

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Prepare. Engage. Educate. Empower. Inspire.

May 2024 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

School Hours: 7:30 - 2:00

Phone: (320)370-6180



From Principal Holm

MAY

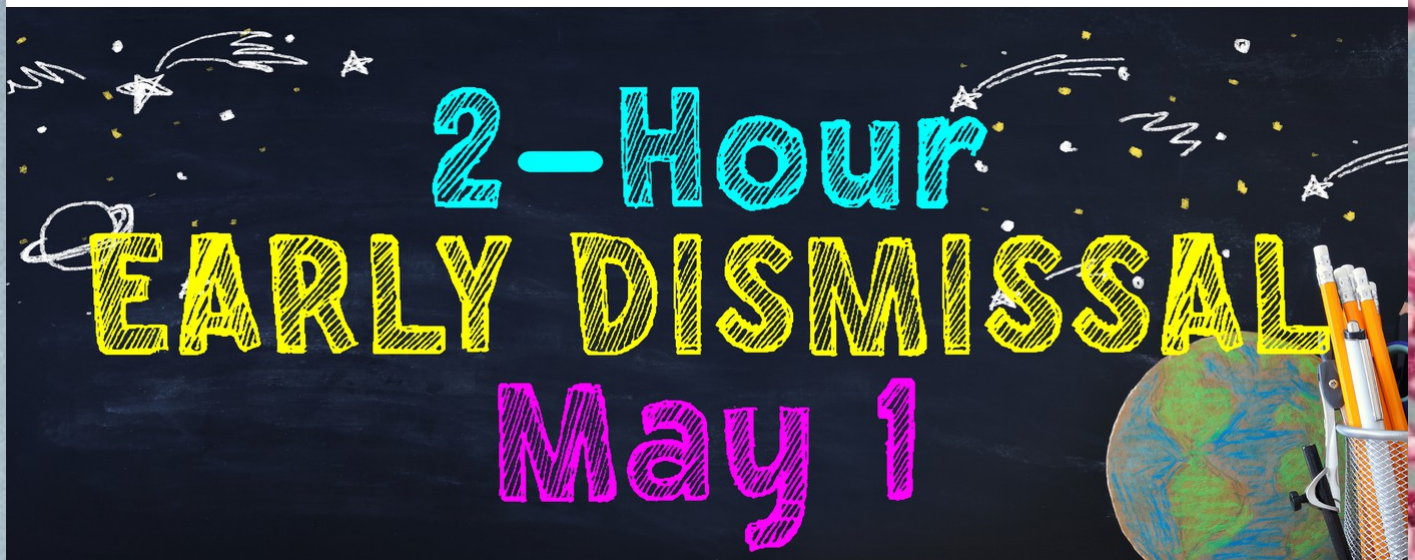
Hi families,

We are busy planning end of the year projects and celebrations. I hope to see you at one of our May events. We have many opportunities to engage with your child at school during this last month.

See below for dates including: Kindergarten open house, fifth grade track & field day, family earth day event, school carnival, and fifth grade graduation.



As we near the end of the school year, I want to thank all of our families for supporting our students and Discovery Community School. This partnership has made all the difference in what our students are accomplishing in and out of the classroom.



Discovery school board presentation

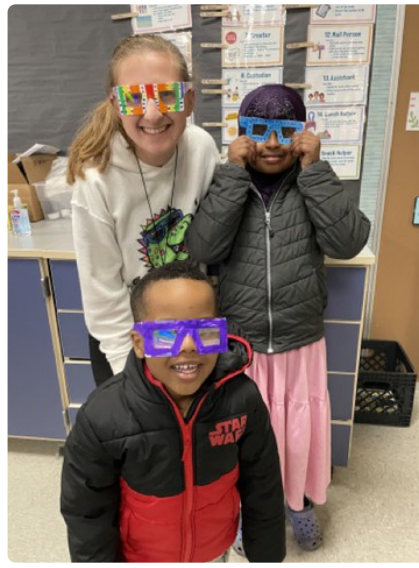
Discovery school was highlighted at the last school board meeting. The video from the presentation is below. We are Discovery proud! Our students are the best!

[Click here for Discovery video](#)

Discovery STEAM Night was a huge success

Thank you to all the families that showed up to join us for STEAM night. It was a night of learning and fun. Here are some photos from the event.





DATES TO REMEMBER

Watch for reminders on all of these events in your students' Seesaw account!



- **May 1** - Early Release for students - Students dismissed at 12:00
 - **May 2** - Kindergarten SJU Field trip - Classes- Osman, Koll
 - **May 3** - Kindergarten SJU Field trip - Classes- DeChambeau, Offerdahl
 - **May 6** - Kindergarten SJU Field trip - Class- Dahlof
 - **May 7** - PreK & Kindergarten Open House- 3:30-5:00
 - **May 10** - Earth Day outdoor event- families invited! (See below for details)
 - **May 14** - **All fifth graders invited** with parents/guardians to **North Jr. High** for Family Cultural Night- **4:30-6:30**
 - **May 16** - Fifth Grade Track and Field event at Apollo High School
 - **May 27** - No school- Memorial Day
 - **May 28** - Hemker Zoo- "Zoo to You" Presentations- Families invited to join at your student's time (8:00, 9:00, or 10:00 depending on your student's grade level) Watch for invites!
 - **May 29** - PBIS School Carnival - each grade level participates during allied arts
 - **May 31** - Fifth Grade Graduation - 10:00- Invitations coming in couple of weeks. We will send paper invites and an invite through Seesaw.
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Let's Celebrate the Earth at Discovery Community School

Friday, May 10th

Students will rotate through stations during the school day at the times listed below.

Please join your student(s) during their grade level time.

[Enter through door 1, sign-in in the office, walk through the library, and go straight outside.]

Grade Level	Time
3rd Grade	8:00-8:50
2nd Grade	8:55-9:45
1st Grade	9:50-10:40
Kindergarten	10:45-11:35
4th Grade	12:05-12:55
5th Grade	1:00-1:50



From North Jr. High for all 5th graders and families:

This is Principal Brian Nutter and I am writing to let you know about our upcoming North Junior High Family Cultural Night taking place on Tuesday, May 14th from 4:30pm - 6:30pm. It is my hope that you will save this date in your calendar and join other North families for an evening of cultural celebration, activities, and games from around the world. A sampling of cultural foods from many different cultures will be provided for all who attend. We

hope to see you and your family on Tuesday, May 14th.

From the Health Office

Hello from the Health Office!

If your student takes Medication at school, please remember that the Parent or Guardian does need to pick up any remaining medication at the end of the year. Students are not allowed to transport any medications. This does include inhalers.

All medications will need to be picked up by 2p.m. on Friday, May 31 or they will be destroyed.

Have a great summer!
Nurse Jen & Nurse Veronica



KINDERGARTEN & IMMERSION OPEN HOUSES!

Kennedy - April 17, 4:30-6:00

Discovery - May 7, 3:30-5:00

Talahi - May 7, 4:00-6:00

Madison - May 14, 4:30-6:00



Hello from Kindergarten!

Hi Kinder Families!



Wow! We are already almost at the end of kindergarten! We cannot believe all the growth we have seen throughout this year. We are so proud of our students and how hard they have worked to get ready for first grade!

During reading, we have been working on making predictions, which is when we make a guess about what will happen next. Kindergartners also are working on sequencing, which is putting the events of the story in order. Remember to keep practicing those letters, sounds, and sight words to help your kindergartners grow.

In math, we have been working hard to develop a strong sense of how numbers relate to one another. We have practiced using shapes to represent objects in real life and have been composing and decomposing teen numbers. This week we have begun our final chapter about writing equations with teen numbers. As we wrap up the year, we will be reviewing the skills we have learned in kindergarten so we have a strong foundation for first grade! Please keep practicing counting and writing numbers with your students at home.

In social studies, we will be talking about American symbols.

In science, we have been talking about chickens and got to watch them hatch! We will end the year with a fun unit about plants!

Lastly, please remember to keep checking the weather. Minnesota weather is always changing and we need to have students dressed appropriately. We are hoping it will consistently be warm soon so we can have lots of fun playing outside!

The Kindergarten Team

1st GRADE

Happy May!

We are wrapping up the school year and have exciting things happening!



Here are some key math milestones your child will reach by the end of first grade:

1. **Number Sense:** By the end of first grade, students should be able to count forward and backward to 120, identify and represent numbers to 100, and understand the concepts of more than/less than, equal to, and greater than/less than.
2. **Addition and Subtraction:** First graders will learn basic addition and subtraction facts within 20 and understand the relationship between addition and subtraction (e.g., $7 + 8 = 15$, so $15 - 7 = 8$).
3. **Shapes and Patterns:** Students will be able to recognize and describe shapes based on their attributes (e.g., number of sides, corners) and identify, extend, and create simple patterns.
4. **Measurement and Data:** First graders will explore concepts of measurement, such as length, weight, and capacity, using non-standard units, and begin to interpret data presented in graphs and charts.

Continuing end-of-the-year first grade skills, here are some readiness skills your child will develop by the end of first grade:

1. **Phonics and Phonological Awareness:** Students will learn letter-sound correspondences, recognize common spelling patterns, and demonstrate phonemic awareness by blending and segmenting sounds in words.
2. **Reading Fluency:** First graders will develop fluency by reading with accuracy, expression, and understanding, recognizing high-frequency words quickly and reading with increased speed and comprehension.
3. **Comprehension:** By the end of first grade, students should be able to retell stories, identify main characters, settings, and events, make predictions, and begin to understand cause and effect relationships in stories.
4. **Vocabulary and Language Development:** First graders will expand their vocabulary through exposure to a variety of texts, discussions, and word-learning strategies, and use language effectively to communicate ideas and experiences.

As always, if you have any questions or would like additional resources to support your child's learning at home, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We have loved being your children's teachers and we hope we made lasting memories with them as they continue on to second grade!

Warm regards,

-Mrs. Burau

-Mrs. Fagerstrom/Mrs. Holubetz

-Ms. Strahan
-Ms. Grussendorf

The Second Grade Scoop



READING: We will be reading Expository text, Drama/Myths, and Poetry to close out the school year. Students will continue solidifying their knowledge of summarization, problem and solution, theme, and point of view. Our essential questions will be: 'What do myths help us understand?' and 'Where can your imagination take you?'

Please keep encouraging your scholar to read at home **EVERY day for at least 20 minutes**. After reading, have them tell you about the problem and solution, author's purpose, or interesting facts, if it's an informational text.

MATH: We are in our final unit of 2nd grade, where the math focus is on shapes and arrays. Particularly with partitioning shapes, using arrays, and understanding evens and odds. Students will learn about 2-dimensional shapes, including triangles, quadrilaterals (squares, rectangles, rhombus, parallelogram), pentagons, and hexagons, as well as 3-dimensional shapes, with a strong focus on cubes. Try to look for these shapes/objects around your home and see how many your student can find.

As the end of the year comes to a close, we will be completing our final round of assessments in math and reading. We are excited to see all the learning and growth that has occurred over the course of this school year.

Second Grade Teachers,
Ms. Aden, Mr. Burrer, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Street

3rd GRADE



Greetings from 3rd Grade!

As we begin to wrap up the school year, it's important to reflect on the growth that your student has made this year. Your student took their first standardized test of their school career. They worked hard reading various stories and learned many different math skills. Take some time to talk with your students to reflect on their successes this year.

During the month of May, we will be working on reading and writing about space. We will also practice Readers' Theater, which is performance reading in front of others. Students tend to enjoy this learning and should be coming home with stories to share about their day!

Math will conclude with wrapping up loose ends, working with geometry, time and measurement. Have your student read the clocks at home and figure out how much time you and they spend

doing things like eating, cleaning up or cooking. Allow them to pay at the stores and count the change. Did they get the correct amount in return?

There are many exciting things coming this month as we close out 3rd grade. Please watch for letters and flyers being sent home with important information, including our end of the year count down!

-The 3rd Grade Team: Ms. Ewaysi, Ms. Kremer and Ms. Quimby

4th GRADE

Happy spring, fourth grade families!



It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end. We have completed the math and reading MCA! In math, we are reviewing math topics to strengthen their understanding of complex skills before fifth grade.

In reading, we are continuing with Wonders, and we will continue reading about fiction and nonfiction.

We are looking forward to the end of the year carnival! Join us on Wednesday, May 29th from 12:10-1:00 as we celebrate a wonderful year.

-The Fourth Grade Teachers

5th GRADE

Hello 5th Grade Families!



We are coming to the end of the school year and 5th grade will have a lot of exciting events coming up. Please make sure you are checking Seesaw and your student's backpack for information throughout the month.

We will be finishing out the year completing the Science MCA test the first week of May. In Social Studies students will continue to learn about Colonial America. During Math we are writing and evaluating expressions as well as working on graphing with coordinate planes. We are completing our stories of Historical Fiction in reading.

Thursday May 16th is 5th grade field day. We will be bussing to Apollo. This is an all-day event. Students will have a lunch provided by the school, but they will need to bring their own water bottle to refill as the day goes on. We will be back for regular dismissal.

5th grade graduation will be held on Friday May 31st at 10:00 AM in the gym. You can choose to take your student home with you after. You must sign out your child with your child's teacher before leaving. More information about graduation will be coming home soon.

Please reach out to your student's teacher with any questions.

Best,
The 5th Grade Team



Physical Education

The rain is finally here. Spring is booming and we all get to go outside and play! May is a great month to begin new habits with your families. One new habit that will give you and your family a new attitude and positive outlook is getting outside. Sunshine and fresh air are essential to positive mental health. Bright light and sunshine can help get people out of the “winter blues” and enjoying life again!



Some activities to do outside include, go for a walk, play at a park, play catch, participate in soccer, make basketball shots, and play hopscotch. Just about any store has sidewalk chalk to purchase. Chalk is a great way to create a play space for art, hopscotch, or 4 Square. Kids love to play, move, and interact with their peers and parents outside.

Currently the Discovery Students are participating in kickball, track and field, and racquet skills. All these activities allow for students to grow their kicking, striking, and competing skills. This gives the students the chance to find enjoyment in activities that they can play for a lifetime.

On Thursday May 16th, the 5th graders will be heading to Apollo High School to participate in the North Side of town Track meet. The students will be running distances of 60 meters, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 4 X 100m relay. Along with distance running, the students will be competing in a soccer ball kick, softball toss, tug-o-war, and long jump. 5th grade parents are welcome to come and watch their children compete.

Good Luck Discovery Dolphins!

Remember, parents are always welcome to attend class the day their child is participating in physical education. Please make sure to sign-in at the office and head to the gym.

Mr. Thoreson
Mr. Richmond
Discovery Community School
Physical Education

Counselor Corner

May 2024
School Counselor Corner

The school year is quickly coming to a close: exciting activities, moments of spending time discovering nature, and worries/excitement about the upcoming summertime. With everything happening and summer approaching, I would like to share some guidelines for when you could leave your children at home alone.

State guidelines:

- Children under seven shouldn't be left home alone.
- Children 8 - 10 years old can be home alone for up to three hours.
- Children 11 -13 years of age can be home alone for up to 12 hours.
 - 11 - 13 years old can also be left in charge of siblings for up to 12 hours.
- 14 - 15-year-olds can be left alone for up to 24 hours and be left in charge of children for the same amount of time.
- Children under 10 are generally not allowed to be in charge of child care for any length of time.

<https://knsiradio.com/2022/06/17/state-issues-parental-reminder-concerning-kids-at-home-alone-guidelines/>

Joanie Hauck LSC



STEAM

"I do have reasons for hope: our clever brains, the resilience of nature, the indomitable human spirit, and above all, the commitment of young people when they're empowered to take action." - Jane Goodall

Happy May Scientists!

What a great year we have had in the STEAM lab this year. I'm excited to finish up content and end the year with some extra fun science labs! As this is the last letter of the school year I want to share three ways you can keep the science and curiosity going with your scientist at home.

1. Go outside and observe! We are ending the school year on life science units and they have been learning all about our cool planet, enjoy it while it's warm out.
2. Test out questions when you can. We've learned that being a scientist isn't about knowing everything, and is more about asking good questions. For example, what happens when my toy gets cold? Why do we have day and night? Test them out and take time to observe.
3. Cook together. Your students love doing experiments. Often some of the best science experiments can happen in the kitchen. Making pancakes is using heat to go from a liquid to a solid. Grating cheese is physical weathering in action. Measuring and combining ingredients is a skill that can never be over taught. Knowing how to stay safe around the many tools in a kitchen is very much like our science lab. Enjoy the learning and enjoy the food together.

I'm excited to end the year with a blast of science! Don't forget to come join in for a day of Earth Celebrations May 10th for our annual Earth day celebration here at Discovery!

-Mrs. Walz (extension 6233)



Jenny Holm

Jenny is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters