



The Timberwolf Times

February 2026

A Message from the Principal

February was a wonderful month of kindness and celebration. Students did a wonderful job creating Valentine's Day cards for the elderly at two local nursing homes. Residents were filled with love, joy, and appreciation that our little Timberwolves thought of them on this special occasion. I hope students learned that spreading love and kindness is how we treat one another. It was a perfect example of following our Indian Knoll Core Values.



Our EL students worked incredibly hard this month completing the ACCESS test. We are hoping to receive preliminary results before the end of the school year. Students who do not exit with at least a 4.8 will be required to take the test again next school year. Our goal is always to have as many of our students exit by the end of 5th grade.

Next month will be a busy month of IAR testing. This test makes up the majority of our Illinois School Report Card scores. Not only do students need to demonstrate proficiency, but our 4th and 5th graders also need to demonstrate growth from last year. I am asking that you refrain from scheduling any appointments or vacations during the weeks of March 9th and March 16th so that all students are in attendance to take this very important test. I will share the specific test schedule for each grade level in an upcoming weekly update.

As always, I greatly appreciate your collaboration and partnership.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Del Toro

Our Busy Classrooms



Kindergarten

Hello Kindergarten Families!

In February students will be celebrating 100 days of school.

During the month of February, we will be working on the following units:

Amplify Knowledge:

Students will continue to work on Unit #6 Native Americans, till mid-February. Then they will move on to Unit #7 Kings & Queens students will listen to read-alouds about kings and queens. Students will have fiction and nonfiction selections that will build their understanding of the responsibilities, lifestyle, and customs associated with royalty throughout history. Some of the fictional rhymes, poems, and stories in this domain are classic, well-loved tales, including "King Midas and the Golden Touch," "The Princess and the Pea," "Cinderella," and "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." This is a fun unit, students we have seen a lot of students respond positive to this unit.

UFLI:

Students are working on Phonemic Awareness, blending, letter formation, letter sounds, letter names, CVC words, VC words, vowels, short vowels and long vowels.

Eureka Math:

Students will continue working Math Modlue #4. In this unit students will work on Compositions and Decompositions of 2, 3, 4, and 5, Decompositions of 6, 7, and 8 into Number Pairs, Addition with Totals of 6, 7, and 8, Subtraction from Numbers to 8, Decompositions of 9 and 10 into Number Pairs, Addition with Totals of 9 and 10, Subtraction from 9 and 10, and Patterns with Adding 0 and 1 and Making 10. Students will work on this unit till the end of March.

In monolingual class for BUF students are working on:

Unit # 2 Plants and Animals. In this 6-9 week unit (concurrent with ARC Ecology Lab) students will communicate solutions, ask questions, and observe plants and animals while thinking about solutions that people want to change. This will be assessed through the performance task of creating a poster/video/paper/etc to show others how their actions can help or hurt the environment.

Ultimately students will transfer this learning and be able to ask questions and communicate solutions in their everyday lives.

In our one-way dual classrooms, we are working on:

Lectoescritura:

Students will start to work on Unit #6. In unit #6 students will learn consonant clusters, "br, tr, pr, fr, cr, and gr. And 9 new high frequency words. Students will work on this unit the first week of February.

The kindergarten teachers,

Ms. Pinto, Ms. Morrison, and Mrs. Calderón.



1st Grade

Hello 1st Grade Families,

We are now done with all of our testing.

In language arts, we are working on building longer words with -ed, ing, es endings. We are also working on writing sentences on a daily basis.

For math we will continue working on Module 4-Place Value. Students will be working on tens and ones. We will also be working on comparing 2 digit numbers-greater and less than and word problem.

During our Amplify Unit we will continue working on our Astronomy Unit. We will continue learning about the solar system: In the first part we will be exploring the Earth, Sun, Moon, Stars and planets. In the second part students will learn about the history of space exploration.

As always, thank you for your support!



2nd Grade

We are looking forward to the beginning of our insect non-fiction unit in literacy. The students will be focusing on Non-fiction text features and the lifecycles of different insects. In math we will be starting the foundations of multiplication and division. We still start off talking about arrays, columns and rows. In phonics we will be studying affixes and alternate spellings. In the monolingual classroom we will be finishing up Landforms and begin talking about ecosystems. We will look at animal and plant interactions and how they impact the environment.



3rd Grade

Hello 3rd grade families!

We are so excited to have finished our novel study, Stella Diaz Has Something to Say. The students really enjoyed reading this story about this brave bicultural 3rd grader who found her courage in her family. We will be returning to our units to learn all about Space and Astronomy. The students will revisit nonfiction text and continue to expand their knowledge of text features and finding evidence in their text.

In math we are finishing up Module 4 soon and starting Module 5, which is about measurement and fractions. It is really important that students are working on their division skills because knowing division will really help them understand fractions. It is also very important that students not only continue their math facts, but also practice writing their answers with an explanation of the strategy that they used.

In a few weeks we will be taking the Illinois Assessment Readiness (IAR) test. It is important that students are paying attention, giving 100% effort and participating as much as possible to prepare them for this test. Thank you all for your continued support.



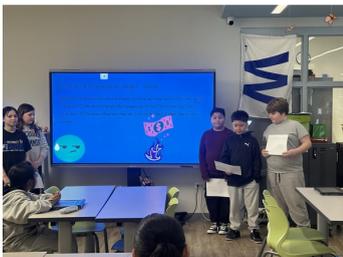
4th Grade

Hello 4th grade Families!

In math, we continue to focus on fractions. Students are exploring fraction equivalence and extending this understanding to mixed numbers. They compare and represent fractions and mixed numbers using a variety of models. Toward the end of the module, they use what they know to be true about whole number operations to apply to fractions and mixed number operations.

In Science, students investigate features and processes of the Earth's surface. Students explore the rapid process of volcanic eruptions! In contrast, students also explore the gradual Earth processes of weathering and erosion. Students apply their knowledge and design solutions to mitigate the impacts of these processes on humans.

In Amplify, students will learn about the theory of plate tectonics and how it explains the presence of volcanoes, mountains, underwater trenches, ridges, and other geological features. They will also study geological processes like rock formation, weathering, and erosion to understand how the earth changes over time and why it looks the way it does. Students will review the stages of the writing process and engage in several short writing projects. They will have many opportunities to write, some of which include drafting an informational pamphlet about tsunamis, writing a wiki entry about a specific volcano, and creating a descriptive paragraph about a type of rock or item in the rock cycle.



5th Grade

Hello 5th grade Families!

Here are some updates for the content we are teaching the second trimester:

Eureka Math Grade 5 Module 4 focuses on extending student understanding of fraction operations to multiplication and division, along with multiplying decimals. Over 38 days, students move from interpreting data on line plots to multiplying fractions by fractions/whole numbers, interpreting fractions as division, and dividing unit fractions by whole numbers, using visual models like tape diagrams and area models.

Unit 6 of Amplify's Grade 5 curriculum introduces students to Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, focusing on themes of

love, magic, and confusion. Throughout the unit, students will learn about and focus on characters and plot, Shakespearean language, and elements of drama.

In science students will be learning about Interacting Earth Systems. Students will learn about the four major Earth systems, the atmosphere (air), hydrosphere (water), geosphere (land and rocks), and biosphere (living things). Students will also explore how these systems are interconnected and constantly influence one another. Through class discussions and hands-on activities, students will examine processes such as the water cycle, weather patterns, erosion, and natural events to understand how changes in one system can impact the others.



Primary Cross Cat

Hello, Families! In our primary Cross-Cat class, we will be working on associating a familiar object to each letter of the alphabet, like A is for apple. We will also continue working on individual literacy and math goals. Our curriculum unit this month is focusing on science exploring sources of light and sound. Lessons focus on identifying sources of light and sound, and investigating how light and sound travel. We also plan to do another community based field trip and will be sending more information home soon!



Intermediate Cross Cat

In our intermediate Cross-Cat, For literacy we will be blending sounds together and sounding out longer words as well as adding more sight words to our list. We will be working on becoming more fluent in addition by looking for and making use of repeated reasoning on the addition chart by solving and analyzing problems with common addends. We will also be working on science exploring sources of light and sound. Lessons focus on identifying sources of light and sound, and investigating how light and sound travel. For our CBI we will be going to the children's museum in Naperville. More information to come.



Art

In Kindergarten, we are learning about art museums. Students will complete a paper sculpture art museum with mini artworks and visitors.

In 1st grade, we are revisiting craftsmanship and practicing our craftsmanship skills. We will be talking about the upcoming art show and have more time in our centers. Afterwards, we will continue to explore sculpture.

In 2nd grade, we finished our sculpture unit. Students now have sculpture center open! We practiced various techniques and how to transform our cardboard with paint, paper, and drawing materials.

In 3rd grade, we have been focusing on our centers as we continue to practice craftsmanship for the upcoming art show.

In 4th grade, we wrapped up our sewing project! Students now have a choice of weaving and sewing.

In 5th grade, we opened a mini jewelry center to explore jewelry making and design. Students have been enjoying creating bracelets and necklaces.



Music

Kg continues to sing with light, high voices and move/play to steady beat.

1st and 2nd grades composed and performed rhythms on lanterns (which will come home after Lunar New Year) using rhythms they have learned this trimester.

3rd graders are learning about the 4 families of the symphony orchestra: Brass, Strings, Woodwinds and Percussion. Ask them to share what they know!

4th graders are playing the woodwind instrument called the recorder! They are doing very well using light, warm air to play and reading the notes on the treble staff B, A and G.

5th graders are working on a collaborative project about nature using Haiku poems and coming up with a ABA, ABB, or ABC form using recorder, movement and voice.

CHORUS meets on Friday mornings and the kids sound AMAZING! Thank you so much for driving early so we can start the day with beautiful music!



PE

K-2nd grade will be working on volleyball skills and playing different games using a volleyball net.

3rd-5th grades will be working on Volleyball skills and playing games that work on those skills. They will also start to learn volleyball rules and play a volleyball game.



SEL/Health

In SEL/Health Class students are learning about social behavior.

Kindergarten-Second: Students are learning to differentiate between positive and negative behavior in the classroom and how it impacts others.

Third-Fifth: Students are learning about how to resolve conflicts positively.

Library

Fourth and Fifth grades are continuing to focus on how the library is arranged, how to browse the library catalog to look up a book and then how to find it on the shelf.

We are reading about inventors and inventions. Students will participate in some STEM activities involving inventions.

Primary grades are exploring different types of literature by reading the Monarch Reader's Choice Award Nominees. We need to read as many as we can before we can vote for our favorite in March.



Upcoming Events

- **February 27th-** No School!!
- **March 2nd-13th-** PTO Fundraiser- World's Finest Chocolate
- **March 4th-** Kindergarten Registration for 26-27 SY
- **March 9th-20th-** IAR Testing (3rd-5th grade)
- **March 12th-** March PTO Meeting (Virtual 5:30-6:00)
- **March 17th-** No School- Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **March 30th-April 3rd-** SPRING BREAK
- **April 10th-** Smile Squad at IK
- **April 20th-** Midterms for Trimester 3
- **April 25th-** Día del Niño Event (11-1pm)



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