



The Timberwolf Times

December 2025

A Message from the Principal

Dear families,

As we finish up 2025, I want to extend my gratitude for your continued partnership and support. This time of year brings a special energy to our school- students are excited, classrooms are filled with creativity, and our staff is working hard to make every day meaningful and joyful.

As we finish off the month, students will be engaging in a variety of learning experiences, celebrations of progress, and opportunities to show kindness and responsibility. We encourage families to help students maintain strong routines: consistent attendance, regular reading at home, and plenty of rest go a long way in helping children finish the year with confidence.

As we approach winter break , I want to thank you for your continued support and engagement. Your collaboration truly strengthens our school. I hope the upcoming break provides your family with the rest, connection, and joy.

Wishing you a peaceful and warm holiday season. We look forward to welcoming our students back in the new year, refreshed and ready for continued growth.





Kindergarten

Hello Kindergarten Families!

The month of November is a short month but very busy. This month we have Parent Teacher Conferences, as well as our Thanksgiving Break.

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

Amplify Knowledge:

Students are working on Unit# 4 Plants. They will learn about the Plants Parts, the Life Cycle of a Plant, Deciduous and Evergreen Trees. During this unit students will get to grow an actual plant and see the life cycle of a plant while growing a soy bean in the classroom. This unit will run through mid-December.

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 finish working on Math Module #2 Shapes, Two- and Three-Dimensional Shapes. Mid- November students will start to work on Math Module #3. In this module students will learn about Comparison of Length and Height, Comparison of Weight and Volume, Comparison of sets within 10, Comparison of Numerals, and Clarification of Measurable Attributes. Students will be working on this Math Module till almost the end of January.

In monolingual class for BUF students are working on:

Unit #

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

Lectoescritura:

Students will continue to work on Unit #3 and mid- November they will start to work on Unit #4. In Unit #4 students will continue to learn a total of 9 “new letter names and sounds”. Students have already been exposed to these letter names and sounds. Students will also learn a total of 9 high frequency words.

reporting vs tattling.

Beginning November 17th, we will be working on identifying family members and how they are related (ex; how grandparents are related to parents).



1st Grade

Hello 1st Grade Families,

In math we are continuing Module 2-focusing on word problems and subtraction. We are also building our fluency utilizing Math Fact Lab.

During UFLI we are working on consonant digraphs, irregular words, phonemic awareness, and writing on a daily basis.

Students are studying Early World Civilization during our Knowledge portion of the day; which includes Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt. Please continue reading at home.

Happy Holidays!



2nd grade

Hello 2nd Grade Families!

Math: We are still working on Eureka Module 4 which focuses on addition and subtraction within 200 with word problems to 100. Students will learn strategies for composing and decomposing Tens and Hundreds.

Amplify: Students will continue to learn about Greek Myths.



3rd Grade

Hello 3rd grade families,

We continue to see growth in our literacy. Students are improving in their writing skills and we hope they continue giving 100% effort. We have finished our 3rd unit in Amplify, the human body, and are ready to learn about Ancient Rome. It is very important that students continue to read for understanding and to strengthen their comprehension skills.

In math we have finished our 2nd module. Students will continue to learn about properties in multiplication and division. It is highly encouraged that students continue to practice their math facts at home to keep them progressing through the units.

school, attentive and motivated to keep trying their best.



4th Grade

We continue our 3rd Module in Math and focus on division. Students learn several strategies that help develop their understanding of division. Strategies include place value, area model and using long division to solve the standard algorithm. It is important for students to continue to practice their basic multiplication and division facts at home so that it makes it easier for them to work through their multiplication and long division problems throughout the unit.

In Amplify, we are finishing up our unit on The Middle Ages and are getting ready to start our unit on poetry. Students will read poems from different time periods and interpret their meaning in different ways. Throughout the unit, students will have many opportunities to use close readings to explore different elements of poetry in order to help them gain confidence in writing their own poems.

Students are enjoying their hands-on learning experiences in science. We're learning how energy is transferred. Students will create a paper roller coaster ride and explore how height and energy transfer to an object.



5th Grade

Math: Module 2 of Eureka Math Grade 5 focuses on applying the place value system to the [multiplication and division of multi-digit whole numbers and decimals](#). Students develop fluency with mental strategies and standard algorithms by first using concrete tools like place value disks before moving to abstract representations and area models. The module sequentially builds skills from multiplying and dividing by powers of 10 to multiplying multi-digit numbers, multiplying decimals, and finally, dividing multi-digit numbers by two-digit divisors.

Amplify: The Amplify Poetry unit for 5th grade teaches students to read and write poems by focusing on close reading, identifying poetic devices like rhythm, rhyme, and [figurative language](#), and exploring diverse poems from various cultures and time periods. Students analyze formal elements of poetry and practice applying their understanding by creating their own original poems about themes like nature and relationships. This curriculum helps students build confidence in interpreting poetry and improves their analytical and creative writing skills.

collaborative, weekly instructional routine where a teacher dictates phrases or sentences for students to write, followed by a collaborative process of correcting and analyzing the text to reinforce language skills. It is used to teach and improve foundational writing skills, including spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation, by connecting what students hear to what they write. Lotta Lara is a biliterate reading strategy used to develop language and reading skills in bilingual students through a three-day, repeated reading approach with explicit oracy instruction. It focuses on building reading fluency, comprehension, and oral language skills in both Spanish and English by having students read the same text multiple times while incorporating vocabulary and language structure instruction. The strategy involves techniques like echo, choral, and partner reading. Both the dictado and lotta lara will be tied to our Amplify poetry unit.



Primary Self-Contained

Hello Families! In December, our Unique Curriculum unit will focus on family traditions and learning about the way different cultures celebrate the holidays. We will also continue to develop our foundational literacy skills through letter recognition, letter formation, and reading comprehension. In math, we are continuing our lessons on comparing numbers, number formation, and will soon transition to learning about operations as students progress. December is full of fun activities and a week of spirit days!

Library

We started the month of November with the kick off of Children's Book Week. The theme is "get caught reading" so I have been having fun "catching" students in the act of reading. Author, Dav Pilkey, is helping to sponsor this event and donated some of his books to our school. Students who "got caught reading" have the opportunity to win one of these books in a raffle.

We have continued to read Bluestem and Monarch Reader's Choice Award Nominees.





Kindergarten: In kindergarten, students are learning about making healthy choices.

First: In first grade, students are learning about the importance of eating vegetables and fruits.

Second: In second grade, the students are learning about the importance of eating from all of the food groups.

Third: In third grade, the students are learning to identify the five food groups.

Fourth: In fourth grade, the students are learning to identify healthy sources of carbohydrates and proteins.

Fifth: In fifth grade, the students are learning to identify the six essential nutrients, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, water, vitamins and minerals.



Art

In November, Kindergarten worked on collage! Students created monster collages and practiced cutting out different paper shapes. Students also created a paper sculpture using paper.

First grade will continue to work on their observational sketchbooks. We will learn how to draw using contour lines and step-by-step drawing. Students will also open new centers such as origami and building center!

Second grade will continue to finish their clay sculptures. Soon, we will paint our sculptures using tempera paint.

Third grade has expanded their creativity and are continuing to work on independent projects using their centers. Students have been extremely interested in sculpture and continue to thrive! We also learned about artist portfolios and using Artsonia to document their own artwork.

Fifth grade finished their final self-portrait. Students will also have a choice in creating a colorful self portrait using transparent film, paint, and a textured background.



Music

KG continues to explore our voices using sing, speak, whisper, call, think and hum. We are listening, singing and moving to music that goes up and down (higher and lower sounds).

1-5 are all composing, reading, performing and singing repertoire with the rhythms that are introduced by grade level that gradually get more difficult as they get older.

IK chorus will begin in January after winter break for interested students in grades 3-5. Permission slips will be going home at the end of November to be signed if your child would like to sing with chorus Friday mornings from 7:45 AM-8:45 AM from January 16-May 22. We will perform a concert in May for families.



PE

K-2nd Grades will be working on basic jump rope skills. They will be counting the jumps they do throughout each class trying to reach a goal I have set for each grade. They will also be playing fun games with the rope and listening to fun upbeat music.

3rd-5th Grades will be working on more challenging jump rope skills, partner jumping and group jumping. They will be counting the jumps they do throughout each class trying to reach a goal I have set for each grade.

Coaches Corner

For fun and engaging literacy activities you can do at home with your child over winter break, please see [this document](#)!

Show much fun with Literacy!
During the holidays it's easy to forget about school, but it's also a great time to use learned skills in a fun way. Here are some ideas to stay sharp!

<p>Read and follow recipes</p> <p>Have kids read recipes aloud, practice measuring ingredients, or write down their own recipes for a little literacy mixed with math and science.</p> <p>Cozy Storytime</p> <p>Make time to read together as a family. Kids of all ages love it when their parents read aloud to them. Start out by choosing a book the whole family will enjoy, and then commit to making time each day to slow down, snuggle together and enjoy the closeness of reading together.</p>	<p>Card Making</p> <p>Handwriting can be fun, especially when it's tied to the magic of the holidays. Writing letters to Santa, thank-you notes for gifts, or postcards to family members keeps students actively using their handwriting skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> holiday cards to friends and family thank you cards letters to Santa <p>Holiday Memory Journal</p> <p>Have your child make their own holiday memory journal. They can describe each day's festive events, from tree decorating to family dinners. Invite everyone to journal and share your memories.</p>
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- **January 12-16th-** Winter MAP Testing (Reading and Math)

- **January 19th-** No School- MLK Jr. Day
- **January 21st-22nd-** Winter Fastbridge Testing
- **January 22nd-** BOE Listening Post @ IK 6:30-7:00 (BOE Meeting to follow)
- **January 28th-February 26th-** ACCESS for ELLs testing
- **February 12th- No School-** Lincoln's Birthday
- **February 13th- No School-** Professional Development Day
- **February 16th- No School-** President's Day
- **February 27th- No School-** County Wide Institute Day

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