



# *The Timberwolf Times*

January 2025

## *A Message from the Principal*

Dear IK Families,  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

We have begun the new year hitting the round running. This month, we are completing our winter benchmark assessments which include mClass (reading), Fastbridge (math), MAP Reading and MAP Math. At the end of the month and into January, our English Language Learner students will complete the ACCESS test. Teachers will discuss the data and use it to make instructional decisions to best meet the needs of each of our students.

We ended 2024 with a wonderful PBS assembly which included a visit from some fascinating reptiles. Students and staff both had a great time learning about, holding and petting several different types of reptiles during the show. We are every proud of how well our students continue to demonstrate our Indian Knoll Core Values and expect this to continue into this new year.

As the winter months continue, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the cold weather to the best of your ability. This includes hats, scarves, gloves, boots, etc. If the temperature outside feels like 10 degrees or more, we will take the students outside for recess. We understand how important it is for our students to go outside, run around, and release energy, so we will strive to take them out as often as we can. Ensuring they are dressed warm will keep them safe from the temperatures.

Mr. Guerrero and I are very excited for this new year and look forward to the wonderful growth and learning our students will demonstrate by the end of the school year.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Del Toro



# Our Busy Classrooms



## Kindergarten

Kindergarten Families,  
Welcome back and Happy New Year!

In January your students will take the winter MAP Test in Math and Reading, mClass Assessment, and ACCESS Testing for our ELs. There is a lot of testing during the month of January, we ask that students establish routines such as getting a good night sleep, having a healthy breakfast, and being in school at time.

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

In Math students will continue to work on Eureka Math Module #3. Students will describe comparisons of length, weight, and capacity within 10.

In our Monolingual and Dual Language Classroom for Language Arts students will continue to work on Knowledge #5 Farms. Then they will move on to Knowledge #6 Native Americans. In skills students are working on Skills #6 new tricky words, letter names, spelling and consonant clusters.

In our Dual Language Classrooms students are working on Lectoescritura students will be wrapping up unit #4 and start on unit #5. Unit #5 students will work on letter sounds, and high frequency words in Spanish.

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



## 1st Grade

Hello 1st grade families,

Happy New Years to all of you! We will have a lot of testing this month, please make sure that your child is having a good breakfast, is well rested and is at school on time.

In math we are working on Module 3-measurement, students are ordering and comparing length.

For language arts we are working on 5 of the most common vowel sounds. We are blending, segmenting, reading and writing everyday. In our Knowledge Unit we are now learning about Early American Civilization. In this domain students will study Maya, Aztec and Inca civilizations.

## 2nd Grade

Hello 2nd grade families!

We hope you all had a wonderful break and we look forward to a bright new year!



In CKLA we will begin discussing the cycles in nature where we will be learning about the 4 seasons, life cycles of plants and animals and the water cycle. We will also be learning some irregular spelling patterns, persuasive writing, and the past and present forms of 'to be.' In math we will be continuing to add and subtract 2 and 3 digit numbers with regrouping. In science we will be continuing our unit on Landforms.



### 3rd Grade

Hi 3rd grade families!

First and foremost, Happy New Year! And we hope your holiday season was spent with all your loved ones filled with relaxation, fun, and overall great vibes!

In CKLA Amplify ELA/Science we will be continuing Unit 5: Light and Sound where we will be discussing various vocabulary terms related to light and sound, working with cause and effect during experiments, and eventually prepping for an informative research writing project where students will be writing a Newspaper Article on an invention related to light and sound!

In Math we are finishing up with all the different multiplication and division strategies for tricky numbers. Our next unit will be finding the area of rectangles. Make sure to keep practicing those math facts!

We will be taking our winter MAP testing the week of Jan. 15th. Please make sure to talk to your child about trying their best, eating breakfast, and getting a good night of rest.



### 4th Grade

Hello 4th Grade Families,

We hope that you had an amazing holiday and very restful break. We are excited to have students back in the classroom ready to learn new information. We will have a lot of tests this month so please make sure your student gets adequate sleep, a good breakfast, and is at school on time. We will have our Winter MAP testing, Access Testing for ELs, and mClass for reading.

In Math we will be starting our next unit focusing on Geometry. Challenge your student to find shapes in everyday life as you are driving around town and ask them to classify the shape.

In Social Studies we will start talking about Illinois. Students will research about someone who had an influence on Illinois and how it is today.

In Amplify we move to a new unit. Students will investigate with the help of a "game show" all about inventors and working together.



## 5th Grade

Hello 5th Grade Families,

In Reading we have started our fifth unit that focuses on the Renaissance where students will read about the rise of the middle class due to increased trade with other countries, the importance of patrons in supporting the work of artists, and increasing attention to and inspiration from the works of ancient Greek and Roman philosophers and artists.

In Eureka Math Grade 5 Module 4, students focus on learning how to multiply and divide fractions, including decimal fractions, by interpreting data from line plots that involve fractional measurements, essentially building upon their understanding of fractions through operations like dividing whole numbers by unit fractions and vice versa, while also introducing the concept of dividing by decimal fractions with the support of equivalent fractions and place value reasoning.



## Art

In January, kindergarten will learn about art museums and creating paper sculptures. 1st grade will also learn about art museums. They will also learn about how to talk about their artwork.

2nd grade will be finishing up their clay slab projects and start opening sculpture center.

3rd grade will start creating their clay pinch pot projects.

4th grade will begin learning about fiber arts such as weaving and sewing.

5th grade will choose a topic they are passionate about, create activist art, and write an artist statement about their art.



## 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!

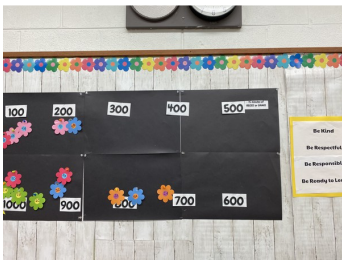


## PE

This month all students will be working Basketball skills such as dribbling, passing and shooting.

K-3rd grade will be playing small basketball games that work on those basketball skills.

3rd-5th grade will be playing basketball shooting games, as well as learning to play a full basketball game.



## SEL/Health

Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 4th grade have been learning about mental health and wellness. 3rd grade and 5th grade have been learning about disease and illness prevention.

Next month, kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 4th grade will learn about nutrition . 3rd grade and 5th grade will be learning about decision making using the Botvin Curriculum with Officer O'Neil.



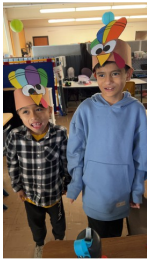
## Library

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

Happy New Year!

In the new year, we will start by reviewing the classroom expectations and routines. In our monthly unit, students will learn how to use their senses to observe and describe materials. They also learn how some materials change when heated or cooled.

These concepts establish a foundation for investigating the properties and states of matter in later grades. We will continue to work on phonics and sight words. In math, we will focus on measurement and continuing to build number sense.



## Upcoming Events

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