



Deephaven Elementary
Innovate. Inspire. Excel.



THE WINDS
JANUARY 7, 2025

IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan. 13 PTA Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 14 Grade 5 Choir Concert, 8:20 a.m.
- Jan. 14 Deephaven Leaders in Action, 2:45-3:45
- Jan. 16 Lighthouse Publishing Submission Deadline
- Jan. 19-23 Paraprofessional Appreciation Week
- Jan. 19 **No School** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 23 Lighthouse Publishing Event, 9 a.m. (Media Center)
- Jan. 26 **No School** - Grading/Planning Day
- Jan. 28 Wacky Wednesday: Cozy Day

[District Calendar](#)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Happy New Year! Welcome back to the routine of work and school for your family. I hope you enjoyed winter break! The next three months, we typically have minimal disruptions to our calendar. Getting back to good routines at home, such as a regular bedtime and family dinners, helps set your child up for success during the school day. We look forward to continuing to partner with you as we head into the second half of the school year. We welcome your communication from home on ways we can best support your child's learning at school.

Thank You PTA! The PTA Executive Board approved over \$17,000 in enrichment grants this December. Spring Teacher Grants will still take place following The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation grant program. Enrichment support provided by our PTA directly impacts our students and their learning opportunities.

Deephaven Leaders in Action would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the students and families who contributed to our Toys for Tots fundraiser. Because of your incredible support, we successfully collected 396 toys for children in our community. These donations made a significant difference this holiday season. We are proud of the generosity shown by our school and appreciate everyone who helped us reach this impressive goal!

REMINDER – Please notify the health office when your child is absent from school. Attendance is taken by our health office and the direct phone number to report an absence is 952-401-6904.

Incoming Kindergarten Families – Registration materials for residents is due on January 15. Families that are open enrolling must turn in their applications by January 15 as well. Please contact Alexis Beckman at 952-401-4141 or alexis.beckman@minnetonkaschools.org if you have any questions about kindergarten registration.

Winter Weather – Students spend 20-30 minutes outside each day at school unless the temperature or wind chill reaches -10 degrees. Be sure your child is prepared with the proper winter gear.

REMINDER – School starts at 8:00 a.m. and the first bell rings at 7:50 a.m. Students may be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. When everyone is on time, classes are able to start without disruptions.

Morning Drop-off - We understand the desire to keep children warm on cold days. To help reduce congestion and keep everyone safe, we encourage families to **drive their child to the bus stop and wait with them in the car** until the bus arrives, rather than driving all the way to school. This small step helps ease traffic near the building and ensures a smoother start for everyone. Thank you for your support and care for our students!

Reminder - Please remain in your car when dropping off your child. This helps to keep our drop-off line moving.

Department of Education - Language Immersion Advisory Group/Guardian Participant Survey (see below)

Tonka Serves - January Opportunities



“EVERYONE CAN BE GREAT, BECAUSE ANYBODY CAN SERVE.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

Make a plan to volunteer in 2026.

When we serve, we make this world so much better!

Need Ideas? Visit:
bit.ly/2026WINTERELEM
or tonkaserves.org

Tonka Serves

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Building Representative can be contacted at any time if you have questions or would like a connection within the building. Please reach out to Morgan Minich, morgroberts@gmail.com.

CHARACTER STRONG

We all experience challenges in our lives and have moments when we feel like we can't do it or that we want to give up. We need to develop tools that help us work through those challenges and grow instead of giving up. The theme this month is perseverance, defined as pushing yourself to work through challenges and obstacles. Students will be learning about goal setting and how to work towards larger goals. Each grade level has a different area of focus about perseverance. See this month's Character Strong Newsletter (below) for more information.

SUPPORTING READING AT HOME

Use Technology Wisely

- **Educational Apps:** Utilize apps and online resources that promote reading and literacy skills. [Be a “media mentor” by guiding your child in using technology for learning.](#)
 - **Audiobooks:** [Incorporate audiobooks into your routine to expose your child to more language and stories.](#)
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PTA PULSE

Bookmark Contest | January 6–13

The Read-a-Thon begins next month, and we’re kicking things off with a fun, school-wide Bookmark Contest! One winner will be selected from each grade (K–5).

How it works:

- A bookmark template will be sent home with students this week.
- Students should design their bookmark featuring a scene or character from their favorite book.
- Completed bookmarks must be turned in to teachers by Tuesday, January 13.

Winners will have their bookmark featured in the yearbook, take a photo with Mr. McGinley, and see their design professionally printed and shared with every student in their grade this February! We can’t wait to see our students’ creativity shine—happy designing!

Lighthouse Publishing | Submissions Due January 16

Calling all writers in grades 1-5! We invite you to create any writing project which will be printed and bound into an official book and presented during a ceremony (usually with treats!). The ceremony is hosted by our administrative staff and attended by students, parents, and caregivers. The ceremony will take place January 23, at 9:00am.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Format:** Students are free to express themselves in any written format they choose – poems, short stories, personal narratives, plays, or even comic strips!
- **Template:** To ensure consistency, please use our provided template: [Download Here](#)
- **Parental Support:** We encourage parents to assist their children with typing their submissions, especially for our younger authors
- **Submission:** Email all documents to deephaven.lighthousepublishing@gmail.com

Unleash your creativity, share your stories, and become a published author with Lighthouse Publishing!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We're excited to share that, as part of the 2025 Minnesota legislation, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is launching a **Dual Language Immersion Advisory Committee**. This committee will help guide and support dual language programs in Chinese, French, German, Hmong, Korean, Spanish, Dakota, and Ojibwe across the state—and we need your voice!

To ensure meaningful representation, we are seeking **parents and guardians** who have children enrolled in a DLI program, including those who speak the partner languages of our programs—Spanish, Chinese, French, German, Hmong, Korean, Dakota, and Ojibwe—as well as those who do not.

If interested, please complete the **Language Immersion Advisory Group Parent/Guardian Participant Survey, by January 12.** _

 [Language Immersion Advisory Group Parent/Guardian Participant Survey](#)

Our goal is to build a committee that reflects the diversity of Minnesota—across languages, race/ethnicity, native speakers, and geography (urban, suburban, and greater Minnesota).

Thank you for supporting this important work and helping us ensure all voices are heard!

Warm regards,

Minnesota Department of Education

DEEPHAVEN

MONTHLY SEL NEWSLETTER



THEME: Perseverance

We all experience challenges in our lives and have moments when we feel like we can't do it or that we want to give up. We need to develop tools that help us work through those challenges and grow instead of giving up. The theme this month is perseverance, defined as pushing yourself to work through challenges and obstacles. Students will be learning about goal setting and how to work towards larger goals. Each grade level has a different area of focus about perseverance.

Kindergarten/RSK: Following Directions

Grade 1: Focus

Grade 2: Engagement

Grade 3: Flexible Thinking

Grade 4: Organization

Grade 5: [Goal-setting Plans](#)

Home Connection

1) Engage with Conversation Starters

- Share a time you showed perseverance. Stories are powerful tools for learning.
- Describe a situation or circumstance when someone inspired you to overcome an obstacle,
- Discuss a goal you have for the future and one action step that can be taken. This works even better if you can engage everyone in a household goal.

2) Try Identity-Based Goals

Instead of aiming for specific achievements, consider identity-based goals. Take some time as a family to identify your core values. Discuss what is important to you and what kind of family you want to be. Once you have identified these values, make small, daily changes to live into them. When making a decision, if you value kindness for example, you might start by saying, "In our family we are kind. What would a kind person do?" Celebrate small wins and be patient with setbacks, this month is about perseverance.

TOP: Strategy in Action

TOP stands for...

- **Target:** Visualize your goal and think about why this is important for you.
- **Obstacles:** Plan for challenges. If _____ gets in the way, then what can you do?
- **Plan:** Create 3 action steps you will need to take to complete your goal.

This technique can help students Persevere through challenges and equips them to achieve their goals.

Target
Obstacles
Plan
GOALS



Coping Skill of the Month

Affirmations

Affirmations are powerful tools that help children build a positive mindset and manage stress. By modeling and repeating positive statements like, "I am brave" or "I can do this, or I believe in myself," for kids, we can boost their self-esteem, resilience, and emotional regulation. It teaches them to replace negative self-talk with positive beliefs that foster a growth mindset and builds inner strength to handle challenges. The key is to remember **TIMING**. Affirmations with a frustrated child doesn't help, weave them into your day so it feels genuine, and know that child personalities and preferences will play a role in tailoring the affirmations. For more information on this topic and the science behind it check out this link from the [Center for Child Development](#).