Fruit</div> <div>Goldfish Grahams</div>	<div>Corn Dog 15</div> <div>Potato Smiles</div> <div>Baked Beans</div> <div>Baby Carrots</div> <div>Rosy Applesauce</div>	<div>French Toast Sticks 16</div> <div>Sausage Links</div> <div>Hashbrown</div> <div>Steamed Broccoli</div> <div>Orange Wedges</div>
<div>No School 26</div>	<div>No School 27</div>	<div>No School 28</div>	<div>No School 22</div>	<div>No School 23</div>
<div>No School</div>	<div>No School</div>	<div>No School</div>	<div>No School 29</div>	<div>No School 30</div>

This Institute is an equal opportunity provider
Menu subject to change based on product availability

Support staff honored with awards

Paraprofessionals, bus driver recognized for service

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

When it came time to recognize a support staff member for outstanding service, numerous individuals agreed that DIS special education paraprofessional Joelle Strandquist was deserving of the school's Educational Support Staff Award in 2022.

Strandquist accepted the award at a regional banquet in St. Cloud on Nov. 16. Other district support staff honored with ESSA recognition this year included DES special education paraprofessional Barb Kenison, DHS paraprofessional Kim Muckenhirn, and bus driver Janet Berzins. Each individual is featured in their respective school newsletter.

Joelle Strandquist

Helping children has been Strandquist's life work, as she has spent 14 summers at Bible camps, so taking a para position during the school year was a natural fit.

"The prospect of getting to help kids during the school year and continuing to work at camp over the summer was very appealing to me," she said.

Strandquist is now in her eighth year with Delano Public Schools, having worked in the middle/high school from 2015-2018 and moving up to the new intermediate school in 2018. She said she was specifically drawn to the special education field for several reasons, one of which was her experience helping a student with special needs at her church.

"I have always acknowledged that every person has intrinsic value and should be treated with dignity and



Joelle Strandquist of DIS, left, and Barb Kenison of DES accepted support staff awards on Nov. 16.

respect," Strandquist said. "Getting to work with this student helped the theoretical become practical for me, and was also deeply rewarding. I found that many times extensive training and experience, while valuable, may be less essential than a kind smile, a listening ear, and a lot of patience. I love to learn and I wanted to help learners who may be struggling for any number of reasons discover that they have the ability to learn and grow."

A large collection of anonymous nominations on Strandquist's behalf testified to her dedication and skill.

"She gives her best effort every day for our kids," one said. "She is gentle without allowing the kids too much freedom, kind, industrious and looks for the positives every day."

"Joelle is amazing," said another. "She goes out of her way every step, every minute, every situation."

A third nomination noted her perceptive handling of stu-

dents and their surroundings.

"Joelle knows her students well and works well with the teacher and class to create the best environment for her students," it said. "She is always coming up with innovative ways to provide her students the same access as every other student."

Several individuals referred to a case on an overnight trip when Strandquist worked with a fragile student well into the early morning hours to ensure the student's safety and comfort.

"She has the patience of a saint," one nomination said.

Strandquist said her favorite aspect of the job is getting to know her students, and watching them develop their confidence and independence over the intermediate school years.

"I also enjoy troubleshooting what works best for each student and helping provide opportunities for flexible learning based on individual learning

styles. There is so much variety in my day; no two days are alike," she said.

While the nominations acknowledged that Strandquist is not one to seek attention, she said the award is greatly appreciated.

"So much of what we do as paras happens behind the scenes. Being recognized with this award was a great encouragement to me that our efforts are being seen and appreciated," Strandquist said. "The ESS Award is a good reminder that all of us — from administrative assistants, cooks, custodians, paras, and everyone in between — are on one big team together with the licensed staff. Each and every person is essential to creating a positive and successful learning environment for our students. ... I work with an amazing team and have selfless co-workers who are always willing to step in and help wherever they can."

Janet Berzins

School staff have taken note of Berzins, who drives a special education bus for Delano students and also worked as a paraprofessional for extended school year classes in 2020-21.

"She thoroughly understands what the needs of each of her students are and what things they enjoy," said an anonymous nomination statement. "She has a kind heart, hard work ethic and truly shows passion for her job."

Berzins has also driven the bus for Unified Basketball events in recent years.

"She cares for everyone that enters her bus with appropriate accommodations and a positive attitude," said the nomination.



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