



NOVEMBER 2023

# LAKER NEWS

JENNIFER OLSON – Elementary Principal

HUMPHREY ELEMENTARY 320-543-4680

WINSTED ELEMENTARY 320-543-4690

Greetings Elementary Families!

What a great turn out at our VIP Breakfast last week—everyone deserves a special VIP status, right? We are so appreciative so many could make it. Thanks for taking time out of your day to spend it with some incredible kids. It was nice to welcome you into our buildings.

October was full of activity, and creative imaginations, and we'll continue to be busy during the month of November as we wrap up the first quarter. Our fourth graders will have the opportunity to work through the election process as well. Some of our students will be talking with their grade level peers about how they want to serve the school and be a student voice on student council. Each fourth grader can participate, and everyone will be given the opportunity to vote for the student(s) who best represent them. We look forward to hearing more from these young leaders!

The end of the quarter is November 3, which means staff will be working on progress reports and readying items for conferences. As you review your child's progress and chat at conferences, which are slated for November 16 and 20, remember to spotlight your child's areas of strength in the first quarter, and look to support areas your child might still have struggles. Our ultimate goal is to keep students moving forward and flourishing from now until the end of the year. November also holds Veterans Day, American Education Week, two rounds of parent/teacher conferences, a book fair, a music program, and our big school fundraiser with Apex as just a few of our many activities. Whew!

- It's important to note that we are grateful for all military veterans, past and present, for both their service and sacrifice. If you or a family member are involved in service, we extend a heartfelt THANK YOU!!!
- American Education Week gives us an opportunity to say thank you to all of the different people involved in making school a great place to learn and grow.
- We have partnered with Scholastic to host our book fair during fall conferences. We have so many choices of great books, whether you're looking for your child, a younger/older sibling, or even something for yourself. Come check it out! We will also have the e-wallet options for students to shop. More details will follow as we get closer to the fair.
- We also plan to kick off our fall fundraiser the week of November 13 and ask for your help in our fifth year of the APEX Fun Run. Combined with leadership and character trait support, students will collect pledges for a fun run at the end of the month. These generated funds support classroom and school wide field trips and projects, assemblies, and speakers, as well as enhanced opportunities for learning for all our students. We are also earmarking a portion of these funds for playground updates. Thanks, in advance for your enthusiastic support and financial backing! PS--We will be looking for volunteers to help with our fun run on November 30 (HES) and December 1 (WES). If you can help, please be sure to complete the volunteer background check process and communicate your interest to your child's classroom teacher or the school office. THANK YOU!!

While the month is busy, it's important to stop for a moment, take some time to reflect, and offer gratitude. I would like to share my appreciation for all the family support at each of the elementary buildings. We are very thankful to our volunteers who've given their time and/or talents; the hard work and effort by students and staff to meet and exceed daily goals; a district full of committed educators; and a community full of support. You make such an impact. I share my sincere thanks to YOU for your support, dedication, and teamwork to foster student growth!

Here's wishing you a fantastic start to the holiday season!

Warmly,  
Jen Olson



## November Student of the Month Theme



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

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

### Winsted PTA

Want to connect with our Winsted PTA? Check out our website [here](#). You will find out about activities and events we plan, how to support the Winsted staff, and how to get involved. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at the email address on our website or through our Facebook link (also found on our website). Thank you for supporting Winsted Elementary!

### Absences

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to communicate absences and/or late arrivals to the school office by 8:45 AM on the day of the absence. Any absences not communicated with the school office will be recorded as unexcused.

Winsted – 320-543-4690  
jstifter@hlww.k12.mn.us

Humphrey – 320-543-4680  
tknuth@hlww.k12.mn.us

**Remember your first point of contact for an absence is the ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OFFICE. When reporting your child as sick please include your child's symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, etc.). Thank you!**

Please click on the link below to find additional information regarding Attendance (page 6).

[2023-24 Student Handbook](#)

### Picture Retakes – November 1

If retakes are needed, the picture packet must be returned with complete order enclosed on retake day.



### Title I News

Ms. Oeffling, Title I, Math/Reading K-4

I am so excited to be working with your children as the new Title I Teacher at Winsted Elementary School. It has been a pleasure to get to know your children.

As we both work to make sure your children succeed in school please remember to:

- Stay involved and feel free to contact me with any questions. I always tell my students to ask me questions.... lots of them! That's why I'm here.
- Ask your child about school and encourage them to tell you about their day. We have so many strategies that we work on throughout the week that I'm sure the children would love to show you, tell you or even "teach" you what they've learned.
- Most importantly, read with your child every day. Listen to them read, read to them, or enjoy shared reading. Also, basic math strategies are so important to master early on. Practice addition, subtraction, or multiplication facts while you're driving to the store, have them count coins or grab a deck of cards after dinner and play a round of math war.

I promise you every day your child will learn something, some days they'll bring it home in their hands, some days they'll bring it home in their heads and some days they will bring it home in their hearts.

**HLWW**  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**CALENDAR**

# Humphrey Elementary Kindergarten

By Ms. Ready



Kindergarten is off to a great start this year! It is hard to believe that we are already heading into November. Time flies when you are having fun!

Our classroom has been a busy place as the students spent time getting to know each other, establishing our classroom community, and learning school routines. We also have learned a lot: literacy, science, social studies, and health integrated into thematic topics including sharing, friendship, apples, transportation, fire safety, and seasons. In phonics we learned about the UFLI Sound Wall, Vowel Valley, and recently began learning letter sounds and irregular words. And in math we studied numbers to ten. In addition to all that, we took our learning out into the community during Fire Safety week to visit the Waverly Fire Department. We loved seeing the big trucks and safety gear.

Considering how much we have accomplished in the past two months; it was challenging for the kindergarteners to identify their favorite parts of school. After much deliberation, here is a list of our favorites:

Alan - pizza at lunch and my new shoes

Autumn - the playground

Lucas K. - Pete the Cat (our classroom mascot)

Haddie - the playground

JoJo - the playground

Lionel - my teacher

Lucy - the school and my teacher

Piper - monkey bars with friends

Robbie - lunch with friends

Oakley - going down slides and making new friends

Westin - sorting the cars, planes, and trains at playtime

Artemis - recess and everything!

Caiden - recess

Colten - books

Harvey - sandwiches and pizza at lunch

Kenadee - recess

Lucas B. - recess

Maverick - the whole school!

Quinn - recess on the playground

Wyatt - driving on the bus and going to school

## News-2-You

By Andrea Travis, Humphrey Elementary

News-2-You is a weekly current events newspaper that provides a way for ALL learners to become connected and engaged to the world around them.

News-2-You provides a weekly newspaper in five different reading levels. Subscribers have access to a weekly newspaper issue online with interactive speaking pages, or offline, using printable pages for instruction. More than 50 accompanying activities are delivered in the weekly theme for multiple guided practice experiences. Activities are engaging and focus on the central topic of each weekly edition of News-2-You.

In addition to weekly editions, News-2-You releases Breaking News articles in three categories: World, Sports, and Entertainment. News-2-You is now aligned with The Science of Reading.

Two of the most recent current events we have read about are Disc Golf Pro Tour Championships and Jasper Dark Sky Festival.



## Preschool Visit Winsted Fire Station

Jenny Moe, Early Childhood Special Education

October was fire safety month. The preschool classes were able to ride in a fire vehicle and visit the fire station. They learned about fire prevention and about the equipment that firefighters use. When they came back from the fire station each preschooler drew a picture about their favorite part of visiting the fire station. Here are the responses from one of the afternoon classes.

Bexleigh- Riding in the firetruck

Layla- hearing the sirens

Dena- hearing the sirens

Lincoln- riding in the firetruck

JJ- hearing the sirens

Alice- riding in the firetruck

Logan- driving the firetruck

Harrison- hearing the sirens

Caleb- driving the firetruck

Tommy- driving the fire truck

Olivia- driving the fire truck

Mason- hearing the sirens

Ben- driving my grandpa's firetruck

Jasmine- driving the firetruck

Kirsten- hearing the sirens

Orion- hearing the sirens

Lucas- checking out the fire station

Avery- pretending to drive the firetruck

Thank you to the Winsted Fire Department for letting us visit and teaching us about fire safety.



## A New Era of "Spelling"

Mr. Goudy, Winsted Elementary

The 2023-24 school year is underway and is off to a tremendous start here in 4th grade.

We have been multiplying, dividing, decoding, learning about electricity, reading numerous stories, and spending some time developing our classroom community. One thing you'll notice I didn't mention is spelling. Often known as a controversial topic due to its heavy memorization tactics, we are looking at approaching it in a different way.

Like any sturdy building, it needs to be built with a firm foundation. Spelling is the same way. Although some spelling comes down to visual memorization and letter sequencing, having solid phonemic awareness is another area that can help spellers at all levels. Taking verbal sounds we hear and applying them to paper is an example. This is where UFLI and VOCAB SURGE come in.

The University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) was established with two main goals in mind:

- Support teachers in their development of knowledge and skills necessary to teach reading effectively
- Support developing readers, especially those who struggle with early literacy.

Vocabulary Surge was created to:

- Address limited vocabulary and phonemic awareness

These programs will help build a better foundation of not only the meaning of words, but certain patterns that the English language uses to spell them. Instead of memorizing words and repeating them at the end of the week, our intention is to focus on mini lessons that incorporate recognizable patterns along with committing more time for our students to read. With the effort from the students, staff, and support from home, we believe that our students will become better readers, and in turn much better spellers.

