

# What's New in K-2 !

**The latest Urbana Elementary news for our students in**

*Grades Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd*

**Go Little Climbers !**

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**Friday, February 3, 2023**



## *A Message from your K-2 principal, Mrs. Anders*

It's that time of year again to meet with your child's teacher. Parent/teacher conferences can be scheduled directly through your child's teacher. As usual, parents have a **15-minute** time slot to address any concerns about your child. In order to make efficient use of this brief time together, here are a few tips that will come in handy:

- ☐ **Plan ahead.** Determine what you need to know about your child..
- ☐ **Write a list of questions.** Review them and prioritize them.
- ☐ **Identify goals.** Find out what the teacher expects from your child and **why**. Are you aware of your child's year-end goals?
- ☐ **Listen to the teacher.** Focus on responses and be ready to follow-up. Feel free to take notes in case you have questions later.
- ☐ **Seek any at-home strategies to help improve learning while at home.** Don't be afraid to ask for additional work if needed.
- ☐ **Plan regular updates.** Keep checking in! Set a schedule for regular feedback on your child's progress and keep in touch!
- ☐ **Get all your answers.** Review your original list of questions before you leave and make sure you leave with the answers you need.

## **K-2 Events to SAVE THE DATE ...**

**Saturday, February 4:** **ECCC Early Childhood EXPO**  
*at the Champaign County Community Center, 1512 US Highway 68 South, Urbana from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm*

**Monday, February 6:** **TWO-HOUR DELAY and 100 DAY!**

**Friday, February 10:** **VALENTINE'S DAY** parties, 2:00 pm

**Monday, February 13:** K-2 Parent/Teacher Conferences,  
*from 3:45-7:00 pm. Schedule with your child's teacher!*

**Monday, February 20:** **NO SCHOOL** (Presidents Day)

**Thursday, February 23:** K-2 Parent/Teacher Conferences,  
*from 3:45-7:15 pm. Schedule with your child's teacher!*

**Monday, February 27 - Friday, March 3:** **Read Across America Week** activities - *More details to follow!*

## **Urbana Elementary Climber Club**

Our next Climber Club event will be our annual **Egg Hunt Game** to be held on **Friday, March 24th**. This event is for all of our elementary students, grades K - 5. We will soon need donations of plastic eggs, small wrapped candy to put inside eggs, and prizes for our game. The students love to play this game! More information will follow in upcoming newsletters.



## **OPENING SOON...The Scholastic Book Fair!**

Who's waiting for kids at a Scholastic Book Fair? Their favorite characters! Plus new bestsellers and beloved classics from dozens of publishers. And exclusive titles they won't find anywhere else! The Book Fair will be open from **February 13 - 23** during school hours and K-2 and 3-5 Parent/Teacher Conference Nights. Hit the link below to view this spring's Book Fair selections:

**MEET THE BOOKS**

## **Newsletter # 7**

### **Counselor's Corner**

*With Mr. Dorsey*

February is a month that brings on the winter blues for many of us. The lack of sunshine, cold temperatures, and generally lousy weather in Ohio can start to wear on us by the time February rolls around. Children are no different and often experience the same depressed moods as adults during the winter. Here are some tips to help your family beat the **winter blues**

There is a saying that laughter is the best medicine. It really is and can help a family get through a tough day in the winter time. According to **Everyday Health**, if the family is going through a particularly rough period, try throwing on some comedy movies to make you laugh. Laughter has been proven to reduce and fight depressive symptoms.

One of the best ways to beat the winter blues is to try and get as much sunlight as you can. The winter blues can be caused by the brain trying to adjust to the lack of sunshine during the day. Take every chance you can to get some sun. Get your children out as much as possible whenever the sun is out. Make sure to open your blinds and drapes to get direct sunlight whenever you can.

Get some fresh air. Our homes can get stuffy and stale in the winter when things are all closed up to keep the heat in and the cold out. When we do get a warm day, try opening a window or two for some fresh air.

Get some exercise. Physical activity has many known benefits and it can help with the winter blues too. This may seem difficult during the winter because it is harder to get out. A great way to get some activity when it is storming outside is by pulling up a dance or exercise video on YouTube, and have the whole family follow along.


A great way to have some fun during stormy cold weather when the family is stuck inside, is to build a fort. Use blankets, furniture, and pillows to build a fort that is fun for the kids to play, read and watch movies in.



## **PBIS: Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports**

When you are in our PK8 building for Parent/Teacher conferences, make sure you check out our students' work on our **PBIS Matrix** posters in the building and throughout K-2 learning communities!






**Technology Tidbits**  
*From the desk of Mrs. Marsh*

**FinalForms**

Please make sure to update your FinalForm as any changes in your address or phone number occur. Login to your account at <https://urbana-oh.finalforms.com/>. Updating your information this year will make signing next year's forms even easier! Please contact Kelli Marsh at [kelli.marsh@urbanacityschools.org](mailto:kelli.marsh@urbanacityschools.org) if you have any questions or issues.

**PARENT ACCESS**

Did you know that you can access your Progressbook account through an app? Simply search "Progressbook Parent/Student" in your preferred app store. You will login using your current username and password.

Make sure you choose the app with this icon: 

Please contact Kelli Marsh at [kelli.marsh@urbanacityschools.org](mailto:kelli.marsh@urbanacityschools.org) if you have any questions or issues.



**REMIND**

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Here's What's Happening in Our K-2 Classrooms!

**Kindergarten:** *Featuring Mrs. Trout's Class*

January is a great time to center our learning around snow. The children have listened to a variety of books about snow. The boys and girls have used the stories as a kickoff to their own writing! We have been working on spelling C-V-C (consonant, vowel, consonant) words. We wrote words in "snow" (shaving cream)! We learned all about snowflakes and then did a STEM project to create our own hexagonal snowflake structures. We reinforced our math skills by playing snowman memory. Be sure to check out one of our favorite snowflake stories at <https://youtu.be/C5zOiZKYzY>.




*Pictured above are students in Mrs. Trout's classroom with their snowflakes.*

**First Grade:** *Featuring Mr. Stevens, P.E. Teacher*

In K-2 PE (Physical Education) class, we just finished our unit on catching a ball/object. We have also kicked off **Kids Heart Challenge** (formerly known as Jump Rope for the Heart). We will be covering the benefits of exercise, getting ten hours of sleep a night, drinking plenty of water and staying away from sugary drinks, breathing clean air, how to manage stress through certain tactics, and much more!

Pictured below is **Mr. Pack's 1st grade class** listening to our heart fact of the day. The heart fact on that day was "Did you know our heart pumps 83 gallons of blood through your heart each hour?" The 5 gallon buckets on the wall represent how much blood would be per hour if they were full!



**Lovin' Literacy**

**Mrs. Nannarone, 2nd grade Intervention Specialist**

*What are YOU lovin' about literacy?*

I was 5 years old when all the world's doors opened for me. I couldn't be trusted to pick out my own clothes, cross the street by myself or let alone read, but I received the great honor of having my very own library card! My mom let me choose any books I wanted, even though I did not know what the words on the page said. Sometimes she would read them to me, other times I would make my own stories from the pictures on the page until I began to learn to read myself. I felt I had been allowed into a special, members only, club!

When my children were old enough, they also joined the club. The best thing about this club is - **it is for everyone**. I love a good mystery and historical fiction. My daughter prefers the dystopian fantasy world books. When my son is not reading Harry Potter, for the hundredth time, he can be found with the occasional graphic novel or audio book.

The library here in our town has books, activities and programs for all ages at **NO COST**. You can sign up for your very own card to this "club" online here: <https://champaign.tlcdelivers.com:8480/#section=obrsignup> or in person.

Mrs. Nannarone's family hopes to see you and your family at the library too!



Urbana Elementary needs your Box Tops!

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K-2 Little Climbers Club News

**MISSION:** to mentor our youngest students by teaching them skills to be successful members of our community.

The monthly Little Climbers luncheon meeting was held on Tuesday, January 31st with guest speaker, **Stacy Foster of CORS Head Start**. She talked to our Little Climbers about trustworthiness. The Little Climbers will continue discussing trustworthiness this month and show trustworthiness by trying their best to be fair and reliable in all of their thoughts and actions.

The next Little Climber luncheon meeting will be held on *Dress for Success* Tuesday, February 28th in the PK8 band room. The guest speaker will be **Michael Nitchman of Farmers and Merchants State Bank**. The topic for February will be **Fairness**.

Our Kids Hope Mentors ROCK!!

**Paige Landon, Tami Troyer, Deb Wissman, Barb Wonn, and Brian Wonn – Thank you for all you do to help our students!**

**The Caring Kitchen’s** artwork spotlight is on **Mrs. Jacobs’**

2nd Grade Class

Stop in and check out our talented artists’ work at The Caring Kitchen!

Work was done in Mr. Vest’s art class.

**Our Climber Code:** BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE READY!

Second Grade: Featuring Mr. Supplee, Music Teacher

Second graders have been listening to classical music. Numerous studies have shown the value of exposing children to classical music. It encourages imagination and listening skills and lays the groundwork for learning an instrument in the future. And “listening to a variety of styles of music” is one of the State music standards!

Since our music program in December, we’ve been learning about and listening to different instruments in the orchestra. There are four groups (or sections): strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. We have looked at where each section sits in the orchestra and listened to classical pieces, film music written for orchestra, or solos so that the children can recognize each of the instruments in the orchestra.

One of the pieces we listened to, from the string section of the orchestra, was the first minute of “Pas de Deux” from “The Nutcracker” (by Tchaikovsky). In this piece, we learned a little French—“Pas de Deux” means “step of 2”, i.e. “Dance for 2.” We also compared and contrasted 5 different videos of this piece, asking the following questions: Was the tempo (speed) the different conductors choose faster or slower than the others? How many harps were used? Did the video show the section of instruments that played the melody? Was the video itself clear or blurry? Was the conductor expressive while he directed the orchestra or did he just conduct the beats?

Next, we will listen to classical music featuring the instruments of the woodwind, brass, and percussion sections.

Pictured above are students during one of Mr. Supplee’s music classes!

Students of the Month for **FEBRUARY, 2023**

Kindergarten: **Alexis Auyeung**  
In Mrs. Andreassen’s class

2nd grade: **Skyler Lyden**  
In Mrs. Shelpan’s class

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**THANK YOU** to our volunteers from the **Urbana United Methodist Church** for helping us to organize our Little Climbers Closet last Sunday!

Brian Holland

Sofia Holland

Cliff Meadows

Molly Meadows

Alex Schenkle

Kathy Zaborowski

Hannah Dinnell

Aubrey Meadows

Riley Meadows