



The Timberwolf Times

September 2025

A Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

We are off to a wonderful start to the new school year! The halls are filled with smiles, laughter, and the excitement of learning. It has been such a joy to see students settle into routines so quickly. Thank you for partnering with us to make the first few weeks of school so positive. From ensuring your child is at school each day to encouraging a love of learning at home your support makes all the difference.



We wrapped up our fall assessments and I am encouraged by the growth and achievement we are seeing in the areas of math and reading. This school year, we are wrapping up our strategic plan. Our Strategic Plan goals are 50% of students scoring at or above the 50th percentile in MAP Reading and 60% of students scoring at or above the 50th percentile in MAP Math. As a building, we matched these goals for the 25-26 school year.

At the end of fall testing, our data is as follows:

■ 44% of students scored at or above the 50th percentile in MAP Reading

⊕ 53% of students scored at or above the 50th percentile in MAP Math

I believe whole-heartedly that we will meet, or exceed, our building goals this school year!

Creating a safe, welcoming, and engaging environment where every child can grow and thrive. We look forward to the adventures, discoveries, and successes this school year will bring.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Del Toro

Our Busy Classrooms



Kindergarten

Kindergarten Families,

Students have completed all MAP Testing. We are very HAPPY with the outcome!

In the month of June students are doing the following:

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

In Math students will finish working on Module #6 Analyzing, Comparing, and Composing Shapes. Module #6 is the last module.

In our Monolingual and Dual Language Classroom for Language Arts we are wrapping up Knowledge unit #12 Presidents and American Symbols.

In the monolingual class your students will wrap up Skills unit #10.

Dual classrooms are on a roll with UFLI lessons making it a constant routine for the students.

In our Dual Language Classrooms students are working on Lectoescritura students will be wrapping up unit #9.

Students watched the Life Cycle of a Butterfly and we have released them. Students learned a lot of great information during their observations.

We will also like to take this time to thank you parents for trusting us with your most valued possession, and your unconditional support. We truly couldn't do our jobs without you all.

Kindergarten Teachers,

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



We are VERY proud of our students! They did an amazing job on their MAP Tests.

As the year is coming to an end, we are finishing up our Math Module 6 domain.

For Language Arts we are working on long vowel teams: ai, ay, ea, ee, ey, ow, oa, ie, and igh. As always we continue to work on our reading fluency and comprehension.

Thank you for all of your support this year!



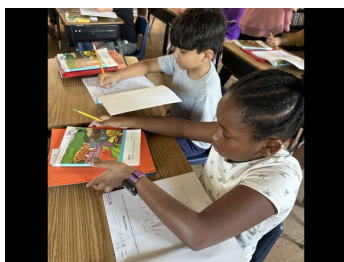
2nd Grade

Hello 2nd Grade Families,

We are quickly approaching the end of the year. In ELA we are finishing with our study of Standing up for a Cause. We are learning about poetry and writing non-fiction paragraphs.

In Math we are finished with Money and Line Plots. We will be ending with Telling Time and Geometry.

Congratulations to all the students on finishing the year strong with MAP and MCLASS testing.



3rd Grade

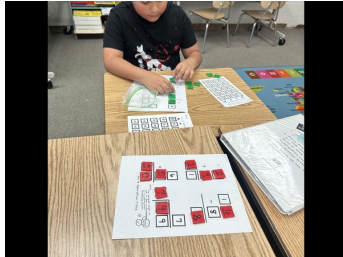
Hello 3rd Grade Families!

In ELA we are finishing our first unit of Amplify and classic tales.

Together, we are writing our first paragraphs. We will be focusing a lot on writing this year. It is expected that students know how to start writing with a topic sentence, have evidence for details and end with a conclusion. It is also very important that our students use capital letters and punctuation appropriately. Our next unit is about Animal Classifications and working with non fiction texts.

In Math we are working on Module 1 which focuses on different skills for multiplication and division facts. This includes drawing pictures of groups of objects, creating arrays, and solving word problems. Some vocabulary we are working on are: Product, Quotient, Factors, Commutative Property, and Distributive Property. Please continue to review multiplication facts with your child.

always give their full attention. Please talk to your student about sitting up, facing the teacher, following along, and participating in our discussions. This will help them be very successful.



4th Grade

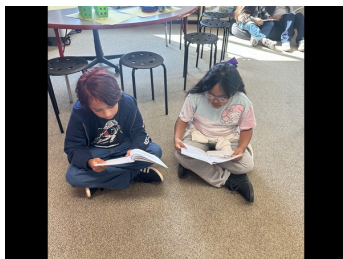
Hello 4th Grade Parents!

We have been hard at work these first few weeks of school reviewing expectations, learning about CHAMPS, and getting back into the flow of the school year! Though there have been some hiccups along the way, students are showing our IK core values each and everyday!

In Math, students extend their work with whole numbers, first with familiar large units (hundreds and thousands), and then develop their understanding up to 1 million. They practice and further deepen their facility with patterns in the base-10 number system.

In Amplify, students are hard at work learning about personal narratives. Students learn the process of how to write multiple paragraphs, use of dialogue, and how to add sensory details into their writing. In order to help students construct their own personal narrative, we have read a few personal narratives by different authors in class.

In Social Studies, students are learning all about different Native American tribes and how they interacted with colonists. Students will begin to do additional research on a Native American region and create a diorama about what they have learned.



5th Grade

Hello 5th Grade Parents,

In Amplify, students are starting off the school year with a Personal Narrative unit. Throughout this unit students examine the genre of personal narratives, which consists of works of nonfiction written by a first-person narrator involved in the events being described. Students read five personal narratives, identifying the elements of the genre and, throughout the unit, using these elements in writing a variety of their own personal narratives.

educational strategy where a teacher dictates a short text to students who then write it down, focusing on self-correcting errors to learn and reinforce spelling, grammar, punctuation, and other writing conventions over several days. It's a biliteracy routine that emphasizes language structure and promotes fluency by transforming spoken words into print, allowing students to internalize writing rules and practice comprehensive skills in a collaborative, meaningful context. Lotta Lara is a biliterate reading strategy used in dual-language classrooms to develop oracy (oral language), reading fluency, and comprehension in both English and Spanish. It involves a systematic process of reading the same text nine times over three days, incorporating various techniques like read-alouds, echo reading, and partner reading, along with explicit instruction in vocabulary and language structures to support students' understanding and communication skills.

In Math, students are working to understand place value with decimals. We have been discovering when multiplying by 10, 100, 1000, etc it moves the decimal point over that many place values. The next skills that will be seen are adding and subtracting decimals and then afterwards multiplication and division with decimals.

In Science, students are learning about matter in science, they will discover what everything around them is made of. They will explore the different states of matter—solid, liquid, and gas—and learn how matter can change from one state to another, like ice melting into water. Students will also understand that matter has mass and takes up space, and they'll investigate the properties that help us identify different materials.



Art

In kindergarten, we have been practicing our routine and expectations. We have been exploring nature art with table centers. These centers include rock drawing, a flower garden hunt, a seashell hunt, nature prints, and rock patterns. They have been doing a wonderful job!

In 1st grade, we are opening our new big centers! 1st grade students have been exploring how to make beautiful artworks with pastels. They have also been practicing their collage skills.

skinbounders. Students have completed art activities using specific skills and materials such as pastels, collage, origami, drawing 3-dimensional shapes, and watercolors.

3rd through 5th grade have been opening their centers through sketchbooks activities. These activities prompt students to use specific materials and skills in our drawing, collage, building, painting, origami, sculpture, and fiber arts center. Once students complete all activities, they have a full open studio to create artworks that they enjoy.



Music

Kindergartners are learning our music room routines-they can sing, "Hello Everybody," "Clap, Clap, Clap your hands," and "Hickety Pickety Bumblebee" if you ask them! We are working on moving our bodies safely to music and freezing when the music stops, using our singing voice and we have started moving to the steady beat of music using our beat buddies (Beanie Baby bears).

1st grade and 2nd graders have been reviewing expectations and routines in the music room, using our singing voices, moving and playing instruments to the steady beat.

3rd, 4th and 5th graders are getting ready for our Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra Concert field trip on October 7, 2025. Thank you for sending in your signed permission slips. We will be listening to music by Gustav Mahler and Gustav Holst. We have listened in class to Symphony No. 1 Mvmt. 2 by Mahler and The Planets-Movements, Mars, Venus, Jupiter and Uranus.



PE

K-2nd grades will be working on team building games and fitness activities.

3rd-5th grade will be working on Fitness Testing (Push ups, sit ups, flexibility, pacer test and the 1 mile run)



In O.E.L./Health class, all groups are learning about Healthy Habits and Hygiene.

Kindergarten: In kindergarten, students are learning about the importance of sleep and exercise as well as the importance of washing hands in order to stay healthy.

First: In first grade, students are learning about the major organs in their bodies and how to best care for their bodies by eating healthy, exercising and getting plenty of sleep.

Second: In second grade, students are learning about the importance of hygiene, sleep and exercise to keep our bodies healthy.

Third Grade: In third grade, students are learning about the skeletal and the muscular systems and the importance of staying healthy by exercising and eating healthy.

Fourth Grade: In fourth grade, students are learning about the circulatory and the respiratory systems and how to keep them healthy.

Fifth Grade: In fifth grade, students are learning about the digestive and nervous systems and how to keep them healthy.



Library

Welcome back to a new year in the library. We started the year reviewing behavior expectations and how to take care of library books.

I introduced the nominated books for the 3-5 graders Bluestem Readers' Choice Award and we have been watching some interviews of some of the authors. Some students have jumped right into the challenge and have already read one of the book selections. We have been discussing the different genres of fiction and students have been challenged to branch out and read a new genre. Primary grades have been reading stories about characters in the library while we discuss expectations.

Next week we will begin reading the Monarch Readers' Choice Awards in grades K-2.



behavior expectations, and getting used to a new schedule. For Literacy we have been reading about following the rules at school and how to work together as a class. We have also started our letter of the week to gain letter recognition and letter sound. For Math, we are working on number sense, sorting, and counting forward. We are off to a strong start and I know it will be a great year!

Intermediate Cross-Cat

We have been working hard to start off the year learning about our expected behaviors. For Literacy we have been reading about following the rules at school, how to follow rules in the bus and chores at home. We have also been adding to our sight word wall and sounding out letter sounds to form simple words. For journaling we are using our sight words to write complete sentences. For social studies we have been talking about who are our leaders, our rights and responsibilities. In Math we have been working on number sense, starting to count forward and filling in the missing number.



Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 29th-Oct. 12th-** PTO Taffy Apple Sales
- **October 6th, 8-9th-** Hearing and Vision Screening
- **October 8th-** Wear it Wednesday (College and Career Day)
- **October 9th-** PTO Meeting Virtual (5:30-6:00)
- **October 13th-** No School (Indigenous Peoples Day)
- **October 15th-** Fall Picture Day (Dress to Impress!)
- **Oct. 20th-24th-** Book Fair
- **October 22nd-** Wear it Wednesday (IK Spirit Day!)
- **October 22nd-** IK Family Night (5:00-7:00)
- **October 25th-** IK Trunk-or-Treat (11-1pm)



Whitnie Del Toro

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