

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Prepare. Engage. Educate. Empower. Inspire.

DECEMBER 2023 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

School Hours: 7:30 - 2:00

Phone: 320-370-6180



From Principal Holm

Trimester 1 has come to a close. We are excited about the progress our students are making academically & socially. We are celebrating the great accomplishments of our students. Report cards will be sent home in your child's backpack on December 19. They will also be sent electronically through our Skyward System.

Thank you families for sharing your children with us. They are brilliant and inquisitive learners. They shine bright every day!



[Click here for Discovery staff directory](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Dec. 6** - Dual Language Immersion Information Night - 5:00-6:00
- **Dec. 19** - Gr. 4 Reader's Theater - parents are invited- more details to come from your student's teacher
- **December 21 - January 1** - Winter Break - **No School**
- **January 2** - Back to School
- **January 15** - Martin Luther King Jr Holiday - **No School**

WE ARE A PEANUT FREE SCHOOL

Please do not send food with any peanut ingredients to school. We have students with severe peanut allergies.

Attendance is very important for your child's success! Regular attendance is directly related to successful academic achievement.

Please let the Discovery office know as soon as possible whenever your child is absent or will be late and the reason. Discovery's phone number is 320-370-6180. If you leave a voicemail message, please indicate the reason for your child's absence.

A student is considered truant (**3 full-day unexcused absences**) when we do not know the reason for their absence. When a student has 3 truant days, a letter is sent home to the parent and the County. At 5 truant days, a letter is again sent to the parents and the County.

When a student has 7 truant days, the school requests a "Truancy/Educational Neglect Petition" to be filed with the County for screening, assessment, and investigation



Volunteer

St. Cloud School District

Adult Education

Available times vary
from 8:30 am - 9:00
pm

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Join the St. Cloud School district and help our students expand their English education. The Adult Education program offers a variety of ESL classes and GED classes.

Why Volunteer?

- Helps the community.
- Flexible Schedule.
- Explore diverse career options.
- Gain new skills.
- Make connections.
- Gain professional experience.
- Grow your network.
- Makes an impact.

Take the first steps towards a fulfilling opportunity!

Get more information and apply now!

www.isd742.org

Scan the QR code
for the Volunteer
application.



Questions?

Email: taylor.lacrosse@isd742.org

Hello from Kindergarten!

Happy December Kindergarten Families!

We have been learning so much and are so excited for what is to come for the rest of 2023!

We just completed our first writing week in language arts and each student wrote and illustrated their own informational story about an animal! We have also been working on finding the key details in the stories we have read together.

In math, we have been working on three-dimensional shapes, addition with numbers to 5, and two-dimensional shapes. Our students are getting so good at counting and using numbers.

This month, we will be working on visualizing, or creating a picture in our minds when we listen to the words in a story for reading. We will also continue to learn how to write the rest of the uppercase letters before moving on to lowercase letters. We are also working hard to develop our phonemic awareness skills with activities such as identifying the beginning or end sounds in a word and by blending spoken word parts together.

In math we will continue to work on numbers within 20. We will also be working more with addition and learning how to subtract with numbers 0-5, as well, before moving on to learning numbers 6-10.

As it is getting colder, please start sending winter clothing to school with your child and teach them how to put it on by themselves! Even if there is no snow, students need jackets, hats, waterproof gloves or mittens, snow pants, and boots every day to stay safe and warm. It can get very cold on the playground! Please send a pair of shoes with your child so they can change out of their boots for the rest of the school day inside.

Last few reminders:

- Please check your student's take home folder every night and send it back with them to school the next day.
- Always call the office if there are any changes in your child's dismissal plans for the end of the school day.

The Kindergarten Team

1st GRADE

Hello First Grade Families!

Happy December!

In math, we are finishing up Unit 2 and moving onto Unit 3 skills such as solving word problems up to 20, comparing numbers, collecting and organizing data, true and/or false equations, finding missing numbers, and learning so many math vocabulary words to help explain our thinking. We will continue to ask to help connect school to home by writing numbers up to 120, skip count by 2's, 5's, and 10's, counting backwards from smaller and larger numbers, and ordering numbers from least to greatest. Thank you for your support!

In reading, we will be working through Unit 2 of our Wonders curriculum! Each week we discuss different questions that guide our exploration in learning. We will cover topics like focusing on where animals live together, how people can help out in their community, and how to use maps to find their way around town. We will wrap up with a writing unit before winter break and students will be writing their very own fantasy story!

In science, we are going to build a Wigwam Shelter! We will be working with students to communicate solutions that use materials to provide shelter, food, or warmth needs for communities including Minnesota American Indian Tribes and communities.

We are entering Trimester 2 and we can't wait to continue to see your student's grow!

Happy Holidays!

-Mrs. Burau

-Mrs. Fagerstrom

-Ms. Strahan

-Ms. Grussendorf

The Second Grade Scoop

Can you believe we are already $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way done with the school year?! Trimester 1 ended on November 30th. Your teacher has been busy entering grades for report cards, which will be sent out soon!

In January, we will be reassessing our students to measure their progress in reading and math.

READING: We have been studying animals and their life cycles. Our essential question in reading is: **What can animals in stories teach us?** Your child will be able to tell you what a fable is. Please keep encouraging your child to read at home **EVERY day for at least 20 minutes**. That could include their library books or books you have at home. After reading, have your child tell you about the characters, setting, problem, and solution in the story. If the book is informational, have students share facts they learned after reading.

MATH: We have been working hard understanding how to add and subtract two-digit numbers. We learned many different strategies that can be used. In our next lesson, we will apply those strategies to solve one-step word problems by adding and subtracting two-digit numbers. Then, we move into money and time and that will wrap up unit 2.

We appreciate families helping their children practice at home. Keep it up!

Second Grade Teachers,

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

3rd GRADE

Happy December! As we move into a new month, we want to encourage you to continue asking your child about what they are learning at school.

Through December
practicing their mu
strategies for solving multiplication problems.



Students are
all of which are

Students should be reading for at least 20 minutes each night. We have been learning about the skill of visualizing what the author is describing. Consider having your child draw about the book they are reading one day each week through December.

We go outside for 20-minutes of recess each day. Please be sure your child has a warm jacket, snowpants, boots, a hat, and gloves or mittens. If you need help with any of these supplies, please get in touch with your child's classroom teacher.

All the best from the 3rd grade team!

Ms. Ewaysi, Ms. Quimby, and Ms. Kremer

4th GRADE

It is hard to believe we are starting our second trimester of the year.

4th graders are working hard in all academic areas and showing so much growth in their learning.

In math, we are working on multiplication and division. Students are learning different strategies to solve equations.

In reading, we just finished reading dramas and will soon be doing our own Readers' Theater. Students are very excited about getting their own parts and performing in front of their classmates. We are also starting to read and understand the different characteristics of poetry.

The second trimester is off to a wonderful start!

4th Grade Teachers

Ms. Fernelius, Ms. Miller, Ms Wiechmann

5th GRADE

Fifth Grade has been working hard on adding and subtracting decimals in math class.

We are dissecting f
personification.



identify the use of

In social studies, we are starting to look at information about the history of indigenous people.

In science, Ms. Walz is teaching us about different chemicals.

At recess, it is very cold! **Please have your student dress appropriately. Hats, mittens, scarves, and coats are encouraged.**

Sincerely,

The Fifth Grade Teachers



STEM

"The greatest discoveries often lie not in finding new things, but in seeing familiar things in new ways." - Alexander Fleming.

This month we have spent a lot of time looking at the world we know through different lenses.

- 5th grade is seeing that when a chemical reaction happens there is no end to matter.
- 4th grade has been understanding the changes they see through weathering, erosion, and deposition.
- 3rd grade has started to see how the light around them is what helps them see everything around them.
- 2nd grade is understanding how we can change, how things move through push and pull. Our planet has natural push and pull.
- 1st grade has worked so hard with their geology unit and continue to love rocks. Thank you for family support in gathering and starting rock collections!
- Kindergarten has been looking closer at the materials around them, like wood from our trees. All these things have been around us, but science is a new way to see our world around us. Stay curious as our seasons and world continue to change!

-Mrs. Walz (extension 6233)

Physical Education

Hello everyone!

Basketballs are even
partners and teams
skills. Students will be using these team skills throughout life.



shooting with
team cooperation

Upcoming events and areas of focus in PE include cross country skiing, volleyball, floor hockey, and our rhythm and movement unit. If the weather permits and the snowflakes fall, our fourth and fifth graders will get the opportunity to cross country ski.

The students will be participating in our fantastic rhythm and movement unit in February. The students will learn how to move to the music in a line, move in a group, drum on buckets and exercise balls, and may even get the chance to teach the teachers some freestyle moves.

Remember, parents are welcome to attend the rhythm and movement unit and any other class 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

Jenny Holm

Jenny is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

Created with  smore

Communicate quickly and effectively with interactive newsletters.

Smore empowers educators to connect with their community, streamline school communications, and increase engagement.

[Create a newsletter](#)