



MARCH 2024

LAKER NEWS

JENNIFER OLSON – Elementary Principal

HUMPHREY ELEMENTARY 320-543-4680

WINSTED ELEMENTARY 320-543-4690

Dear Elementary Families,

Welcoming Green! It's been such a mild winter and while I would anticipate a few snowflakes, we may start seeing green to compliment the green theme of March. We'll be wrapping up the 3rd quarter of school on March 21 and preparing for the last few months of school. The year has been busy and doesn't show any signs of slowing. As we move forward into the last quarter, I'd ask that as we prepare for the "new" grade in the fall, that you partner with us in reviewing our school expectations—both social and academic—with your child. While there is not a lot of snow on the ground, spring fever has worked its way into the building, and everyone is anxious for a break. Please help us reinforce the importance for students to ask questions when having difficulty, to complete work in a timely way, and to be respectful, kind, and courteous to others. As always, your partnership in your child's education is important and appreciated.

Our I LOVE to Read Month celebrations and activities in February were a big hit—dress up days, guest readers, mystery readers, BINGO with books, and much more—offered a boost of excitement for reading. A quick note of thanks for those who volunteered to help us share the passion of a good book during I LOVE to Read Month—we appreciate you! It meant so much for our students to see you take time from your busy day, and we enjoyed your visits. We also held a 100 Days in celebration, performed for parents, prepped for musical performances, and spent time learning about many different things in our classrooms. February was jam packed with learning and fun.

We have a few key happenings within the month of March that families should be aware of...our second of two kindergarten registrations occurs on March 5 at Winsted Elementary (our first was February 29 at Humphrey). Winsted Elementary will debut their first and second grade musical on March 12, at 1 and 7 p.m. in the HLWW HS Auditorium. Both Winsted and Humphrey are working on supporting heart health with the American Heart Association, and Winsted will be honored with the School of Excellence celebration the week of March 18. To close out March, we'll be off for spring break on March 22 and upon return we jump into April and the upcoming state testing for reading and math.

Ah yes, state testing! Please keep the weeks of April 15-19 and April 22-26 clear from appointments that would take your third or fourth grader away from school. We will be participating, like all other schools across the state, in the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). Reading will take place during the first week indicated, and we'll follow with our Math MCAs the second week. More news on those specific dates will be coming soon but these tests are a good indication of what your child has mastered at state expectations, as well as how well we are providing instruction. It is important that your child is present on those days, that he or she is well rested and has a good breakfast to help provide the best opportunities for success. We want them to be able to show everything they know...they've learned a lot!

Enjoy the anticipation and energy coming into the spring season and I look forward to continuing our partnerships together. Be well.

In Learning,
Jen Olson



March Student of the Month



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

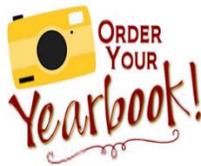
[Humphrey Elementary](#)
[Winsted Elementary](#)

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!

Elementary Yearbook

Order forms were sent home in Wednesday Folders in December. Please return envelope with payment before the March 8 deadline.



Absences

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to communicate absences and/or late arrivals to the office by 8:45 AM on the day of the absence. Please contact the school for absences using these office contacts.

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

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

NO SCHOOL
March 22
March 25-29



HLWW ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

2024-2025 Kindergarten Registration



This is the time to enroll your child for 2024-25 kindergarten. You will have an opportunity to meet the kindergarten team and other school staff members. Visit the classrooms and finalize registration paperwork.

Thursday, February 29, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Humphrey Elementary – 803 Elm Avenue, Waverly

Tuesday, March 5, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Winsted Elementary – 431 4th Street North, Winsted

Early Childhood Screening – March 8

Early Childhood Screening is a free and simple check of how your child is growing, developing, and learning. At a screening appointment a trained professional will check vision, hearing, height, weight, immunizations, large/small muscles, thinking, language, communication skills, social and emotional development.

The State of Minnesota requires all children attending kindergarten in 2024-25 school year to be screened. To make an appointment contact HLWW Screening Coordinator at 320-543-4670 ext. 4; or email euter@hlww.k12.mn.us or go online to hlww.ce.eleyo.com.

The Early Childhood Screening is held at HLWW ECFE Classroom E013 (use lower-level east side entrance of HLWW Middle School), 8700 County Road 6 SW, Howard Lake.

Loving February Fun

Stefanie Gunderson, Humphrey Elementary

Whenever I think about teaching, I think there are three extra busy times of the year. The first is the weeks surrounding the start of school. The second is closing the year out in May/June. The third is February. February is filled with activities, celebrations, and excitement.

The month is home to our 100th Day of School, Valentine's Day, and I Love to Read Month. This year it boasted a Humphrey Music Program and Parent Teacher Conferences on top of all day-to-day happenings of a busy elementary school mid-year. Of all of these, my personal favorites are the I Love to Read Month festivities.

Across the district you could find us dressing up to celebrate reading, reading in crazy ways for I Love to Read Month Bingo, and trying our luck at predicting the best books in a bracket for Book Madness (think of March Madness but with great...often funny...children's literature). On Fridays at Humphrey a silence would fall around the school as students stopped what they were doing, grabbed a book or two, and headed to their Laker Proud classroom for Stop, Drop, and Read. On Tuesdays and Thursday's students listened to Mystery Readers and tried to guess who exactly was reading to them! The month has been filled with pockets of fun reading opportunities amidst all our normal curriculum and learning.

As I write this, our I Love to Read Month is just half over. We have more to celebrate with guest and mystery readers and more giggles from pages left unturned. At the end of the month, we have a plethora of prizes to give out for our different activities. As a teacher I get to see the joy and excitement this month brings to my Kinders and I look forward to seeing them years down the road enjoying the extra love of literature and excitement that comes in February each year.

2024-2025 Preschool Open House

Humphrey Elementary, Preschool Room 168
Tuesday, April 23, 5:30-7:00 pm
Meet the teacher, Pam Henry-Neaton

Winsted Elementary, Preschool Room 142
Thursday, April 25, 5:30-7:00 pm
Meet the teacher, Stephanie Halverson



3- & 4-year-old classes

Mondays & Thursdays 8:10-10:40 AM
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:10-10:40 AM

4- & 5-year-old classes

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:10-2:40 PM
Fridays 8:10-10:40 AM
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 12:10-2:40 PM

Testing Time!

Kelli Westling, Assessment Coordinator



Spring has sprung and with that brings the spring testing season. All 3rd-8th graders and 10th and 11th graders will be taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in reading and math in April. These assessments are very important as they give our district important information about student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards. The MCA's also meet federal and state legislative requirements.

Students and teachers have worked hard all year to review and prepare for the MCA's. Throughout all classes, teachers have been delivering content designed around meeting the Minnesota Academic Standards. Students have worked hard at learning and applying what they have learned in various situations. This higher level of learning prepares them for the rigor of the MCA. Teachers have also been teaching students test taking techniques to use to help them take their time and do their best.

Because the MCAs are important, it is vital that our students are in school on the day of their scheduled test. Humphrey and Winsted Elementary 3rd and 4th graders will be taking their reading MCA test the morning of April 16th and 17th. They will take their math MCA test the morning of April 23rd and 24th. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments on these days if possible. It is also important that students get a good night's sleep and eat a good, hearty breakfast. We want all our students to do their best work and feel energized during the test.

Kindergarten Leprechaun Wishes

Coriena Miller, Winsted Elementary

In kindergarten we do many different fun things to help us learn. We play, experiment, listen, and practice. Sometimes we need the help of our fourth graders to accomplish some goals and do fun things.

So far this school year, our fourth-grade buddies have helped us create a few different things. In November we learned about our fourth graders with an interview sheet that they filled out with us. In December they helped us create reindeer with our footprints and handprints. In January they helped us create snow-suncatchers. In February they helped us decorate our valentine boxes and filled out our battle of the books bracket for “I Love to Read” month. In March we are going to learn about the leprechaun in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. During our next kinderbuddie session, our fourth graders are going to help us write the six wishes we would make if we caught a leprechaun. When I asked my class what one wish they would make now, this is what they said:

Asher: for a thousand dollars

Bentley: 100 dollars

Benson: a jeep for my mom

Emmitt: a plan for my mom

Gregory: a hundred candies

James: a million dollars

Kobe: we’ll see soon what he wishes for

Phillip: we’ll see soon what he wishes for

Victoria: we’ll see soon what she wishes for

Aiden: a squeezable water bottle

Bellamy: Two Minecraft Lego kits

Bryce: a mansion with a Lamborghini

Gemma: a billion cakes

Happy: a headband with flowers

Jayden: a computer

Lucy: to be the helper of the day at school

Remi: a stuffed animal tiger

We are so excited to continue working with our fourth-grade buddies – they model what leadership is, what it means to be responsible, respectful, and patient. When they see us around school, they’re always excited to see us and give us high-fives and hugs. They help make kindergarten so much fun!

Let The Barnyard Hullabaloo Hilarity Ensur!

Jana LeClaire, Winsted Elementary

Winsted Elementary 1st and 2nd Graders would like to invite you to visit our fun-filled farm! We have neatnik piggies, who love to clean, and their homes are absolutely spotless! Don’t you dare declare that our pigs live in a sty! Please have brunch before you come, as our chickens do not lay eggs. Instead, they strut their stuff and shake-a-leg on the dance floor! Our cows..... oh, our cows are ‘udderly’ the best.....dancers, of course. We have our very own cow chorus line to entertain and delight audiences galore with their high-stepping ways! Perhaps in lieu of brunch, you’d like to join us for a lovely dinner of gourmet goat cheese pizza. Nope, you won’t find our

barnyard goats munching on tin cans or nibbling shirts from the clothesline. Look for them in our high-end farmhouse kitchen tossing pizza dough (made from scratch, is there even another way?) high in the sky and topping it with the most delectable toppings you’ve ever tasted. Our favorite: pepperoni and goat cheese!

Please join us on Thursday, March 14 at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM as we perform “A Barnyard Moosical” in the Laker Auditorium at HLWW

High School. We are busy preparing our songs, dances, lines, and jokes, and we look forward to entertaining you from the stage!



March is National Reading Month!

Angie Granrud, Winsted Elementary

Even though we just got done with I Love to Read month at school, March provides us with an opportunity to continue celebrating reading! March is National Reading Month, which celebrates reading for all ages and promotes reading as an important puzzle piece for learning, social, and professional development.

Whether you celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2 by reading The Cat in the Hat or read and make a recipe for St. Patrick's Day fun on March 17, find a way to slip in some extra reading this month with your child. YOU are a great example of showing your child the importance of reading through your actions and habits. There are reading activities for all ages of children from taking a picture walk through a picture book with younger children to finding books with interesting vocabulary to discover some new words. Any time spent reading together as a family is quality family time!

Need some reading inspiration or resources? Check out these fun links!

[Reading Calendar for March](#) - Try reading about something new every day in March!

[Picture Walk Video](#) - Need some instructions for how to do a book picture walk with your child? Check out this very short clip for an example!

[Reading is Fundamental: Family of Readers Family Guide](#) - Parent resources for a variety of reading activities for families with children of all ages!

[Lunch Box Notes](#) - Want to surprise your child with some fun notes in his/her lunchbox?! Download and print these cute and silly notes to encourage your child to read – even at lunchtime!

Book Suggestions From Second Grade

Brandi Bresnahan, Humphrey Elementary

The month of March kicks off with Read Across America Day. Schools all over the country are taking time out of their busy schedules to just read. This event happens every March 2nd.

Reading is an activity that can happen anywhere. We can read inside or outside or even upside down. There are so many advantages for our kids when they develop a love for reading. Reading doesn't need to be a long strenuous activity. Just 20 minutes a day will do the trick. Read as a family or just simply by yourself. It doesn't matter, just read.

My second graders have made it even easier for you to begin. We have some great book suggestions to help you get started.

Cesar- Captain Underpants

Evie- Librarian from the Black Lagoon

Jaelyn- Soccer Books

Owen- Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Liam- The Berenstain Bears

Sophia- Magic Puppy

Diego- Click Clack Moo Cows That Type

Ellie- The Berenstain Bears Katelyn-Ellie's Story

Ally- Cat Ninja

Blake- The Bad Guys

Finn- Captain Underpants

Lane- The Last Kids on Earth

Brayden- Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Lucy- Magic Tree House

Lydia- Princess in Black

