Message from Principal Estrada

Hello Families! We are busy planning all the end of the year projects and celebrations and can't wait to see you at our upcoming family engagement events. Whether you choose to attend the online family drop in's, Kindergarten open house, 5th grade graduation or the Track and Field day - we are super excited to share your child's growth with you! Thank you for sharing your best, your children...with us every single day. The partnership has made all the difference in what our students are accomplishing inside and outside the classroom.

With sincere thanks,
Principal Estrada

No school can work well for children if parents and teachers do not act in partnership on behalf of the children's best interests.
~Dorothy H Cohen
Empower Earth Day
An In Person Family Engagement Event!
Discovery will be conducting its first EMPOWER Earth Day Celebration on May 6th.
Students and families will be engaged in 4 OUTDOOR rotation stations incorporating various science, art, literature and movement activities revolving around understanding our part in taking care of the Earth!
Since it is outdoors, dress appropriately! If the weather does not cooperate, we will notify families and reschedule.

**Family members are invited to join their child for this activity. Please check the times your child will be participating - it is by grade level.**

Enter through the front doors to sign in at the office, you will then join your child for fun in the sun!

Class times
5th Grade: 8:00-8:50
4th Grade: 8:55- 9:45
3rd Grade & Mr. Burrer's Kindergarten Class: 9:50-10:40
Kindergarten: 10:45- 11:35
2nd Grade: 12:10 - 1:00
1st Grade: 1:00 - 1:50

Upcoming May Calendar Dates:
May 2, Monday - NO SCHOOL
May 4, Wednesday - Kindergarten Open House (3:00-4:30)
May 6, Friday - Earth Day Parent Actives
May 10, Tuesday - Family Drop In's (3:00-4:00)
May 18, Wednesday - 5th Grade Track and Field Day Apollo HS (10:00-12:30)
May 30, Monday (Memorial Day) - NO SCHOOL
May 31, Tuesday - 5th Grade Graduation
June 3 - Friday LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Family Drop-In's, May 10th 3:00-4:00
Discovery will host parent meetings 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.
Hi Kinder Families!

Wow! We are already almost at the end of kindergarten! We cannot believe all the growth we have seen throughout this year. We are so proud of our students and how hard they have worked to get ready for first grade!

During reading, we have been working on making predictions, which is when we make a guess about what will happen next. Kindergartners also are working on sequencing, which is putting the events of the story in order. Remember to keep practicing those letters, sounds, and sight words to help your kindergartners grow.

In math, we have started working on 3D shapes. We are looking at these shapes and finding them in real life. As we wrap up the year, we will be reviewing all the skills we have learned throughout the entire year. Please keep practicing counting and writing numbers with your students at home.

In social studies and science we have finished our unit on American symbols and will close out the year talking about needs and wants, as well as a super fun plant unit!

Lastly, please remember to keep checking the weather. Minnesota weather is always changing and we need to have students dressed appropriately. We are hoping it gets warm soon so we can have lots of fun playing outside!
First Grade

Greetings from 1st Grade!

In math, we are learning about 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes. Students will also be learning about equal shares and dividing shapes into halves and quarters/fourths. They will also be learning about money money money! You can practice making change at home or at the store with pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.

To help your child begin 2nd grade as a successful reader, continue reading for at least 20 minutes every day. Students can log in to Raz-Kids for access to more stories, or use online resources like storylineonline.net, uniteforliteracy.com, and getepic.com
Hello families! We are fast approaching the end of another school year. Your 2nd graders have been working extremely hard and we are hoping to finish the year strong. As sunnier, warmer days approach it is easy to get into summer mode, but we want to encourage our students to continue pushing through as we still have one more STAR assessment for both Reading and Math.

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.

READING: We are working on Unit 5 where we are exploring biographies of people that have made significant contributions to the world. Our essential question for weeks 1 & 2 was “What do heroes do?” and in the remaining weeks we will look at the question, “What do good citizens do?” As students practice reading at home continue to encourage them to work on the strategies that make good readers: asking questions, rereading, drawing from personal experiences and connections, and using context clues.

MATH: In math, we have been exploring the world of geometry. We have looked at properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Reinforce their learning at home by asking about Math vocabulary such as faces, vertices, and edges. Let them examine objects at home to see if they can identify the 3D shape shown. In this unit we also begin exploring fractions. Have them cook a meal with you and see how fractions are used in everyday life. When students can see things in the classroom within homes it helps them make connections between school and everyday life. From geometry we will finish the year with our unit on measurement.

We appreciate all that you do and encourage you to continue helping your children. We have enjoyed working with you and your children and we wish your families all the best for the summer and for third grade!
Second Grade Teachers
Third Grade
Dear Third Grade Disco Families,

Spring is officially here. Let's hope the weather acts like it soon! We have all had a little spring fever and ready to get outside without our jackets, however, keep in mind we do go outside each day at recess. Please be sure to check the weather, it has been oddly chilly and windy for this time of year, keep sending those jackets.

We have just wrapped up our reading and math MCAs. Although we know one test score does not define a child, they totally rocked them! We are proud of all their work in not only academics, but also building relationships this year. We are circling back to relationships and expectations at school. Again, that spring fever has hit a few of our rooms. Like you, we want the best for your child. Having daily discussions about how their day went and being able to discuss issues that may have happened throughout the day can help them process and return with a whole new skill set.

**Reading:** We have done some awesome poetry work the last few weeks. Third graders have adventured into narrative and free-verse poetry. Additionally, becoming poets as well! We will be moving into fairy tales (this is a fun unit!). We will look at the different perspectives the various characters, summarize these tales, as well as identify the elements of a fairy tale.

**Math:** The next unit will take a deeper dive into the properties of multiplication and division. We will also circle back to the various needs groups have based on this year's outcomes. It is amazing what a third grader learns!

We are so proud of each of these children. As we close this year, we will reflect on how far we have come, where we want to go and how we can achieve this. Thank you for your support in your child's success- we couldn't do it without you, and it starts at home.

Fourth Grade
Hello from 4th Grade!

"We are working hard to finish the year strong. Fourth Graders are working hard on measurement and money skills. We've made so much growth this year! To finish the year we'll take the last STAR assessments. Please send your child's Chromebook and charger with them every day."
Fifth Grade

Greetings!
This is the last piece of elementary news your child will receive before they move on to MIDDLE SCHOOL! The fifth grade teachers are incredibly proud of this group of hard-working students. We have completed our three standardized tests: math MCA, reading MCA, and science MCA. As we embark on the last month of school, we will be doing project-based learning in reading and math through the strengthening of skills.
Look for more information this month about our 5th Grade Graduation May 31st!

Phy-Ed

The rain is finally here. Spring is booming and we all get to go outside and play! May is a great month to begin new habits with your families. One new habit that will give you and your family a new attitude and positive outlook is getting outside. Sunshine and fresh air essential to mental health. Bright light and sunshine can help get people out of the “winter blues” or “seasonal affective disorder.” Once you are outside, go for a walk and play a game with your family and friends. Buy some chalk at the store and create a play area on the sidewalk. Some ideas are hopscotch, four square, spike ball, and can soccer. Kids love to play move and interact with their peers and parents.
Currently the Discovery Students are participating in track and field, and racquet 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. 5th grade parents are welcome come and watch their children compete.
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.
Happy May Scientists!

Huge shout-out to all the amazing students and families that made the Discovery Science Club so much fun! I loved the excitement and amazing questions they came with every day we logged on and experimented together, it made April all the better. There is no more club in May.

As spring finally arrives, please continue to watch the weather, and help your scientist dress for it. In May we will often be going outside to do life science experiments, experiments with sun and shadow, and more experiments that are so messy doing them outside is the only way to go! Your scientist is working on their observing and predicting skills; looking at the weather and weather forecast is the perfect way to practice these skills and set them up for success at school.

As this is the last letter of the school year, I want to share three ways you can keep the science and curiosity going with your scientist at home.

1. Go outside and observe! We are ending the school year on life science units, and they have been learning all about our cool planet, enjoy it while it's warm out.
2. Test out questions when you can. We've learned that being a scientist isn't about knowing everything and is more about asking good questions. For example, what happens when my toy gets cold? Why do we have day and night? Test them out and take time to observe.
3. Cook together. Your students love doing experiments. Often some of the best science experiments can happen in the kitchen. Making pancakes is using heat to go from a liquid to a solid. Grating cheese is physical weathering in action. Measuring and combining ingredients is a skill that can never be over taught. Knowing how to stay safe around the many tools in a kitchen is very much like our science lab. Enjoy the learning and enjoy the food together.

I am excited to finish the school year together and see how far we can grow in one month. I can't wait to see everyone back in the fall for more learning and fun!

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.

Discovery Community Elementary

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

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