



# HLWW ELEMENTARY LAKER NEWS

Humphrey & Winsted Elementary  
May 2025

## Dear Elementary Families,

It's almost time for the buttons and bows!! Although we're down to just a month left, we still have much to accomplish before we "wrap up" the 2024-25 school year. Instead of counting days, we're working hard to make each of the days count. Please partner with us to help your child stay on top of homework and the expectations of our classrooms and school buildings. Continue to stay in contact with your child's teachers too—communication is essential, even in May!

The last month of school is typically a time at the elementary buildings when learning takes a few road trips, literally! We will be on the go, exploring different learning places and spaces, like the MN Arboretum, The Bell Museum, Como Zoo, The Oliver Kelley and Gale Woods Farms, and our local libraries and parks. All of these opportunities help connect school learning to real life experiences for our students and grade levels. Along with the final musical programs and special events in each building, we will also complete important assessments, including Fastbridge tests for grades K-4 as well as important end of year testing for each classroom/grade level.

Our last day of school for students is a half day on Friday, May 30, and marks the end of the year for all students. It also marks the close of our 4th graders' elementary careers. The four 4th grade classes have been a big part of our student community—filled with many talents, along with kind hearts, energy, hard-work and minds filled with curiosity. We're so proud of them!! It's always a bittersweet time because we enjoy the kids so much—it's sad to see them go, but we're very excited for them to experience the next steps in their school journey. We wish each of them well at the middle school!

It has been a great year and a pleasure working with a terrific group of students, families, and staff. Have an enjoyable and safe summer!

Mrs. Jen Olson

🏆 Humphrey Elementary Students of the Month

🏆 Winsted Elementary Students of the Month

Laura Heuer, Kindergarten, Winsted Elementary

Our Little Free Library, by the front entrance of Winsted Elementary, is a popular spot to look for books! If you have books at home (board books, picture books, chapter books) that you are looking to clean out, we would happily take them.



There is a collection box in the front vestibule at Winsted Elementary for any book donations. We just ask that they are appropriate books for our Little Free Library and that they are in good condition. Thank you.

**Butterfly Fun**

**Kayla Myhre, Grade 1, Humphrey Elementary**

**First grade students were able to raise caterpillars as part of their science unit. They enjoyed watching the transformation butterflies go through. We started with painted lady caterpillars in a cup and were able to observe every step of the lifecycle. Once the butterflies emerged from the chrysalis, we watched their wings dry, watched them learn to fly and got an up close look at how they eat. We enjoyed keeping a journal, making crafts and completing an edible quiz. Our favorite part was watching our butterflies join the wild and letting them go free.**

## WALK TO SCHOOL DAY



Wednesday, May 7th is "Walk and Bike to School Day" across the nation and Winsted and Humphrey Elementary are planning to participate. A "Walking School Bus" is powered by legs rather than an engine and it allows a designated adult supervisor ("bus driver") to "pick up" student walkers. As each group of students are dropped off, they will walk to school quickly and safely, along a set route and under the guidance of adult supervisors, all the while enjoying fresh air, exercise and conversation. Detailed information was sent home with your child in the Wednesday folder (April 30).

### Growing Readers

Sarah Schanus, Extension, Winsted Elementary

How do I help my child become a better reader? This is a question that I've heard many times. It takes about 21 days (or 3 weeks) to form a new habit and 90 days for the habit to become a permanent lifestyle change. Your child still has time to become an even better reader this school year and work on making that reading habit a permanent lifestyle change.

Here are details to take into consideration to reach this goal.

Create a Print Rich Environment. This can happen by making a visit to the library a weekly or even biweekly goal. Stop in at the thrift shops to find a variety of books that include your child's interests. Explore environmental print, signs, labels, headlines etc in your child's environment. Include books of different reading levels in your home library and create that comfortable space at home with good lighting as your reading area. Find a Little Library and trade out some of your less used books.

Modeling Reading or Reading Aloud is another thing to consider when encouraging your child to reach their reading goals. If reading out loud is not in your comfort zone, search for read-alouds online. The Library is another good source of audio books. Think about the frequency of reading aloud. Make reading out loud a daily routine, even if it happens for just a few minutes each day. Think about making the experience engaging with expressive voices, sound effects and finish off with a discussion about the book you just enjoyed together. Talk about the cool words you just encountered.

Independent reading is the next step to try. Allowing your child to select a book that is within their comfort zone and interest is a good place to start. Although your child might not be able to read every word of the book, let them try one book on each page to begin with, and build from there incrementally. Remember to praise your child for their efforts. Acknowledge their growth. Let them know how much you appreciate their efforts and enjoy the time you are spending together.



Make Reading Fun and Interactive. As you create your reading rituals, make sure it is a special time. Perhaps just before bedtime, after they eat breakfast or another time that works in your family schedule. Read in different ways. Explore different genres: poetry, non-fiction, history, biographies, fiction etc. Ask questions as you are reading together. Incorporate questions before, during and after reading to build reading comprehension. Make predictions before you turn the page. It's okay to pick up a Joke book and have a good laugh and be silly together as you read.

Whether your child is reading the recipes for dinner, the menu at the restaurant, the growing instructions on the garden seed packages or the directions on the next step building Legos together, reading is essential in everyday life. Reach out to your child's teacher if you have questions about how to help your child become an even better reader. Remember to add reading materials to your road trips, vacation plan luggage and as you are setting goals for relaxing this summer: curling up with a good book might become your child's next favorite pastime.



**Our favorite things about spring!**  
By: Mrs. Wadman's 3rd Grade Class

Spring is here and we are loving the warmer weather! As a class, we discussed all the things we love about spring! Here are some things that we are excited about... "What is your favorite thing about spring?"

Julian- The warmer weather  
Destin- Playing outside  
Elizabeth- Going on the trampoline with my sister  
Brooks- Watching flowers bloom  
Blake- Playing with my friends outside  
Lily- Bird watching  
Andrew- Jumping in mud puddles  
Annikka- Riding my bike with my sister  
Jason- Spring cleaning  
Loffton- Scootering with my mom and brothers  
Parker- Playing basketball with friends  
Vaeya- Going on bike rides and playing on the trampoline  
Grayson- Playing football with friends  
Nora- Swinging at the playground  
Pearl- Going on my fire swing  
Josiah- Playing outside  
Brooklyn- Going on bike rides  
Willow- Gardening with my mom



### 2025 Winsted Staff Appreciation.pdf

WES PTA team is working hard to coordinate a week of appreciation for our staff. Click on the pdf for more information on how to help.

[Download](#)  
447.6 KB

## ELEMENTARY ATTENDANCE

Gretchen Karg, ADSIS/Title 1, Humphrey Elementary and St. James

Students who miss just 2 days per month can end up missing 10% of the school year. Chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of the school year) is linked to lower test scores and weaker reading and math skills by third grade. Even though we all have days when it's better to stay at home due to illness or important family events, it's really important not to let school absences become a habit.

Foundational skills (reading, writing, math) are built in the early grades. Students who miss too many days miss the building blocks needed to understand their next lessons. They miss the review and practice needed to maintain skills. And, they miss the crucial opportunities when teachers can catch and correct students' mistakes early and most effectively.

School isn't just about academics—it's also where kids learn teamwork, communication, and build friendships. Regular attendance helps children form strong relationships with peers and teachers.

Here are some of the reasons why my ADSIS/Title 1 Reading and Math students don't want to miss school:

- \* I like learning. \* I want to see my friends. \* I like my school. \* I want to get prizes.
- \* I want to be ready. \* It's fun to do new stuff. \* My room is cool. \* I want to know what's going on. \* I don't want to miss anything. \* I'll miss my friends. \* I want to play outside.
- \* I like going to the gym. \* I like my teacher.

Personally, it would be hard for me to get to school without my coffee. If it's hard to get your child to school, maybe it's time to ask why and have a conversation with your child's teachers. You can make a list of all the reasons it's important to go and work through all the reasons that will sometimes make it hard to go to school. (Mondays!) Even though learning can be its own reward, it's okay to reward kids for putting time and effort into their learning by showing up. I know I often reward myself with some "me" time or time with friends after a day or week of school. Making plans to end the school year strong with good attendance, and to start the next year strong with good attendance, will have lasting benefits for your child.



### PTA FUNDRAISER

For those that ordered coffee grounds/gift cards, please pick up your Elephant Joe's Coffee order on May 1st at HLWW Middle School from 6-7:30 PM



### HLWW VOLUNTEER

If you plan on volunteering or will be a chaperone please complete background check.  
<https://hlww.k12.mn.us/district/volunteer/>



### MAY 30

Elementary Release Time TBD  
MS/HS Release Time TBD

# SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Ms. Rice, Grade 2, Humphrey Elementary  
It's almost here...SUMMER! Freshen up your bucket list with some of my family's favorite activities. Hope to see you around!

### SWIM

Our favorite is the Hutchinson Aquatic Center. Big waterpark feels for only \$8/person and less than an hour away...yes please!

### RIDE BIKES...

or scooters, or skateboards, or roller skates. Lake Rebecca in Delano has over 8 miles of great paved trails, a huge playground and a beach for swimming.

### LIBRARY READING PROGRAM

All the public libraries in the area have a summer reading program. Kids can earn prizes and books all summer for just spending time reading and doing other non-screen activities. The Howard Lake Library kickoff event is June 4 from 2:30-3:30 with free root beer floats!

### STREET CHALK ART FESTIVAL

The oldest and largest 4th of July celebration in Delano includes a Street Chalk Art Festival open to anyone. We have done it the past 4 years. It's a blast! All the supplies are provided and it's free! Sign up at the Delano Public Library. Check the Delano 4th of July Celebration website for a ton of other super fun activities.

### TAKE A LITTLE TRIP

It doesn't even have to be overnight - day trips are perfect! Our favorite is Taylors Falls and Franconia Sculpture Park - both FREE! Interstate Park is right on the St. Croix River and features super unique glacial potholes (not what you think!) A must see if you've never been. Hit up Franconia Sculpture Park on the way home for acres and acres of larger than life sculptures that you can walk through, under and some that you can even climb in!

## END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY

May 28 -- Humphrey Elementary - End of Year Assembly, 8:20am

May 29 -- Winsted Elementary - End of Year Assembly, 8:20am

## ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST & LUNCH MENU

## HLWW ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE



**HLWW Elementary Schools**

Jennifer Olson - Elementary Principal

Humphrey Elementary 320-543-4680

Winsted Elementary 320-543-4690

<https://hlww.k12.mn.us/>