LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello families,

Trimester one has come to a close and we are so excited about the progress our students are making academically and socially here at Discovery. Students are diving deeper into the content standards and working toward proficiency as well as project based learning that offers creativity and critical thinking beyond the grade level standards.

We are excited to report that your learners are making great gains on our learning applications of IXL for math and Lexia for reading. Please feel free to encourage your child to use these applications at home or reach out to your child's teacher about his/her classroom expectations.

Again, thank you families for sharing your children with us. They are brilliant, creative and natural investigators of the world around them! Wishing you the brightest December!

Respectfully,
Becky Estrada

UPCOMING DATES

Digital Learning Day: Friday, Dec 3rd
December 7th, Tuesday - Family Drop-Ins: 3:00-4:00
December 16, Thursday - Picture Retake
December 23 - January 2 - NO SCHOOL, School Winter Break
January 3, Monday - School resumes
January 17, Monday - NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday
January 18, Tuesday - NO SCHOOL, Professional Development
February 21, Monday - NO SCHOOL, President’s Day
**DISCOVERY PARENT MEETINGS**  
**DECEMBER 7TH: 3:00-4:00**

Discovery will host Discovery Drop Ins in multiple languages:

- Somali Parent Meeting (GoogleMeet code: Discosomali)
- Spanish Parent Meeting (GoogleMeet code: Discospanish)
- English Parent Meeting (GoogleMeet code: Discoenglish)

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

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**OUR CLASSROOMS**

**KINDERGARTEN**

Happy December Kindergarten Families!

We have been learning so much and are so excited for what is to come for the rest of 2021! In reading, we have been working on visualizing, or making pictures in our heads, and finding the key details in a story.

In math, we have been working on numbers to 10. The students are getting so good at counting objects and counting out loud.

Next month, we will be continuing to work on finding key details and using letters to make words. You can use the alphabet flashcards and sight word flashcards that have been sent home to help your student practice these important skills. We will be starting our position unit in math, talking about location words.

As it gets colder, students need jackets, hats, gloves or mittens, snow pants, and boots every day, even if there is no snow. It can get very cold on the playground! Have them practice getting everything on and zipping things up themselves so they can be so ready for school!

Love, your Kindergarten teachers
1ST GRADE

Hello from 1st Grade!

In math, we are working on addition and subtraction strategies to 20. Some of these strategies include forward or back 1, 2, or 3, using a number line, using doubles, and creating fact families.

In reading, we are learning how to write a personal narrative and find key details in a story! You can read with your child and have them retell the beginning, middle, and end of the story as well as who are the characters and what the setting is.

Thank you for all you do!
First Grade Teachers
The Second Grade Scoop

We have been busy! Second graders are working on developing Number Sense in Math and working with the genres of Expository Text in Reading. We are continually working on our long 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!

**Remember to read at home EVERY day for at least 20 minutes.** PakRat books are now going home, along with library books. RazKids is another option for finding lots of good books to read.

**READING:** In Reading this month our essential question is "How are offspring like their parents". Our stories will focus on this question and our students will be working on identifying key details and the main idea of a nonfiction text.

**MATH:** In Math, we are having our second unit test Wednesday, November 22. It will be on number patterns we have learned in the past month. Our next chapter in Math will be exploring place value. Students will be learning lots of new Math games both in class and in our Math Power Hour classes!

We encourage you to have your students practice Math and Reading skills after school. They can do it through Lexia, IXL, XtraMath, and/or assignments sent through Seesaw. While we cover so much in school, practicing at home is just as important and encouraged so you can see firsthand what your child is learning. Celebrate the areas they are strong in and continue to encourage them to practice those skills that may be weaker in. **WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!**

Tara Brown
Second Grade Teacher
Discovery Community School
Dear Fabulous Families,

As we are rolling into December, we have a few reminders for families:

1. Please have your child read each night.
2. Lexia is a great resource for your child to do each night, even if for only 10 minutes to help strengthen reading skills.
3. IXL is a math resource. Your student's teacher assigns them work at their level. Again, 10 min. a night is a great way to build these math skills!

Reading: Our essential question is "How do people make government work?" Throughout the next unit, we will take a look at government and how voting works. We will focus on expository/informational text and how the text features help support the text. An informational text gives facts and information about a topic. We will focus on some text features such as headings and bar graphs to understand what we are reading. Main idea and key details are another concept we will continue to work on.

Math: We will be working on multiplication and how it is related to addition (think repeated addition). Any support with multiplication fact fluency at home would be wonderful!

Writing: We have focused on opinion and personal narrative the last few months. We will use our skills to move into writing friendly letters as well as a research essay.

We do a lot of work with our ipads - it may be on a learning app, research, or online testing. Please be sure to send your child's IPAD with them each day.

Thank you!
3rd Grade Team
4TH GRADE

4th Grade has been hard at work studying the different regions of the United States in Social Studies!
In math we are finishing up our work with two-digit by two-digit multiplication and working our way into multi-step word problems and some division.
In reading we are getting into Unit 2 and learning all about different animal adaptations. Students are working so hard and it’s amazing to see it pay off!

Discovery 4th Grade
5TH GRADE

Dear Parents and Families,

The fifth-grade teachers can barely believe it is December already! We have had a busy beginning to the school year with a lot of reading, writing, math, science, social studies, team building, challenges, and fun!

This month in math, we will learn strategies for solving real world division problems. We will also begin learning how to add and subtract decimal numbers. You can help your child by having them working on IXL for about 20 minutes at a time after school and on weekends.

In reading, students will study Folktales and Poetry. They will learn how to make predictions while they read and will use repetition and rhyme to write their own poems. You can support your child's learning by having them read for 30 minutes each night. Ask them questions about their reading. Who was in the story? Where did the story take place? What was the main problem in the story? How was the problem solved? In what ways is the main character like you? In what ways is the main character different than you?

It is again time to check the learning growth of our students, so we will take the STAR test for reading and math the first week of December. Please encourage your child to always try their best so that we can get an accurate measure of their progress.

Since the cold weather is in full swing, please be sure your child has a warm jacket, hat, gloves, and boots to wear for recess. We are outside for a full 20 minutes each day, and we want students to be safe and warm during this time.

And, finally...Winter Break is on its way! Students and school staff have no school from Thursday, December 23 to Monday, January 3, 2022. We wish all our families a very happy and safe break from school, and a happy holiday season!

Michelle Ewaysi
Teacher
Discovery Elementary
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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Here we are entering a new calendar year. This is the time of year where people like to make changes and resolutions for life. Being home for distance learning is a great time to start new routines and create new habits for life at home. We are challenging all our students and
families to add in one exercise to their daily routine and do their best to get 8-11 hours of sleep.

Here are three exercises you can do at home to add to your daily routines:

Push ups (wall, knee, or toe)

Planks (Knees, toes)

Squats

Have exercising and getting healthier as a family.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Discovery is helping to collect TOYS FOR TOTS. Donations of new toys or money can be done until December 10. This benefits those living in the ST Cloud area.

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