

Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



November 2022



A unique art project was unveiled. See Page 3.

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Dates to remember

November

4.....End of Quarter 1
6.....Daylight Saving Time ends
7...Teacher workshop, no school
8.....Election day
11..Veterans Day flag ceremony
14.....PIE meeting, 6:15 p.m.
16.....Two-hour late start
23-25....Thanksgiving, no school



Stories in sand

Fifth-graders delved into Native American history during the month of October with various projects and features on native cultures around North America. These students created sand art projects while studying inhabitants of the southwest region.

Establishing homework habits

By Katie Thompson
Principal

We are hitting our stride here at DIS. Having recently wrapped up fall conferences, we hope families are feeling knowledgeable about how your student is performing both academically and socially during their days at DIS.

As routines are solidified at school, your student may start to bring home additional work to complete at home. At DIS we believe we play an important role in building necessary skills to help students transition from elementary school



Katie Thompson

to high school. As students move through grades four, five and six, their homework

expectations will increase. As this happens, we would like to also encourage caregivers to encourage more and more independence on the part of the student as their years at DIS progress. Regardless of age, here are some ideas on how families can help set students up for success when working on school tasks at home.

First, please be sure to read the weekly DIS updates. This update includes the main events happening at school. Additionally, classroom

See Thompson
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Kindness in Chalk

Students and staff at Delano Intermediate School braved chilly temperatures to participate in the annual Kindness in Chalk event during Tiger Time on Monday, Oct. 17. The objective was to cover the school's surrounding paths and sidewalks with positive messages and images. Special thanks to guest artist LeAnna Wurzer for her incredible contribution near the main entrance!



Thompson

from Page 1

planner pages that include student homework topics for the week are linked to these emails. We hope this information equips families with talking points that can lead to good conversations about the work getting done in school and what needs to still be done at home.

Next, create a plan with your child about what is the best time and space for finishing homework. Some students are ready to tackle homework as soon as they get home. Some students, however, may push back on this, perhaps because they need some quiet downtime before returning to academics later in the afternoon. Finding a place to work that is well-lit, quiet, and distraction-free as much as possible

is also a healthy homework habit!

Also, encourage a growth mindset with your student. We learn about the “power of yet” at DIS. During the middle grades, students might start to get ideas in their minds of what they are “good at” or “not so good at.” We believe there is always room to grow and learn, and that failure is just another opportunity to learn something new.

For example, if your student struggles with writing and thinks they are just “bad” at it, remind them that as they become stronger in their writing it will get easier, and the only way to get stronger is to practice! “You can’t do it yet, but you will if you don’t give up!”

Finally, we trust that families know their students best. If homework struggles are causing significant disruptions at home, please feel free to connect with your child’s

teacher. We are happy to problem solve to support student success.

We thank you for your partnership in your student’s education!

Questions to ask in addition to ‘How was your day?’

- What made you smile today?
- Can you tell me an example of a kindness you saw/showed?
- What was the book about that your teacher read today?
- Did anyone do anything silly to make you laugh?
- Who did you play with today?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- What did you learn that was new to you today?
- Tell me something you know today that you didn’t know yesterday.

Students make their mark with art

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

A full grade-level effort has resulted in an eye-catching update to the utility box near the Delano Intermediate School parking lot.

Each year the fifth-grade students get a chance to make their mark on the school in some way, and this year the Delano Area Council for Arts and Culture provided the outlet through its “Spark the Power of Art” program.

“They had plans to cover the electrical box out by our exit and asked if we would be interested in putting student artwork on it,” said DIS art teacher Rachael Mathews. “Of course I said yes.”

‘It shows who we are and what we love to do, and how we love our schools.’

Greta Becker

Last spring students drew up a total of 36 possible designs, engaged in a voting process, narrowed the possibilities to five, and blended elements of those five into designs for three sides of the box. The fourth side, a Tiger, featured a design by local artist and DIS parent



Students and families gathered on a chilly morning for the unveiling of their artwork.

LeAnna Wurzer.

After the final designs were chosen, they were projected at actual size, and students traced the outlines. The tracing was then cut into squares for individual students to work on and paint.

“We wanted to make sure every fifth-grade student was included,” said Mathews. “To do that we divided up our design paper into 182 squares, one for each student. When it came to painting, four students teamed up on larger squares so everybody had a hand in the creation of it. Every student did something.”

**See Art
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Debbie DeBeer of the Delano Area Council for Art and Culture speaks at an unveiling of the art-covered electrical box on Wednesday, Oct. 19, as DIS art teacher Rachael Mathews looks on.



Referendum 2022

The Delano School Board has called for an operating levy vote on Nov. 8

2021 result

\$970

Last fall voters turned down a school district request to increase its per pupil funding by \$600 to a total of \$970, the amount needed to prevent budget cuts for the foreseeable future. As a result, the district trimmed its budget by more than \$550,000 for 2022-23 through staff cuts, fee increases and more.

2022 changes

This year the school board has lowered its overall request and broken it into two questions.

Question 1

\$604.46
per pupil

The first ballot question asks voters to approve a new levy amount of \$604.46 per pupil to replace the expiring levy of \$404.46, an increase of \$200 per pupil.

Tax increase

\$100
per year

on an average home
valued at \$350,000

Question 2

\$250
per pupil

The second question asks voters to approve an additional per pupil funding amount of \$250.

Tax increase

\$122
per year

Total increase

\$222
per year



Question 2 is contingent on Question 1, meaning it cannot pass unless Question 1 is approved.

Potential outcomes

Q1 | Q2



If both questions pass, no budget cuts will be needed next school year. Some cuts may still be needed within the 10-year life of the levy, depending on state funding and enrollment changes.



Cuts of approximately \$360,000, or the equivalent of five full-time staff members, would be needed for the 2023-24 school year. In the last four fiscal years overall reductions have totaled \$1.7 million.



Question 2 can only pass if Question 1 is approved. This outcome would mirror the result for two “no” votes below.



The district would lose \$1 million in annual funding when the existing levy expires after the current school year. Resulting budget cuts would be the equivalent of 23 full-time staff members.

See more information at www.delano.k12.mn.us

Native unit continues a tradition

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Fifth-graders took an in-depth look at Native American cultures during the month of October, and participated in a variety of hands-on projects as well.

The unit continued a long-time grade-level tradition, as each fifth-grade teacher covered native cultures in six different regions of North America, and students created their own soap carvings, sand art, “buffalo hide” projects, totem poles and beaded necklaces. They also took part in “sacred sticks” competitions.

Former Delano teacher Gwen Briesemeister returned to teach a popular unit about Native American dress and the pow-wow tradition, and even dressed a few volunteer students in typical pow-wow regalia as a demonstration. She also showed video clips of modern-day pow-wow events to illustrate the way that the historical tradition continues.

“I’ve really enjoyed learning about Native Americans, because my grandpa really is Native American,” said fifth-grader Olivia Kolles.

Knowing what they do about each region covered in the unit, where would students want to live as early Native American themselves?

“Probably the northwest, by the coast, because I love fish and by the coast there are a lot



Former Delano teacher Gwen Briesemeister returned to give a presentation about the pow-wow tradition, including the dress and style of participants, on Tuesday, Oct. 18.

of salmon,” said Lucy Alipour.

“Plains all day,” added another student who was passing by. “It’s not too hot and not too cold. It’s just perfect.”

Henry Koob added that what he enjoyed learning about most was how the natives hunted.

“They used deerskin over their body to hunt so they could sneak into herds of deer,” he said.

Bergen Olson said she enjoyed learning about the south-east region, and particularly what the natives did for food.

“We got to learn what the Native Americans ate and how they got it and what tools they used to get it,” she said.

In past years fifth-grade teachers have noted that the unit, connected to the social studies curriculum, is a nice change of pace that adds variety to the school day. The opportunity to add an art component is always popular with students, several of whom agreed that soap carving was their favorite hands-on activity.

“It was just really fun,” said Gabe Corona.



Many students agreed that soap carving was one of their favorite activities.



Above, Rayna Schaefer created an intricate bag by using pieces of reeds from a wetland near her home.

All parents invited to hear guest speaker

By Barry Voight
DHS Principal

a message of hope to conferences, schools, prisons and hospitals.

To help us reinforce the importance of inclusion and respect, Delano High School has arranged for Jonathan Friesen to speak with high school students on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

We'd also like to invite all of our parents and the broader Delano community to the PAC to hear a similar message on Wednesday evening. Please join us for this free event in the PAC at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 16, for the parent/community message of "Make them Visible."

Friesen is an award-winning young adult author, international speaker, storyteller and educator. His 2008 novel "Jerk, California" won the prestigious ALA Schneider Award, "Best Book of the Year." When he's not writing or teaching, Jonathan is traveling, bringing

Friesen grew up experiencing the ostracism of a life with Tourette Syndrome, panic attacks, and epilepsy, and he speaks on the importance of making each other visible. All of us, no matter the age, have questions we ask of those around us. If our questions find positive answers, we feel whole and affirmed. If they receive negative responses or are ignored, the cries of our hearts go unanswered.

Friesen draws from his own life experiences to show how we can reach out to one another. He shows the power we each have to affect the trajectory of those around us.

I invite all of you to visit Jonathan's web page to learn more about his message: <https://jonathanfriesen.com>.

"MAKE THEM VISIBLE"

Delano High School invites all parents and interested community members to hear a message of inclusion and respect by guest speaker Jonathan Friesen.



JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER
16TH AT 6PM IN THE
DELANO PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER



"JONATHAN'S TALK CHANGES EVERYTHING. HOW I SEE THOSE AROUND ME. HOW I SEE MYSELF. AMAZING." - ATTENDEE, ARC MINNESOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SCAN TO CHECK
OUT HIS WEBSITE:



Announcements

Candy donations for troops

Delano Intermediate school is collecting candy donations to send to those in the military through Friday, Nov. 4. Please bring candy donations to the office. If students are writing cards to the troops, turn them in by 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3.

Volunteer at our schools

Delano Public Schools welcomes volunteers and appreciates their efforts on behalf of our students. The district uses the volunteer management system from Raptor Technologies to screen and track volunteers in our buildings. This is the same system currently used for visitor management and ensures safety and security for students, staff and visitors.

The district's risk management policy mandates that all volunteers MUST be registered every year with the district prior to participating in any school-related activity, including field trips.

Registration can be completed at www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun and consists of two parts.

1. Volunteers MUST have a secure background check on file with District 879. The background check is valid for three calendar years and can be accessed via a link on the volunteer page of the district website. The cost of the secure background check is \$12, payable by the volunteer.

2. Volunteers MUST complete -- every school year -- a volunteer application form, which can be accessed and completed at www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendie Scanlon at 763.972.6200 ext. 1312, or wendie.scanlon@delanoschools.org.

District Advisory Council

Delano Public Schools is seeking parent and community members to serve on the District Advisory Council (DAC) for the 2022-23 school year.

The District Advisory Council serves to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving instruction and curriculum in terms of state and local standards. Through that work, the DAC provides recommendations to the school board regarding rigorous academic standards, student achievement goals, and measures consistent with MN Statute B.11.

The DAC membership reflects the diversity of the district and its school sites and includes teachers, parents, support staff, students and other community residents. DAC members must be able to commit to three or four meetings per year.

Interested parents and community members can request an application by contacting Monica Kunkel, Curriculum Coordinator, at 763-973-7601, ext. 1731, or monica.kunkel@delanoschools.org.

District Wellness Committee

Delano Public Schools is seeking community members, parents, students and school staff to serve on the District Wellness Committee. If you wish to help ensure student wellness by participating on this committee, contact DHS Assistant Principal Steve Schauburger at steve.schauburger@delanoschools.org.

Art

from Page 3

After that preliminary work was done last spring, the students, who are now sixth-graders, and some of their families gathered at the electrical box on Wednesday morning, Oct. 19, for the project's unveiling.

The three sides of the box follow Delano Intermediate's "Achieve, Thrive, Excel" motto, with each side featured a heart-shaped set of shelves holding various items that encapsulate the student experience, from academics to activities and athletics.

'It's a great real-world application to being an artist.'

Rachael Mathews

"As a school we all worked together to build this one masterpiece," said student Gauge Wertz. "This shows the entire Delano district. We came up with everything that Delano schools can give us; for example, our teams, our band and choir, our reading, our math – everything the school offers. It shows a piece of what Delano is all about."

Greta Becker agreed.

"It shows who we are and what we love to do, and how we love our schools," she said.

'It's cool to know we put our stamp on things.'

Cora Boyack

Mathews said the project was a good way not only to display student artwork in a high-visibility location, but also to show students how practical art can be.

"It's a great real-world application to being an artist," she said. "They typically think of just famous artists, of creating a painting and hanging it in a museum. This teaches them that we can work together to create art. We can create art for different purposes: to represent people, to benefit our community, and that it has different applications."

"It's really cool to know that the whole town will be seeing our work, and it's cool to know that we put our stamp on things," said student Cora Boyack.

"I'm just so proud of them, and I hope people really enjoy it and appreciate it," said Mathews. "They put a lot of heart and soul and thought into it, and it will be around for a long time."



Larson serving as district's new SRO

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

As a Delano resident, Eric Larson has appreciated the short commute and the district's straightforward approach toward high-quality education in his role as Delano's new School Resource Officer.

Though this is Larson's first full-time SRO position, he has two years of experience serving as a substitute SRO at numerous schools across the county while working primarily in the patrol division of the Wright County Sheriff's Office.

"I've had the opportunity to go to a bunch of different schools and see how they operate," Larson said. "This is a great school. There are a lot of families and people who live in Delano who put education first. This isn't just eight hours a day to occupy your time; this is a launching pad, hopefully."

While officers work where they're assigned, Larson said he didn't hesitate to volunteer for Delano schools when former Delano SRO Shane Hegarty departed over the summer. Some may prefer a level of personal anonymity outside of work, but Larson said that the opportunity to serve as a good role model on and off the clock made the hometown job attractive.

"It shouldn't matter if you treat everybody with respect," he said, acknowledging that his role might sometimes lead to difficult interactions. "It's about transparency, and explaining why I am doing the things I do. The kids will see me in and out of uniform, whether it's patrol brown or SRO black, or even just in shorts and a Twins shirt. I think that's kind of cool. I like that small-town feel."

Career choices

Larson grew up in south Minneapolis and obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in law, crime and deviance. After college he became a corrections officer at the Hennepin County



Eric Larson, a Delano resident and deputy with the Wright County Sheriff's Office, is the new School Resource Officer.

Jail, a position that individuals can hold without a peace officer's license.

"In the jail you can just be a civilian. You don't have arrest rights and you don't carry a gun," Larson said.

In working closely alongside licensed police officers, however, Larson felt drawn to shift lanes. Eventually he completed the requirements and took his first job as a licensed officer with Wright County, where he has worked on patrol for the past six years.

"That's traditionally where most law enforcement officers start and cut their teeth," Larson said. "You take calls, do the late nights and holidays. Up to

a month ago I was on the road."

Looking to diversify his experience, Larson put in a letter of interest to join the Wright County's SRO division of about 13 officers, and now has a dedicated district to serve after gaining experience as a substitute. Why was he interested in the school aspect of policing?

"I've been told many times that have I have a good attitude toward policing. I'm easy to get along with, friendly, easy to approach, so my wife actually suggested it," Larson said.

Mission

Whether working with jail inmates, on patrol, or in a school, Larson said his goal is

to treat others firmly, fairly, and consistently. He appreciates the values articulated by the TIGER Way (Teamwork, Inclusion, Grit, Excellence and Respect), and said the grade-level meetings conducted by Delano High School administrators at the start of the school year set the right tone for success.

"It just emphasizes that we all know the rules, and we're here to learn," Larson said. "We're all on the same page. The kids know what's expected of them, and they can come in and get a good education. I want to be a good role model and enforce good habits. If kids see enough of that, it becomes normal and they know it's not appropriate to disrespect the rules."

Off duty

Larson's wife is a St. Michael native, and he said the pair chose Delano as their home in 2016 after living closer to the cities previously.

"I don't think I had never been to Delano before then, but we picked the right place," he said.

Neighbors have been friendly and supportive, and Larson said he has enjoyed time at the local parks with his 2.5-year-old child and 9-month-old "goldador" puppy, a golden retriever and Labrador retriever mix.

"Between the two of them, they give me a good run for my money," Larson said.



Larson has enjoyed his start at Delano, which included joining students for the Kindness in Chalk event on Oct. 17.

Vets clothing drive ends on Nov. 11

The eighth annual new clothing drive for veterans began on Oct. 24 and continues until Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11.

Please consider donating the following items. All donated items must be newly purchased.

For men: sweatpants and sweatshirts (L and XL), zip-up hooded sweatshirts (L and XL), slippers or shower shoes, socks, boxer shorts (M-XL), colored T-shirts (all sizes), white T-shirts (L, XL); winter hats, gloves and coats; pajama pants (L, XL), jeans (32-38), work out clothes; deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste; and body wash.

For women: sweatpants,

sweatshirts and zip-up hooded sweatshirts (M-XL); slippers or shower shoes; socks and underwear (M-XL); colored T-shirts (all sizes); winter hats, gloves and coats (L-XL), pajamas (M-XL), work-out clothes and sports bras, jeans (all sizes), deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and body wash.

• If you would like to make a monetary donation, collected funds will be used to purchase the items of greatest need based on the request of each facility.

Make your check payable to Delano Public Schools, and note "veterans clothing drive" in the memo. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this project.



Book fair dates

The DIS book fair runs from Monday through Friday, Nov. 14-18. Students will be able to browse the selection during the school day from 7:40 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. For more information, visit the website at bit.ly/DISbooks22.

| <div> LUNCH </div> <div> NOVEMBER 2022 Delano Elementary School </div> <div> Delano Elementary School \$3.50 </div> | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| <div>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</div> <div>7</div> <div>Teacher Workshop No School</div> | <div>1</div> <div>Beef Nachos Nacho Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit</div> | <div>2</div> <div>Macaroni and Cheese Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges</div> | <div>3</div> <div>Pizza Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears</div> | <div>4</div> <div>Crispy Chicken Tenders Peas Lettuce Salad Roll Peaches</div> |
| <div>14</div> <div>Chicken Patty Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers Veggies Lettuce Salad Peaches</div> | <div>8</div> <div>Chicken Chompers A) Fish Sticks Romaine Salad – toppings Sh carrots / cukes / tomatoes Cheddar Goldfish Peaches</div> | <div>7</div> <div>Cheese Ravioli / Marinara Sauce Green Beans Lettuce Salad Garlic Toast Pears</div> | <div>10</div> <div>Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baby Carrots Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce</div> | <div>11</div> <div>French Toast Sticks Sausage Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Orange Wedges</div> |
| <div>21</div> <div>Domino's Pizza Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears</div> | <div>15</div> <div>Walking Tacos Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Goldfish Grahams</div> | <div>16</div> <div>Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes Peas / Lettuce Salad Roll Orange Wedges</div> | <div>17</div> <div>Popcorn Chicken Brown Rice Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad Pineapple / Mand Oranges</div> | <div>18</div> <div>Italian Dunker Marinara Sauce Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit</div> |
| <div>28</div> <div>Chicken Nuggets Sun Chips Green Beans Baby Carrots Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail</div> | <div>22</div> <div>Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges</div> | <div>23</div> <div>No School</div> | <div>24</div> <div>Thanksgiving No School</div> | <div>25</div> <div>No School</div> |
| | <div>29</div> <div>Cheese Quesadilla Corn Lettuce Salad Salsa Fresh Fruit</div> | <div>30</div> <div>Orange Chicken Seasoned Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple</div> | | |

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

Standout students

Students of the Month for September, recognized for being positive, included fourth-graders Grace Leaman, Ellie van Bergen, Caleb Hanson and Liam Conway; fifth-graders Madelyn Guralnik, Kali Schultz, Colby Moravec and Josh Holzer; and sixth-graders Maci Geyen, Molly Hitchings, Weston Gabrick and Sammy Kirchmann.



Holiday Helpers program available

By Marie Techam
DHS Social Worker

The Delano Public Schools social workers are partnering with a local non-profit agency, Friends 4 a Cause, to facilitate a program called Holiday Helpers.

If you are experiencing hard times right now, we would like to invite you to be a part of this program. The goal of Holiday Helpers is to help you and your family have a bright and merry

holiday season by providing each member of your household with gifts and goodies.

Please know that this is a confidential program and your names will not be shared with others. If you are already participating in Love Inc's Christmas Program or another similar program, we ask that you decline this opportunity in order for us to help additional families.

If you are interested in participating, email your child's

school social worker to express your interest. If you have a child in more than one school building, please only email one school social worker. You will receive a form via email asking about your family's needs and wants this holiday season along with details regarding gift pick-up.

Please contact a school social worker by Friday, November 11, 2022.

School building social work-

ers are as follows:

Janelle Olson, DES
janelle.olson@delanoschools.org

Nicole Gohman, DIS
nicole.gohman@delanoschools.org
Preschool and ECFE families can contact Nicole Gohman

Marie Techam, DHS
marie.techam@delanoschools.org

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.



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



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