



The Timberwolf Times

December 2024

A Message from the Principal

Dear IK Families,

It is hard to believe that 2024 is almost over. I am so proud of our IK community. Students have adjusted very well to the new school year and the spirit of the building is buzzing with excitement. I have enjoyed seeing all the creativity this month during December Spirit Month. We have one more week before winter break, so let's finish strong!!

In November, students earned over 5500 Den Dollars for demonstrating our Indian Knoll Core values which are; Respect for others, positive interactions, orderly transitions, responsibility and readiness to learn. WOW!!! We surpassed our goal of reaching 5000 Den Dollars!!

Students used their Den Dollars to vote for the whole school PBIS assembly. Their options were, A Magic Show, Illinois Storm Chasers, and a Reptile Show. Overwhelmingly, students chose the Reptile Show. It will be here on Friday, December 20th. It will be an exciting afternoon at IK with our animal visitors!

When students come back from winter break, we will be moving into our winter benchmark testing. Students will start with mClass and Fastbridge assessments, then we will move into winter MAP testing and finally, for our EL students, we will wrap up with ACCESS testing. Please make sure students are ready to hit the ground running when we return from winter break.

Finally, Mr. Guerrero and I want to wish all of our IK families a very Happy Holidays. We hope you are able to spend some quality time with the ones you love most!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Del Toro



Our Busy Classrooms



Kindergarten

In all kindergarten classes, students will finish our unit on plants and begin learning about farms. This is unit 5 in Knowledge, which will continue after we return from winter break.

In Dual classes we are doing the 5th unit of Knowledge in Spanish. In skills, students are in unit 5. Students are learning approximately a letter sound a day along with some tricky words. Please continue to practice these at home.

In Lectoescritura we are in unit 4. Students are learning open syllables

In math, students are working on Module 3: Comparison of Length, Weight, Capacity, and Numbers to 10. Students will compare various classroom objects and describe whether they are shorter, longer, heavier, lighter, or the same. Students will be introduced to a balance scale and use it for measurement.

We will also spend some time celebrating the upcoming holidays!



1st Grade

Hello 1st grade families,

In first grade we are deepening our learning in Early World Civilization by our Read Alouds, academic vocabulary and our oracy strategies,

In our skills unit we are learning our long vowel sounds with our magic e, tricky words and common and proper nouns. In addition, we are using our decodable books to apply our reading skills on a daily basis.

During our math block, we are still working on adding and subtracting within 20. We also have been working on decomposing numbers and word problems.



2nd Grade

As we close out the end of the year and begin another, we will continue to learn about Ancient Greek Mythology. The students have really been enjoying learning about the gods and goddesses. We have learned many important lessons and reasons for things that happen in nature. The students have also been practicing their narrative fiction writing skills. We are also going to begin learning about the causes of the War of 1812. We will also begin writing a persuasive piece. In math we will be continuing to add and subtract 2-digit and 3 digit numbers.

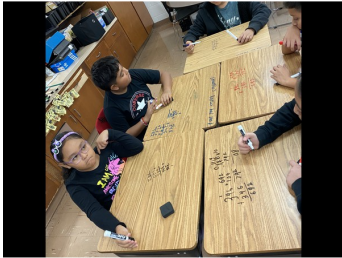


3rd Grade

Third grade has had a great Trimester 1. In Literacy we are currently working on Unit 3 which deals with the Ancient Roman Civilization. Within this unit we are writing opinion essays, working on r-controlled vowels, and review of other long vowels. We are also discussing the differences between Myths and Legends.

If time allows with our Amplify pacing, in our Science block we are working on Force and Motion.

Math we started a new Module, working on our multiplication and division facts using commutative and distributive property. Keep reading each night and practicing those math facts!



4th Grade

The end of the year is quickly approaching!

As we continue working on math module 3, students are working on multiplication and division using various strategies. Strategies include partial product, place value method, and the standard algorithm. Thank you for supporting this learning at home by practicing math facts.

Our learning continues with engaging activities in science where students continue to learn about the different types of energy and how it transfers.

Additionally, students have enjoyed their time exploring Empires in the Middle Ages during reading with our new Amplify pilot. Students will be then introduced to Poetry by exploring and analyzing different styles of poetry.



5th Grade

Hello 5th grade families,

In the month of December 5th will be going into module 3 of Eureka Math where students will learn to add and subtract fractions, including fractions with unlike denominators. Students will learn to find common denominators, use visual models like area models to represent fractions, and apply the skills to solve problems involving adding and subtracting fractions.

Our next unit of Reading and Writing in Amplify is going to be Adventures of Don Quixote. It is a fictional story about a man that sets off on an adventure to become a knight. We are going to be diving deep into the text focusing on the character and plot of the text. We are also going to be looking at literary elements such as characterization which has students analyze characters how they act, personalities, and physical traits.

In our science unit students will be learning about Earth Systems, where they will learn about earth's spheres (atmosphere, biosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere) and how they participate in the groundwater cycle. In addition, students will learn about the value of water as a natural resource and why it is important to protect water and other natural resources.



Art

In December, Kindergarten will be starting projects to develop their skills and will transition to their centers afterwards. They have been doing a wonderful job following directions, transitioning, and cleaning up. I am so proud of them!

1st grade will be finishing up their observational drawing. They have opened Building and Origami Center to develop new skills and interests. They will continue to practice how to use their new, big centers.

2nd grade will start their clay projects! We will be creating a clay project with the slab technique and slip/score.

3rd grade will start analyzing art in different cultures and compare/contrast each culture. We will be working on talking about art and using art vocabulary.

4th and 5th grade will work on artworks inspired by holiday, traditions, and culture. They will also be working on artist statements to write about their artworks.



Music

Kindergarteners will continue to explore vocalizations such as humming and vocal sirens as they follow melodic pathways with their light, high singing voice. We will also use classroom percussion instruments to show steady beat and classify the instruments into families (wood, metal, shakers, skins).

1st-5th graders will continue exploring, reading, playing, and composing rhythms.

We will also learn folk dances which help us with social/emotional goals and including all members of our class to feel welcome and part of a community.

3rd graders will play barred instruments to accompany our singing.

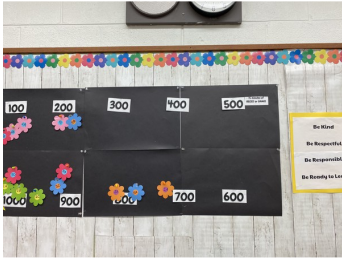
5th graders will continue to incorporate recorder playing into our lessons.

4th graders will begin learning how to read notes on the treble staff so we can begin playing recorders after winter break!



PE

This month all students will be working on fitness stations. They will do many different exercises and use many different types of equipment, such as weights and jump ropes. These exercises will work all of their muscles while they listen to music and have fun!



SEL/Health

Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 4th grade have been learning about healthy practices. 3rd grade and 5th grade have been learning about nutrition.

Next month, kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 4th grade will learn about mental health and wellness . 3rd grade and 5th grade will learn about disease and illness prevention.



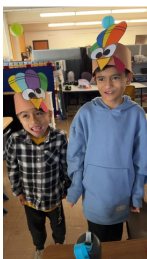
Library

This month in library, we continue to read aloud books from our reading incentive programs Monarch Reader's Choice Award Nominees for grades K-3 and Bluestem Reader's Choice Award Nominees for grades 3-5.

Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving are holidays that take place in November. We have had discussions and read alouds about Veterans and Memorials and have talked and read about Thanksgiving traditions. Books are on display for students to read and select for checkout.

Other topics we have covered are the differences between fact and opinion and What is fake news?

Fifth grade participated in a 3D printing project. We read a story about the use of 3D printing to create an artificial beak for a Bald Eagle whose beak was damaged. We are collaborating with Ms. Silva, our Technology Coach, to create 3D printed bookmarks using a program called Tinkercad.



Primary Cross-Cat

This month, our ELA and social studies unit theme is the gift of giving. In this unit, students explore opportunities for civic participation during the holiday season by learning about ways they can help the local community. We will continue to work on our phonics, sight words, and comprehension. In math, we will work on a range of skills specific to each student, focusing on number sense and addition. We will continue to work on IEP goals, classroom expectations, and routines.

Intermediate Cross-Cat

This month our unit of study will explore opportunities for civic participation during the holiday season by learning about ways they can help the local community. We will keep working on making

sentences and our sight words. In math we will be looking at place value. For social studies we will look at different holidays that people celebrate around the world and for science we will do a cooking activity related to our unit of study. As always we are working on IEP goals and behavior goals. Happy Holidays!



Upcoming Events

- December 23rd-January 3rd- No School (Winter Break)
- Week of January 6th- mClass/Fastbridge Assessments
- Week of January 13th- Winter MAP Testing
- January 20th-February 26th- ACCESS Testing for ELs
- January 20th- No School (MLK Jr. Day)
- 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 3
- March 12th-21st- IAR Testing (3rd-5th graders only)
- March 31st- April 4th- No School (Spring Break)



Whitnie Del Toro

Whitnie is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters