



FEBRUARY 2024

LAKER NEWS

JENNIFER OLSON – Elementary Principal

HUMPHREY ELEMENTARY 320-543-4680

WINSTED ELEMENTARY 320-543-4690

Dear Elementary Parents,

One of my favorite times of year is already here! Reading is such a fundamental skill for everyone, and February's I Love to Read Month gives us a little twist of fun on a great lifelong skill. Each of the elementary buildings have different activities scheduled throughout the month, so watch the Wednesday folders and your students' planners for more information. Both schools' activities promise to be lots of fun and promote the importance of reading.

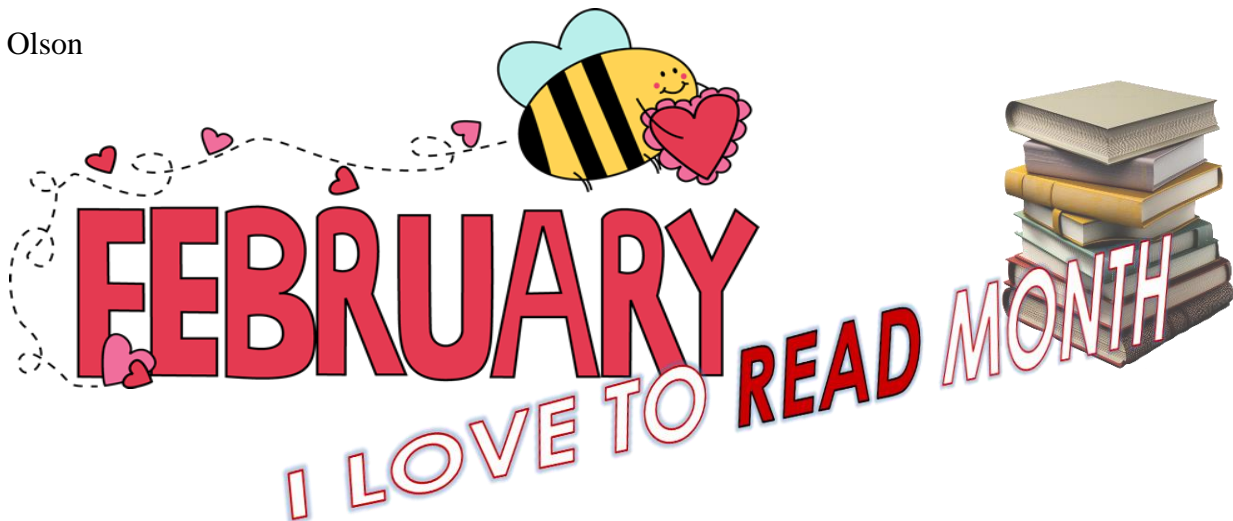
With the "I Love to Read" activities, our hope is to promote just that—the love of reading. Reading doesn't have to be *just* for work. It is meant for enjoyment and leisure just as much as the day-to-day activities of our lives. With that, I'd like to extend an invitation to our adult family members to join us throughout the month of February to read to and/or with students. We would **LOVE** for you to visit! Please connect with your child's teacher to set up a time and for more details. ☺

In addition to the celebrations focused on reading, we will have an opportunity to reconnect as a parent/teacher team with our winter conferences scheduled for February 8 from 4-8 p.m. and February 9 from 7:20 a.m.-1:20 p.m. This is a chance not only to revisit your child's goals set in the fall but also celebrate the great learning taking place, address any concerns and/or make a plan to best finish out the school year. Your child is our priority and it's important to celebrate his/her accomplishments to this point!

We have a musical showcase in store, this time for our third and fourth graders at Humphrey Elementary. We look forward to watching their musical talents unfold on February 15 at 1 and 7 p.m. They've been working hard with Ms. Kalvig, and it sounds like it's going to be a great show.

In addition to these highlights, February is jam-packed with a variety of activities. We'll reach the milestone of the 100th day of school, participate in a Global Day of Play, learn about dental health, recognize several other holidays & of course, we'll wait for Punxsutawney Phil to determine the arrival of spring based on his shadow (but have we really had winter??) We add an extra day for leap year too. Whew! These are just a few of the many things taking place at school. Enjoy all that February has to offer...Happy Reading!

Jen Olson



February Student of the Month Theme



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

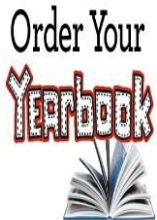
[Humphrey Elementary](#)
[Winsted Elementary](#)

Winsted PTA

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

Phone Numbers

Please review your phone numbers in ParentVUE (specifically the emergency contact numbers). It is important that we have up to date information to contact you. Thank you!



It is time to order your elementary yearbook. Order forms have been sent home. Please return envelope with payment before March 8.

HLWW ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

I LOVE TO READ MONTH – DRESS UP DAYS

February 1 – snuggle up with a good book – pjs or comfy clothes

February 8 – reading helps us shine – sunglasses and neon colors

February 15 – Winsted – wild about reading – wacky clothes and animal prints

February 15 – Humphrey hats off to reading – hat day

February 22 – Winsted – hats off to reading – hat day

February 22 – Humphrey – wild about reading – wacky clothes and animal prints

February 29 – character dress up day – dress up as your favorite book character



This is your time to enroll your child for 2024-2025 kindergarten. You will have an opportunity to meet the kindergarten team and other school staff members. Visit the classrooms and finalize registration paperwork. Plan to set aside approximately thirty minutes for you and your future kindergartener.

Humphrey Elementary - Thursday, February 29, 5:30-7:00 PM

Winsted Elementary - Tuesday, March 5, 5:30-7:00 PM



Random Acts of Kindness

Jessica Larson, Licensed Social Worker

National Random Acts of Kindness Day is a day where everyone is asked to reach out and perform a small act of kindness for someone without expecting anything in return. This year, Saturday, February 17 is marked as the Random Acts of Kindness Day in the United States.

A random act of kindness is known to reduce our stress, improve emotional well-being and even benefit our own physical health. This also teaches our children and families that one simple gesture can make the difference in another person's day, month or even year!

Some examples of things you and your family can do include:

- 1 - Hold the door for someone
- 2 - Donate old toys or clothing
- 3 - Help a neighbor
- 4 - Make a card for someone in the hospital or nursing home
- 5 - Volunteer in your community



By showing that you are committed to completing one act of random kindness a day, you can shape generations to come and create a meaningful change in your community and in your family.

The Importance of Fine Motor Skills

By Heidi Joy Bursch, Intervention Teacher

As children improve their fine motor skills, they develop their independence in doing a range of tasks such as eating, writing, speaking, creating, and dressing themselves. They can access a wider source of learning activities and social experiences. Fine motor is an almost continual part of all our lives. We are continually moving, picking things up, manipulating objects, and more. The more children can develop these skills, the more they can access the world around them.

Fine motor is important for independence. Children will be able to do more for themselves and overcome the many obstacles that come their way that involve fine motor, such as turning a door handle. When they have to rely on adults less, they will gain confidence. Having children interact with fine motor games and activities will help with improving the link between what their eyes see and what they are trying to hold and touch. Hand-eye coordination is crucial for carrying out all physical activities in life. The items to practice fine motor should not be digital, but rather they should be hands-on activities with solid objects.



Speech and language are powerfully linked to fine motor skills. There is a lot of research available to demonstrate the link between communication and fine motor development. Many speech and language activities are trying to develop the fine motor muscles in the face, lips, and tongue. Along with speech and language, fine motor skills affect overall brain development too. Exploring creativity with arts and crafts, drawing, playing with playdoh, constructing something, or even turning the pages of a book, help with fine motor development skills.

Children with good fine motor skills will be able to fully engage in the same activities their friends do, and on an equal footing, and this will have a positive impact on themselves and on the relationships, they have with their peers. I highly encourage students to do fine motor activities often, especially in these elementary ages, to help in their overall development and independence.

Buddies

Ms. Entinger, Humphrey Elementary

The first graders in Ms. Entinger's class pair up with a fourth grader from Ms. Krueger's class for classroom buddies. Every other week we meet with our buddies to get to know one another, do art projects, read, play games,



and just spend time with students from another grade level. This helps students build more connections within the school.

The first time we met they created people and drew pictures that represent them and the things they enjoy. The second time we met we created a tree painting using tape and watercolor paints to celebrate the holidays.



The students enjoy this time and always look forward to the activities with their buddies.

FFA: Making Butter

Heather Johnson, Humphrey Elementary

During the month of January, high school students participating in Future Farmers of America (FFA), came to teach the third graders at Humphrey Elementary School all about dairy farming.

The students learned about the cows, how they are taken care of, where they live, if they are beef or dairy cows, as well as a variety of other things. The students then investigated the different products made with dairy and were able to help the high school students make two kinds of butter. The students made, and tried, both honey butter and salted butter. What a great way to learn about an important resource in our community!

Here are a few highlights from the experience...

- Hunter B. - "It was a nice time with people."
- Colton B. V. - "The butter."
- EJ B. - "It was awesome seeing the high schoolers."
- Ryker C. - "Having crackers."
- Emerson D. - "Making butter."
- Amyiah H. - "Making butter."
- Lila H. - "Eating salted crackers."
- Eliana H. - "Having crackers and butter."
- Colton H. - "The video about the cows."
- Abby H. - "Seeing Harley and Hayden."
- Kassidy J. - "Making the butter."
- Cyrus K. - "That we got to make butter."
- Hael K. - "My favorite thing was the butter."
- Ellie L. - "Making butter."
- Jaxson R. - "Watching the videos."
- Paul M. - "That we got to see some animal pictures."
- Zharia M. - "I liked getting to meet the high schoolers."
- Aurhaly M. - "Watching the videos."
- Jackson P. - "Making butter."
- Emily P. - "Making the butter."
- Stella S. - "Making the butter."
- Judy S. - "I liked the butter."
- Mac T. - "Going on a virtual Dairy Farm tour."
- Emma V. - "Shaking the butter to make it and trying it after."

"THE SMALLEST ACT OF
KINDNESS IS WORTH MORE
THAN THE GREATEST
INTENTION."

- KHALIL GIBRAN

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION

www.randomactsofkindness.org



100th Day of School

Mrs. Heuer, Kindergarten Teacher

Kindergarten students at Winsted Elementary are getting ready to celebrate the 100th day of school this month! We have been busy learning so many things during our first 100 days of school! Here are some highlights from our learning...in language arts, we have been working hard on learning our letters, learning letter sounds, sounding out words and writing words and sentences. In math, we have been practicing counting to 100, learning our numbers, learning shapes, learning how to make patterns and how to sort. In social studies, we have learned about the concept of past, present and future and celebrated holidays around the world. In science, we have learned about animal needs, sunlight, and warmth. Whew...it has been a busy but fun school year so far! With everything we have learned, we've also had some extra fun days to help us learn all these new skills.

Here is what Mrs. Heuer's kindergarten students said their favorite thing they've done in kindergarten was so far...

Abree: making spider soup

Lars: having Santa visit us

Colton: going on the Polar Express

Oliver: having our elf leave snow all around our classroom

Scarlett: donut day

Brielle: making spider soup

Brayden: Santa visiting us

Layth: the Polar Express

Emma: donut day

Shi: Johnny Appleseed visiting us

Grace: the Polar Express

Dawson: the Polar Express and Santa visiting

Lilah: going on the Polar Express

Sam: the Polar Express

Mason: Johnny Appleseed coming to see us

Alliana: the Polar Express

Madden: the Polar Express

Emmit: the Polar Express

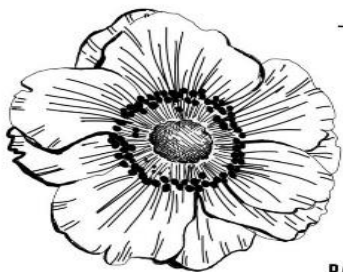
Alexander: bear day and making butter

Oakley: making snowflake suncatchers with our 4th grade kinderbuddies



"HOW BEAUTIFUL A DAY CAN BE, WHEN
KINDNESS TOUCHES IT!"

- GEORGE ELLISTON



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February 9

**Grades 5-12
2 hour late start**

**Grades Preschool - 4
NO school**