

April 2025

*Dare to SOAR!*

# SUNSET NEWS



## A Note from the Principal

Dear Sunset Families,

We hope you had a wonderful and restful Spring Break! As we head into April, we want to keep you informed and prepared for the upcoming State Assessments. These assessments are an important way for us to measure student progress, and we're excited to see how much our students have grown this year.

### Important State Assessment Dates and Reminders:

- **ELA (English Language Arts) Assessments:** April 2 and 3
- **Math State Assessments:** April 9 and 10

To ensure that your child is fully prepared and able to perform their best, we want to remind everyone of a few simple, yet important, practices leading up to the assessments:

- **Get a Good Night's Rest:** A well-rested mind works wonders!
- **Eat a Healthy Breakfast:** A nutritious breakfast will help keep energy levels up for a successful test day.

We're always looking for ways to strengthen our school community. We would love for you to consider joining the PTA and attend our next meeting. It's a great opportunity to get involved, meet other families, and contribute to the positive atmosphere here at Sunset. Your voice and involvement make a difference!

We're so proud of the progress we've seen from our students this year, particularly with their performance on iReady. The growth we've observed in their learning is a direct result of the hard work of both students and families. Thank you for being such an integral part of their success!

As always, we appreciate everything you do to support our students. Together, we are making a lasting impact on their education and future.

Best regards,  
Dr. Brandon J. Cheeks, Principal  
Sunset Elementary School  
P: 785-309-4520  
Brandon.Cheeks@usd305.com

# Parent/Teacher Association (PTA)

Our next meeting is April 3, 6:30 p.m. We need parents to attend these meetings to help make decisions for our students.

Fun Night is April 11. Pre-order information will be going home and put on Facebook, the week after Spring Break.

We are looking for parents who are interested in leading PTA as an officer.

## Attendance and Illness

In the face of challenging weather and illness, our teachers, families and students have persisted to keep learning and engaged! We appreciate everyone's hard work and commitment to our school community. Thank you!

As long as your student is healthy, please send your student to school. If you have questions about your student coming to school due to a health or mental health concern, please contact the school.

If your family or your student need support, please reach out to our counselor, Kadey Nordell, or our social worker, Taylor Stockwell, for help.

Every day of school is an important opportunity for students to learn and connect to peers and their teachers.

## Kindergarten Music Program

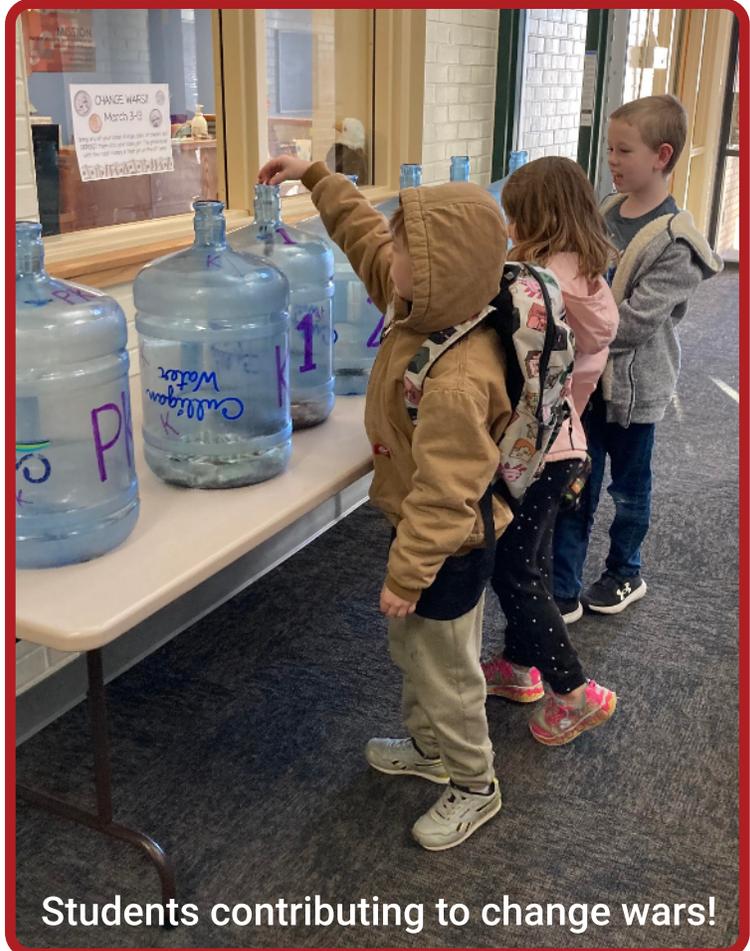
"Kindergarten through the Seasons"

May 1

6:30 p.m.

Big gym

Students, please arrive at 6:15 p.m.



Students contributing to change wars!

## Kindergarten Roundup

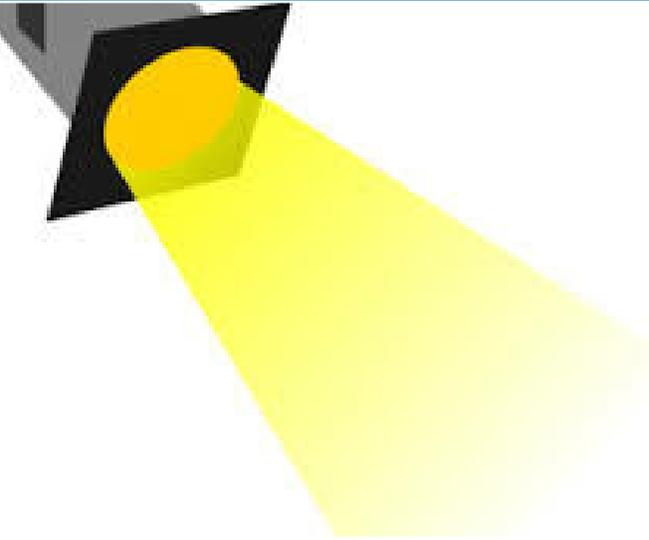
Kindergarten Roundup

April 24

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

This event is a wonderful opportunity for incoming kindergarten students and their families to meet our teachers and explore the kindergarten classrooms. Get all the information you need to make the transition to kindergarten smooth and successful. We can't wait to see you there and kick off the start of your child's educational journey at Sunset Elementary!

# Spotlight on Grade 5



Since Grade 5 was unable to attend STARBASE this year, we got the opportunity to be visited by Billie Jones from STARBASE. She was able to conduct the Lieutenant Eggbert experiment with the students. The students had to decide what materials they would use to protect Lieutenant Eggbert for his moon landing. Several of the groups were successful, and Lieutenant Eggbert landed safely. It was a fun afternoon of learning for everyone.

In the classroom, Grade 5 is learning about geometry in math, and beginning a new module in reading exploring what role curiosity plays in exploration. We are beginning to plan our Grade 5 Honor Night. It's almost time for our students to move on to middle school!



# Grade 3 Music Program



## Visible Learning

As part of the Visible Learning journey at Salina Public Schools, our teachers are focused on being clear in their expectations and instruction to support student learning. Teachers use learning intentions and success criteria as a way to communicate and help your child understand:

- What am I learning today?
- Why am I learning this?
- How will I know that I learned it?

Learning becomes more visible for students when there is a connection to what they are expected to learn (learning intentions) and what successful learning looks like (success criteria).

Celebrate learning with your child by asking what they learned this week and how they knew they learned it.

Teachers' use of learning intentions and success criteria combined with families talking about learning - **helps grow stronger learners**. Your conversations support Sunset's focus on developing students' resilience and perseverance by encouraging them to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and persist in their efforts to achieve their goals.

## Kids and Exercise

When most adults think about exercise, they imagine working out in the gym, running on a treadmill, or lifting weights.

But for kids, exercise means playing and being physically active. Kids exercise when they have gym class at school, during recess, at dance class or soccer practice, while riding bikes, or when playing tag.

There are many benefits and elements of exercise and fitness. Click on the link below to see how you can raise fit kids.



For more information about kids and exercise



## Chess After School

Mr. Rubino has had great student interest in learning the game of chess. He had so many students sign up that he had to have 3 afternoons a week to accommodate all those that are interested. Thank you, Mr. Rubino!

## Summer School

Summer school enrollment is now open! Salina Public Schools is excited to offer a variety of programs designed to keep students engaged and support their continued learning throughout the summer. Whether your child needs to catch up or wants to get ahead, we have options available. Our summer school programs include transportation, as well as breakfast and lunch. All classes are taught by certified teachers. For more information or to register, please visit our website.

## PTA Family Fun Night

Save the date! ***Friday, April 11***

Plan on attending the Family Fun Night sponsored by Sunset's PTA. There will be food and games for the whole family.

You can pre-order food by checking your child's backpack for a note or going to Sunset's website for more information.

# April Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

3 - PTA meeting

7 - Site Council

11 - PTA Family Fun Night

18 & 21 - No School

24 - Kindergarten Roundup



## Contact Us

Brandon Cheeks - Principal

Kate Ozores - Lead Teacher

Gena Koch - Secretary

Main Office Phone Number: 785-309-4520

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