

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

== PREPARE. ENGAGE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE. ==

NOVEMBER 2023 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

School Hours: 7:30 - 2:00

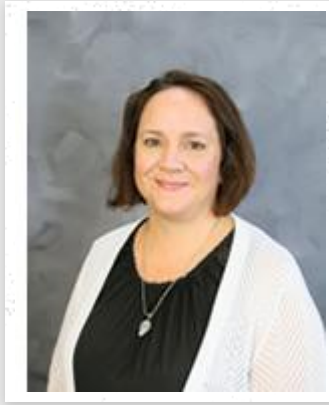
Phone: (320) 370-6180



FROM PRINCIPAL HOLM

Hi Families,

Thank you for those of you who attended conferences last week. We couldn't do this without support from you– all of our families. If you were not able to attend, please reach out to your teacher to set up a time this week.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 1, Wednesday - Early release day for students- school ends at 12:00

Nov. 6, Monday - Parent Invite/Empower Learning - 4-5:30

Nov. 15, Wednesday - Picture Retake Day

Nov. 22 - 24, Wednesday - Friday - No School, Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29 - Pizza with the principal for students of the month

Nov. 30 - Last day of trimester 1

Dec. 1, Friday - No School



CORRECT PHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS

It is very important that we have your current phone number and address, so if it has changed please let us know at **320/370-6180** as soon as possible. When the school calls, If you're unable to answer we will leave a voicemail message, so please make sure your voicemail is set up to receive messages. Thank you.

[CLICK HERE FOR DISCOVERY STAFF DIRECTORY](#)

HELLO FROM KINDERGARTEN!

Hello Kindergarten Families!

We have been having a wonderful time learning and playing this fall in kindergarten. We have been working so hard on our school routines and learning how to be a good friend. We celebrated Unity Day by wearing orange and learning about how our differences make us special. We see that every day when we work together!

Your kindergarteners have also been working hard to develop phonemic awareness, or the ability to hear and manipulate the sounds in spoken words, by identifying rhyming words (i.e., bat, cat, mat) and identifying the beginning/ending sounds in words. We will also continue to practice identifying the names of letters as we begin to practice writing them.

In math we completed Unit 1 in which we learned words to describe the position, length, and height of objects and practiced sorting objects into categories.

Coming up, we will be learning about nonfiction texts, or stories about real people, and writing our own nonfiction stories! We will also be learning about numbers to 5, shapes, and weight in Unit 2 for math. We are so excited about all that is to come in kindergarten!

Love, Your Kindergarten Teachers

P.S. Winter is coming! Please send a winter coat, hat, and mittens/gloves to school with your child. Please also label them with your child's name to help us get them back to the correct student if they get lost

1ST GRADE

Hello First Grade Families!

We completed Unit 1 in our iReady Curriculum! Moving on to Unit 2, we have many skills being introduced. We will be showing a teen number using ten and some ones, adding three numbers, making a ten to add, using a ten to subtract, exploring doubles facts and near doubles facts, and continue to grow our math vocabulary to describe addition and subtraction to 20. Ways you can help connect school to home can be 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!

Make sure you are reading with your child every night! Some tips to help your child with reading development:

- Read the story more than once.
- Dig deeper and ask questions about the story! Ask who the characters are, where is the setting, what happened at the beginning, middle and end of the story.
- Talk about the illustrations.
- Help your child sound out unknown words.

We are becoming Geologists in science and have been studying pebbles, sand, and silt. Students have been collecting rocks to categorize them into different groups such as color, shape, texture, and size.

So much fun is happening in first grade!

-Mrs. Burau

-Mrs. Fagerstrom

-Ms. Strahan

-Ms. Grussendorf

THE SECOND GRADE SCOOP

We have been busy working on developing our math skills to *use* picture graphs and bar graphs to solve problems, as well as learning to *make* picture graphs and bar graphs. We are also solving two-step word problems through using models and equations. We will soon be wrapping up Unit 1: Numbers Within 20: Addition, Subtraction, and Data. The focus of Unit 2 will be: Numbers Within 100: Addition, Subtraction, Time, and Money. Watch for the 'Family Letter' that comes home with each new lesson for more information and examples of what we are learning in math.

I

n reading, we have been working with the genre 'Expository Text'. This month, our essential question is, "How are offspring like their parents?" Our stories will focus on this question and our students will be working on identifying key details and the main idea of a nonfiction text. Our students continue to learn and use good reading habits at school. **Remember to read at home EVERY day for at least 20 minutes.** PakRat books are now going home, along with library books. Please make sure these books are returned to school each week, so students can enjoy new books from the library.

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

3RD GRADE

Dear Discovery 3rd Grade Families,

As the weather continues to get colder, please plan to send warm winter gear with your child each day including snow pants, boots, gloves, and hats as needed. We do go outside to play every day.

All third-grade classes are diving into reading and math curriculum. Third graders have been practicing visualizing, opinion and persuasive writing, and identifying the features of argumentative texts. They have been discussing how people from different cultures can contribute to a community, as well as what can be learned from the traditions within cultures.

We are practicing addition and subtraction strategies in math. Students are using a variety of strategies including using manipulatives, drawings, and algorithms to solve problems.

Finally, the teachers would like to encourage reading at home every night. Students check out books from the school library that they can read and return each week.

Robin Kremer
Third Grade Teacher
Discovery Elementary ISD 742
Robin.Kremer@isd742.org

4TH GRADE

Hello, fourth grade families! Thank you for attending conferences; it was great to meet with you.

In math, we are working hard on iReady, which is our new curriculum. We have been working hard on place value, addition and subtraction, and multiplication. It's good to practice math facts at home, and ask your child what they're learning about.

In reading, we have read a variety of genres so far, including expository text and realistic fiction. We have also written a fact and opinion essay.

With colder weather fast approaching, please make sure that your child has appropriate winter gear: hats, gloves, snowpants and boots, along with a heavy winter coat.

-Your Fourth Grade Team
Melissa, Melissa and Julia

5TH GRADE

Happy Fall 5th Grade!

During October in 5th grade, we have been working in many different areas of learning!

In Math we have focused on volume, multiplication, and we have started division.

In Language arts we read stories about realistic fiction as well as argumentative texts. We are now working on a personal narrative writing project.

In social studies we are learning about ancient civilizations in Mesoamerica. Students are exploring awesome science labs with Ms. Walz.

**Please remember to check your student's planner each night as well as their take home folder. You may remove any items in the "Take Home" side to keep at home. Please return any forms that are in the "Bring Back" side of the folder.

The weather is starting to get colder, and 5th grade goes outside for recess fairly early in the morning this year. Please make sure students have layers to put on, jackets, hats, and mittens to keep in their lockers for their time outside. Thank you!

Best,
Ms. Fernelius, Ms. Hacker, and Ms. Schroll

PHY ED

Hello everyone from Physical Education!

It is November and we had a wonderful month of weather in October.

The students in Physical Education have been playing pumpkin patch games. These games involve throwing at orange targets, sneaking in the dark to collect pumpkins, and working on sliding movements with your legs. Your students have been learning how to use hand-to-eye coordination to catch a thrown ball from a partner. This is a crucial skill for your child to develop because catching is used every day at home and school. Catching will also help confidence in sports, activities, and life. The best part about learning these skills is brain development. Properly learning and using the skills helps a person to use both sides of the brain, make connections, aid in memory retention, and brain cell growth. The more children use their left and right sides of their brain, the greater the chance they have for success in school and life.

The fourth and fifth graders have just finished bicycle riding. It is an interesting experience. The students are learning to use a helmet, walk their feet while gliding, use a power push to begin peddling, and learn to use hand brakes. Most of the students at Discovery have used bicycles before. The students love bike riding, feeling the wind on their faces, and racing friends. We always have students learning for the first time. This causes anxiety and stress for the kids but seeing the students peddling and succeeding after 6 days is a fun sight to see. The students just want to get up and move!

October was also Fire Safety Month. The K, 1, and 2 students have just finished working on Stop, Drop, and Roll skills along with driving fire trucks and putting out fires! The students love to push, drive, and pretend to be firefighters! Make sure to talk to your students about exit plans and safe places to go if your home catches on fire.

November will be a month of paddle skills, speed cup stacking, and Pacer running. These skills will help the students to learn about cardiovascular health, muscle repetition for building

speed, and hand to eye coordination.

Mr. Thoreson

Mr. Richmond

Discovery Physical Education

OUR SCIENTISTS!

What a great month of content learning! I'm so impressed with what your students can do.

Kindergarten has been working hard on science skills, like collaboration and observation.

First grade is rocking it in their geology unit!

Second grade is understanding forces like gravity and pushes and pulls.

Third grade dissected some plants and toy jelly bats to see what things are similar and different in plants and animals, it was messy but full of learning!

Fourth grade has been getting down in the dirt to find out how earth changes and why all soils are not the same.

And last but not least fifth grade science is full of skill building, to work independently and to get accurate weights on a balance scale.

As we build more skills we are understanding more about our world around us and it's been so amazing to see your students ask the important questions about our world! Keep curious!

-Mrs. Walz (extension 6233)

