



DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Prepare. Engage. Educate. Empower. Inspire.

FEBRUARY FAMILY NEWSLETTER

School Hours: 7:30 - 2:00

Phone: (320) 370-6180



From Principal Holm

February

We are moving into the second half of our academic school year. Students continue to learn and grow daily. I am proud of our students' growth.

Many of our Multi-lingual students will be taking the Access Test this month. This is an annual required test for all Multilingual Learners to determine academic progress in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in English.



[Click here for Discovery staff directory](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 1 - Family Conferences - 2:45-7:15

Feb. 7 - 2 hour early release - Students leave school at 12:00 noon

Feb. 8 - Family Conferences - 2:45-7:15

Feb. 19 - No School - President's Day

Feb. 23 - Students of the Month have pizza with the principal



SHERBURNE & STEARNS COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMUNITY OUTREACH at 1114 9th Ave SE St. Cloud



January 22, February 5, February 26, March 4, March 18

9 am to 3 pm

Serving individuals from Stearns, Benton & Sherburne Counties who need assistance with:

FOOD AND CASH PROGRAMS * EVICTIONS * DISCONNECTS

HOUSING * CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE* HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE

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

No appointment needed!



2-Hour EARLY DISMISSAL Feb. 7

ACCESS Test for English Language Learners

Hello Parents/Guardians,

Each year, students in English learner programs take the ACCESS for ELLs test. The ACCESS test is an assessment of English language proficiency designed for students who have not previously tested proficient in English. This test is important as it helps us understand your student's progress in learning English and provides valuable information for instructional planning. The test will take place between (your specific test dates). Please ensure that your student arrives on time and is well-rested and prepared for the assessment. It is essential that your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast on the day of the test.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming ACCESS test, please feel free to contact (site assessment coordinator).

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your child's participation in the ACCESS assessment.

Sincerely,
Ms. Holm

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 the end of December.

Hello from Kindergarten!

February is a month filled with hard work and fun celebrations!

In reading, students will practice visualizing and summarizing stories. You can practice this at home by reading a story to your student, but don't show them the pictures. Instead, ask your student to describe the picture or movie they are making in their mind about the story. Then, when you're done with the story have your student tell you something from the beginning, middle and end of the story.

Students will be working with numbers up to 100 in math. This is great timing since we will be celebrating the **100th Day of School on February 14th!** We invite you to come celebrate your student's 100th day of school with them, while they participate in different activities focusing on the number 100. Check with your student's teacher for more information about the celebrations happening on February 14th.

-The Kindergarten Team

1st GRADE

Happy February!

In math, we are moving on to Unit 4 where we will be using tens and ones to organize and count. Throughout this unit, we will look closely at using tens and ones to count, write numbers as tens and ones, count and write numbers up to 120, find 10 more or 10 less, compare two-digit numbers, and continue learning new vocabulary as we go!

We just finished up our second diagnostic test and will be sharing their results with you during our upcoming conferences on February 1st and February 8th.

In reading, we will be wrapping up unit 3. At the end of the unit, students will be researching and writing their own informational text. In unit 4, our focus will be on what animals they know about and what they are like. Some skills we will be working on include sequencing, main idea and key details, and character's point of view.

During science, we will have the opportunity to be in the lab with Mrs. Walz learning and experimenting with sound. After our sound labs, we will be learning about and building wigwams.

*A reminder that we continue to go outside as long as weather permits. Please continue to watch the weather to make sure students are dressed appropriately for recess. We ask that students have a pair of shoes for inside and outside. Students who wear boots to school should also have a pair of gym shoes to change into.

**Watch for a note to come home from your child's teacher about our Valentine's Day celebration. If you choose to send a treat please make sure it is peanut and gelatin free. Another option would be to send pencils or other small nonfood items. Please let us know if you have any questions!

-Ms. Burau, Ms. Fagerstrom, Ms. Strahan, Ms. Grussendorf

The Second Grade Scoop

READING: In reading, we will be revisiting realistic fiction, expository text, and poetry genres. Students will learn about comparing and contrasting and cause and effect. We will also review point of view and text features. Our essential questions will be, "How are kids around the world different?" and "How does Earth change?". 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 are wrapping up our lessons on comparing 3-digit numbers and using place value to round. Our upcoming lessons will focus on mental addition and subtraction and adding several two-digit numbers. That will complete Unit 3- Numbers within 1,000: Place value, addition, and subtraction. Please continue practicing addition and subtraction facts at home. Work towards automaticity and improving fluency.

ACCESS Testing: This month (the week of February 12th), our students who receive EL services will be taking the ACCESS test.

Second Grade Teachers

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

3rd GRADE

Hello Third Grade Families,

We are concluding our third unit in language arts by reading expository texts about inventions. The third graders have daily phonics lessons in the class we call "Essentials." Students are learning the rules of sounding out and spelling words. Students are learning multiplication and division in math. Students are learning how to solve problems using arrays, number lines, and counting by factors. Third graders are seeing the patterns and connections between multiplication and division.

The third-grade teachers would like to invite the students to bring cards for classmates on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. This is optional for all families, but if your child does bring in cards, please make sure there are enough for all the students in the class. All candy and treats will be sent home and not enjoyed at school. Please remember we are a peanut-free school. Treats that are peanut-free will be allowed to be passed out. Please make sure the treats are not processed on machinery with peanut products too.

Please encourage your child to read each night for a minimum of 15 minutes. Students may read to self, read to others, or be read to.

Thank you,

Third grade team- Ms. Ewaysi, Mrs. Kremer, and Ms. Quimby

4th GRADE

4th grade students are very busy. In math we are working with fractions. Students are learning how to add and subtract fractions. They are also learning how to compare fractions and use them on a number line.

In reading, we just finished a biography about Westley Law. Ask your child what they know about him. We are now going to begin writing our own biographies. The students have picked some very famous people to learn about.

Mrs. Walz has been teaching the 4th graders all about magnets. We have done many fun experiments allowing a lot of explorations with magnets.

**The most exciting news in 4th grade is that we will be going on a field trip on February 15th. More news on that is coming soon.

-4th Grade Team

5th GRADE

Hello 5th Grade Families! In February, we are working on creating and interpreting all different kinds of graphs in math. Soon we will start discussing geometry topics.

During reading class, we are exploring some expository texts and learning about topics like marine animals and oil spill clean-up efforts.

During science Fifth Graders are learning all about different landforms as well as food webs.

During social studies we've recently learned about different explorers and their quests to North America.

In regard to personal growth, we have been encouraging 5th graders to be responsible and model self-control for younger students.

Your Fifth Grade Team

School Counselor Corner

Take time to commit to yourself.

- Be Kind!!!!!! Speak only kind words about yourself and treat yourself with respect. Being positive about yourself is the key to attracting more positivity to your life.
- Be Beautifully Human!!! Don't be too hard on yourself. You will make mistakes or miss goals. Remind yourself it is okay to be human and learn from your mistakes.
- You BE You!!! Do not allow yourself to be defined by a label. Instead of thinking and speaking of yourself as overweight, anxious, depressed, etc.. say, "I am a work in progress, and I will continue to progress."

- Understand that everyone has a path to take. Sometimes there are great forests to navigate or large boulders to climb, but no path is easy, yet all paths are beautiful.

"**Compassion** is not a virtue—it is a commitment. It's not something we have or don't have—it's something we choose to practice," Brené Brown~

STEM

Are you made of Copper and Terillium? Because you're cute.

Happy February! The month of love. It's no secret that we love our science here at Discovery. As we enter February we know why people say things like opposites attract, just ask a 4th grader! 4th graders have started to look at the periodic table so this joke was mostly for them. This month we are going to love the following in science:

- 5th grade is making islands to model landforms. These will come home and then we are off to the stars to study light.
- 4th grade is heading into our biology unit with plants and animals.
- 3rd grade is still out of this world going from stars to planet studies.
- 2nd grade is all about animals this month.
- 1st grade is studying the sounds and light around us and solving problems with them.
- Kindergarten is taking care of living things this month. Prepare for stories of bugs, plants, and fish at home this month!

Happy February, stay curious and kind scientists!

-Mrs. Walz (extension 6233)



Jenny Holm

Jenny is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters