



April 2024

LAKER NEWS

JENNIFER OLSON – Elementary Principal

HUMPHREY ELEMENTARY 320-543-4680

WINSTED ELEMENTARY 320-543-4690

Dear Elementary Families,

Welcome back from break and happy spring! It is time to “hop” to it!

Now that we have returned and are well rested from spring break, it is time to get everyone moving forward. In just over two weeks we will start our “big test” assessments, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). Students throughout Minnesota in grades 3-11 are tested in various content areas. At the elementary level, we complete both Reading and Math MCA tests for third and fourth graders. We will take the MCA tests mid-April. Our primary testing will take place April 16-17 and April 23-24. Mark your calendars! Parents, we can use your help—please avoid appointments that might take students out of school during this time and see that your son or daughter is well-rested, eats a good breakfast, and has your encouragement to take their time in order to do their best on each of the tests! This is their chance to show what they know, as well as give us as teachers the feedback on how well we are teaching our students. We’ve all been working hard together, made great progress towards our school goals, and have confidence that our students are going to do well.

We will continue in-house activities to showcase our learning, and sprinkle in some off campus learning adventures with individual grade level field trips in April and May along with Humphrey’s schoolwide trip to the MN Zoo at the end of April. Please consider participating as each event allows. If you have not completed the background check for the 2023-24 school year yet ([click here](#)), please do that now before additional field trips and school events are finalized...we would welcome your presence with many of them! Watch for details and information from your child’s respective classroom and/or grade level for different events.

With just a quarter left of the school year, this is the time to hold true to high expectations for all. Please continue to talk with your child about their roles at school—to be active learners, kind citizens, think first, and participate as LAKERS do. We will do the same. The “spring itch” will be here soon and our goal is to finish the year as strong as we started...with respect for self and others, by taking ownership for our choices (both good and bad), and by working hard to be our best each day.

Thank you for your continued support in our schools through homework help, volunteering in and out of the school day, and for your communication. We certainly appreciate and rely on you being an active part of our school community. We look forward to seeing many of you this spring.

Yours Educationally,
Jen Olson



April 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!

Volunteers

HLWW School District requires background checks for all school volunteers. 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 on the link to complete your forms [HLWW Volunteers](#).

Absences

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to communicate absences and/or late arrivals to the school office by 8:45 am on each day a child is absent. Any absences not communicated with the school office will be recorded as unexcused.

Winsted – 320-543-4690; jstifter@hlww.k12.mn.us
Humphrey – 320-543-4680; tknuth@hlww.k12.mn.us

HLWW ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Winsted Elementary BINGO Night

Winsted Elementary families are invited to join us on Friday, April 5 for bingo and optional dinner.

Dinner: Pizza Packs (pre-order is required) 5:30 PM
Free bingo and concessions: 6:00-7:15 PM



Bring the whole family! Do you know someone new at Winsted Elementary? Invite them to join in the fun! This is a FAMILY event – not a drop off event. An adult must accompany students for the entire event.

2024-25 Student's Learning Style

Historically, this is the time that we start to take more formal requests from parents for a specific teacher with valid reasoning behind your child's placement in their classroom for the upcoming year. Effective for 2024-25, we will ONLY take feedback on your child's learning styles—the dynamics in how your child best learns. We will not take direct requests for teacher placements. The reasons are simple—all our teachers are quality teachers and frankly, placement of students is not simple. Staff invest many hours planning and balancing classrooms in the spring by academic need, energy, learning style, as well as looking at peer relationships. Your child's teacher has spent over 950 hours with your child this year. We absolutely respect your input and request for learning style and ask the same trust in our team's placements.

If you wish to include your student needs/learning style profile in their placement for 2024-25, you may submit them IN WRITING directly to Mrs. Jen Olson, principal, no later than Monday May 6. We will include your input with the team's decision(s) to place students for the Fall. If there are specific concerns that need to be addressed, please reach out to Mrs. Olson via phone or email.

Team...Family...Excellence!

By: Jen Olson, Elementary Principal



Winsted Elementary celebrated the MN School of Excellence Award before spring break. We had an “excellent” time! Our school community came together Thursday morning with the help of Winsted Elementary Student Council, Superintendent Nate Walbruch, MESPA Executive Director Michelle Krell, Principal Olson, and a surprise video shout out from former MN Viking wide-receiver Adam Thielen. It was a great recognition of hard work, community partnerships and school connectedness. The award remains intact for seven years, at which time the school can work on the re-validation process again.

Congratulations, on your achievement Winsted Elementary!



Second Grade News

By: Madi Shea, Humphrey Elementary

Throughout the month of March, second grade has been learning about different cultures and their stories that teach us lessons.

We recently learned about three different versions of the classic *Little Red Riding Hood*. We learned about a wolf name Lon Po Po in the Chinese version, a big bad dog on his way to the market in the African version, and an alligator in the Cajun tale. Students compared the stories and came up with their own animal for the wolf and for the name Little Red.



After learning different versions of the story, we looked at the original version. The students then each learned parts for a play. Throughout the week the students practiced their parts and even made their own set designs. Over a week later, a group of students are still performing their play because they enjoyed performing it so much!

Lastly the students participated in a STEM activity. All students were given \$8.00 to spend on materials to make Little Red's basket. Through this activity the students worked on counting money, building and problem solving. Students were allowed to return items and adjust their baskets as needed. The goal of the baskets was to make it to grandmothers' house and back.



By: Annette Hystad, Winsted Elementary

April is designated as the month of the military child. This is a celebration of the important role children play in the military community and honor the sacrifices made by the children of service members.

Purple references the joint environment of the military, encompassing all service branches, Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and Veterans. Purple combines each branch's colors into one: the Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard all use shades of blue, the Army uses green, and the Marines use red.

Military families experience separations from their service members for a number of reasons beyond deployment. Some of these include temporary duty travel (TDY), training, and geo-batching, a common scenario where a military family separates, leaving the spouse and kids in one location while the service member reports for duty in another.

We are proud of our Military Connected Lakers, and we encourage everyone to "Purple Up" for military children by wearing purple on Monday, April 15 to show support for these amazing kids. Military children are strong, brave, and proud, everything we encourage our Lakers to be.

Becoming a Published Author

By: Morgan Larsen, Humphrey Elementary

The fourth grade students at Humphrey Elementary worked extremely hard to become published authors. Each fourth grade class focused on persuasive writing. Ms. Krueger's class wrote about gifts you never knew you needed, and Ms. Larsen's class wrote about unique donut flavors they wanted to be sold in a bakery. The students went through the entire writing process. They started by brainstorming an idea for their writing, moved on to a rough draft, had their writing edited, revised their writing, and ended with publishing their final draft of their writing. Lastly, they got to create an illustration to go along with their writing. Families had the opportunity to purchase the book if they wanted and we also received a class book to share with all the students. We spent a day celebrating our hard work when our books arrived. It was fun to read aloud the finished book and see how excited they were to see their finished work in an actual book. The students did a fantastic job, and it was amazing to see their hard work come to life!



Spring is here

First Grade Rain Art

Kailee Byrd, Winsted Elementary

We have been working hard in 1st grade! In March we were preparing and had our Spring Musical, had a reading festival, School of Excellence celebration, Spring Break and much more! We have been learning to add and subtract with numbers up to 20. We've learned double facts like $2+2=4$, fact families and started to talk about money. We've been working hard on our reading skills and reading harder books! We also had some fun art projects like what we would do if the Easter Bunny got stuck in a hole or what we would do if we were a leprechaun for a day. In April we made rain art for our lockers. I asked students what they would do on a rainy day, and they wanted to share!

Lincoln: "run outside and get wet"

Amora: "stand in the rain"

Everett: "go for a drive"

Cali: "play outside with an umbrella"

Ivan: "play outside"

Mason: "play in the rain"

James: "run in the rain"

Eli: "jump in rain puddles"

Audrey: "play outside with friends"

Collen: "play tag inside"

Ellie: "play in puddles"

Bevyn: "watch TV"

Bristyl: "read"

Isaac: "look at my trading cards"

Ace: "play card games inside"

Kaia: "build a gingerbread house"

IsabelMay: "watch TV"

Esmund: "play on my tablet"

Brock: "play in the rain"

Ayden: "stay in my house"

Willow: "splash in puddles with my light up boots"

Aiden: "go ask my neighbors to play outside"

Musical Musings

By: Dawn Kalvig, HES Music Specialist

Since I am a music educator, I have a great passion for music, both in my personal and professional life. It is my desire to give students a good foundational knowledge of music and chances to experience music making by themselves and with others. It is my hope that those experiences will lead to a lifetime of making and enjoying music. I feel very blessed to work in a school district that provides music classes to grades K-2 on a daily basis and every other day for grades 3-4.

One of the neat things about music is that it lends itself to interdisciplinary studies. Music incorporates science of sound concepts when we study vibrations and instrument tone quality (timbre). Music uses math when we are working with rhythms and time signatures to read music. All of our musical terms are in Italian, so music also incorporates foreign language studies. Music includes history because of the particular countries of origin and the culture and time of its creation. Physical education concepts are also used when students use movement to illustrate musical concepts such as steady beat, form, and rhythms. Music is a great tool to use when teaching literacy skills. Tracking a music line from the left to right side of a page, rhythmic phrases, and reading the lyrics to a song help build those literacy skills.

There are two opportunities coming up in May where you can see the hard work of our Humphrey music students showcasing their talents. Students in grades 1-2 will present their musical "The Panda and The Moon" by Eric Whitehill on May 2 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the HLWW high school auditorium. Humphrey kindergarten students will be having their show on May 21 at 6:00 p.m. Winsted Elementary, our sister school, will have their show on the same day at 7:15 p.m. Both kindergarten shows will be in the HLWW high school auditorium. All shows are free and open to the public. Please mark the dates on your calendar and come support our elementary students as they perform.

In closing, I would like to share an excerpt from an unknown source on

Why We Teach Music

Not because we expect you to major in music.

Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life.

Not so you can relax.

Not so you can have fun.

BUT - so you will be human.

So, you will recognize beauty.

So, you will be sensitive.

So, you will have something to cling to.

So, you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good - in short - more life.

Of what good will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?

THAT IS WHY WE TEACH MUSIC!

