A LETTER FROM PRINCIPAL ESTRADA

With spring in the air and classrooms buzzing with laughter and learning, we thank you parents! Your learner is doing amazing things at Discovery. From Science Club to Learning Apps and classroom projects our students are digging into rigorous learning. Elementary age students are naturally inquisitive and have a willingness to ask every question that will connect learning personally. Ask your child about their day, a question I always like to ask my own children is.. "Tell me about the best part of your day?" or "What about your day do you still have questions about?" When students can summarize what they learned for a parent it deepens their ability to use the information in other ways and increases recall of central ideas. We look forward sending home report cards this week in your child's backpack and celebrating learning growth with you!

Respectfully,
Principal Estrada

UPCOMING DATES:

- Monday, April 11 - Family Literacy Event Online 3:00-4:00pm (see details below)
- Friday, April 15 - **No School** - Spring Break
- Friday, April 22 - Empower Learning Earth Day Family Event
- Monday, May 2 - **No School**
- Monday, May 30 - **No School** - Memorial Day
ONLINE FAMILY LITERACY EVENT APRIL 11TH!

Discovery Families!
You are invited to a family event Tuesday, April 11th! Free books for all families who attend this online event!

What: Family Literacy Event "Evelyn Del Ray is Moving Away"
When: On-line on Tuesday, April 11th 3:00-4:00
(please use your student’s device to log on to this meeting)
Googlemeet Codes:
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Our family engagement committee is planning a great family activity around the book "Evelyn Del Ray is Moving Away". Each family will receive a free book and “quilt square” to draw and write about their own family and neighborhood. These will be brought back to school to be displayed in “Quilt Communities” around the school. This will show the connectedness of each of our neighborhoods that belong to Discovery elementary.

Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away shows true friendship building skills, affirms feelings of sadness and worry but provides children with the assurance that true friendship can last through times of change. We are looking forward to sharing this with our students and families! See you April 5th!

EMPOWER EARTH DAY MAY 22ND

An In Person Family Engagement Event!
Discovery will be conducting its first EMPOWER Earth Day Celebration on April 22. We will have 4 station rotations throughout the day for grade levels to come out and participate in. Prior to the stations on Friday April 22, we will be providing our students with vocabulary, discussions surrounding our carbon footprint and why we should love up our Earth!

You are invited to participate with your child's class - times will be sent home in backpacks the week the before our Earth Day event! We can't wait to see you!

Note: Inclement weather day will be May 6th
Hi Kinder Families!

This year has been flying by! We can’t believe we only have a few more months before Summer. We have been working hard on learning different skills. While reading we are making predictions, finding the problem and solution, and looking for key details!

Remember to keep practicing those letters and sight words to help us grow.

In math, we are starting our measurement chapter! We just finished learning about subtraction and composing teen numbers. Next, we will move onto 3D shapes! Keep practicing counting and writing numbers with your students at home.

In social studies/science we just finished learning about habitats and will be learning about Geography and land forms next.

*Remember to keep checking the weather each morning. Minnesota is never the same one day to the next! We go outside each day and want to make sure our students come dressed and ready. *

Amanda Timpane
Kindergarten Teacher
Discovery Community School
First grade families,

Spring is such an exciting time in 1st grade! To start with we will be planting seeds and making a journal as they grow. We will also be entomologists by observing caterpillars turning into butterflies in our very own classrooms.

In math, your students will soon be able to tell time to the hour and half hour on a digital clock and an analog clock. They are very excited about this new skill. Your children should be using their iPads at home to read on RAZ Kids or Epic and practice on IXL.

Kiaysa Burau
First Grade Teacher
Discovery Community School
320-370-6180
Hello families! We hope you are staying warm and counting down the days until Spring. Your 2nd graders have been working extremely hard since returning from winter break.

Reading is essential and so we ask that you 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:** We are working on Unit 4 where we are learning about expository text. Our essential question will be "How does the Earth change?" We had an exciting week where we learned about Volcanoes, and made our own informational text about Volcanoes. Ask your child what they learned about how the Earth changes.

**MATH:** In math, we have been learning about data. We created and interpreted many different types of graphs. We learned about tally charts, bar graphs, picture graphs, and line plots. Our next chapter will be on time. We will be learning about time to the hour, half-hour, quarter hour, and nearest five minutes. We will also learn about A.M. (Morning), and P.M. (Night).

We appreciate the families that have been helping their children with Lexia, IXL, XtraMath, and Seesaw at home! Keep it up!

Second Grade Teachers
Hello Disco 3rd Grade Parents,

We’re looking forward to an awesome April together, filled with the sunshine and warmer temperatures to come. This month 3rd grade will be taking the MCAs, so we will be continuing to prepare your students for this statewide assessment. Beyond the academics, we have been practicing and learning different test taking strategies that can be used during the MCAs.

Math- Your students have been working hard on learning about polygons in the geometry unit. You can ask your child what types of angles and polygons they see in your home or while you are out running errands. We will be covering data, which will include collecting, graphing and interpreting data. We will continue to review multiplication facts and other skills that will be assessed on the MCAs too. To help prepare your student for the MCAs at home your student can log into IXL for 10-20 minutes.

Reading- We will be diving back into expository texts and poetry, two genres we have already worked with. We will be focusing on text features within expository texts and themes within poetry. To help your student prepare for the MCAs you can ask them questions about what they are reading, as many of the questions are comprehension focused.

Science: Third grade will be learning more about Life Science while participating in different experiences in Ms. Walz’s science lab.

Please continue to send your student to school with a charged iPad, as it is an important learning tool that is used every day.

Here’s to a successful spring,

The 3rd Grade Team
4TH GRADE

Hello 4th grade families!
The Fourth graders are busy working on skills to prepare them for the MCA tests. The reading test will start the week of April 11th. The math test will start the week of April 18th. Families could help their children by making sure they have a healthy breakfast and an adequate amount of sleep. We have been seeing so much hard work and improvement from all the fourth graders!

5TH GRADE

Happy Spring from the 5th grade team! April is an exciting time as we move through the rest of our curriculum and prepare students for the transition to Middle School for next year.

We will be taking the MCA test in reading and math to show what we have learned over the school year. Please be sure your child is getting plenty of sleep, eating a healthy breakfast and dinner, and spending time reading every day. We have found that parent encouragement goes a long way towards student success, so remember to give words of encouragement and praise for good work.

As the weather warms up, please encourage your children to dress appropriately for the weather and messy playground.

To our Muslim students and families, we wish you a happy Ramadan.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS?

Teachers tell us that successful test-takers tend to be students with good attendance, homework, and study habits; therefore, your daily assistance with homework and attitude toward school have the biggest impact on your child's performance. However, there are key ways you can develop his test-taking ability.

- **Optimize brain power.**
  Make sure your child has enough sleep or a good breakfast the day of the test.

- **Encourage good study habits and challenge critical-thinking skills.**
  Encourage reading (consider magazines, newspapers, or even comic books if he shies away from books) as much as possible. Testing also measures critical-thinking ability, so ask him to discuss ideas or voice his opinion often to stimulate these thought processes.
• **Know what to expect.**
Most teachers will send home information about the test schedule and class preparation plans well before the test date. Take note of the following to
- What is the name of the test, and what will it measure?
- How will the test be given? (computer, one on one, orally, will it be timed)
- What will be expected? (answering multiple choice, writing responses, speaking/listening)
- When will you receive the results?
- Are there any specific ways you can help your child prepare? (your child's teacher may share some class specific directions/tips)

• **Provide practice opportunities.**
Be sure to time any practice tests (assuming the standardized test will be timed) so he's not surprised by time constraints on test day. Start practicing several weeks before the date and keep study sessions short. Setting small goals, such as learning five new words each session, will help him measure his progress and boost his confidence. Make sure he takes the night before the test off — cramming can increase his stress level.

• **Relax and remain positive.**
The best test-takers are confident, committed, and at ease. Even if you are nervous about her performance, be wary of transferring that concern to your child. You never know, some kids actually enjoy tests! If she is likely to get nervous, practice a few relaxation techniques, such as counting from one to ten or taking deep breaths, which can help her relieve tension during the test.

Parent TIP #1
Ensuring students are well-rested for testing and giving them a pep talk or words of encouragement. "Take your time and do your best work!" "I know you will do great, believe in yourself as much as I believe in you!"
Breakfast is an excellent way to get students ready for a day of testing! Research shows that when kids eat oats in the a.m. they score better on memory and listening tests.

**PHY.ED**
Run, Swing, and Kick your way to the end of the school year in Physical Education class! We are nearing the end of the school year for our Discovery Dolphins and that means Baseball, Softball, Kickball, and Track and Field are in the air. The smell of fresh cut grass, dirty clothes from playing in the mud, and of course SNOW... I mean Rain!

April and May are exciting months because the students get to make their way outdoors and play games and activities in the fresh air! The students will get the opportunity to play kickball, tee-ball, and soccer. The dirt fields are perfect for the students to learn to run from base to base and kick a moving ball. We are also working in depth on Hand-to-Eye Coordination with the kids. Having the children swing a bat and hit a ball off a tee, hit a moving ball with a tennis racquet, or kick a moving ball are difficult things to do, but very exciting when students succeed and smash the ball a long way!

Currently the Discovery Students are participating in frisbee and volleyball skills.
On Wednesday May 18th, the 5th graders will be heading to Apollo High School to participate in the North Side of town Track meet. The students will be running distances of 60 meters, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 4 X 100m relay. Along with distance running, the students will be competing in a soccer ball kick, softball toss, tug-o-war, and long jump.

Good Luck Discovery Dolphins!

Remember, parents are always welcome to attend class the day their child is participating in physical education. Please make sure to sign-in at the office and head to the gym.

Joseph Thoreson
Matt Richmond
Discovery Community School
Physical Education

**MUSIC NEWS FROM MR. ZAHN’S ROOM**

We continue to sing songs every day for fun. The kids at Discovery love to sing!

5th graders have started to play the baritone ukulele. This instrument is a smaller version of a guitar and has 4 strings. We are slowly getting used to holding, strumming and putting down our left hand fingers in the right places!

4th graders are always becoming stronger singers. Our new silly song is about eating worms. Students are expanding their music language skills by writing and performing their own rhythm patterns.

3rd grade students are reading and writing patterns using SOLFEGE sounds. These patterns tell us how to make our voices higher and lower. We are also turning these into sound patterns by playing them on xylophones.

2nd grade students are diving deep into rhythm in two ways. The first is for everyone to play the patterns on hand drums, guiros and boomwhackers. We are also playing the rhythms as a team where small groups play small sections of the rhythm sentence to make the whole pattern. We also are writing new words to us that come up in the lyrics to our songs.

1st grade and kindergarten students are also learning lots of poems and musical circle games and first grade students learned an Irish jig dance for St. Patrick’s day. First graders are also learning many new words through song lyrics

**HAPPY APRIL SCIENTISTS!**

Happy Earth Month! We look forward to celebrating Earth Day on April 22nd, and are learning all about the role we have in our ecosystem. As spring begins we are anxious to head outside and do more hands-on life science experiments!
This month is Discovery Science Club, an after school Google meet with lab equipment provided. I can't wait to see students signing on to do even more fun science.

Our Scientist of the Month for April is Jane Goodall, an anthropologist best known for her long-term study of chimpanzees. She is a very fitting choice this month as animals come out of hibernation or back from migration. Jane is an amazing scientist who teaches us the power of observation of the world around us.

I leave you with a reminder that all living things have the same needs. While we are learning to care for our environment, plants, and animals, we are reminded that we need the same things. So, enjoy the coming sun, stay hydrated, and know that you are important!

**IPAD, CHROMEBOOK, AND CHARGER COLLECTION AT DISCOVERY**

Students will be expected to start keeping their devices in school starting May 9th. They will not be bringing them home for the remainder of the year. Every student received a charger with their device when they received their device, so every student should be returning a charger. If you lost the charger, there will be a charge to Skyward. If the charger is broken, please still return the charger to school and a charge will be added to Skyward.

As students walk into the classroom with their charger and device, teachers will check them off as returning their items.

**iPad Chargers:** Students received cords and bricks that look like the following. Please do not go out and buy a generic charger to replace a broken or lost one. We have to have ones that are safe and Apple approved.

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