



Dr. Klint W. Willert, Superintendent
Sonja Ortman, MS/HS Principal
Jennifer Moravetz, Elementary Principal
Len Burzynski, Maintenance Director
Lisa Pease, Coordinator of Curriculum, Teaching & Learning, and Continuous Improvement

Jacque Kennedy, Business Manager
Rick Zollner, Activities Director
Josh Stukel, Technology Director
Kim Tuin, Food Service Director

Elementary School Board Report Jennifer Moravetz, Elementary Principal

Monday, October 27, 2025

- **Picture Retakes – Friday, October 3rd**

Students participated in Strawbridge picture retakes. This provided families the opportunity to update their child's school photo or have a picture taken if they were absent on the original day.

- **Preschool Screening – Wednesday, October 8th**

Our preschool team conducted screenings for 31 students. These screenings play an important role in identifying developmental milestones and preparing incoming students for success in school. A special thank you to our early childhood staff, Krisitie and Josie for their organization and care in making families feel welcome and supported.

- **Homecoming Week – October 6–10, 2025**

Elementary students and staff had a wonderful time participating in Homecoming spirit week. Each day featured fun dressup themes that brought excitement and school pride to our halls. The homecoming court joined us for lunch and a school walk through, which the students loved. The week concluded with the community homecoming parade and a lively pep fest, celebrating Arrow pride across all grade levels.

- **Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 13, 2025**

Classrooms across the elementary school recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day through meaningful lessons and activities that celebrated the history, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. Teachers incorporated stories, discussions, and art projects to help students build awareness and respect for Indigenous heritage.

- **The Great Paper Towel Challenge - Week of October 20th - 24th**

This week, our elementary students participated in The Great Paper Towel Challenge! The goal was to encourage students to take pride in keeping our school neat and clean—especially in our restrooms and common areas.

Mr. Sterud and I noticed that many paper towels were missing the garbage cans after handwashing, so we turned it into a fun school-wide competition. Here's how it works:

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- Each time Mr. Sterud or I walk past the garbage areas and there are no paper towels on the floor, the elementary students earn a point.
- If we find paper towels on the floor and have to pick them up, Mr. Sterud and Mrs. Moravetz will earn a point.

At the end of each day, we post the updated scores and celebrate the students' efforts to keep our school looking great. The final tally will be shared on Friday, October 24th. Will the students claim victory, or will Mr. Sterud and Mrs. Moravetz take the win? Stay tuned!

- **Dental Sealant Clinic - Friday, October 24, 2025**
The elementary hosted an annual Dental Sealant Clinic, through the Minnesota School Sealant Program which provided students with free dental screenings and sealants to promote good oral health. The event was a great success, with many students participating and receiving preventive care.
- **Arrow Way Assembly - Thursday, October 30, 2025**
Throughout October, our elementary students have been learning about and practicing the character trait of respect. Each classroom teacher, from JK through 5th grade, will select one student who has consistently demonstrated respect in their words and actions. These students will be recognized and celebrated at our all school Arrow Way Assembly in the elementary gym. Each month, we will highlight a new character trait as part of our ongoing effort to build a positive, respectful, and caring school community.
- **TERRIFIC Kid Program – Friday, October 31, 2025**
We are excited to host our first TERRIFIC Kid celebration of the school year on October 31st. This program, in partnership with the Kiwanis Club, recognizes our second-grade students for demonstrating positive character traits and leadership. We appreciate our community partners and families for their ongoing support in helping us celebrate student success.
- **End of 1st Quarter – Friday, October 31, 2025**
The first quarter of the school year concludes on October 31st. Teachers are wrapping up assessments, preparing report cards, and reflecting on the growth and accomplishments of our students during these first nine weeks. We are proud of the progress made and the strong start to the school year.
- **Elementary Booster Club**
The Pipestone Elementary Booster Club is being awarded a grant for \$2000. This money will be used towards indoor recess games, toys, and activities that will be available to all students K-5. Our hope is
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to meet the needs of all the elementary students and offer a variety of materials for them to express themselves during their indoor recess time. This grant is being awarded on November 6th at the Grant Gala for the Pipestone Community Foundation.

The Elementary Booster Club is working with the Elementary Leadership Team to brainstorm ideas and start creating wish lists of materials that could be purchased. After the Booster Club is awarded the grant, we will purchase the materials and get them ready for our indoor recess days.

- **Fire Drills**

We conducted two fire drills during the month of October. Students and staff did an excellent job responding quickly and safely. One of the drills was held in collaboration with the local fire department.

- **Update on Nonacademic Goal**

By the end of the 2025 - 2026 school year, students in Junior Kindergarten through 5th grade will achieve an attendance rate of 92% or higher. The elementary school is currently at 95.4% attendance for the month of October.

- **Monthly Arrow Way Staff Meetings**

This year, I introduced Monthly Arrow Way Staff Meetings as an opportunity for our team to slow down, connect, and grow together. These meetings have quickly become a meaningful time for our staff to celebrate successes, support one another, and strengthen our sense of community.

This month's focus was on spreading positivity and fostering a strong, uplifting school culture. During our meeting, I shared two reflective stories that tie into our theme:

- **The Pebble and the Jar:** In our schools, every piece of information about a student or situation is like a pebble, small but important. The principal's jar represents all the pebbles collected from teachers, staff, parents, students, and other sources. Seeing only one pebble can give an incomplete picture, so decisions require many perspectives while respecting confidentiality and policy. By sharing our pebbles thoughtfully and trusting one another, we build a complete understanding. Together, this helps us support students, staff, and creates a safe, positive school culture.
- **The Crow and the Eagle:** This story encourages us to rise above negativity and distractions. Instead of letting challenges weigh us down like the crow, we strive to soar like the eagle—focused, strong, and lifting others along the way.

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These moments of reflection and connection have helped set a positive tone across our building as we continue to support one another and model The Arrow Way for our students.

October is National School Principal Month and I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate Mrs. Ortman for her outstanding leadership and dedication. She goes above and beyond every day to support her students and staff, ensuring that every decision centers around what is best for kids. Mrs. Ortman is deeply student-focused, takes pride in her incredible team of teachers, and fosters a culture of collaboration, respect, and positivity. She can often be found attending school events, cheering on students at games, and celebrating their successes both in and out of the classroom.

Mrs. Ortman and I work very closely to ensure strong collaboration and cohesion between our two buildings, aligning goals, initiatives, and supports to create a seamless experience for students and families. Together, we also collaborate with the Director of CTL to strengthen curriculum, instruction, and professional growth opportunities across our schools. Mrs. Ortman's leadership, commitment, and positive energy make her an invaluable part of our district admin team. Thank you Mrs. Ortman for your dedication to Pipestone Area Schools.

Current Enrollment for 2025 - 2026 School Year

Preschool 3/4 year old	47	Preschool 4/5 year old	48	JK	31
Kindergarten	65	1st Grade	82	2nd Grade	89
3rd Grade	74	4th Grade	84	5th Grade	80
Colony	14	Total Enrollment: 614			

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