



Chilly December Greetings!

I wanted to start out by giving a quick acknowledgement to all the families that were able to connect at conference time—thank you for sharing in the importance of the learning partnership and making time to discuss your child’s progress! We will continue to reach out to you to celebrate successes and make note of challenges your child experiences, but please continue to reach out to your child’s teacher as well. Communication is a key to making continued progress. I’m sending a big shout out to our PTA groups too for organizing conference meals for staff. The gesture, while a simple one, was very much enjoyed. We’re grateful!

We wrapped up November with our Apex Fun Run. All of the monies raised for our run go back to classrooms to support grade level and school field trips planned for the spring, helps us host special events like VIP Breakfast, Grandparents’ Day, classroom guest days, our roller-skating units in physical education class, guest speakers, and enhanced classroom opportunities. Monies will also be earmarked for some playground updates. Your efforts and support are very much appreciated.

Winsted third and fourth grade students kick off December by sharing their musical talents on Thursday, December 5 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the HLWW-HS auditorium, under the direction of Mrs. Jana LeClaire. We look forward to their holiday selections!

Humphrey Elementary kicks off December with our field trip “staycation” with the Bell Museum. We are excited to welcome them in on December 5-6 to learn about the solar system, stars, and outer space. It’s going to be “out of this world” sorts of fun!

We have many other activities taking place within the life of our classrooms and schools...watch for updates, news and pictures from your child’s classroom. It’s going to be a busy month...and before you know it, we’ll be closing out our last day of the calendar year with students on December 20, with plans to return January 2, 2025, after our winter break.

A friendly reminder that students are outside on a daily basis—bus stops, recess times, and fitness breaks taken by classrooms/grade levels. We've been really fortunate with mild temps so far this season, but please don't forget all of the outdoor gear— hats, gloves, boots, etc. so students are able to enjoy the daily breaks outdoors. You've done a fantastic job of equipping your child. Please encourage them to wear the gear you're providing. We have an occasional "determined" student who may feel his/her locker is a better place than on them. We're working on it from our end and ask that you help reinforce wearing the gear at school too. Please be sure to have your child check for any missing items before the winter break. (PS—labeling clothing is GREAT!)

We wish you the happiest of holidays and a safe, enjoyable winter break.

Have a great December!

Jen Olson

🍏Humphrey Elementary Students Of The Month

🍏Winsted Elementary Students Of The Month



WINTER RECESS

Please be sure your child has the right outdoor clothing to enjoy our Minnesota winter recesses! All students, grades K-4, are asked to wear hats, mittens, boots and snow pants during the winter season (students not wearing boots must stay on the paved area during recess). Also, a reminder for parents to assist their child and our staff by labeling your child's winter apparel.



MORNING DROP OFF

For the welfare and safety of all students, it is requested that students do not arrive at school any earlier than necessary (7:50 AM). This is especially important for those students who walk, ride bicycles or are dropped off by parents.

Published Turkey Story

Heather Eastling, 2nd Grade, Winsted Elementary

This past month second grade students have been working hard on a turkey story. Every year, we publish a book through Studenttreasures Publishing. Students work through the writing process such as getting ideas down on a graphic organizer, putting that into a rough draft, meeting with me to edit, and writing their final copy. The topic of their story is about a turkey who doesn't want to get eaten for Thanksgiving, so that turkey runs away, disguises himself, and hides! The farmer can't find the turkey anywhere and has to eat something else for Thanksgiving. Second graders get their creativity flowing, write amazing stories, illustrate their story, and get it published! Each classroom receives a copy of the book. Parents are also welcome to order a copy. Students are so excited to be published in an actual book. It really boosts their confidence in writing! Here's what second graders wrote about their turkeys:

Ayari: Disguised as a crayon box in the school supplies

Joshua: Disguised as handcuffs on the table

Amora: Disguised as a cat

Cali: Disguised as a chicken nugget at McDonalds

Willow: Disguised as a mermaid at school

Mason: Disguised as a worm in a closet

Eli: Disguised as an employee at Walmart

Mila: Disguised as a fairy in the principal's office

Collen: Disguised as a Justin Jefferson Poster at the Five Below Store

Lincoln: Disguised as a student in a car

Hudson: Disguised as a football

James: Disguised as a net in Mr. Luhman's office

Isaac: Disguised as a person at Costco

Ace: Disguised as a mannequin at the Nike Store

Eleanor: Disguised as a fairy at Target and Starbucks

IsabelMay: Disguised as the Target Sign at Target

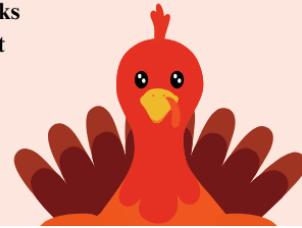
Waylon: Disguised as a football at the stadium

Dominik: Disguised as a chef at a restaurant

Brock: Disguised as a Pokemon at Target

Jack: Disguised as a football at the bank

Madisyn: Disguised as a rich girl at Target



Created by: Willow Dalager,
Waylon Seth

Created by: Eleanor Reynolds,
Ace Moses, James Marker

Keeping Your Child Home From School



Please keep your child home from school if · Rashes: If the student has a rash of unknown origin, it needs to be evaluated by a health care provider. Children should not come to school with rashes if they are spreading, itching or open/draining. · Vomiting/Diarrhea: Student should remain home until 24 hours after last episode. · Fever of or greater than 100 degrees F: Student should stay home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal without the use of fever reducing drugs such as Tylenol.

If you have any questions pertaining to your student's health, please contact your student's health office. Winsted 320-543-4690 --- Humphrey 320-543-4680

Winsted Elementary PTA

Join us at our next Winsted Elementary PTA meeting on Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 PM in the Winsted Elementary Library. We have a great group of parents who are planning some fun events for our Winsted students! Come and join in the fun!



One of our planned activities is a book walk for students to kick off I Love to Read Month in February. We are looking for donations of gently used books. If you have any books that you'd like to donate (for preschool age - grade 4), please drop them off in the box in the front entry vestibule. We'll be collecting books until Thursday, January 30.

Follow our Laker PTA Facebook page for updates and scan the QR code above to visit our webpage. Feel free to contact us at <http://www.winstedpta.org/> if you have any questions.

We're looking forward to connecting with you! Thanks for your support!
-Winsted PTA



Help Me Grow - MN Resource For Supporting Child Development

Blaire Voigt, Speech-Language Pathologist, Winsted Elementary

Many of our Winsted Elementary students have younger family members at home who are under the age of five. If your household includes babies, toddlers, or preschoolers, you will want to know about the free Minnesota resource called, "Help Me Grow". Help Me Grow connects families to resources that help young children develop, learn and grow. On the Help Me Grow website, you can learn about developmental milestones for children aged birth through 5 years old, get help for a child, and read articles about parenting and childhood development. If you have concerns about any aspect of your child's development, you can also request support via the "Refer a Child" function. After you refer a child, the appropriate professionals will help you and your child get the support they need. Examples of support areas include walking, talking, eating, seeing, hearing, and playing/interacting with other children. Best news? It's all free.

If you have a small child at home, or know of a family who might need support, check out the website: <https://helpmegrowmn.org/HMG/index.htm> or simply type "Help Me Grow" into the search feature on your Internet browser. Early intervention can change lives, and it never hurts to check whether your child is on track for meeting their milestones. Happy growing and learning!



Wishing you a joyous Holiday Season and a happy and peaceful New Year!



Our Five Senses

Holly Adams, First Grade, Winsted Elementary

The first graders at Humphrey Elementary just finished up learning about their 5 senses in Health. We spent time learning the 5 senses: Sight, Hearing, Touch, Smell, and Taste. Each day they learned the importance of each sense, what we use that sense for, and how to take care of the sense or that body part. We also spent time putting each sense to the test. For the sense of sight we played the game "I spy" to describe items around the room to be able to guess what we could see. For the sense of hearing, we listened to some pre-recorded sounds and tried to guess the sound. Some sounds, like a dentist drill, were a bit tough to recognize! As we talked about the sense of touch, we felt objects around the room and described their textures. Testing our sense of smell was a lot of fun. The first graders worked in groups to smell scents in 4 bottles, and then match the bottle to the picture showing the scent. There were a lot of cheers when the correct scents were announced and we discovered our noses work well! The final day of the unit was spent doing a taste test. We tasted four flavors, salty, bitter, sour, and sweet. Most of the first graders enjoyed salty pretzels and sour lemons. We tried baking chocolate for bitter, and discovered that is not a flavor many of us like. Sweet milk chocolate was an all around favorite!

Overall, the unit was enjoyed by all. The first graders explored their senses while learning how we use these senses in our daily lives, and how our senses can protect us or warm us in times of danger.



Why Soft Skills Matter

Jessica Larson, Social Worker, Winsted Elementary

In today's rapidly evolving world, soft skills such as communication, empathy, and problem-solving are crucial for personal and professional success. Teaching these skills at home can significantly enhance a child's ability to navigate complex social environments and build meaningful relationships.



Soft skills development starts with modeling behavior. Parents can demonstrate effective communication by actively listening and responding thoughtfully during conversations. Encouraging children to express their thoughts and feelings openly helps them develop strong verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

Empathy can be nurtured through family activities that involve perspective-taking. Discussing characters' emotions in books or movies and engaging in community service together can help children understand and relate to others' experiences.

Problem-solving skills are best taught through practice. Allowing children to tackle age-appropriate challenges, such as resolving disputes with siblings or managing their own schedules, fosters critical thinking and resilience.

Additionally, creating a supportive environment where mistakes are seen as learning opportunities rather than failures encourages a growth mindset. By integrating these practices into daily routines, parents equip their children with the soft skills necessary for navigating the complexities of life and building strong, collaborative relationships.

A great free resource is Life Skills-Be Good People Curriculum

<https://sites.google.com/scred.k12.mn.us/scredsel/educators/be-good-people-curriculum>

Outdoor Learning Adventures In Kindergarten

Karen Ready, Kindergarten, Humphrey Elementary

Humphrey Elementary kindergarten students will have year round experiences in outdoor learning thanks to the generosity of friends, family and matching funds in a Donors Choose grant. This grant funded a learning wagon filled with materials for students to efficiently take learning outside and on the go! Materials include individual drawstring bags filled with a clipboard, a handheld dry erase board, and a supply pouch filled with writing utensils. The wagon also houses safety cones, student sitting mats, a teaching stool, and a magnetic/dry erase teaching easel for outdoor instruction.

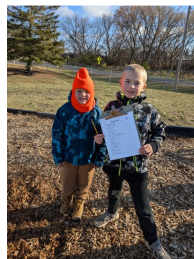
Outdoor education is not limited to science education. Any and all content areas can be taught in an outdoor environment. We are excited to take all sorts of lessons outside throughout the year (yes, even in the winter!).

The benefits of outdoor experiences for children are well documented. Time spent in nature can improve academic outcomes, health and wellbeing. Outdoor learning has been shown to assist students with social-emotional and cognitive development by fostering creativity, problem-solving, independence, and confidence. When children are outside, they take turns, talk to each other about what they see and interact with their peers in cooperative ways. Learning outdoors is immersive and exciting, activating all of the senses.

To learn more about Outdoor Learning visit these sites: Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (Minnesota Children's Cabinet), Children & Nature Network, Jeffers Foundation



Kindergarteners show off their outdoor learning bags!



Scavenger hunt with their 2nd grade math buddies.



Outdoor scavenger hunt.

Get Involved with the Humphrey PTA

Looking for a way to support our students and staff this year? Join us for our next PTA meeting on January 9th at 6:30 PM at Humphrey Elementary! This is a great opportunity to stay connected, share ideas, and help support our wonderful staff. Whether you're new to the school or a long-time supporter, we'd love to have you there!

In addition to attending the meeting, you can make a big impact by contributing to our teachers' wish lists. These lists include items that will directly support and enhance classroom learning. Browse the wish lists here: <https://www.teacherwishlists.com/wishlists/citylist.php?cid=mn108918&school=Humphrey+Elementary>. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

Be sure to follow the Lakers PTA Facebook page for updates on school events and ways you can get involved. If you have any questions or want more information, feel free to reach out to us at humphreypta@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting Humphrey Elementary!

Important Dates

December 5 - Winsted Elementary Grades 3-4 Musical Program, 1PM & 7PM, HLWW Laker Theater
December 12 - Winsted Elementary PTA Meeting - 6:30 PM
December 13 - HLWW 2 Hour Late Start
December 23-31 - HLWW No School - Winter Break
January 1 - HLWW No School - Winter Break
January 9 - Humphrey Elementary PTA Meeting - 6:30 PM



HLWW Activities Schedule

December Lunch Menu



HLWW Elementary Schools

Jennifer Olson - Elementary Principal

Humphrey Elementary 320-543-4680

Winsted Elementary 320-543-4690

www.hlww.k12.mn.us