



THE WINDS
FEBRUARY 18, 2026

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 25 Wacky Wednesday: Book Character Day
Mar. 2-6 Technology Staff Appreciation Week
Mar. 2-6 School Social Worker Appreciation Week
Mar. 4 Deephaven Leaders in Action, 2:45-3:45
Mar. 5 Conferences, 3-7 p.m.
Mar. 6 **No School** - Conferences, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

[District Calendar](#)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Update on Mr. McGinley – Mr. McGinley had foot surgery two weeks ago and will be in recovery mode until mid-March. During this time, Nancy Wittman-Beltz (Mrs. W-B) and Josh Jansen will be available to assist you with anything you need.

Nancy Wittman-Beltz: Nancy.Wittman-Beltz@minnetonkaschools.org

Josh Jansen: Josh.Jansen@minnetonkaschools.org

Read-a-Thon continues through the end of February. Please see the PTA Pulse for more details.

Nominations Open for Celebration of Excellence When you think of excellence in the Minnetonka Public School District, is there a person who comes to mind who helps to make the District exceptional? A teacher? A para? A staff member? A volunteer in the schools?

[Nominate that person today](#) for a Minnetonka Schools Child-centered Excellence Award. Nominations are now open through February 28, 2026.

Award categories include:

- Award for Child-centered Excellence in Teaching
- Award for Child-centered Excellence in Teaching E-learners
- Bradley G. Board Award for Excellence in Elementary Education
- Joyce Gustafson Memorial Award
- Minnetonka Employee Award for Child-centered Excellence
- Team Award for Child-centered Collaboration
- Spinnaker Award (for community members' volunteerism and efforts in support of schools)

Spring Conferences – Conferences will be held on Thursday, March 5, from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (in person) and on Friday, March 6, from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (virtually). Our goal is to have all our parents participate. You will be receiving an email on **Wednesday, February 18 at 5 p.m.** with instructions on how to sign up for conferences. Please work directly with your child's teacher if you would like to meet in person on Friday. **The deadline to sign up for conferences/make changes is Wednesday, March 4 at 4 p.m.**

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

This month's focus is Honesty. One way to think about honesty is "being truthful in what you say and do." Practicing Honesty helps strengthen our relationships and even reduces stress. Honesty is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students Be Well. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like emotion regulation, positive self-talk, and stress-management.

SUPPORTING READING AT HOME

Create a Literacy-Rich Environment

- **Access to Books:** Ensure your home has a variety of age-appropriate books. [Visit the library regularly to keep the selection fresh.](#)
 - **Model Reading:** Let your child see you reading regularly. [This sets a positive example and shows that reading is a valuable activity.](#)
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PTA PULSE

Read-a-thon | February 1 - 24

We're entering the final week of the Read-a-thon. Note all minutes must be entered into Pledgestar by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24th. This is a firm deadline. It is not too late to get in on the action, register your student in Pledgestar now: [Pledgestar](#). Truly, every minute matters.

Week #3 Results: Through 2/16/26

- There are 527 students participating in the Read-A-Thon. We're at 79% participation! Help us reach our goal of 95%!
- Students have read a total of 238,932 minutes! We're at 48% of our goal to read 500,000 minutes!
- We're at 80% of our goal to raise \$50,000.

The competition is heating up! Let's finish strong!