

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: MENDOTA ELEMENTARY

**Presented by: Principal Steve Goldade
February 3, 2025 School Board Meeting**



WHO WE ARE

MENDOTA BELIEF STATEMENT:

We hold that understanding the children we educate — in terms of their individual characteristics, cultural backgrounds, and developmental stages— is equally as important as mastering the content we deliver.



OUR MISSION

Our school aims to equip learners of all ages to think, to achieve, and to care in a supportive community of students, families, staff and community members.





Digital art created by Mendota student, Hannah Kluznik

At Mendota Elementary, we focus on:

- **Character Growth:** Teaching values like perseverance, empathy, and kindness through the Character Strong Curriculum and K-CARES.
- **Growth Mindset:** Encouraging resilience, responsibility, and learning from challenges.
- **The Tree Metaphor:** Building strong roots, growing branches of perseverance, and flourishing with creativity and kindness.
- **Community Building:** Fostering a supportive, inclusive environment for all.

We strive to help every student grow and thrive.



POINTS OF PRIDE



POINT OF PRIDE:

BDOTE FEILDTRIP

On Indigenous Peoples Day, Mendota Elementary facilitated a “walking field trip” for students in grades 2 through 4. With the support of Nell Barri, along with numerous parents and community members, we successfully organized an engaging excursion to Bdote, which included multiple stops along the route. These stops featured activities such as tasting fry bread, observing a jingle dancer, and participating in various other enriching experiences. This immersive approach allowed students to deepen their understanding of Dakota culture, both historically and in contemporary contexts.



POINT OF PRIDE: DEI

We are thrilled to welcome Dominique Harness to our teaching team and as chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee. Dominique has significantly contributed to organizing outstanding events. Our Black History Month choir has performed notably, especially during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. Furthermore, our expanding Culture Night gained recognition this year with exceptional performances from the cheer squad.



POINT OF PRIDE:

FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM

At Mendota, teachers are piloting new curricula while staff observe each other's practices, and administration looks at other districts. This collaboration aims to enhance student learning experiences. The team is eager to select a new curriculum and apply insights from Science of Reading training.





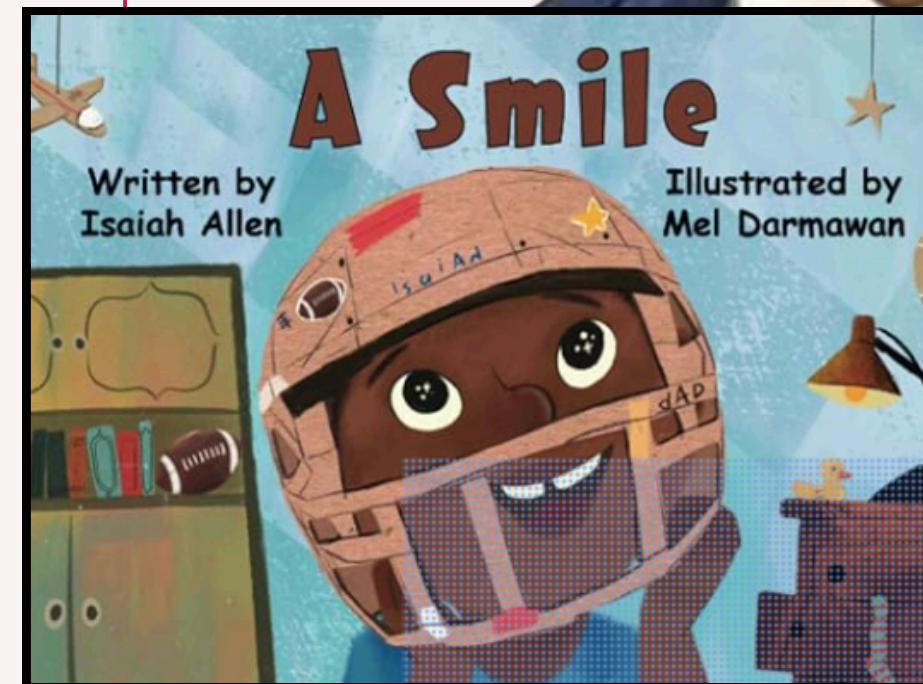
WHAT'S NEW



FEBRUARY 2025

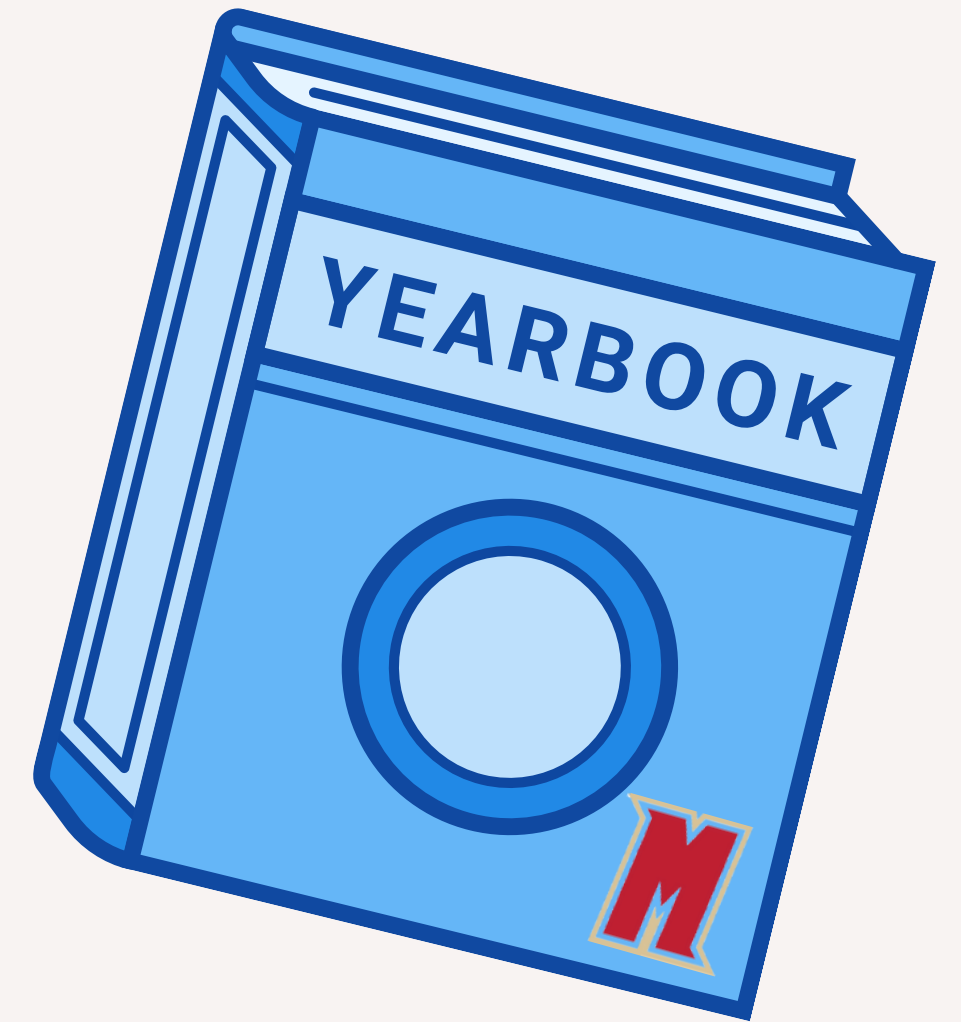
ISAIAH ALLEN AUTHOR VISIT

We are thrilled to welcome local author Isaiah Allen for an upcoming author visit. He will engage with each grade level and offer valuable learning opportunities for our teachers. His book, “A Smile,” explores the journey of a young Black boy who discovers the transformative power of a smile. We eagerly anticipate his visit and the insights he will share.



LOOKING AHEAD:

As a school, we have chosen to create our own yearbook this year, which will be provided to all students free of charge. This initiative has been made feasible thanks to the generous support from our Parent-Teacher Association, with the district office managing the printing process. We believe this strategy promotes greater equity, particularly since many students have historically missed out on yearbooks. We are hopeful that this new way of distributing yearbooks will be a success!



LOOKING AHEAD:

Artist residency with Tara Aiken



We are thrilled to announce that Mendota will be hosting an artist residency this Spring! Our fourth graders are about to embark on an inspiring adventure with local artist Tara Aiken. Together, our imaginative students will collaborate to design and paint a mural on the exterior of our building alongside Tara. This experience will not only engage our fourth graders in the artistic process but also establish a lasting legacy within our school community.

THANK YOU

