



# The Timberwolf Times

October 2024

## From the Principal

### We are off to a great start!

Our IK Timberwolves are off to a wonderful start to the 24-25 school year. Here is a summary of what has been happening:

- PBIS Den Dollars- Each week for the first 5 weeks of school we have focused on a core value of the week. Students earn their Den Dollars for showcasing the characteristics of the core value. Students earned over 4400 Den Dollars in the first 5 weeks of school- WOW!!! Students were asked to vote for 3 awards- Pie Mrs. Del Toro in the face, shave Mr. Guerrero's head, or silly string officer O'Neill. Students overwhelmingly voted to shave Mr. Guerrero's head. However, because we are SO PROUD of how well our Timberwolves have shown our core values, we are SURPRISING students. In addition to shaving Mr. Guerrero's head, they will also pie me in the face and silly string Officer O'Neill. I have challenged students to earn more Den Dollars these next 5 weeks, let's see if we can make it to 5000!!!
- PTO Info:
  - We just completed our Affy Tapple fundraiser, THANK YOU for all of your support.
  - Spirit Wear Sales are underway. This will end on October 22nd. Don't miss out on this opportunity to grab your IK gear!
  - Trunk-or-Treat- This event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 19th from 12-2pm. Flyers have been sent home asking for donations and volunteers. We need both to make this event a success for our students.



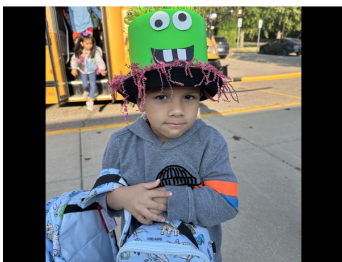
- Halloween- Students will be allowed to dress up in costumes for Halloween. Costumes MUST be school appropriate. No masks, no blood/guts, no weapons. We will host a Halloween Parade outside for parents (weather permitting) on Oct. 31st at 10:30am. Additional details are forthcoming.

Thank you families for your support in making the start of our year a success!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Del Toro

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## Our Busy Classrooms



### Kindergarten

In October, students will be learning about their 5 senses. They will be learning how to blend sounds and syllables to make words. We will continue to work on prewriting skills by writing different shapes. This will eventually transfer to writing letters. We will be ending our social studies unit on community helpers and will start our unit on change over time.

In our Dual classroom students are using Amplify as their reading program this school year. Dual classrooms are doing one unit of Knowledge in Spanish and one in English. In October we will be on our second unit of knowledge which will be in English. The unit is "The Five Sense", and they will be in the second unit of skills both in English and Spanish.

In math they are working in Module 1, Numbers to 10. Students will learn basic equations, like  $2+1=3$ . They will order, count, and write up to ten objects to answer how many. We will also work on writing numbers 1-10.

They also get play based learning everyday.



### 1st Grade

In October 1st grade has been working on a lot of exciting things.

Math: We are working on Module 1 which focuses on sums and differences to 10. We are using multiple strategies such as: counting on, composing and decomposing numbers. We are also implementing word problems in our daily lessons.

**Amplify Skills:** We are working on blending and segmenting sounds. Along with practicing writing our sounds we are explicitly working on letter formation. In addition to our foundational skills we are also working on tricky words and nouns.

**Amplify Knowledge:** We had fun learning about Fables and Folktales while incorporating the plot (beginning, middle and end), setting, characters and the moral of the story. We are now learning about our Human Body and its systems.



## **2nd Grade**

In the month of October we will be adding and subtracting units of length in math module 2. We will be learning about Ancient Asian Civilizations and their holidays. We have begun spelling words and quizzes. We will also be discussing narrative writing and the use of quotation marks. In Science we are studying plant and animal interaction in the environment. So far this year we have learned about Tall Tales, Fairy Tales and reviewed tricky words and letter sounds. We have also learned about what matter is and the 3 states of matter. In math we began adding and subtracting numbers to 100.



## **3rd Grade**

We've enjoyed getting to know each other in 3rd grade! We continue to learn new expectations each day to be responsible students. During September in math, we started the year doing multiplication and division. Keep practicing those math facts at home. In the month of October we will be finishing up Unit 1 of Amplify: Classic Tales in reading and writing, a unit centered on elements of fiction. We will be moving on to Unit 2, which will be a non-fiction unit called Animal Classification. We are looking forward to it!



## **4th Grade**

In this first math module of Grade 4, students continue their work with place value. They develop their understanding of the smaller units and work up to the millionth place value. Students learn and practice vocabulary specific to this module such as, unit form, standard number, extended form, and number line. In addition, students further extend their number sense by rounding whole numbers using a vertical number line. In Reading, students continue working on learning about personal narratives through different authors, and applying their learning to their own writing pieces. In Social Studies, students continue to learn about native americans. Students will use their knowledge on native americans that they have learned in class to create a diorama.



## 5th Grade

Reminder that October 8th, we are taking a small field trip over to Wheaton College to listen to their orchestra. This is a great opportunity for your child to attend!

In the month of October, 5th grade will be learning about Early American Civilization for Amplify. Students will learn about civilizations within the Maya, Aztec, and Inca and their arrival to the Americas before the arrival of the Europeans. Also, 5th graders will also learn about geography, climate and flora of the Americans. In Math, students will be finishing Module 1 and working on Module 2 for Eureka very soon. This will require them to do the following: understand place value with decimals, add, subtract, multiply and divide with decimals to the hundredths place, convert like measurement units, and write and interpret numerical [expressions](#). In Science students will be finishing up unit 1 on “What is Matter Made Of” where students are learning and understanding that matter can be described and identified in

In science we will be finishing up our unit on “What is Matter Made Of”, Students will understand that...

- Matter can be described and identified in a variety of ways, both qualitatively and quantitatively.
- Properties that identify matter include color, hardness, reflectivity, thermal conductivity, response to magnetic forces, and solubility.
- Matter can change physically—through mixing, changing temperature, and changing state—as well as chemically—forming new substances.
- Matter is composed of very small particles that behave differently in a solid, a liquid, or a gas



## Primary Cross-Cat

In the month of October we will continue to learn the routines of school, getting to know our classmates, and expectations for being at school. As students become more comfortable with routines, we will begin to incorporate our curriculum using Unique for Literacy and Equals for Math. In Literacy, we will begin our unit with Animals in Their Homes. In this unit, students learn about various animals and the habitats in which they live. Students also learn about what animals need to live and grow. We will explore the story using pictures, vocabulary, and hands-on activities.



## Intermediate Cross-Cat

In October we will keep working on the expected behaviors and the rules of the classroom, the students are working on following the routine. In the Unique October unit, students are introduced to plants and animals that live in various ecosystems, with a focus on characteristics that help these plants and animals survive. We will also be working on their math goals and talking about groups, comparing them and sorting them. We will do some fun October activities that relate to the Fall season.



## Art

In the month of October, Kindergarten and 1st grade are beginning to learn their brand new art centers. Kindergarten will finish their Nature Centers with a nature print clay project, and then move onto learning their Drawing Center choices. 1st Grade will be opening their Drawing, Collage, and Painting Centers. Additionally, they will start their observational sketchbook project!

2nd grade through 5th grade will be focusing on craftsmanship as they open their art centers. Students will create art that they enjoy as they develop their skills. Please encourage your artists to do their best each day they come to art for a chance in the art show!



## SEL

Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 4th grade have been learning about behavior, consequences and social skills. 3rd grade and 5th grade have been learning about healthy habits.

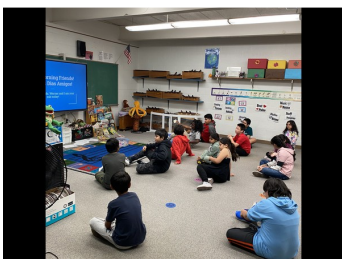
Next month, kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 4th grade will learn about decision making, 3rd grade and 5th grade will learn about mental health and wellness.



## P.E.

K-2nd Grade started the year with playing team building games. Next they will be working on soccer skills and soccer games.

3rd-5th Grade started the year off with fitness runs and testing. Next they will be working on soccer skills and playing soccer games.



## Music

Kindergarten music is off to a great start! We have built a routine of making a circle, singing our welcome songs, singing our names to Hickety Pickety Bumblebee, and taking turns. We have even played drums! In October we will be concentrating on steady beat as well as our 4 voices-Sing, Speak, Whisper and Call (shout).

First and Second graders have been singing, playing drums and rhythm sticks, learning names and taking turns. In October we will focus on rhythm, discovering how many sounds to a word, and

clapping/playing rhythms. We will continue to sing with our light, high voices during music class.

3rd-5th graders have begun Mallet Madness-playing barred instruments including glockenspiels, metallophones and xylophones. We are working on our mallet technique and rhythm reading proficiency, all while being musical. This strengthens our classroom community by reinforcing teamwork and respect for others.

Grades 3-5 will be attending the Wheaton College Children's Concert on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. We will take buses and experience live music from the 4 families of the orchestra. This is an amazing opportunity for 3rd graders to see the instruments we will study this year and for 4th and 5th graders to see instruments they may already play! Thank you for signing permission slips to allow your child to attend!

I am so enjoying the delightful music we are already making in music class at IK!



## Upcoming Events

October

- 14th- No School (Indigenous People's Day)
- 16th- Fall Picture Day
- 18th- Trimester 1 Midterm Reports sent home



- 19th- Trunk-or-Treat (12-2 pm @ IK)
- 21st- Active Threat Drill
- 22nd- Parent Cafe Spanish (6-8pm @ IK)
- 24th- Parent Cafe English (6-8pm @ IK)
- 31st- Halloween Parade (10:30 @ IK)

## November

- 1st- No School (SIP Day)
- 5th- No School (Election Day)
- 13th- Practical Parenting Education Class (5:30-7:30 @ Wegner)
- 14th- IK PTO Meeting (5:30 Virtual)
- 22nd- No School (Parent Teacher Conferences)
- 25th- No School (District Wide PD Day for Staff)
- 26th-29th- No School (Thanksgiving Break)



**Whitnie Del Toro**

Principal/Directora, Indian Knoll Elementary School