



HOWARD LAKE
WAVERLY · WINSTED

Elementary Laker News-May 2021
www.hlww.k12.mn.us

Jen Olson
Elementary Principal

Humphrey Elementary - 320-543-4680
Winsted Elementary - 320-543-4690

School Hours 7:55 AM - 2:30 PM

Dear Elementary Families,

We're in the homestretch of the school year! It seems as though we just started the year and now we are about a month away from summer break. Even though the countdown may have started, please remember we have several weeks of solid learning left to do, and much to accomplish before we wrap up 2020-21. So rather than counting days, we're making the days count. 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 and June!

The last month of school is typically a time at the elementary buildings when learning takes a few road trips, literally! While this year may look a bit different from the field trip front we're used to, we're working to bring different and fun experiences **to the schools** at each grade level. From the MN Arboretum to the local library, from hands-on science explorations to bridging connections to other community businesses and spaces, our students and staff are busy connecting school learning to real life experiences. Along with the special events, we will also complete important assessments, including STAR 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, June 4 and marks the end of the year for all students, and the close of their elementary career for our fourth graders. The five fourth grade classes have been a big part of our student community—filled with many kind-hearted, energetic, determined, hard-working and great minded, unique individuals. 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 journeys. We are proud of each of you and we wish you well at the middle school! ☺

In spite of the adversity experienced this year, it has been an enjoyable year and a pleasure working with a terrific group of students, families, and staff.

Have a fun and safe summer!

Mrs. Jen Olson



May Student of the Month Theme



Click on the link below to find our Student of the Month honorees

Humphrey

<https://www.hlww.k12.mn.us/page/3579>

Winsted

<https://www.hlww.k12.mn.us/page/3654>

2021-2022 Kindergarten Students

Winsted Elementary and Humphrey Elementary are registering eligible students for the 2021-2022 school year.

Parents/guardians of children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2021, are asked to contact Winsted Elementary (320-543-4690) or Humphrey Elementary (320-543-4680) as soon as possible to begin the registration process.

Parents/guardians may also download the registration packet at www.hlww.k12.mn.us (District<Enrollment Materials<Humphrey Elementary Enrollment or Winsted Elementary Enrollment<2021-22 Kindergarten).

If you know of a child in the HLWW School District who needs to be registered please share this information with them.

PTA News

Classroom Grants - With the help and support of so many parents in the school we were able to grant four classrooms at Humphrey Elementary with items they need in their classrooms. A first grade classroom will be receiving Alphabricks to help support students with spelling, sight words, and sentence practice as well as a few CD players so the students can listen to books as a group; a third grade classroom will be able to reach more students in their reading journey with Hi-Lo Books; and a first grade classroom and Reading Intervention teacher are able to make sharing worksheets, drawings and assignments easier for all to see in the classroom with their new document cameras.

Winsted Elementary PTA was able to use the funds raised this year to gift three classrooms with grants this spring! The preschool classroom will receive hula hoops and a balance beam to make a sensory path in their classroom. A second grade classroom will receive alphabet tiles and drawstring bags. They will use these tiles for hands on learning to improve their phonics in the classroom. The final grant was given to the special education department to purchase several different types of puzzles. They will use the puzzles for fine motor development and speech language development.

Teacher Appreciation Week - Teacher Appreciation Week is May 3-7 and we will be celebrating our teaching staff in the HLWW District. We look forward to spoiling our teachers at both Humphrey and Winsted again this year. There are several surprises and treats planned to happen throughout the week.

If you are a Winsted family and would like to see how you can be involved check out this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054CACA923A7F94-teacher1>.

It can be as easy as your student writing a letter to their teacher about what they mean to them, draw their teacher a picture, reach out to your child's teacher and let them know how much you appreciate them. Check out our Humphrey wish list to donate to the school (see below). Such a small gesture can brighten someone's day. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/NHF7FAF8LO2F?ref=wl_share.

If you are interested in being part of the week in any way feel free to contact us at humphreyppta@gmail.com or winstedpta@gmail.com.

PTA Meetings – May meeting for Winsted Elementary is May 17 at 6:00 p.m. Humphrey Elementary will not have a meeting in May.

We hope you have a FANTASTIC end to your school year! Have a great summer!

2021-2022 Classroom Placements

Jen Olson, Principal

Have you ever wondered how your child's classroom teacher for next year is decided? The process takes lots of teacher time and thought. As an example, if your child is in second grade, the teacher meets with the other second grade teachers and other teaching staff representatives. The team considers each child's learning style, academic achievement, special behavioral or learning needs, gender, as well as the combination of student energy levels and personalities. Their job is to balance all of these factors so that the classrooms have a rich diversity of talents, skills and needs. Together they spend many hours "building" the third-grade classrooms for next year. When teachers are given the opportunity to "build" classrooms based on their professional judgment, there is the greatest opportunity for all students to be successful.

So where does the parent's input fit in? Parents may indicate their preference with the understanding that the school will do its best to accommodate this preference along with our professional judgment. While your preferences are important, balanced classrooms at each grade level will always be a priority. In the event that a teacher leaves the district after the classrooms are "built" your child will remain in the assigned classroom grouping.

We are not suggesting parents should indicate preferences. However, if you want to state your preference, please follow the procedure below.

1. All requests must be mailed to Jennifer Olson and will be accepted between now and Friday, May 7. Phone requests will not be accepted.
2. Please use the following format so it is easier to sort the requests: child's name, current teacher and current grade. State your preference and the reasoning behind your request. Sign and date your request.
3. Please make a separate request for each child so the request can be considered at the appropriate grade level meeting.
4. Due to the extensive time needed by teachers to "build" classrooms, no late or incomplete requests will be honored.

Winsted Elementary Roller Skating

Ryan Petersen, Physical Education/DAPE Teacher

Students at Winsted Elementary had the opportunity to participate in roller skating during their Physical Education time in April. The students learned how roller skating can help them achieve their goals of being physically active individuals. The first day of roller skating is met with a lot of challenges. Students focused on how to stay balanced on their roller skates, as well as how to get back up after a fall. To start out the unit, students skated on gym mats that were laid out around the outside of the gym. Then, when they felt comfortable they were able to pass a test to gain permission to skate on the tile floor. By the end of the second day, most students were doing a great job of keeping their balance on the tile floor. It is always fun to see the students with more skating experience encouraging and supporting their classmates throughout the unit.

Throughout the roller skating unit, students worked on how to use the "1,2,3 glide" method to continuously skate around the gym. Students learned how to utilize the "T-Stop" in order to stop on their own as well as how to use a "crossover turn" to change directions. On the final day of the unit, students got to have a roller disco party in the gym with disco lights and music. It is always a blast to see how much progress our students can make throughout the roller skating unit.



What We Have Learned Over the Past Year

Michelle Olson, Winsted Elem.

Students have learned a variety of new life skills and techniques over the past year as they have navigated unprecedented times. Students have many perspectives and takeaways from these trying times. Here are a few of their opinions:

Fourth Grader: "I have been playing games with my dad and we have been bothering each other about the pandemic. When in school I get to see my friend on the Chromebook. Wearing a mask has been a little difficult because it is hard to breathe in them and it gets itchy with them; especially new masks."

Fourth Grader: "Well, I have learned that if I am too close to people I will get Coronavirus. I have learned to stay 6 feet apart."

Fourth Grader: "You cannot hug people."

Fourth Grader: "I did zooms and therapy. I learned how to cook those BLT wraps. I helped grandpa with the boat. We got Luna, our puppy. I liked this year."

Second Grader: "Well now we have an old planet called the Planet Corona. I do not like it."

Kindergartner: "Uh.... homework since corona is here; it is not as long as last year. If I get close to humans then I get corona then I will puke."

As an instructor, I've seen students be adaptable to change, resilient, and determined to do their best in challenging circumstances. I'm proud to work with a group of students who are willing to take on new challenges and persevere while learning more each day. Continue to encourage your child as we all strive to improve!

School Age Care Program For Students Grades K-6

June 9 through August 20

Come join the fun this summer. The School Age Care Program is available to you Monday-Friday (except will meet June 9-11, June 28-July 1 and July 6-9) from 6 AM to 6 PM.

Registration materials are available at <https://www.hlww.k12.mn.us/page/3318> or contact HLWW Community Education at 320-543-4670, ext. 2.



Brandi Bresnahan, Humphrey Elementary

to reflect upon the school year. We think about the changes that have taken place because of the pandemic. While some of these changes are met with anger and frustration, there have been some changes met with laughter and enjoyment.

Never did I think waiting for a person's picture to pop up on the screen would be met with so much anticipation and excitement. This is exactly what happened in my classroom each Friday as we waited for our Mystery Google Meet. These changes to our routine allowed us to learn more about people from our community.

My favorite change has to do with the creativity of these students. Playing games with classmates is always a fun part of a school day, but with the six feet apart mandate many of these games needed to be completed differently. One of these activities included the game of Go Fish. My students were able to create a way to play Go Fish while everyone stayed in their desk spot. The rules are the same, the set-up is the same but the distance between each other is just a little bit wider. Everyone takes their turn and both partners turn over the cards that match. At times, this simple game would include at least ten classmates playing together.

It has been a wonderful experience to see these students take what could be a frustrating and maddening situation and turn it into a positive and entertaining experience. There is definitely a lesson to be learned from these forward-thinking students.

Summer Reading Bucket List

By Mrs. Sarah Schanus, Second Grade Teacher, Humphrey Elementary

Although our 2020-21 school year is coming to an end and summer is just around the corner, reading can and should continue! Experts say it takes about 66 days for a new habit to be formed. During the last 180 or so school days, we have worked hard to build healthy reading habits. For students who continue to devour books during summer break, these habits will stay intact and summer-learning-loss won't be an issue. When the academic year is over pursuing good books doesn't have to end. The second graders in Mrs. Schanus' class created a bucket list of their summer reading hopes and dreams. My kiddos listed their top ten summer reading goals. Here they are:



Kylah: I want to read *Grumpy Cat* by Britta Teckentrup on a rainy summer day.

Rylie: The two books on the top of my summer reading bucket list are *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling and *Big Nate Goes Bananas!* by Lincoln Peirce.

Lydia: Over the summer I plan to read *Owl Diaries* by Rebecca Elliott and non-fiction books about pandas in bed.

Blake: Reading Knock-Knock Jokes and magazines in my bed just for fun is at the top of my summer bucket list.

Jameson: I will read Dog Man books by a tree with no breaks for an hour. My summer reading bucket list includes funny books that make me giggle like *Mothering Heights* by Dav Pilkey.

Reagan: I will read cook books, *Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope Osborne and magazines to my stuffed animals.

Bea: My summer reading bucket list includes reading the end of the book first with my friend Rylie. I also will read the *Beatrice Zinker* series by Shelley Johannes by myself.

Ellee: I will read the first book I see in the pitch-black dark in my tent and sleeping bag. I also want to read the *Wild Robot* series by Peter Brown.

Mitchell: During the summer I will read *John Deere*™ books in a car or a plane with a flashlight.

Carter: I will read non-fiction books about lions and cats and fiction books like *Pete the Cat* by Eric Litwin and James Dean.

Lexy: I'm going to build a fort and read scary books while drinking out of my special cup.

Harper: My top bucket list summer reading is books about pets and *Baby-Sitters Club* by Ann M. Martin.

Sam: My summer reading bucket list includes reading *Wings of Fire #5* by Tui T. Sutherland next to a tree for an hour without breaks.

Deacon: I will read a library book or *The Curse of the Chocolate Phoenix* by Kate Saunders to my stuffed animals, my dad and mom, in bed for an hour without stopping. I will also read *Wings of Fire #5* by Tui T. Sutherland

Ethan: My goal is to read *Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey to myself in my bed during the summer or the *I Survived* books by Lauren Tarshis.

Leviathan: During the summer I will read funny books that make me laugh. I will read them to my stuffed animals.

Blythe: Knock-Knock Jokes or stories on-line are at the top of my summer reading bucket list. I also really want to read books about chickens and chicks.

Rex: I will read books about pets and other animals in my sleeping bag and tent.



Why Empathy?

By Jessica Ingram, 2nd Grade Humphrey Elementary

President Barack Obama said, “*Learning to stand in somebody else’s shoes, to see through their eyes, that’s how peace begins and it’s up to you to make that happen. Empathy is a quality of character that can change the world.*” Wow, change the world? How peace begins? Up to us to make that happen? *Inc. Magazine* names empathy as “the most important skill you’ll ever need to succeed.” That’s a heavy responsibility for our children. So, how do we teach empathy? How do we practice empathy?

At HLWW Elementary Schools, we use The *Character Strong* program, an engaging social and emotional learning curriculum. In March, we studied empathy. Empathy is defined as “the ability to understand and connect to the feelings of another.” Mrs. Krzmarzick, our school counselor, helped us develop a mental picture of walking in someone else’s “*path*” - as found in the middle of the word “em*pathy*.” In other words, walking in someone else’s shoes. Together, we discussed different scenarios to try and guess the feelings of others and come up with ways that we could connect and offer support.

We also learned that feelings are for feeling! It’s ok to feel whatever it is you are feeling and to have faith in knowing you won’t feel that way forever. Sharing feelings and experiences with others and recognizing connections to those feelings is what makes empathy so powerful. We played simple games like “feelings charades” and “share a feeling” to give the students actual practice connecting and being aware of the feelings of others.

Although feeling your feelings is a fundamental part of being a human, media and culture would like you to think otherwise. More so than not, they tell us we are supposed to feel *happy*, and that other ways to feel are not acceptable or are even shameful. This constant pressure can make people feel uncomfortable when feeling something other than happiness. Understanding that *all* people feel *all* different kinds of feelings at *all* different times in their lives, over and over again, and that it’s a completely normal and expected part of the human experience certainly feels like where peace begins to me.

WEEKEND News

Jessica Pavlenko, 1st Grade, Winsted Elementary

Every Monday in our classroom, the first graders draw and write about what they did the previous weekend. Our “Weekend News” is something we do all year-September to June-to provide routine, develop our writing skills, and show how much we grow as students. At the end of the year, we take all of our “Weekend News” writing papers home in a folder to share with our families. They are so much fun to read and look back on! Some of my favorite writing comes from these weekly snippets, as they truly are a picture of what each student does throughout the year, from birthdays to holidays, camping to weekends at Grandma’s, and everything in between. Sometimes there are no adventures to be had, which is okay, too, so we write about that. I know that if I were to write one about myself, mine would always say, “I went grocery shopping and did laundry.” (Enjoyable, no. Necessary, yes). As the weather continues to get nicer this spring more exciting things have been happening. Here are some of my students’ latest weekend adventures:
Francisco- “I went to my dad’s house to play.”
John- “I went to the Mall of America.”
Hattie- “Me and Kamryn had a fire.”
Alex- “I went to a bowling party.”
Jaylynn- “I jumped on the trampoline.”
Audrey- “I went to a park.”
Zackary- “I played soccer with my mom.”
Amelia- “I walked across the Mississippi with my dad.”
Liam- “I played on my X Box.”
Kali- “I went to a party.”
Jerome- “I jumped on my big brother’s trampoline.”
Lauren- “I went to a garage sale. I got a new bike. I watched the Tom & Jerry movie.”
Jayden- “We thought Dustin (my sister’s chinchilla) was gone, but somehow he got in my cabinet. Then we had to break my cabinet and we are happy.”

Humphrey Elementary

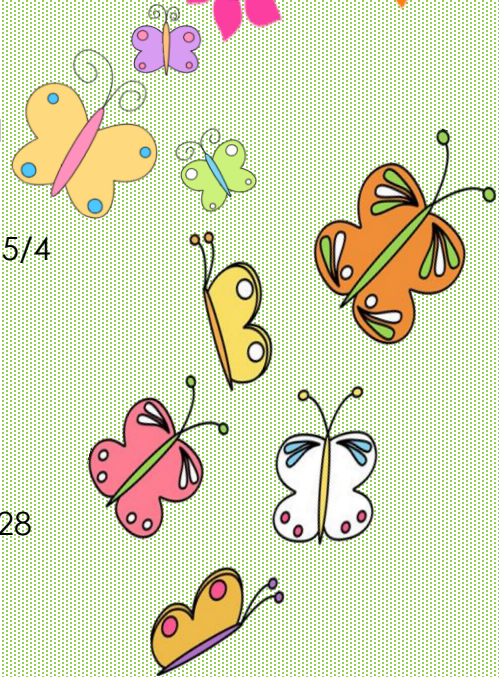
Lizbeth Flores Garcia 5/3
Carlee Otten 5/6
Grace Kittock 5/8
Everett Singer-Towns 5/8
Quinn Duske 5/9
Emma Muscha 5/10
Logan Rasset 5/10
Lillian Lukach 5/11
MacKenzie Wiegand 5/13
Mason Wiegand 5/13
Ariah Hayden 5/16
Easton Marketon 5/16
Alainah Redinger 5/17
Blake Hartneck 5/23
Kennedy Landowski 5/23
Oden Rosenlund 5/23
Kenneth Sinkler 5/23
Brecklen Pool 5/24
Vanessa Mauk 5/26
Hailey Dalbec 5/27
Alaina Keno 5/28
Ellee Krause 5/28
Justin Peterson 5/28
Sydney Miller 5/29
Mitchell McClellan 5/30
Stella Sandford 5/20
Abigail Hausladen 5/31
Amea Wending 5/31

May Celebrations



Winsted Elementary

Lauren Dettlefsen 5/1
Josiah Sobota 5/2
Jaden Muonio 5/3
Jaylynn Nino-Espitia 5/4
Hattie Hintz 5/6
Logan Pheiffer 5/6
Avrey Lind 5/8
Faye Cafferty 5/12
Clare Dressel 5/18
Kason Norstedt 5/27
Kaleb Wenninger 5/28
Syrus Stenberg 5/29
Lilly Brewer 5/30
Jaxon Fiecke 5/31



 **JUNE 4**
Elementary
Dismissal
12:30 p.m.

August 30/August 31

K-4 open house will be held during individual Welcome Back Day Sessions



September 1

K-4 first full day of school

Save the Date: Title Family Event
May 25 4:00 – 6:00 P.M.
More details coming soon.