

# DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Prepare. Engage. Educate. Empower.  
Inspire.

## April 2024 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

School Hours: 7:30 - 2:00

Phone: (320)370-6180



## From Principal Holm

### APRIL

Happy spring! April is a busy month. MCA testing begins this week for our third, fourth, and fifth graders. Please make sure they are getting a good night sleep, so they can do their best work. During the month of April they will complete reading, math, and science MCA tests.

We have a couple of family events happening this month: STEAM night and Hooyo Hour.

Fourth grade science field trip is this Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on the teacher. See more details below in the "Dates to Remember" section.



## Exciting News!

### *New Book Machine Donation*

Last week was the ribbon cutting ceremony for our new book machine. Mayor Miller from Waite Park was there to join in the celebration. We thanked him for his generous donation on behalf of the city of Waite Park. It is filled with books for students and ready to go! Students will be able to receive a special coin to get a book for displaying Discovery values: being respectful, responsible, and safe.







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### **Burlington Generous Donation**

I am excited to share that the Burlington department store, in celebration of the opening of their new store, and in support of students, has selected Discovery Community School to be the recipient of a \$5,000 classroom grant. The donation will be divided between teachers via an online marketplace and distributed through the leadership team for classroom supplies and resources. We are so very grateful for this donation!



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **April 2** - MCA's begin at Discovery - Gr. 3-5
- **April 2** - Grade 4 SJU science field trip - Karl's class
- **April 3** - Grade 4 SJU science field trip - Ms. Miller and Wiechmann
- **April 10** - No School
- **April 18** - Family Event- STEAM activities from The Works - 4:00-6:00
- **April 25** - Family Event - Hooyo Hour - 3:30-5:00







**No appointment needed!**

**Location: 1114 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SE St. Cloud**

**Date: April 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**

**May 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 9am to 3pm**

**Lunch taken from 12-12:30**

**Assistance with:**

**FOOD AND CASH PROGRAMS \* CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**

**EVICCTIONS \* DISCONNECTS\* HOUSING**

**HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE**

**SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS (MENTAL HEALTH,  
DISABILITY, AGING, PARENTING)**

**SHERBURNE & STEARNS COUNTY HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**Serving individuals from Stearns, Benton & Sherburne Counties**



## LOST AND FOUND

Parents, we have a lot of lost and found clothing, coats, hats, gloves, etc. If your child is missing an article of clothing, please come in to look over the lost and found items. Also, labeling your child's clothing on the tag with initials or last name is very helpful. We will retain lost and found items until April 12.

## From the Health Office

Hello from the Health Office!

We would like to remind all parents and guardians that when a student is being sent home from the health office, they need to be picked up within 30 minutes for their safety and the safety of other students and staff. Please also make sure your phone numbers and emergency contacts are up to date, so we are able to reach you.

Thank you for working with us to keep everyone healthy and safe.



## Hello from Kindergarten!



Hi Kinder Families!

This year has been flying by! We can't believe we only have a few more months before Summer. We have been working hard on learning different skills. During reading we are making predictions, finding the problem and solution, and looking for key details! Remember to keep practicing those letters and sight words to help us grow.

In math, we have been working hard on practicing adding numbers up to 10 using models and equations. In April we will focus on subtraction with numbers up to 10. We just finished learning about subtraction and composing teen numbers. Keep practicing counting (forwards and backwards) and writing numbers with your students at home.

In social studies/science we just finished learning about plants and animals in different habitats and what plants and animals need to survive. Next, we will be beginning a Geography unit about landmarks vs. landforms around the world.

\*Remember to keep checking the weather each morning- Minnesota is never the same one day to the next! We go outside each day and want to make sure our students come dressed and ready to play!

Kindergarten Teachers

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## 1st GRADE



Happy April!

In math, we will begin Unit 6 and start exploring shapes and breaking shapes into equal parts. Moving into writing and telling time, compare and measure different lengths, and find the value of coins. Apply these subjects in the real world with your student. Talk about where you have clocks at home, talk about the cost of goods at the store, and look at all shapes we see while driving!

In reading, we are continuing Unit 4, all about animals, and wrapping up with our writing unit, opinion writing! We will also continue to learn how to decode words with long vowel sounds to help support learning new words. We have been introducing new reading strategies that help us learn to decode words and find the sounds we know to help us read! Please read with your student when you can for at least 15-20 minutes each day. We check out new books from the library each week. You can explore and read books online, and you can use old reading-writing companion books from school that have many stories inside them.

In social studies, we will be exploring geography around us and around the world! First grade students learn to create maps such as a map of their home, classroom, school, or community. Once we've wrapped up the concepts of maps and locations, we start talking about the physical aspects of geography. We will learn about different landforms such as mountains, hills, plains,



volcanoes, islands, and valleys as well as different bodies of water such as lakes, oceans, rivers, and ponds.

Thank you,

-Mrs. Bureau

-Mrs. Fagerstrom/Mrs. Holubetz

-Ms. Strahan

-Ms. Grussendorf

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## The Second Grade Scoop



**READING:** In reading, we will be reading Expository and Realistic Fiction texts. Students will learn about problem and solution, point of view, and will review text features. Our essential questions will be: "How do we use money?" and "Why are rules important?" Help your student build background knowledge by discussing these topics at home.

Please keep encouraging your scholar to read at home **EVERY day for at least 20 minutes**. After reading, have them tell you about the characters, setting, problem, and solution in the story. If the book is informational, have students share facts they learned.

**MATH:** We will be finishing up our measurement unit in math this month. We have learned how to use measurement tools to measure inches, centimeters, feet, meters, and use other non-standard units of measurement. Students are learning how to estimate and measure length, compare lengths, add and subtract lengths, and add and subtract on a number line. We will start unit 5 at the end of April where we will be learning about shapes.

Some math skills you can practice at home include: basic addition and subtraction facts (start with single digit addends), skip counting by 2's, 5's, 10's and 100's (forward and backward), counting groups of mixed coins, and naming and describing shapes.

Second Grade Teachers,

Ms. Aden, Mr. Burrer, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Street

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## 3rd GRADE



Happy spring from 3rd grade!

We will be starting our MCA Reading testing this week, Tuesday-Thursday. You can support your student by helping with getting a good night sleep and pumping them up!

Also, students will be getting a Rox Reading page home each Monday. Keep track of the reading goals (100 minutes each week) and return on the following Monday. There will be prizes for high readers and those who reach the goals!

Reading: we will be focusing on vocabulary, building background and reading fluency. You can build background and vocabulary with your child when reading with your child too! When reading, discuss interesting and new works, make connections to the characters, and the real world.

Math: we will be continuing with fractions, word problems and moving into telling elapsed time. You can work with your student on telling time, counting by 5 s, time to the hour and minute. Also, discuss how much time elapses between activities. "Right now it's 5:05, in 10 minutes we will have dinner. What time will that be?"

We look forward to warmer weather ahead!

3rd Grade Teachers

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## 4th GRADE

Happy spring, fourth grade families! Spring is here, and that means that the playground is sometimes muddy. If your child has rain boots, please encourage them to bring them and wear them outside to recess.

Our 4th graders are preparing for the reading and math MCA test. We have learned a lot this school year, and we are excited to see students' growth in both areas. To prepare, we will do some cumulative review in the classroom.

The dates for the reading MCA are April 2nd, April 4th and April 5th. The dates for the math MCA are April 16th, April 17th, and April 18th.

It is hard to believe that we are already in Trimester 3. This school year has gone by very quickly, and this is a great group of 4th graders.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

-The Fourth Grade Teachers

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## 5th GRADE

Fifth Graders are starting MCA testing on Tuesday, April 2nd. Please encourage them to get an ample amount of sleep and to be on time for school.

We will start exploring three dimensional shapes and how to find their surface area in math. In reading, students will be investigating expository texts and all the text features they contain.

We are excited to start trimester 3 strong!

Discovery 5th Grade

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## Physical Education

Kickball, and Track and Field. The smell of fresh cut grass, dirty clothes from playing in the mud, and of course SNOW... I mean Rain! April and May are exciting months because the students get to make their way outdoors and play games and activities in the fresh air! The students will get the opportunity to play kickball, baseball, tee-ball, and soccer. The dirt fields are perfect for the students to learn to run from base to base and kick a moving ball.

We are also working in depth on Hand-to-Eye Coordination with the kids. Having the children swing a bat and hit a ball off a tee, hit a moving ball with a tennis racquet, or kick a moving ball are difficult things to do, but very exciting when students succeed and smash the ball a long way!

Currently the Discovery Students are participating in track and field, and racquet skills. On Thursday May 16th, the 5th graders will be heading to Apollo High School to participate in the Elementary school Track and Field 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.

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



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## Counselor Corner

### School Counselor Corner

It is that time of year when life is exciting with the changing season. The one issue I see most often as a school counselor is a lack of sleep. Children come to school after engaging in activities on electronic devices, sometimes until as late as 2:00 am.

Without good sleep, being ready for learning is impossible. Bedtime routines and proper electronic-free rest are the best ways to boost your child's education and enable them to manage their emotions throughout the day.

Let's face it: you wouldn't allow a tattoo artist, a dentist, or a surgeon to work on you if they were up all night watching videos or playing games.

A good, consistent bedtime routine is a better investment in your child's learning than any iPad or computer program.



What can you do?

1. Set a bedtime routine and time.
2. Take electronic devices away at bedtime.
3. For those who have creative children, turn the internet off when you go to bed.
4. If you allow your child to play games or use social media, you should require them to give you all access and check it often.

Note:

Most social media platforms and games require that a child be 13 years of age. So, for our children to have any social media platforms or game accounts, they need to either list their birth year as older or have their parents sign on stating they have permission.

*Read more about this here.* <https://pedialliance.com/socialmediaguide>

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**Jenny Holm**

Jenny is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters