



# The Timberwolf Times

May 2026

## A Message from the Principal

Hello IK families!

I can't believe we have finished up the 25-26 school year! It truly feels like we just began the year. I am incredibly proud of the growth and accomplishments we have made this school year.



A list of our accomplishments this year:

- ★ For the first time ever, we scored **STRONG** in **ALL** 5 categories in the 5Essentials Survey. This tells us that we are **well-organized** for improvement.
- ★ We **MET** our building reading goal this spring- **50%** of our students scored 50th percentile or higher on the NWEA Reading MAP Test. Our goal was 50% of students.
- ★ We **EXCEEDED** our building math goal this spring- **63%** of our students score 50th percentile or higher on the NWEA Math MAP Test. Our goal was 60% of students.
- ★ We **EXCEEDED** our building ACCESS exit rate- **19%** of our students exited ACCESS this year. Our goal was 12% of students.
- ★ We **MET** our building Language Arts IAR goal- **38%** of students scored proficient in Language Arts. Our goal was 38% of students.

To say I am proud of our students and staff is an understatement!! Through hard work, teamwork, perseverance, and a commitment to growth, our students made outstanding academic progress this year. Our staff remain dedicated to creating a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where every child can thrive!

These achievements would not be possible without the partnership and support of our families. Thank you for encouraging your children, supporting learning at home, ensuring they attend every day, on time, and being an important part of our school community.

Together, we will continue to build a school where students feel valued, challenged, and inspired to succeed. We look forward to carrying this momentum into another amazing year ahead.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe summer break! I can't wait to see you back in August!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Del Toro

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## Our Busy Classrooms



### **Kindergarten**

Hello Kindergarten Families!

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

Amplify Knowledge:

Students start to work on Unit #12 Presidents and American Symbols. In this domain students will explore the lives and legacies of five famous presidents (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and Barack Obama) and introduce several national symbols, including the American flag, the Statue of Liberty, the White House and Mount Rushmore. At the end of the domain, a domain review, domain assessment, and culminating activities are included to allow time to review, reinforce, assess, and remediate content knowledge.

UFLI:

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

Eureka Math:

The students finished Module #5 and started with Module #6. In this unit students will work on (Analyzing, Comparing, and Composing Shapes) is the final unit of the year. It builds on previous shape recognition to teach spatial reasoning, ordinal numbers, and shape building. Students combine smaller 2D shapes to create larger ones, exploring 3D solids. (Introducing solid shape: Cubes, and cylinders), and recognizing 2D faces within 3D objects.

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

Lectoescritura:

Students will start to work on Unit #8. In unit #8 students will review the consonant clusters they have learned and read and write words and sentences with these clusters. They will also be introduced to words ending in r, l, n, and s, and will review words with the letters m,p,s,l,d,n,f,t, initial r, rr, ll, and ch. In the final lessons, personal narrative is presented as a writing skill. Students will continue practicing syllable blending and segmentation, sound isolation and dictation, following the steps of the routines they learned in previous units.

Monolingual Buf:

Students are finishing up the month long unit 4 on engineering with sunlight. Students are learning the effects of the sun on themselves, others, or their things. We are observing warmth, sunlight, and shadows. Students are able to ask/or identify questions that can be answered by investigation.



## 1st Grade

Dear First Grade Families,

In math our first graders are starting on our last module. Module 6 is a review of some content but with numbers up to 100 such as word problems using the RDW method, place value using tens and ones, and comparing numbers using or greater than, less than and equal symbols. In addition to this, we will also be working with coins and their value and some culminating activities.

Our Knowledge unit of study will be A New Nation: American Independence. In this unit students will learn about the development of the thirteen colonies and the Revolutionary War.

During our skills portion we are working on:

- ending spelling patterns
- Long vowel teams
- writing complete sentences
- Fluency
- Comprehension

MAP testing went extremely well! We are very proud of our students and the growth they have made this school year.

As always, thank you for your cooperation.



## 2nd Grade

In second grade we will be finishing the year strong. We have been working a lot on forming sentences and paragraphs. We have been working on a topic sentence, 3 detail sentences and a concluding sentence. We have also been learning about important change makers throughout history. We have been learning about civil rights, human rights and non-violent ways to solve problems. As we wrap up the year in math, we will be reviewing 2-d geometric shapes, fractions and time. It has been a busy year and we have seen so much growth in all the students. We are so excited to announce that 3 students exited ACCESS this year!!! On MAP this spring we had 49% at or above the 50th percentile in reading and 62% of students were at or above the 50th percentile in Math! The 2nd graders have much to be proud of this year. We hope you have a healthy and safe summer!



### 3rd Grade

We are working hard to end the year strong.

In literacy, we are finishing up our informational unit on ecology. The students have learned about the environment and the natural and human effects on it. The students will be using their research skills and speaking skills in their final presentation. Students have also grown in their writing. They have been practicing summarizing and also using academic language in their writing.

In math, we are also finishing up Module 7 on geometry. Students have been learning how to find the perimeter of polygons along with determining missing side lengths. They are also reviewing finding the area of rectangles. Students have practiced word problems to determine which operation is necessary to solve. Another area of learning was finding all the factors of a number. An extra challenge was to determine if a number is prime or composite!

We are so excited to announce that 7 3rd graders exited ACCESS testing. This is such a great accomplishment as it will open up many amazing opportunities. MAP was also a success. We did not quite make our goal but we still showed growth in reading. In math, we exceeded our goal! 50% of students were at 65%.

Thank you for sharing your student with us this school year. It's been a pleasure to watch them grow socially and academically. We wish you all a happy and healthy summer!



### 4th Grade

Hello 4th Grade Families!

We are working hard to finish off our 4th grade year strong!

In math, we are finishing up Module 7. Students learned about building their competencies in measurement as they relate multiplication to the conversion of measurement units. They explored multiple strategies for solving measurement problems involving unit conversion.

In literacy, we finish our last unit getting creative in writing an adventure story using character development, and a plot diagram.

We are looking forward to our end of the year field trips and activities.



### 5th Grade

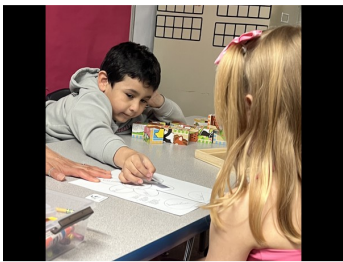
Hello 5th grade families!

Module 6 of our Eureka Math curriculum focuses on establishing the coordinate plane, introducing ordered pairs  $(x, y)$ , and plotting points in the first quadrant. Students explore relationships between patterns, create line graphs from rules, and solve real-world

geometry problems. This module will serve as a foundation for future algebraic reasoning and proportional thinking.

In Amplify, students will conduct a book study on *The Science of Breakable Things*. They will engage in a collaborative, in-depth exploration of the book by analyzing content, sharing insights, and applying new learning to practice. In addition, students will participate in an egg drop competition, like the characters in the book. The goal of the competition is to create a design and build a contraption that can protect a raw, uncooked egg from breaking upon impact.

In our social studies *Response to Change unit*, students will conduct a research project on U.S. historical figures who were people of influence, changemakers, and whose actions revealed the need for reaction or reform.



### **Primary Cross Cat**

During our last weeks of school we are focusing on exploring how and why young animals and plants resemble their parents. Lessons focus on describing ways young animals look like their parents, matching features of plants and animals with their parents, and matching animal babies with their parents. In reading we are focusing on blending digraphs and reading lots of animal books. In Math we are closing out the year by changing addition sentences into subtraction sentences and reading word problems and using number bonds. We are so proud of our students' progress and we wish you a happy, restful and exciting summer!

### **Intermediate Cross Cat**

During our last weeks of school we are focusing on exploring how and why young animals and plants resemble their parents. Lessons focus on describing ways young animals look like their parents, matching features of plants and animals with their parents, and matching animal babies with their parents. The students have been researching their preferred animal to get ready for the zoo field trip. In reading we are focusing on blending digraphs and reading lots of animal books. In Math we are closing out the year by changing addition sentences into subtraction sentences and reading word problems and using number bonds. We are so proud of our students' progress and we

### **Art**

All students are working hard to wrap up the year! In May, we are going to have a lot of fun activities in art!

In kindergarten, we graduated from our kindergarten centers! Kindergarten students learned how to use our first grade Drawing Center. Students were extremely excited to learn about the new drawing choices and new responsibility. Kindergarten will also learn about origami by folding paper airplanes as they will have an Origami Center in first grade. After they fold their paper airplane, they will participate in a contest! Students are looking forward to new centers in first grade.

In 1st grade through 5th grade, we have been creating Artist Trading Cards. These trading

wish you a happy, restful and exciting summer!

cards are miniature pieces of artwork that students create and swap with other artists. The goal is to gather new ideas and inspiration from their peers. Students had a lot of fun swapping their trading cards and seeing everyone's creativity. Students will also participate in a paper airplane challenge where they pick their own style of airplane to fold.

For the last activity for K-5th, students will play with shaving cream and clean the art tables at the same time.

I hope everyone had a wonderful year!



## PE

K-2nd grades will be playing team building games. They will also end the year with Field day! Running games, throwing games, water games and our new Gaga pit has arrived!

3rd-5th Grade will also be playing team building games and participating in Field day. 5th Grade will end their time at Indian Knoll with the District 33 track meet!

I hope everyone had a great year!

Good luck 5th grade at the Middle School! See everyone else next year!



## SEL/Health

In SEL/Health Class students are learning about Safety.

K-2: Students are learning about safety equipment, playground safety, summer safety, and personal safety.

3-4: Students are learning about internet safety, summer safety and personal safety.

5th grade: 5th grade finished the Botvin Life Skills Unit with Corporal Mrkvicka and also learned about personal safety.

I hope everyone enjoys their summer break!



## Library

We had an exciting Career Week designed to give all of our students the opportunity to explore a wide range of career paths and begin thinking about their future aspirations. We also welcomed two outstanding authors. Tom Watson, author of The Stick Dog Series, spoke with our 2nd–5th grade students about his journey as a writer and how he developed his memorable characters. He even led a fun drawing tutorial, teaching students how to sketch his famous stick dogs, and took time to autograph their creations.

Amy Logan visited our Kindergarten and 1st grade students. Her book, *A Girl With a Cape*, highlights the idea that kindness is a true superpower. She inspired students by sharing how small acts of kindness can brighten someone's day and ultimately help make the world a better place.

We had a delivery from Bernie's Book Bank. Bernie's believes that book ownership is the single biggest indicator of academic success. They stopped by to give every one of our students a bag of books. Fourth and Fifth Grade have completed their reading incentive program and will be going to a Kane County Cougar's baseball game for a reward for their efforts.

## Upcoming Events

- June 1st- 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th Grade Award Ceremony (for invited parents only)
- June 2nd- Half Day of School (AM)- 8:40-11:45 (sack lunch will be provided as students leave)
- June 3rd- NO SCHOOL
- June 4th- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL- half day (PM)- 12:25-3:25



**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!! SEE YOU IN AUGUST!!!**



**Whitnie Del Toro**

Principal, Indian Knoll Elementary School

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