



LAKER NEWS

JENNIFER OLSON – Elementary Principal

HUMPHREY ELEMENTARY 320-543-4680

WINSTED ELEMENTARY 320-543-4690

JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year!

As we usher in 2024, it's the perfect time to reflect on the journey ahead, set goals, and embrace fresh opportunities for growth. The new year offers a chance for us to collectively focus on academic and social goals, fostering a supportive community that thrives on communication and collaboration.

Looking into the remainder of the school year, our commitment to academic excellence and community involvement remains unwavering. The partnership we share, encompassing parents, students, and staff, significantly impacts student achievement and contributes to the positive reputation of our schools and communities.

During our fall conferences, we all expressed our dedication to specific roles in this partnership. Teachers and staff are devoted to teaching, reaching, and connecting with every student, offering challenges within a safe and positive environment. Students are expected to uphold values of respect, kindness, and responsibility, fostering a community of open-mindedness and a willingness to learn in diverse ways. Parents and guardians play a crucial role in staying informed about their child's lives, both in and out of school, holding them accountable for their actions, whether positive or negative.

The community, too, has a responsibility to support the education provided by our town and acknowledge the positive initiatives taking place in each school. Together, we owe it to one another to bring our best and strive for excellence each day.

Looking ahead to January, we have exciting events planned. Our fourth graders will participate in a Kindness Retreat, facilitated by Youth Frontiers, fostering connections and reflection. Additionally, Winsted is gearing up for our roller-skating unit—a favorite among both students and staff! As we approach the midpoint of the school year in a few weeks, it's incredible to think about how much we've accomplished together.

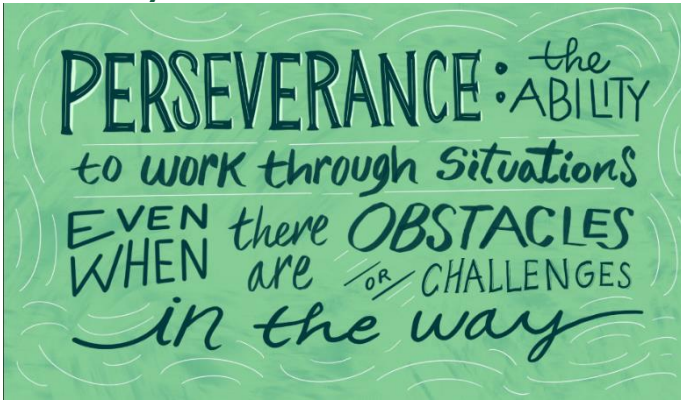
The coming months promise challenges, preparation, and plenty of enjoyable moments. We encourage families to actively participate—ask questions, engage with your child, and consider volunteering if possible. Together, as a united team, we can continue to achieve great things for our students.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our schools and students. Wishing you a fantastic 2024, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming K-4 students back on January 2nd!

Warm regards,
Jen Olson



January 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. 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!

Grades 1-4 Milk Break

Milk is available to students in grades 1-4 for “classroom milk break” and is optional. The cost of milk for the second half is \$26.00. If you would like your child to participate in the classroom milk break for the second half of the year, please send \$26.00 by January 12. Checks payable to ISD 2687.

Grades 1-4 Snack Break

If you would like your child to participate in the snack program for the second half of the year, please send \$40.00 by January 12. Checks payable to ISD 2687.

Kindergarten Snack Break

A reminder that the second half of kindergarten snack break is due on or before January 12. The cost per student is \$40.00. Checks payable to ISD 2687.

HLWW ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Volunteers

HLWW School District requires background checks for all school volunteers (**forms are required each year**). Completing the forms indicates your interest to volunteer in our schools and grants permission for the required background check to be run. Complete one form per child (only one background check will be run). **Allow five to ten business days for processing.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child’s school secretary. Click [here](#) to complete your forms.



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, participate in child-friendly activities, and finalize registration paperwork. Plan to set aside approximately an hour 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



Outdoor Recess

Please be sure your child has the right outdoor clothing to enjoy Minnesota winter recesses! Students will be outside unless weather-related conditions are in existence.

Resolutions

By Bernice Pehl, Title One/ADSIS Teacher

As we begin a new year many people make New Year's resolutions. One resolution that could change everything is reading. Why not make a resolution to start reading more. It would be a great habit to help your child emulate. Believe it or not, children watch and notice everything we as parents and grandparents do whether we notice it or not. Why not let them see us reading. It can be reading the directions for a new product that was purchased. It can be the cereal box ingredients. It can be road signs. It can be the next Field and Stream or Rachel Ray's in Season Magazine. Better yet, start reading more with your child. Let them hear you change your voice as you read The Three Bears as my husband used to do with our children and now do with our grandchildren. Let them hear you think aloud about what might happen next as you read a mystery such as the Magic Tree House series. Reading with your older children is important too. Read through a book such as Rick Riordan's The Heroes of Olympus by taking turns reading a page aloud and then thinking it through. Or each of you read a chapter a day and then discuss it the next day as you share a cup of cocoa. Books, magazines, road signs, and cereal boxes can take us places we never imagined. They can create in us the hunger for knowledge and adventure like nothing else. So, what are you waiting for? Adventure is out there!

"Building" Memories in 2nd Grade

Mrs. Carlson, Winsted Elementary

Each December, the students in second grade get the opportunity to build a gingerbread house. It continually seems to be the highlight of the year. The students start with a rinsed-out milk carton that turns into a festive, delicious creation. They use six graham crackers to cover their milk carton with a heaping amount of frosting. The students bring in candy that will help them detail their house to make it unique. To round out the holiday excitement, guests were invited to the 2nd grade "Tour of Homes" to see all the kids' hard work.

Each second grader shared their favorite memory from building:

Matthew- ...being with my friends.
Addalyn- ...eating the candy.
Destin- ...the house I created.
Elizabeth- ...decorating the house.
Laura- ... eating the candy!
Blake- ...building the house.
Parker- ...eating candy.
Jason- ...sharing it with my family.
Carlie- ...putting the kisses on my tree.
Gabriel- ...showing my mom.
Vaeya- ...the candy!
Grayson-...seeing the house I created.
Dakota- ... sharing with friends!
Ben- ...using Dakota's blue frosting!
Nora- ...the candy.
Pearl- ... building the house.
Willow- ...eating candy.
Brooklyn- ...decorating the tree.



Little Laker Preschool

Pam Henry-Neaton, Humphrey Elementary

Preschoolers who attend Little Laker Preschool get to do many things. Our daily schedule consists of active and quiet times. These times may include an exercise/movement time, centers (art, literacy/math, free play), breakfast for morning students, snack time, time to look at books (literacy time), listening to a story, singing songs, fingerplays and class meetings. And what better way to find out what the preschoolers think of their time here than to ask them.



Here's some of the answers to the question, what do you like about preschool?

The sensory table (last items in there were bugs/snakes from the Rainforest), tweezers and magnifying glasses.

Playing with Legos

Everything!

Making food in the kitchen

Centers

Playing games

Looking at books

Playing with friends

Mrs. Pam and Miss Alycia (they really did say that!).

Eating snack

The playground

Building stuff

Dancing

Art Projects

Riding the bus

Physical Education

Reno Bredahl, Humphrey Elementary

We have had a very fun and exciting start to our school year in the gym! We were lucky enough to have received a lot of new footballs, basketballs, cones, poly spots, and dodgeballs! The students have been enjoying a variety of activities and games so far this year while also working on teamwork, sportsmanship, and gross motor skills. They have played many different activities in the gym so far such as kickball, soccer, floor hockey, dodgeball, yoga, and football. There is one activity that every student asks to play and that is color tag! This has been a staple in the gym for these students and I had never heard of it before this year, so they took the time to teach me how to play and now it is a game that is often asked to be played on Friday Gameday.

This past week we have started the roller-skating unit, and we have been having an amazing time! The skates bring a new energy to the gym that gets the kids excited to work hard and have fun! Skating will be going on till the end of break and we will be having a skating dance party at the end of the unit to top it off! We love to have fun, work hard, and work together in the gym!

Please let Mrs. Pam know if you have any questions about Little Laker Preschool at Humphrey Elementary.

Physical Education Skills

Masen Oltmanns, Winsted Elementary

We are almost halfway through our school year at Winsted Elementary School. During our Physical Education time we have worked on the following skills: catching, throwing, rolling, kicking, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and resistance training. Our main focus at Winsted Elementary School this year has been sportsmanship. We are working on competing at a high level while also practicing on being with the growth I am seeing with Winsted Elementary students.



Looking ahead: from January 8 to January 19 Winsted Elementary students will begin their roller-skating unit, I know the kids are very excited for this unit, as am I! The main focus of the second half of the year will be the manipulation of long and short handled implements as well aerobic activity!