

# Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



October 2022



See photos from the 'The Lion King' on Page 7.

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First day of school

Walk to School Day

## Dates to remember

### October

12..Walk and Roll to School Day

17.....Picture retake day

17.....Kindness in Chalk

17..Levy listening session, 7 p.m.

17.....Conferences

18.....Conferences

19.....Two-hour late start

19.....Unity Day

20-21.....MEA, no school

31.....DIS Halloween



## Uncharted waters

Sixth-graders plunged into a new adventure in September, a multi-day trip to Eagle Bluff Conservation Center near Lanesboro. The experience marked a departure from decades of spring visits to Long Lake Conservation Center. See the story on Page 4.

## Adding new tools for success

By Katie Thompson  
Principal

We are thrilled to be back at DIS with all of our students! We have worked hard at the intermediate school throughout the month of September to create a building climate that is positive and full of energy for achieving our goals this school year.

This month I'd specifically like to share about our Tier 1 additions to our PBIS Implementation, as well as how we are prioritizing social emotional learning and relationship-building through our



Katie Thompson

newly created "Tiger Time."  
PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and

Supports. There are 10 core components that make up the first level of PBIS in a school building. Last year we were able to implement most of these components through a renewed focus on teaching schoolwide expectations and introducing a positive behavior reinforcement strategy, Tiger Tickets.

This year, we are continuing with these components and adding a few new pieces. First, we are teaching our schoolwide expectations, not only through

See Thompson  
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# Homecoming at DIS



## Pep fest fun

Delano Intermediate School celebrated Homecoming week with a variety of fun dress up days and an exciting pep fest on Friday, Sept. 23. Here are some of the scenes from the pep fest.





# 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](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us)



# New tradition begins at Eagle Bluff

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

For decades, multiple generations of Delano students have enjoyed a memorable camp experience at Long Lake Conservation Center.

Usually the trip happened in fifth grade. After COVID scuttled one year's trip, last year's group consisted of sixth-graders to lessen the number of students who missed the iconic event.

This fall, the tradition continued to evolve as the destination changed to Eagle Bluff Conservation Center near Lanesboro, and the mud and ice of spring were exchanged for the warm sun of September.

"It's a change of venue from LLCC and there was a little trepidation with that, but it was really, really wonderful," DIS Principal Katie Thompson told school board members on Monday, Sept. 26.

Sixth-graders and their teachers, along with a dozen or so parent chaperones, departed Delano Intermediate School on Wednesday morning, Sept. 21, and returned on Friday, Sept. 23. Assistant Principal Greg Hinker accompanied the group to southern Minnesota, and said things went so well that DIS is already signed up to return again next fall.



**Activities available included the developing of camping skills, high ropes courses, canoing and more.**

"It's about continuing the tradition of a middle school camp experience. We're just going to a different camp," he said. "LLCC was great, but we found a camp with a few more options that has allowed us to offer some better opportunities for our kids."

Hinker said Eagle Bluff offered a few additional activities that weren't available at LLCC. Students canoed the Root River, while last year's group was unable to canoe on the

frozen lake at LLCC. There was also rock climbing, which was indoors and available regardless of weather. And finally, Eagle Bluff also had a pair of high ropes courses for students to challenge themselves in new ways.

"On these trips, the highlights are always seeing kids working with each other, experiencing new things and

**See Camp**  
**Page 5**



**A large indoor climbing wall was an exciting challenge for sixth-graders. They also received lessons in how to start camp fires without matches.**



# Veterans clothing drive begins Oct. 24

Delano Public Schools will conduct its eighth annual new clothing drive for veterans in need again this year.

The drive will begin on Monday, Oct. 24, and end on Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11. All donated items must be newly purchased.

The clothing drive will continue to support veterans who are hospitalized at local VA hospitals in Minneapolis and St. Cloud, as well as veterans who are undergoing treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder at the Eagles Healing Nest.

The VA hospitals provide assistance to veterans in need. These veterans, many who are homeless at admission, are typically hospitalized for 60 to 90 days. When they are well enough for discharge, the hospital staff works to ensure that their basic needs are met.

The Eagles Healing Nest has recently expanded its program to include female as well as male veterans. The Nest provides holistic treatment and therapy, education and job training.



**Students display some of the items gathered in last year's drive to support veterans.**

With the fall of Afghanistan, the Nest seen a significant increase in veterans needing and accessing services.

Please consider donating the following items.

**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.

## Every Meal helps to cover food gaps

Every Meal, a weekend food program formerly known as The Sheridan Story, 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. Every Meal 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](mailto:nicole.gohman@delanoschools.org) or 763.972.7602 ext. 1515.

To sign up, go online to [bit.ly/DISmeal22](http://bit.ly/DISmeal22).

## Camp

from Page 4

developing new relationships," said Hinker. "There are kids who have never done these things, and might never do them if they had not gone to camp. So to see them overcoming their fears, or to see them excited about an activity and participating in it, it's neat."

In addition to their activities, students also took courses on animals, conservation, and early Minnesota settlers.

"They give a catalogue of the classes they can do for us. We chose to pull in the social studies component," said Hinker.

Going forward, the trip will continue to be a sixth-grade event. Hinker thanked sixth-grade staff members for their extensive planning for the successful outing, as well as the parents.



**Students met some of the state's resident snakes.**

"It takes a lot of commitment from parents and chaperones. Without that we'd never be able to go," he said. "It's quite the investment of time and resources to make this trip happen, so thanks to them for allowing us to continue with this tradition. It is a lot of work, but it also has a lot of benefits. When students get to high school, this middle school trip is one of their favorite memories. So to re-start the tradition, that's really great."



# When to keep an ill student at home

**By Tina Prior**  
District Nurse

When a student is sick, parents often wonder whether or not to keep a child at home from school.

If a child stays home and has the care they need when first sick, they will often get better faster. Staying home and resting will help the body fight the sickness. Staying at home is also one of the best ways to keep others from becoming ill.

## Reasons to stay home include:

Reasons to stay home include:

1. Severe colds, coughs, or sore throats.
2. Eye infections, especially



**Tina Prior**

if discharge is present.

3. New skin rashes, especially if draining – unless medical opinion states rash is not contagious.
4. Temperature of 100 or more with or without symp-

toms of an illness.

5. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain.
6. Any other sign of acute illness.

7. The student is waiting until results of laboratory tests (i.e., throat culture, nasal swab, saliva test) are known.
8. The student is unable to participate in routine activities or needs more care than can be provided by staff.

9. The student needs to be given an over-the-counter medication to come to school.

## Students may return to school when:

1. They are well enough to participate in normal school activities.
2. They are free of all symp-

toms for 24 hours (especially vomiting, diarrhea and fever).

3. Their temperature remains normal for a 24-hour period without the use of fever reducing medications.
4. They have been on an antibiotic for at least 24 hours.

It is often difficult to decide whether it is really necessary to keep your child home. There are very few rules to follow when dealing with these variables. Hopefully these guidelines will be helpful to you in making this decision. Gone are the days when you should tell your child "to push through" or "go to school and if you are not better go to the nurse." Our goal is to provide a healthy environment for all children.

Thank you for your cooperation!

LUNCH		OCTOBER 2022			Delano Intermediate School	Delano Intermediate \$3.50
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
Hamburger Sun Chips Corn Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Fruit Cocktail	Chicken Chompers A) Fish Sticks Romaine – toppings Sh carrots / Cukes / Tomatoes Cheddar Goldfish Peaches	Spaghetti – Meat Sauce Green Beans Lettuce Salad Garlic Toast Pears	Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baby Carrots Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce	French Toast Sticks Sausage Links Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Cinnamon Applesauce		
Chicken Patty Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Veggies Lettuce Salad Peaches	Walking Tacos Beef / Chips Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit	Chicken Gravy A) Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Popcorn Chicken Seasoned Brown Rice Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad Pineapple / Mand Oranges	Italian Dunker Marinara Sauce Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit		
Domino's Pizza Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Hamburger A) Sloppy Joes Sun Chips Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Baked Beans Fruit Cocktail	No School MEA	No School MEA		
Chicken Nuggets Sun Chips Green Beans Baby Carrots Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail	Cheese Quesadilla Corn Lettuce Salad Salsa Fresh Fruit	Orange Chicken Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Salad Pineapple	Taco Joe Tortilla Chips Baked Beans Salsa Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Pears		
Hot Dog A) BBQ Rib Sandwich Potato Smiles Baked Beans Baby Carrots Rosy Applesauce						

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



# Middle School Play



## Lion King

Nearly 50 DIS and DHS students in grades 5-8 joined forces to put on the annual middle school play. This year the production was 'Disney's The Lion King Jr.' The cast performed three shows Sept. 8-10 that retold the classic story. These scenes from one of the final dress rehearsals.





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# Substitutes needed

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](http://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](http://www.teachersoncall.com).

## Announcements

### Levy listening session on Oct. 17

Members of the Delano School Board host periodic "listening sessions" to discuss matters of interest with district residents.

The next listening session will occur on Monday, Oct. 17, in the Delano High School Tiger Den. All are encouraged to attend to hear information and share feedback about the district's operating levy request (see Page 3 for details).

Listening sessions are not formal meetings, and open discussion about the designated topics is encouraged. Members of the public are welcome to share comments, questions and suggestions.

Two or three board members, along with appropriate school staff, attend each session to share information and hear feedback. No official action is taken at the sessions, but feedback is shared with the entire board to inform members as they make decisions going forward.

### 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 the 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](mailto:monica.kunkel@delanoschools.org).

### 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.

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](http://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](http://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](mailto:wendie.scanlon@delanoschools.org).

### District 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 student nutrition and education, physical activity, and wellness support.

This committee meets three times during the year to 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.

To participate, contact DHS Assistant Principal Steve Schaubberger at 763-972-3365, ext. 1703, or [steve.schaubberger@delanoschools.org](mailto:steve.schaubberger@delanoschools.org).



# Back to the books

Delano Intermediate School students were all smiles as they returned to school on Tuesday, Sept. 6. The school year jumped out to a fast start with the middle school play, Eagle Bluff trip, Homecoming and more happening in the very first weeks.



## Walk and Roll to School Day is Oct. 12

Delano Public Schools is participating in the national Walk and Roll to School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Local children and adults are welcome to participate in this celebration of the benefits of walking and biking. There are four steps to keep in mind if you or your students plan to walk or bike to school.

- Step 1: Look on the school's website for the DPS Safe Routes to School Walk and Bike Map.

- Step 2: Use the map to plan a safe route to "Walk and Roll" to school.

- Step 3: Practice your route ahead of time to see how long it takes. Tell your family what route you're taking.

- Step 4: Walk to school on Oct. 12. Leave earlier and dress for the weather!

Learn more at [walkbike-toschool.org](http://walkbike-toschool.org). Walk and Roll to School Day is coordinated in the United States by the National Center for Safe Routes to School.



## Thompson

from Page 1

grade-level meetings, but also with signs newly placed throughout the building and videos created by staff and students. We know that academics flourish in an environment where every person in the building is clear and consistent on our behavior expectations.

Tiger Reminder Slips are another addition to our PBIS

plan. These slips serve as a communication tool with students and families when a student needs additional reminders to meet behavior expectations. These reminders do not rise to the level of an office referral, but do help us document any behavior trends we may be noticing with individual students, or at a building level. Data collection is another key component of PBIS.

### Tiger Time

Finally, this year we are adding a "Tiger Time" morning meeting structure to all of our classrooms. Morning meetings were being held to various degrees throughout the building based on grade level and classroom teacher time. This year, we have dedicated 20 minutes of our morning, every morning, to Tiger Time.

The outline of our Tiger Time days are as follows:

- Monday – Check and Connect. Greeting and sharing with one another.

- Tuesday – Tiger PRIDE Tuesday. Learning about our monthly character trait.

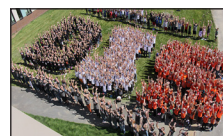
Wednesday and Thursday – grade level choice.

- Friday – We Fit Friday. Building community through fun, active experiences.

We are looking forward to a great year, and we thank you for your continued support.



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



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