Message from Principal Estrada

Discovery Families!
You are invited to a family event Tuesday, April 5th! Free books for all families who attend!

What: Family Literacy Event “Evelyn Del Ray is Moving Away”
When: On-line on Tuesday, April 5th 3:00-4:00
Googlemeet Codes: Discoenglish, Discosomali, Discospanish (please use your student’s device to log on to this meeting)

Our family engagement committee is planning a great family activity around the book "Evelyn Del Ray is Moving Away". Each family 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!

Respectfully,
Becky Estrada

Upcoming Dates

Upcoming Events
March 3rd, Thursday - Parent/Teacher Conference 2:45 - 7:00
March 4th, Friday - End of 2nd Trimester
March 7 - 11 - Mid Winter Break - **No School**

**March 29, Tuesday** - Spring Picture Day (Optional) Order forms will be sent home later.

**April 5th**: Family Drop In Event - *Evelyn Del Ray is Moving Away*

Google Meet Codes (Multiple Languages): Discosomali, Discoenglish, Discospanish

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**Kindergarten**

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**First Grade**

Greetings from 1st Grade!

In math, we are learning about tally charts, picture graphs, and bar graphs. These tools are used to show information or data collected from a survey. We will soon begin measurement and telling time. First graders are expected to tell time to the hour and half-hour on an analog and digital clock.

To help your child understand what they are reading, here are some questions you can ask:

“**How is this character feeling?**”

“How do you know?” (Ask your child to find words on the page or clues in the pictures to support their answer).

“What is the author's purpose?” or “Why did the author write this book?”

- To make us laugh (entertain)
- To get us to do something (persuade)
- To help us learn something new (inform)

Thank you for all you do!
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. The Scholastic book fair is still at school until the 4th of March which is another great resource for books. There are books as low as $2.00.

READING: We have just wrapped up Unit 3 working with narrative non-fiction texts and will be moving into Unit 4 and examining realistic fiction texts. Our essential question will be “How are kids around the world different?” We are excited for this unit because your child will get to share lots of interesting facts about his/her culture and the holidays celebrated.

MATH: In math, we have ventured into money and your children have been working hard on identifying coins and adding groups of like and unlike coins. In this unit they are using skills of counting in 1s, 5s, and 10s. One way you can help them at home is by working with actual coins and simply practicing counting in 1s, 5s, and 10s.

We appreciate the families that have been helping their children with Lexia, IXL, XtraMath, and Seesaw at home! Keep it up! As an added note the week of March 7th-March 11th is our Mid-Winter Break. Your child will return to school on the 14th of March.

Second Grade Teachers
Hello Disco 3rd Grade Parents,

March is full of some great things! We will be looking forward to warmer temperatures, spring break and daylight savings! During the month of March, we will be getting prepped for our MCA's in April.

Math- We will be wrapping up our Time unit right before spring break. When you are with your child, look at your daily schedule and discuss parts of your day. Ask them to tell you how long from one time to another (elapsed time). Make a timeline of your day and discuss AM and PM. When we return, we will discuss money and how to count back change. This is something that students have a difficult time with each year. Working with your child and explaining money when at the store helps them put it into perspective. You can also check in on your student's math abilities by logging in and supporting them on IXL. They have teacher assigned work based on their abilities and the unit we are working on.

Reading- Much of 3rd grade focuses on main idea and key details. When your child is reading to you, have them point out the important parts. Can they tell you the story in a sequential order, first, next, then and last? This is a difficult skill that many struggle with. They want to add TOO many details. Have your child read 20 minutes each night and check in with their Lexia. Lexia is an online learning tool to support reading. We use it to see what areas we can support your child in - phonics, spelling patterns, comprehension, grammar, etc. You can do it with them to have a snapshot of how they are doing. Most need 60 minutes a week. Most are given 10-15 min. a day in the classroom to work on it. If not, they should be doing it at home. So, by Wednesday if they have 30 minutes they are on target 😊

Writing- we have been busy writing about planets and doing research. Ask your child what they have learned about the moon, its phases and the solar system. We have some future astronomers here at Discovery!

Reach out if you have any questions!
Love,
The 3rd Grade Team
Hello from 4th Grade!

We are proud of the growth we are seeing in our 4th graders! They are growing in skills, confidence, stamina, and leadership! We are finishing up fractions in math and then learning about area and perimeter. Students have learned how to compare, reduce, and add/subtract fractions. We are now going to learn the connection between fractions and decimals. Then we will continue to learn the difference between area and perimeter.

In reading, students are doing book clubs, learning about different genres, and recently participated in a Socratic seminar this week. Students have been identifying different perspectives in various texts and learning about volunteering and how to make a difference in their community.

In writing, students are learning how to go through the writing process starting with an idea, brainstorming, writing a rough draft, revising and editing, and publishing. They are engaging in different types of writing, including opinion/persuasive, narrative, and research.

Please continue to have your son/daughter read 20 minutes five nights a week and work on ixl and lexia. IXL and lexia are computer programs that are based on your child’s level and will help them grow in their skills in math and reading.

4th Grade Teachers
Hello 5th Grade Families!

We are approaching the end of Trimester 2; can you believe it?

Math - We are currently in our fraction's unit. We have worked hard on our ability to add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators. We have had to learn new academic vocabulary such as, GCF "Greatest Common Factor" and LCM "Least Common Multiple". We are so proud of how far students have come! In March we will be starting our geometry unit. You can help your child increase their mathematic skills by having them practice in IXL for 20 minutes a day or asking them about games they have learned in class.

Power Hour - Power hour is up and running again during our math block. Students are brought together to work on specific skills based on need.

Literacy - We have begun our 4th unit in Wonders. We are currently working on biographies and autobiographies. We will be moving onto a new genre, drama, later this month. Students are diving deep into their readings, finding the author's purpose, summarizing, finding the main idea and theme. Your student can become an even stronger reader if they read an extra 20 minutes a day. Pose questions to your child about what they are reading, why they like it, what is happening in the story or what they would change if they could rewrite a chapter.

Writing - Students are given daily opportunities to sharpen their writing skills throughout all content areas with journal prompts, quick writes, and guided writing.

Just a note -
Please assure your child's Chromebook is charged. Many students are coming to school with dead batteries. We use Chromebooks as an educational tool throughout the school day.

MCAs are coming up this month. Please discuss the importance of doing your best to your child. Getting a good night sleep will also help your child focus during testing.

Thinking of 6th grade? With your child's transition into middle school approaching, if you have any questions or concerns you can reach out to your child's 5th grade teacher team to direct you to an answer.

Thank you and happy (approaching) Spring!

The 5th Grade Team
Physical Education

Physical Education will be working on our rhythm and movement unit. Students are working individually and together to move to music throughout the gymnasium. We are moving in lines and using exercise balls for drumming. The songs we are moving to include the Electric Slide, Chaco late’, Cotton Eye Joe, Starship, Frozen, Late Last Night, and the Freeze. The students are learning their left and right side of the body, learning to move on different levels, and learning from their mistakes.

In the next few weeks, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will be preparing for track and field competitions. The 5th graders will be heading to Apollo High School in May to compete against other schools in the district. Some of the events the students will be practicing are, 60-meter sprints, 200-meter-long run, soccer punt, and running long jump.

The younger students will begin their volley skills activities with beachballs and volleyballs. The students love the volley unit because they are going to use their whole body to try and keep objects moving by themselves, and with other students. This is the beginning of volleyball structured activities. This time of year is so much fun because the sun is shining longer and brighter. This allows all of us to enjoy ours, get outside more, and soak up the Vitamin D from the Sun. If you get the chance, get outside, go for a walk, play some catch, and breathe some fresh air with your family. Your lungs need it!

Have a happy, healthy, and great spring! Go out and get some FRESH AIR!!!!!!

Mr. Thoreson
Mr. Richmond
Discovery Physical Education

Hello Scientists!

Happy March, it's hard to believe we are already in the last trimester of school. So many fun experiments to do, and so little time! This month's scientist of the month is Stephen Hawking. Very fitting as many of the grades work with physics. Hawking is famous for his out of this world thinking and problem solving. He was a theoretical physicist who we can't help but think of and look to when learning about black holes. Towards the end of his life, he and his daughter Lucy even wrote a children's book, George's Secret Key to the Universe, which included Hawking's latest ideas on black holes! His passion for learning and theory inspires us to discover all we can.

This month in the Discovery Science Lab we are patiently waiting for spring so we can start our hands on life science units. While we wait out the cold we are staying engaged. 5th grade is putting their engineering skills to the test, they will be designing and creating their own model playgrounds full of simple machines. 4th grade is finishing physical science, experimenting with circuits and making connections. 3rd graders are coming back to earth this month and ending their space study and digging back into the structures of life we have here on Earth. 2nd grade will learn to harness the power of the wind, as we engineer wind catchers. 1st graders made doughs and saw how matter can change states when mixed. Next we will talk about temperature and the power it has to change states of matter. Last, sweet Kindergarten is going to be focusing on animals, a living thing that has unique characteristics just like us!

I leave you with a fun science fact: the brain is the only muscle you can strengthen just by thinking of it, our minds are powerful!

Best,
McKayla Walz
SEL and STEM Teacher
Discovery Community Elementary

School Hours: 7:30 am - 2:00 pm
Office Hours: 6:30 am - 3:30 pm

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