



OCTOBER 2023

LAKER NEWS

JENNIFER OLSON – Elementary Principal

HUMPHREY ELEMENTARY 320-543-4680

WINSTED ELEMENTARY 320-543-4690

October Greetings!

With a month of school already behind us, it seems this school year is once again off to a quick pace. Thank you for your help in this smooth transition, we're off to a great start!

I'd like start by saying thank YOU for making a commitment to attend Welcome Days which took place on our first two days of school. I hope that you found the opportunity to connect individually with your child's classroom teacher and found it beneficial to answer questions, ease any back-to-school jitters, and start the school year out on the right foot. As a staff, we are optimistic about the impact it made right off the bat and look forward to working with students and families throughout the year.

Safety Days, held within the first week of school, are short mini sessions for all our students in school, to help us discuss and practice the routines of common spaces in and around our school. Learning the expectations for the lunchroom, hallways, restroom, and playground areas, as well as a school bus which included a practice bus evacuation, help firm up the dos and don'ts of each space early in the year.

One of the BEST parts of my job as principal is to celebrate students and share their good news! I'm proud to recognize 23 students honored in September for their citizenship skills, specifically RESPECT. (There are many others who demonstrate courage and other positive traits each day, too.) October's theme is RESPONSIBILITY. We will host discussions in classrooms about making good choices, taking care of personal property and the environments around us, and showing accountability for work, play and care for others.

Thinking ahead, we have a few fun and key events taking place in October. Please make note and mark your calendars! The first worth mentioning is happening **Wednesday October 4**, when we have Walk to School Day for our morning routes to school. It's such a great way to promote fitness and school community. Homecoming festivities will take place October 9-13. **Friday, October 13**, is our first scheduled late start of the school year. The late start means that all HLWW Schools will start 2 hours later than our traditional start time, and there is no morning preschool scheduled that day. To close out our month, we'll host VIP Breakfast at each school. Keep an eye on our calendars, Wednesday Folders, and communication from classroom teachers for other school happenings.

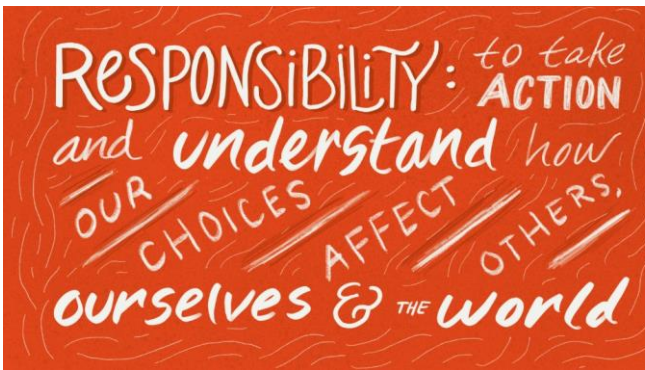
To close, I'd like to offer one final note of thanks...I am so appreciative of our collective school team. With knowledgeable and caring teachers, hardworking, intelligent, and fun-loving students, and parents supporting our school community, we can accomplish a lot, and great things will continue to happen. Please plan to get involved and help move us forward. We make an AWESOME team, and I couldn't be prouder to be a member of it!

I look forward to partnering with each of you for the upcoming school year.

With Laker Pride,
Jen Olson



October Student of the Month Theme



Click on the link below to find the Student of the Month honorees.

[Humphrey Elementary](#)
[Winsted Elementary](#)

Elementary Walk to School Day FAQs October 4

- Breakfast will still be accessible for students as part of their regular school day.
- In case of rain, the “walk to school” event will be CANCELLED.
- Parents can absolutely participate!
- Participating in the “walk to school” event will not change the end of the day routine.
- What are the benefits of walking to school?
 - *It’s fun!
 - *Creates healthy habits!
 - *Cleaner environment!
 - *Increase community connections by helping neighbors to get to know on another!



Winsted Elementary Field Trip October 18

Please remember to complete the bottom portion of the Field Trip Permission form and return to your child’s teacher by October 6.



School Attendance Matters

Breanne Adickes, Social Worker

Missing school occasionally, happens. But as absences add up, they start to affect your child's academics. Missing 2 days a month will add up to 18 missed days throughout the year. This adds up to many hours of missed reading and math instruction, along with missed social/emotional learning and connections with peers. If your child is going to be absent, you need to let the office know by 8:45am for the absence to be excused. Call or email Terry at Humphrey 320-543-4680 or tknuth@hlww.k12.mn.us or Julie at Winsted 320-543-4690 jstifter@hlww.k12.mn.us. This contact can even be made in the middle of the night.

After 3 unexcused absences, we are required by the county to start the process for educational neglect. At 5 unexcused absences, the county will contact you to attend a meeting and at 7 unexcused absences, they will open a case and assign an educational neglect worker. We really want to prevent this process so please reach out if there is anything the school can do to help with attendance concerns. The [student handbook](#) is also a great resource for any attendance questions.

Verify your Student’s Information

Each parent/legal guardian is asked to provide at least one emergency contact, other than yourself (e.g., grandparent, aunt, uncle, friend, neighbor, etc.). Emergency information may be used to contact you and/or those you designate as emergency contacts in the event of a student-related emergency if you, as parent/legal guardian, cannot be immediately reached.

To verify, update or add emergency contacts log in to your [ParentVUE account](#), click on a student, click “student information”, click “edit information”, edit fields and save the changes.

HLWW
ACTIVITIES
CALENDAR

Our Favorite things about Fall

By: Mrs. LaMott's 3rd grade class

The leaves are starting to change, the morning air is cooler, the sun isn't coming up as early, the birds are flying south – all signs that Fall is here! Our third-grade class discussed all the things about Fall that we LOVE and came up with a large list. From pumpkin pie to jumping in leaves, we are excited for the season of Fall!

"My favorite thing about Fall is..."

Gabriel – jumping on the playground and sliding on the slide.

Stasi – Halloween and watching horror movies.

Arabella – Halloween because I get to stay up late and watch scary movies.

Gentry – football because it is fun to watch.

Braelynn – Halloween because I like the candy and costumes.

Ivaly – Halloween and jumping in the leaves.

Ellie – coming back to school because I get to see my friends.

Khloe – Halloween and I get to see my friends.

Ezra – Halloween because I like candy.

Samuel – Halloween because I get candy and I like raking the colorful leaves.

Laney – carving pumpkins and off roading in the mud.

Henry – football because it's my favorite sport.

Attica – carving pumpkins and spending time with my family and friends.

Russell – Halloween because of the candy and I like watching the Atlanta Braves (my favorite MLB team) in the playoffs.

Finnley – Halloween because I get candy and can be with my friends.

Kensi – raking leaves and then jumping in them.

Carter – playing football and playing Fortnite.

Haddie – watching football with my grandpa and playing with cousins.

Kel – Halloween because I get candy and I get to meet people.

Cameron – Halloween because I get to eat candy and I like watching the MLB playoff and NFL football.

Oliver – the cold days.

Forrest – my birthday.

Hadley – I like fall foods and fall orchards.

First Grade Worries

Jessica Pavlenko 1st Grade, Winsted Elementary

Along with beginning the school year, establishing rules and routines, and getting to know one another, in 1st Grade, we have been reading some books about school and the various emotions we experience-fear, excitement, and spontaneity, just to name a few.

One of the stories we read recently was Wemberly Worried by: Kevin Henkes. In it, Wemberly has a long list of worries. In fact, she worries about EVERYTHING-big things, small things, and things in between. We then created our own Wemberly Worried art projects, along with writing about our own worries. Here is our varied list of worries:

Ayari - Spiders!

Joshua - Spiders!

Cass - Nothing!

Merlin - Spiders!

Avery - Spiders and the dark!

Mila - Spiders!

Beckett - Tarantulas!

Sophia - The dark!

Hudson - Spiders!

James - Nothing!

Marcelino - Rattlesnakes!

Eleanor - Spiders!

Connor - Spiders!

Derik - My family!

Elijah - My dad, winning a video game!

Sydney - Storms!

Landen - Nothing!

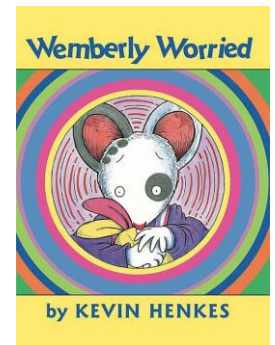
Teddy - Nothing!

Dominik - Poisonous spiders!

Jack - Spiders!

Madisyn - My brother!

Mrs. Pavlenko - Frogs!



SAVE THE DATE

VIP Breakfast

WES - Thursday, October 26

HES - Friday, October 27

Getting Your Child with Speech and Language Needs Ready for School

By: Darla Mackedanz, Speech-Language Pathologist

The transition from home to school can be a daunting time for any child, but for children with speech, language, and communication needs, it can be especially challenging if they have difficulties understanding verbal information, struggle to follow instructions, or find it difficult to socialize with other children. It's important that children are prepared for any changes so they can transition into school smoothly. There are several things that a parent can do to help prepare their child for this transition.

Get familiar with their environment. Before your child starts school, take them on a few visits to the school to see their new classroom.

Build on their attention and listening skills. Play simple games like 'Simon Says' and remember to always call your child's name first before giving them instructions.

Help them build a friendship group. There are many simple activities you could do at home that will help your child improve their social skills such as turn-taking games and board games.

Talk about their feelings. It is important that you discuss these feelings with your child so that they feel at ease and supported.

Encourage pre-literacy skills. There are fun activities you can do with your child at home that help develop phonological awareness, such as clapping out syllables in words, going on a sound hunt and singing nursery rhymes.

Try to be positive and calm. It's important that you remain positive and calm around your child to reduce any worries or fears they may have.

I hope these tips will help your child transition smoothly into school.

Starting off in 4th Grade

Hailey Krueger, Humphrey Elementary



We are off to a fantastic start to the 2023/24 school year! In fourth grade we have been reviewing skills already learned in 3rd grade and are off to learning new things in math and reading. As we head into fall our class is looking forward to the many events coming up! Some things we get to look forward to are walk to school day, homecoming, and Halloween. Here are some things 4th graders are excited to do this year!

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sophia- lunch | Lloyd- Math | Ava- Math and friends |
| Emmett- Ms. Krueger | Elias- having fun | Eva-recess |
| Hayden- gym | Mason- learning | Everly- be with Ms. Krueger |
| Khloe- being with friends | Kaelyn- lunch | Myles- Math |
| Kennedy- homework | Bella- recess | Trey- Math and Reading |
| Sylvia-seeing my teacher | Luke- recess | Luke- gym |
| Georgie- being the oldest | Justin- Math | Gavin- seeing my teacher |
| Landon- recess | Kaden- class jobs | Ezra- learning |
| Stellar- lunch | Shey- fishing | Aubree- class job |
| Annabella- working hard | Harper- school | |