



The Timberwolf Times

February 2025

A Message from the Principal

Dear IK Families!

We have had a wonderful first month back at school. Students have worked extremely hard on their winter benchmark assessments and I am extremely proud of them. We are working our way towards our spring goals and I am confident that between the dedication of our staff and the hard work of our students, we will achieve our goals this school year!

The 5Essentials survey will open at the end of February. Please be on the lookout for the link. We need at least 20% participation from families but of course, we want to strive for much more. I will have additional information regarding this survey once the window gets closer to opening up for us.

Next month, our 3rd-5th graders will complete the IAR test in reading and math. This is a state wide assessment given to all students in grades 3-8. The scores and the growth from this assessment are used as part of our summative designation from the state of Illinois. Keep an eye out on our weekly updates for more information on IAR testing.

As always, Mr. Guerrero and I greatly appreciate your partnership. Thank you for supporting your child(ren) both academically and behaviorally. We are so proud of the overall growth we are seeing from our Timberwolves!!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Del Toro

Our Busy Classrooms 



Kindergarten

Kindergarten Families,

During our MAP Reading and Math testing we saw a lot of growth from our little ones, they did such an amazing job we are so proud of their growth and hard work.

In the month of February our dual-language students will be taking ACCESS Testing.

And all Kindergarten classes will celebrate the 100th day of school.

In the classroom they will be working on the following units:

In Math students will work on Eureka Math Module #4. Students will work with Number Pairs, Addition and Subtraction to 10.

In our Monolingual and Dual Language Classroom for Language Arts we are wrapping up on Knowledge #6 Native Americans. Then students will start working on Knowledge #7 Kings and Queens. In skills students are working on Skills #7 new tricky words, letter sounds, Review Single-Syllable, Short-Vowel Words, Digraphs, Clusters, and High Frequency Words.

In our Dual Language Classrooms students are working on Lectoescritura students will be wrapping up unit #5 and start on unit #6. Unit #6 students will work on letter sounds, and high frequency words in Spanish, and segment two and three syllable words.

Your Kindergarten Teachers,

Mrs. Rooney, Ms. Pinto, & Mrs. Calderón.



1st Grade

Dear 1st Grade Families,

We are all done with MAP testing! However, we still have a few more tests to finish this month.

For math we will be working on Module 4-Place Value. Students will be working on tens and ones. We will also be working on comparing 2 digit numbers-greater and less than and word problems.

For language arts we will continue to work on tricky words, long vowel teams and digraphs. Students are also practicing their fluency along with comprehension of a text. For our Amplify Unit we will be shifting gears and starting our Astronomy Unit. We will be learning about the solar system: In the first part we will be exploring the Earth, Sun, Moon, Stars and planets. In the second part students will learn about the history of space exploration.



2nd Grade

Brrrrrr! It's been a cold January. As we look toward February we will begin ACCESS testing and COGAT testing. We saw so much growth from our students on the MAP reading and MAP math tests in January. In Reading we will be learning about the Westward Expansion and Insects. We will be working on informational narratives and researching skills, In math we will continue to work

on addition and subtraction strategies. In phonics we will be continuing to work on diphthongs and tricky spelling patterns.



3rd Grade

Hello 3rd Grade Families!

All 3rd graders have finished their MAP Reading and Math tests. Every student worked very hard and tried their best. We will begin ACCESS testing at the end of January and into February. We are also working on preparation for our IAR test in the spring. Please make sure students get enough rest and eat a great breakfast so they are always ready to learn.

In Literacy we have finished our Unit 5 on Light and Sound and will begin our Viking Quest for unit 6. We are also continuing on writing paragraphs and working on grammar and spelling. Don't forget to practice those spelling words at home.

In Math we are halfway through our unit on Area and always working on our multiplication and division facts. Our next unit will focus on fractions!

We are finishing up Science with Force and Motion and will begin with Life Cycles for Survival.



4th Grade

Hello 4th Grade Families!

We have been hard at work with testing and students did an amazing job with MAP, but we aren't finished yet with ACCESS starting at the end of January and continuing into February, and IAR in the spring. We will begin to prepare students for IAR this month.

In reading, we continue to learn from our pilot program Amplify. This month we will be focusing on Geology. Students will review the stages of the writing process, and continue to read challenging texts with rich vocabulary. In our next math module we will learn and explore all about fractions! Students will compare mixed numbers using a variety of models.

In social studies, we continue to work on learning about Illinois and how it was formed, how it has changed over time, and important people that helped influence our wonderful state.



5th Grade

Hello Families,

Welcome back from winter break and we hope you had a relaxing and joyous break.

In the month of February students will be ending our literacy unit on The Renaissance and will be going into our new unit about The Reformation. Throughout this unit students will be learning about a movement involving religious and political upheaval that shifted the power in Europe from the Catholic Church to the state and led to the creation of Protestantism. In Math we will begin our unit 4 where students will continue to work with fractions but now they will need to multiply and divide fractions. In Science we are exploring the relationships between Earth's systems such as Biosphere, Hydrosphere, Atmosphere, and Geosphere. We focus primarily between how the Biosphere and Hydrosphere are connected with each other and how we as a community can work together to preserve the resources we have available to us. As we finish Earth systems, we will be switching over to our solar systems.



Art

In February, Kindergarten will be learning about subject and background. They will learn how to identify subject and background in art, and practice adding backgrounds to their artwork.

1st grade will learn about clay and create a small clay pinch pot project.

2nd grade will continue to learn about sculpture and learning new cardboard techniques.

3rd grade will paint their clay projects.

4th grade will start learning about plushie artists such as Lucy Sparrow for their sewing project inspiration.

5th grade will continue practicing artist statements and building their art vocabulary.



Music

Kindergarten music we will continue using our 4 voices, moving and playing instruments to steady beat.

First graders have learned about paired eighth notes and will start reading, playing and composing with those new notes.

Second grade will continue reading, playing and composing using half notes/rests and whole notes/rests.

Third graders will be studying the 4 families of the orchestra-strings, brass, woodwinds and percussion.

Fourth and Fifth graders are playing the recorder this month. Fourth graders are just beginning and fifth graders are expanding their knowledge to add low E and D to their repertoire.

Chorus started January 24 and we are so excited to sing together Friday mornings.



PE

K-2nd Grade will begin volleyball skills. They will also be playing other games using a volleyball net.

3rd-5th Grade will begin volleyball skills and learning to play a full volleyball game, as well as, other games using the net.



SEL/Health

Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 4th grade have been learning about nutrition. 3rd grade and 5th grade have been learning about decision making with Officer O'Neil.

Next month, kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 4th grade will learn about safety. 3rd grade and 5th grade will continue with the Botvin Decision Making Curriculum.



Library

We continue to share literature with read alouds from our Monarch and Bluestem Readers Choice Award Nominees. Our 3-5 graders read *Caves* by Nell Cross Beckerman. We learned about many interesting caves in the world and how they are formed. Students were able to take a virtual "field trip" and explore some of the caves we read about using VR Goggles. We teamed up with Ms. Silva, our Instructional Technology Coach for this fun activity.



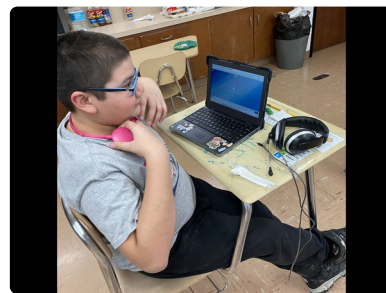
Primary Cross-Cat

During the month of February, our Unique Curriculum focuses on history and the theme of peace. Our read aloud and leveled book is called, "Time for Peace" and the activities that surround the reading focuses on what students can do to find peace at school and at home. It helps students learn to problem solve and have positive interactions with friends, family, and classmates. Our social studies will also have a common theme along with a fun News2You article that explores the Super Bowl. The article includes the explanation of teams and the traditions that surround the Super Bowl. For math, we will dive into 2D and 3D shapes. We will identify shapes, describe their attributes, explore them in our environment, compare and contrast 2D and 3D shapes, and describe their similarities and differences.

Intermediate Cross-Cat

For the month of February, we will explore how cultures have changed over time with a focus on the people who helped bring change. Timelines are introduced as a way to view the events that have changed over time. For science we will start doing cooking activities, for social studies we

will look at our News2You articles, and for math we will work on shapes and exploring shapes in the environment, 2D and 3D shapes.



Upcoming Events

January 20th-February 26th- ACCESS Testing for ELs
February 17th- No School (President's Day/ eLearning Day IF NEEDED)
February 27th- No School (SIP Day)
February 28th- No School (Institute Day)
March 7th- End of Trimester 2
March 12th-21st- IAR Testing (3rd-5th graders only)
March 31st- April 4th- No School (Spring Break)
April 7th- Spring Parent Teacher Conferences (No School)
April 18th- No School (Good Friday)
May 2nd- Trimester 3 Midterms



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