



# Charles E. Walters School

## Parent Newsletter

**Erin Gibson**

Assistant Principal

**Brian Foster**

Principal

**Eileen Wilson**

Assistant Principal

# February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 PTA IC book fair	7 PTA IC book fair	8 Blizzard Day -K  PTA evening book fair PC 6-8 pm	9 PTA PC book fair  BOE meeting LHS 7 pm	10 PTA PC book fair	11
Feb 6-10 Black History Month Spirit Week						
12	13 PTA meeting 7 pm	14	15	16	17 RIGHT rally	18
Feb 13 - 17 Kindness Week Spirit Week						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Feb 20 - 24 Mid-Winter Recess Schools Closed						
26	27	28	March 1st Grades K, 1 & 2 Science fair drop off	March 2nd Grade 3 & 4 Science fair drop off		



# Kindergarten February News



## Reading

In reading, the children will read nonfiction books and gather information. We are growing expertise by asking the "5 W" questions: Who? What? When? Why? Where?

## Social Studies

In social studies, we will learn about Groundhog's Day, dental health, Black History Month, Chinese New Year, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, the 100th day of school, and Valentine's Day.

## Math

In math, we are focusing upon learning the vocabulary, symbols, and strategies in order to solve word problems and numerical problems within 10 for addition and subtraction.

## Foundations

In Foundations, we are blending and spelling CVC words, forming our letters correctly, learning all our capital letters and alphabetical order.

## Writing

In writing, we are writing true stories about things we know.

## Science

We are excited for the upcoming **Science Fair!** If **your project was approved for the Science Fair** please begin working on your project. The Science Fair will take place in early March.

We will also continue to learn about animals throughout the winter.

## **\*\*Reminders\*\***

- Please read your books daily
- Please practice tying shoelaces
- Please practice ROYG rainbow sight words
- Schools closed 2/20/23-2/24/23
- Blizzard Day is February 8th be on the lookout for additional information on Parent Square. Please have your children wear white along with mittens, gloves and hats.
- Kindness Week is the week of February 13th
- 100th day of school celebration is February 10th.



## Rainbow Sight Words-

Red- a can I in is like me my on see the to we

Orange- am an and at by do go he it no so up you

Yellow- all are as ball be day for has look play they was went

Green- had her this come too will did get got him fun if or

# 1<sup>st</sup> Grade February News



## Math:

We will continue to explore all the ways to subtract. We will be using those strategies to help us solve subtraction number sentences and word problems. February marks our celebration of the 100th Day of school. We will be counting and sorting numbers to 100.

## Writing:

We will continue to work in our nonfiction unit as we write more "All About Books". We will be sharing all we know and teaching our readers all about our favorite topics using content specific vocabulary and illustrations.

## Foundations:

Students continue to learn new reading and spelling patterns in one-syllable words. We are working with words made up of four sounds that contain consonant blends, combined with all previous skills learned. Students are also being exposed to r-controlled vowel sounds, vowel teams and glued sounds.

## Social Studies:

This month our first graders will discuss Black History Month, President's Day, the Lunar New Year and Groundhog's Day.

## Science:

We are switching gears from Mystery Science to explore in our Lego Lab. We will be starting our First Lego League Superpowered challenges. First Lego League introduces STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) through fun, exciting hands-on learning. Our first graders will develop critical-thinking and presentation skills, build habits of learning and self-confidence, and have a ton of fun while working as part of a team.

## Health:

Our first grade students continue to learn about safety. Students will be learning about how they can think ahead to get places safely. It is important to plan a safe way for how you will go somewhere, such as to school or home. Students will also take part in the Stony Brook Dental Health Program and learn how important it is to keep their teeth healthy.

## Reading:

We are continuing to work in our nonfiction unit, "Learning About the World by Reading". Students are learning how to get themselves ready to read an informational book, they are becoming better at figuring out new and important vocabulary words that relate to specific topics, and they are studying informational books more closely to learn as much information as they can from the pictures, features, and words.



## 2nd Grade February News



### Reading

In reader's workshop, students will continue to study characters. We will keep learning new character trait vocabulary words and look for examples in our books to support our thinking.

### Writing

In writer's workshop, students are writing letters about books to special people in their lives. They are sharing their opinions about books and supporting their ideas with evidence and examples from the text.

### Science

We began a new unit in Mystery Science: Work of Water. Students are exploring the concepts of weathering and erosion, how sand is formed at the beach, where rivers begin and end, and the effect of water on land. It is a very exciting and interesting unit!

### Math

Students will be making a big shift in math. So far, we have focused on addition from basic facts through triple-digit addition. Now, we will dive deep into subtraction, strengthening our knowledge of basic facts, and moving into double-digit subtraction.

### Social Studies

In social studies, students are studying geography. We are learning about landforms, continents, oceans, bodies of water, and thinking about how where we live can affect the community we come from.





## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade February News

### Social Studies:

We will continue our studies of continents, oceans and landforms.

### Reading:

We will be launching our Mystery unit. Students will explore a variety of mystery books and may even experience a real mystery in their classrooms! Please support at least 20 minutes of independent reading each night at home.



### Science:

We will continue our work on how animals and their environment change through time.



### Writing:

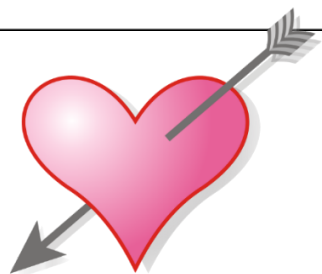
We will be creating persuasive writing pieces based on a topic that we feel strongly about. Students will support their opinions with strong supporting details in hopes of persuading others.

### Math:

We will be working on division and how it relates to multiplication. We will continue flashcard practice as well as our Math Madness Competition (Multiplication facts up to and including 12).



# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade February News



## Math:

We will be continuing our unit on division, using multiple strategies. Students will learn how to divide with area models, distributive property, and partial quotients. Then, we will begin our unit on comparing fractions and equivalent fractions.

## Reading:

We will be finishing our non-fiction research unit and going into our next unit called "Detail and Synthesis." In this unit, students will learn close reading strategies for fiction, to help them grow deeper theories about characters, track themes across stories, and compare and contrast themes across texts.

## Health:

During this month we will be discussing how to resolve conflict in healthy ways.

## Science:

We will be continuing our LEGO unit on renewable energy. Students will learn to build and code with LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0 to power a model of a wind turbine, energy storage model, and carousel. They will also create a team model based on their own energy journey. During the process they will explore, create, test, and share their ideas.

## Writing:

We will be finishing our persuasive writing unit and going into our next unit called "Literary Essay." In this unit, students will make claims about characters and support their claims with evidence from the text.

## Social Studies:

Our students will be learning about famous explorers, including Henry Hudson, Samuel de Champlain, and Giovanni da Verrazzano, who have impacted the geography of New York State through exploration and discovery. Then, we will be learning about how the 13 British colonies were formed and what life was like during that time.

## Special Areas

### MUSIC



**Kindergarten-3rd Grade:** Kindergarten and 1st grade students will be making music related to the themes of snow, mittens, and Valentines Day. This month they will read through the song the Mitten by Jan Brett, and add instruments that enhance the story. Students will learn about Ella Fitzgerald, and her songs in a Valentines Day lesson. Students will move like Peter in a Snowy Day, and outline his movements on the glockenspiel.

2nd and 3rd grade students will learn a Snowflake rhythm chant. They are learning how to play ostinatos on the instruments. Students will begin reading notes and matching them to the classroom instrument pitches.

#### **4th Grade:**

4th grade students are working together to compose music to the book "The Great Kapok Tree" by Lynn Cherry. In small groups students will read the story while performing on instruments of their choice. They will work together to compose various rhythms and melodies to make the story come alive with music.

**Band:** Students in the band are beginning to learn their concert music pieces. Full band rehearsals will begin after the February break on March 1st. All students should bring their instruments in every Wednesday in addition to their lesson day.

*-Ms. Pilocane*

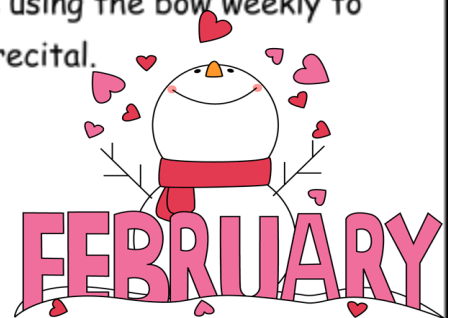
**Composers of the Month:** Louis Armstrong, and Ella Fitzgerald

**K-1st:** In general music we will start diving deeper into the musical concepts that we've already explored. Learning more about dynamics, rhythm, and pitch through movement with the goal of creating our own short song with instruments by the end of March.

#### **Orchestra**

In orchestra we will begin preparing for our recital in May! We will start rehearsing the first song that we are going to play in lessons and talking about how to play in a large ensemble. It's a big change from playing in small lesson groups! We will continue to practice using the bow weekly to build muscle memory and to prepare to play songs with the bow on our recital.

*-Mr. Nevola*



Special Areas Cont'd

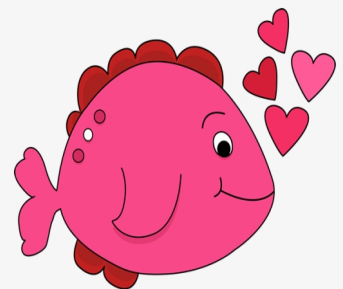


Art

**Thank you so much to those of you who participated in creating artwork for the MLK Unity Walk! They are currently on display at the Middle School for the school district's Legislative Breakfast. Students will receive their MLK artwork back before February break.**

**This month we will be reflecting, revising, and refining our major art projects. We will be selecting one or two of our best works to present on display for the Art Show coming up in May. We will also be experimenting with printmaking techniques for Valentine's Day. I hope you enjoy your break!**

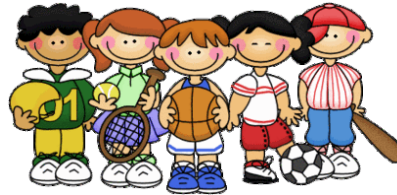
**Ms. Kim Leahy  
Art Teacher  
CEW and Ridge Elementary**





## Special Areas Cont'd

P.E.



### ***What's happening in Primary Physical Education?***

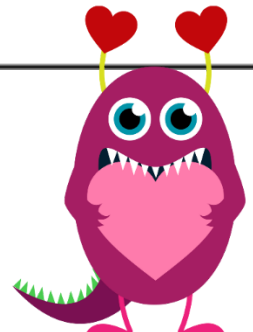
For the month of February we will be working on jump roping skills, students will learn about jumping and landing and will be challenged with various jump rope activities. We will also be doing a fitness obstacle course, students will work on their speed, agility and fitness concepts. Please remember that all students must wear sneakers to participate in Physical Education. If you pack your child's sneakers we will gladly help them change! Thank you so much for your support.

Mrs. Yovino & Mrs. Ammirati

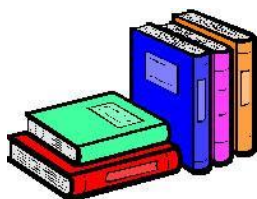


### ***What's happening in Secondary Physical Education?***

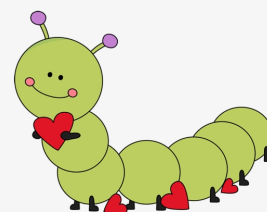
We made it to February with hardly any snow, will we get some this month? During the month of February students will be working on our Fitness Obstacle Course. This course works on a lot of climbing and moving throughout the gym, from ropes to cargo nets and everything in between. This will be a great challenge as well as a great unit to increase strength and hand eye coordination. Toward the end of the month students will be working on team games. This unit has an emphasis on teamwork and sportsmanship. Just a reminder to all parents during the winter months to make sure students are prepared with proper sneakers for their physical education class. Thanks and see you all soon.



## Special Areas Cont'd



### LIBRARY



#### KINDERGARTEN and FIRST GRADE

In February, Kindergarteners will explore the most magical section of the library: fairy tales! We will start by reading James Marshall's *The Three Little Pigs*, and then dive right into the exciting world of fractured fairy tales. We will read Sue Fliess's *Goldilocks & the Three Engineers*, Mo Willems' *Goldilocks & the Three Dinosaurs*, and Helen Lester's *Tackylocks & the Three Bears*. Throughout this unit, students will be comparing each of these stories to the original and thinking of what was similar and what was different each time. We will discuss these similarities and differences together as a class and think about the core elements found in each of these stories.

In First Grade, we will wrap up our globe-trotting *Little Polar Bear* unit and begin a new unit on biographies. Lars the Little Polar Bear took us on a journey around the world; we visited places like West Africa, Siberia, and of course the North Pole! In our new biography unit, we have the opportunity to meet new people and still visit new (and maybe familiar) places. Students will learn where to find biographies in our school library, what biographies are, and be introduced to some very special people through stories such as *Snowflake Bentley*, *Finding Winnie*, and more!

-Mr. Braun

During February, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be introduced to the Caldecott Medal. The students will learn about who the award is given to, the process of selecting the books, the history of the award and be introduced some of the Caldecott winner and honor books. They will participate in a Mock Caldecott where they will examine the art of various pictures books and evaluate them using the Caldecott criteria.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be introduced to the Caldecott Medal. The students will learn about who the award is given to, the process of selecting the books, the history of the award and be introduced some of the Caldecott winner and honor books. They will participate in a Mock Caldecott where they will examine the art of various pictures books and evaluate them using the Caldecott criteria.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will finishing up their weather research. In addition, they will be learning about plagiarism and copyright and how they can avoid plagiarizing. They will use this knowledge to create the citations for their weather research project. . Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will then start their unit on Digital Citizenship. They will be discussing what it means to be a good digital citizen, and the difference between personal and private information

In February, our kindergarteners will finish up our Mo Willems author study. At this point of our Author Study, we will be focusing on Elephant and Piggie, Edwina: the dinosaur who didn't know she was extinct, and Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs. We will be discussing how the illustrations were made, are the books fiction or nonfiction, and doing fun activities related to these books.

Our first graders will take the first steps in becoming independent browsers. They will learn how to use the shelf markers when looking for books. We will discuss how to use the shelf makers and why we use shelf markers in the library. They will also be finishing up their Jan Brett author study during which we have been focusing on the different story elements-setting, character, and problem and solution.

-Ms. Schneyman

## **FEBRUARY 2023**

### **Health Office**



Let us welcome February with excitement!

During this month, there are many wonderful topics to help keep us focused on our health, safety and wellness. We can start on February 2<sup>nd</sup> by looking for what the groundhog will predict for our winter. Take your child outside and see if they can find their own shadow. Will spring come early or will winter stay late?

February 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> is random acts of kindness week. No gesture is too small to make a big difference. Help your child think of some things that they would like, say or do for a classmate, teacher, friend, bus driver, and special adult or family member.

National Children's Dental Health is a focus during all of February. Think of fun ways to encourage your child to practice good dental hygiene. If you have not already done so, this would be the perfect month to go and get your dental check-up. Remind your children to brush after every meal when possible and be sure to stop by the Health Office bulletin board to see our version of "plaque man".

February is National American Heart Association Month. Take an opportunity to be active with your children. With the weather not always being great to go outside, plan a dance party in your living room. Just a few minutes to get your heart pumping while your feet are jumping! Wearing red on Fridays will show you support good heart health as well.

Mrs. Jeanne Lucero, RN

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