LETTER FROM PRINCIPAL ESTRADA

Welcome to February Discovery Families! We are moving into the second half of our academic school year and couldn't be more excited to share this learning with all of our families. In addition to mid-year parent-teacher conferences, we will also have Parent Drop In's. Drop In's are online meetings where families can get monthly highlights and ask any questions they may have about Discovery learning! Drop In's are scheduled February 8th from 3:00-4:00. Meetings are delivered in Spanish, Somali and English - I look forward to meeting with you all then! (Details for online meetings below)

UPCOMING DATES

January 31st - Kindergarten Registration 2:15 - 5:15 for 2022-2023 school year. They must be 5 by September 1st.

February 8th - Discovery Parent Drop-Ins (google meet/multiple languages)

February 21st - PRESIDENT'S DAY - NO SCHOOL

February 24th - Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:45 pm - 7:00pm

March 3rd - Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:45 pm - 7:00 pm

March 29th - Spring picture day. More information coming later
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is the month that we celebrate Black History Month. During this time, we commemorate the contributions and achievements made by African Americans in the past and present. Matthew Henson, Bessie Coleman, Katherine Johnson, Maya Angelou, Dr. Charles Drew and Dr. Martin Luther King are a few who gave hope to African-Americans during a racial unjust time in American history.

DISCOVERY PARENT DROP-INS

WHEN
TUESDAY, FEB. 8TH, 3-4PM

WHERE
THIS IS AN ONLINE EVENT.

MORE INFORMATION
Discovery will host parent meetings in multiple languages:

- Somali Parent Meeting (GoogleMeet Code: Discosomali)
- Spanish Parent Meeting (GoogleMeet Code: Discospansh)
- English Parent Meeting (GoogleMeet Code: Discenglish)

Note: Please use your child's device to access the meetings on GoogleMeet.

JANUARY 31ST: 2:15-5:15 PM

Attention parents of 4 and 5 year olds! You are invited to Kindergarten/Pre-school Registration Night Monday, January 10th at Discovery. We will hold registration in our lobby and have bilingual staff ready to support multi-lingual families! We can't wait to meet our future Dolphins!!

PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT TELEPHONE NUMBERS!

Phone messages have been going out recently letting families know that we are either having a flex day of learning, where the students are learning from home, or a 2-hour late start. However, some families are not getting the messages.
We want to make sure that every family is receiving these important messages. So, if you have changed your phone number, please make sure that we have that. The other thing we’re finding out, is sometimes the mailboxes are full and can’t receive the message. Thank you for your help with this!

OUR CLASSROOMS

KINDERGARTEN

We have a lot of exciting things planned in kindergarten for February! In reading, we will learn more about what different things grow in nature. We will also be talking about the features of informational texts and working on describing the main idea and key details of our story. During grammar and phonics, we are continuing to work on parts of speech including, nouns, verbs, adjectives, and pronouns, and continuing to add new sight words every week. Please continue to read with your student every night. Asking questions about characters, setting, and events are great ways to help your child become a better reader!

During math, we recently finished our chapter on composing and decomposing numbers to ten. This month we will be introducing addition! We will also be reviewing skills like counting backward, one more one less, and ordering numbers. Please continue to use the number flashcards that were sent home to practice these skills. If you have questions about these please reach out to your child’s teacher.

Lastly, a few reminders from your teachers! Please continue to send the appropriate winter clothing for recess including snow pants, boots, jacket, hat, and mittens. We are continuing to go outside for 20 minutes each day, weather permitting. We also ask that you are checking your child’s backpack each night and clean it out. Finally, please make sure iPads are coming to school each day fully charged.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and support! Please reach out to your child’s teacher with any questions you may have.

The Kindergarten Team
Greetings from 1st Grade!

In math, we are working on place value. Students will learn the value of a digit when it is in the ones place, tens place, or hundreds place. For example, in the number 248, the 8 has a value of 8, the 4 has a value of 40, and the 2 has a value of 200. Continue to work on math facts (both addition and subtraction) to build fluency.

In reading, we are practicing identifying the main idea and key details of a story. You can practice this at home by reading a story with your child and deciding what the story's main idea is as well as the key details (important information). Students are also working on writing their very own fantasy story! They will be excited to read it to you when they are finished.
2ND GRADE

Dear Second Grade Families,

We have been busy second graders working on developing our addition and subtraction skills in Math and working with the genres of Narrative Nonfiction and Poetry in Reading. We are continually working on our short vowel sounds, sight words, and sentence writing.

Our students are continually using good reading habits and practicing read-to-self daily to increase their reading stamina!

Please keep encouraging your child to read at home EVERY day for at least 20 minutes. That could include their library books, their iPads (RAZ Kids or Lexia), or books you have at home. After reading, have your child tell you about the characters, setting, problem, and solution in the story. If the book is informational, have students share facts they learned after reading.

READING: Reading this month our essential question is “How can people help out their community?” Our stories will focus on this question and our students will be working on identifying the author’s purpose in stories through Narrative Nonfiction texts.

MATH: In math, we have been learning how to add two-digit numbers. Students have been using base 10 blocks to model their understanding of regrouping and we are proud of their hard work. In our next math chapter, we will be learning how to subtract two-digit numbers. Practicing addition and subtraction facts at home helps with their fluency and makes understanding new math concepts easier to Ask your child some real-life addition and subtraction problems at home and they will have fun coming up with the answers!

We appreciate the families that have been helping their children with Lexia, IXL, XtraMath, and SeeSaw at home! Keep it up! We look forward to speaking with you at conferences on February 24th and March 3rd.

Second Grade Teachers
3RD GRADE

Third grade has been practicing our multiplication and division facts. Please keep practicing. These are necessary for fourth grade. We are beginning our lessons on fractions now, that will take us through the month of February.

In reading we were talking about immigration and the reasons people come to America. It was fun to share our own stories. Now we are reading about our Earth and Moon. This will be connected with our science standards and the science lab with Ms. Walz.

Thank you for getting your students on Seesaw. It is so important that they are “in” school on flex days and when we are in-person. We are trying to keep our learning going forward and not stalling due to the cold weather. What a crazy year with all these super cold days that kept us home.

Please remember that when it is 0 or above we do go outside for recess. So send snow pants, boots, mittens, hats, scarves so they stay warm when we do go out. Hopefully there are warmer days ahead.

**Please make sure that your child’s ipad is charged every day. We use them in class every day. This week and next week we will be star testing and the students use their ipads for these tests. Thank you.

The Third Grade Team
Hello fourth grade families!

We have been trying to stay warm in fourth grade last month! January was full of lots of distance learning days and days inside for recess. Hopefully, we can enjoy better weather this month! The students have been working very hard and are beginning to prepare for standardized tests that will be coming up in the coming months. The focus for our learning in February are the following skills:

**Literacy:** We have started the third unit of our reading program, Wonders, and are focusing on realistic fiction and biographies for the month of February. Students will be looking for the point of view of a story and the author's point of view as they read. The skills they will focus on are rereading and visualizing to help increase comprehension as they read a text. Ask your student about how the assessments have been going! Students should have recently completed various reading assessments. Please make sure your student is reading at least 20 minutes every night at home. We would love to see our students get their PAKRAT calendars signed nightly! Students should continue using Lexia, an online based reading program, this month at school to build literacy skills as well. Students are welcome to use Lexia at home!

**Math:** In February we will be moving into fractions for math. Students will spend some time understanding various fraction concepts and adding and subtracting fractions. Later, we will move into making connections between fractions and decimals. Your student can be practicing their math facts at home along with completing any homework assigned by their teacher. Students should start using IXL, an online based math program, this month at school to build their math skills as well. Students are welcome to use IXL at home!

**Science/Social Studies/Health:** Students have been working on skills of good citizens in a school environment last month and will continue to grow those skills. Classrooms are working on various science and social studies topics including water concepts, map skills, and the regions of the United States. In February, all fourth-grade classes will have the opportunity to go to Mrs. Walz's classroom for science lab.

Please make sure you are sending your student to school with appropriate winter wear for when we do get to spend time...
Happy February Greetings!

As we move into February, we would like to remind parents to be sure all children are dressed for cold weather and that they are coming to school prepared for their learning (planners are signed and in their backpacks, students have water bottles since there are no drinking fountains at school, and that Chromebooks have been charged).

February is Black History Month! We will be learning about African Americans who have contributed to the greatness of our country. Please ask your child about what they are learning and share stories with them as well.

In math we will be working with fractions and decimals. In reading we will read both fiction and nonfiction. We will use the strategy "Ask and answer questions about the text" to help build our understanding. As your child reads at home, ask them about their reading, such as, "Who is the story about? What problem did they face? Where did the story take place." We will also learn to summarize information.

We wish you all a happy and healthy February.

5th Grade Teachers
HELLO SCIENTISTS!

We are having a blast in the science lab this year. The scientist of the month for February is Mary Jackson, an aeronautical engineer and mathematician. She worked for NASA before it was even named NASA! During her life she had many roles, including mother of 2, teacher, computer, and engineer. Her work was important during the space race to get people into space. We love looking at her story to see what perseverance, curiosity, and hard work can accomplish!

This month in the Discovery Science Lab we are working on many different topics. Kindergarten is starting biology, knowing the things in our world that are living and those made of materials. 1st grade had started to experiment with states of matter and their next lab will let them create. 2nd and 5th grade are both in their physics unit, learning about balance and motion. It has been so cool to see how their knowledge and questioning grow from 2nd to 5th grade. 3rd grade is preparing to blast into the solar system in our next unit as we study the sun, moon, and stars. Last but not least, 4th graders are starting their energy and electromagnetism unit and I am already so excited to see where their curiosity and learning take us.

I leave you with something the 1st graders learned in January:
I matter, you matter, and everything is made of matter!

McKayla Walz
SEL and STEM Teacher

YEARBOOK ORDERS

Yearbook order forms are coming home. Be sure to look for them in your student’s backpack. They cost $11. There are 3 ways to pay.
1. Checks can be made out to Discovery Community School.
2. If you prefer to pay with cash please make sure you have the exact amount. It is hard for us to make change in the office.
3. To orders on line: ybpay.com. The Yearbook ID code is 9633722
The deadline for ordering the yearbooks is FEBRUARY 28.

COUNSELOR’S CORNER
The Power of Play:
While it is challenging to take time for fun in our lives, I am here to encourage you to schedule
time to play as a family. Taking time to play with your children can bring you calm,
understanding, and a better relationship. Benefits of Play

Some families do (nonelectronic) game night once a week. This is a great idea, but honestly,
some don't like games. Here are some alternatives to board games.
● Craft night
● Drawing night
● Storytelling night
● Puppet night
● Dollhouse night
● Matchbox car night (girls and boys love this)

There are so many things you can do with your kids. The most important thing is to find the
joy of playing through their eyes in these moments. Children learn great lessons from play.
They know how to share, take turns and make friends. Have them practice with you. Give them the
words to use to be kind and make friends. Help them thrive in the world. You are their most
important teacher.
If you have any questions feel free to contact either Ellen or me

Licensed School Counselors
Ellen Jahnke and Joanie Hauck
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NEWS FROM MR. ZAHN’S MUSIC ROOM!
Everyone is singing songs for fun. We are also learning vocabulary words in the songs that
may be new to us.
4th and 5th graders are starting to break the code of music writing by learning how to read the
note names on the treble clef. We are spelling words using note symbols, then we will turn the
notes into sound patterns.
3rd grade students are reading and writing patterns using sounds of DO, MI, SO and LA. We
are also playing music BINGO using different rhythm patterns.
2nd grade students are learning sound patterns using musical MI, SO and LA sounds. We are
also working on using our singing voice and learning how it is different than our speaking
voice.
1st grade and kindergarten students are using music to improve their math and reading skills.
We are also learning lots of poems and musical circle game

PHY. ED NEWS
February is fast approaching, and the students are hoping for mild temperatures. In physical Education class this month, the students will be playing outside and inside while pretending and dreaming about participating in the Winter Olympics.

The winter Olympics are in China this year. The athletes will be competing in skiing, skating, snowboarding, curling, hockey, bobsled, and others like the luge. Spend some time with your families watching the Olympics from Feb 4 -Feb 20, 2022, on the NBC Network.

In grades 4 and 5, the students will be outside working on Cross Country skiing and sledding. The challenge for the skiing will be with the amount of snow we have on the ground. If the snow is too deep, the students will have a tough time moving and enjoying the time outside. Balance will be part of the fun as well. The students will learn how to slide their feet while trying stay up off the snow.

As well as skiing, the older students will be joining the younger students and get to sled in the snow. At Discovery, we have some small hills, and the students love to play in the snow and slide down the hills. They can slide with a partner or by themselves. Pushing one another is also an enjoyment the students have while sliding

In the gym, the students will be participating in Winter Olympic games. The students will be jumping off mats, skating in races using paper plates, sliding on scooters, pushing stones to score points in curling, and playing some hockey.

Parents can you please remind your children to wear or bring their snow pants, hats, and boots to school. This will allow for the safest play outside will skiing, sledding, and playing at recess.

Mr. Richmond
And
Mr. Thoreson

DISCOVERY’S ARTISTS

2022 Vera Russell Art Show at Saint Cloud State University

Congratulations to the students who will be representing Discovery at the 2022 Vera Russell Art Show at Saint Cloud State University this year!

Sixteen of Discovery's artists will have their artwork displayed in the College of Education building on the SCSU campus and will have an artist reception with an award ceremony on February 26th at 10:00 am.

Please come on Feb. 26th and support our Amazing Discovery Artists!

Congratulations!
~Ms. Buysse
School Bus Safety

Most injuries and deaths involving a school bus don’t actually happen with kids ON the bus but rather AROUND the bus. These vehicles are large and have big blind zones where it is difficult to see people and objects. In October, we celebrate National School Bus Safety Week and it is a good time to review safety tips with students that ride on them.

At the bus stop:

- If crossing the street to get to a bus stop, go to a crosswalk or corner.
- Arrive at the bus stop early so you are not rushing.
- Stand at least five giant steps (16 feet) away from the edge of the road.
- Remain standing at the bus stop. NEVER SIT ON THE CURB.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it’s okay before stepping onto the bus.

On the school bus:

- Make sure to sit down in the bus seat. Do not stand or sit on your knees.
- Remain in your seat the entire ride.
- Do not yell or roughhouse on the bus. You want the driver to pay attention to the road!

Getting off the bus:

- When getting off the bus, make sure that clothes with drawstrings and backpack straps do not get caught in a closing door.
- When crossing the street, walk in front of the bus; never walk behind a bus.
- Be sure the driver can see you and you can see the driver. Wait for the driver’s signal to cross.

DON’T PASS THE BUS!
It’s Deadly. It’s Illegal.

While Red Lights Flashing
Violators will be reported to the police.

Remember: It is illegal and unsafe to pass a bus that is stopped and has its STOP arm out. This is done to create a safe place for kids to cross the road/street.