

HLWW ELEMENTARY

Humphrey Elementary  
Winsted Elementary

# Laker News

March 2025



## Dear Elementary Families,

Welcoming GREEN and WARMTH! While I would anticipate a few snowflakes yet, we may start seeing green to compliment the green theme of March. We'll be wrapping up the 3rd quarter of school on March 20 and preparing for the last few months of school. The year has been busy to this point and doesn't show any signs of slowing. As we move into the last quarter, I'd ask that as we prepare for the "new" grade in the fall, that you partner with us in reviewing our school expectations—both social and academic,

with your child. While there is still a lot of snow on the ground, spring fever has worked its way into the building and everyone is anxious for break. Please help us reinforce the importance for students to ask questions when having difficulty, to complete work in a timely way, and to be respectful, kind and courteous to others. As always, your partnership in your child's education is important and appreciated.

Our "I LOVE to Read Month" celebrations and activities in February were a big hit—dress up days, guest readers, mystery readers, BINGO with books, and much more offered a boost of excitement for reading. A quick note of thanks for those who volunteered to help us share the passion of a good book during "I LOVE to Read Month" — we appreciate you! It meant so much for our students to see you take time from your busy day, and we enjoy your visits. We also held a 100th day celebration, performed for parents and prepped for musical performances, and spent time learning about many different things in our classrooms. February was jam packed with learning and fun.

We have a few key happenings within the month of March that families should be aware of...the first is kindergarten registration! Our registrations occur on March 4 at Winsted Elementary, and March 11 at Humphrey Elementary. The dates are open to complement families' schedules. Winsted Elementary will debut their first and second grade musical on March 18, at 1 and 7 p.m. in the HLWW-HS Auditorium. (This is a date change from March 6). Humphrey students and staff will

be honored with the School of Excellence celebration the week of March 10. To close out March, we'll be off for spring break on March 21 and upon return we jump into April and the upcoming state testing for reading and math.

Ah yes, state testing—please keep the weeks of April 14-18 and April 21-25 clear from appointments that would take your third or fourth grader away from school. We will be participating, like all other schools across the state, in the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). Reading will take place during the first week indicated, and we'll follow with our Math MCAs the second week. More news on those specific dates will be coming soon but these tests are a good indication of what your child has mastered at state expectations, as well as how well we are providing instruction. It is important that your child is present on those days, that he or she is well rested and has a good breakfast to help provide the best opportunities for success. We want them to be able to show everything they know...they've learned a lot!

Enjoy the anticipation and energy coming into the spring season and I look forward to continuing our partnerships together. Be well.

In Learning,  
Jen Olson

 **HUMPHREY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

 **WINSTED ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**



**SCHOOL  
YEARBOOK**

**Tuesday, March 4  
Winsted Elementary  
431 4th Street North, Winsted  
5:30-7:00 PM**

**Tuesday, March 11  
Humphrey Elementary  
803 Elm Avenue, Waverly  
5:30-7:00 PM**

**Order Online  
Humphrey School Code  
723447**

**Winsted School Code  
723460**

**You can also send \$16.00 (cash or check) in  
the yearbook envelope that was sent home with  
your child in December.  
Order deadline is March 7.**

## GET INVOLVED AND STAY CONNECTED WITH THE HUMPHREY PTA!



Looking for a meaningful way to contribute to our school community? Join us for our next PTA meeting on March 6, 6:30PM at Humphrey Elementary. Its a great opportunity to stay connected, share ideas, and help support our wonderful staff. We will be discussing upcoming events for Spring and would greatly appreciate your involvement.

Be sure to follow the Lakers PTA Facebook page for updates on school events, ways to support our teachers, and how you can get involved. If you have any questions, we're always here to help! Feel free to email us at [humphreypa@gmail.com](mailto:humphreypa@gmail.com).



Thank you for supporting Humphrey Elementary!

## TESTING TIME

Kelli Westling, HLWW Assessment Coordinator

Spring has sprung and with that brings the spring testing season.

All 3rd -8th graders and 10th and 11th graders will be taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in reading and math in April. These assessments are very important as they give our district important information about student progress toward

Minnesota's academic standards. The MCA's also meet federal and state legislative requirements.



Students and teachers have worked hard all year to review and prepare for the MCA's. Throughout all classes, teachers have been delivering content designed around meeting the Minnesota Academic Standards. Students have worked hard at learning and applying what they have learned in various situations. This higher level of learning prepares them for the rigor of the MCA. Teachers have also been teaching students test taking techniques to use to help them take their time and do their best.

Because the MCA's are important, it is vital that our students are in school on the day of their scheduled test. Humphrey and Winsted Elementary 3rd and 4th graders will be taking their reading MCA test the morning of April 15th and 16th. They will take their math MCA test the morning of April 22nd and 23rd. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments on these days if possible. It is also important that students get a good night's sleep and eat a good, hearty breakfast. We want all of our students to do their best work and feel energized during the test.



## Early Math Skill and Games

Jenny Moe, ECSE Teacher, Winsted Elementary

I work with preschool and kindergarten students at Winsted Elementary. We practice math skills in a variety of ways. We compare groups of objects using adjectives like bigger and smaller, more and less, taller and shorter, heavier and lighter. We make patterns and name shapes. Early math skills are the foundation for later learning. They help students develop problem solving and critical thinking skills.

How can you practice math at home?

- Play board games with dice. Children learn to count the spots on the dice and associate that with the numeral. They also practice counting by moving their pawn the same number of spaces as the dice showed.
- Take out building blocks, shake a dice and stack that many blocks to make a tower. How many blocks can you stack before the tower falls? Are there ways to make your tower more stable?
- Gather pennies and toilet paper rolls. Shake the dice and add that many pennies to your roll. Set a timer for two minutes. Continue taking turns and adding pennies until the timer beeps. Lift your roll and count how many pennies are inside.
- Count how many times your child can bat a balloon in the air without it touching the ground.
- Match and say the numbers in a deck of cards or play Uno to practice matching colors or numbers.
- Turn 3 cards upside down and see if your child can remember which color or number is under the card. Add more cards as your child increases their memory.

🌸🌸 **MARCH HAS ARRIVED! SPRING IS ON THE WAY.** 🌸🌸



Rachel Murphy, PE & DAPE Teacher, Humphrey Elementary

Throughout this school year, students have been trying new things and challenging themselves within Physical Education class. Here are a few topics that we have covered so far.

Just before the holiday break, students were able to improve their roller skating skills. Students learned to roller skate forwards, backwards, how to stop skating, how to start skating, and how to balance their body if they feel as though they might fall. In addition to student learning, I also felt as though my students had taught me throughout this unit. Being a beginner roller skater myself, I learned how to roller skate along with my students. As a class, we faced new challenges head on, fell a few times and stood back up, and laughed with friends, all the while learning something new and extending our skills. At the end of the skating unit, students had a disco roller skating party to celebrate their success in learning a new skill or improving their already existing skills and they loved it. The roller skating disco party was filled with laughter, dancing, and memories!

The last week of January and into the first few weeks of February, students participated in the Kids Heart Challenge Fundraiser held by Jump Rope for Heart. Students were able to complete Finn's

Mission, as well as raise money for the fundraiser and receive thank you gifts, such as the character keychains, mystery card packs, wristbands, Finn's Cape, etc. At the end of our jump roping unit, students participated in a lesson called Jump Rope Ninja, where they collected colors of ninja belts as they jumped their way through the colored belts progressing in jump amounts. As students collected the colors of the belts, they also collected the same color yarn bracelets, which they received at the end of the unit. Students that completed the jumps for black belt also received a Black Belt Award signaling them as an official Jump Rope Ninja!

It is so much fun to watch students learn and grow in Physical Education class, and I am very thankful that I have the privilege of being a guiding step for them in their education journey. I cannot wait to see where their future takes these students!

**KINDNESS**

Morgan Dockendorf, 4th Grade Teacher, Humphrey Elementary

Kindness means to be friendly, generous, and considerate of others. This is a character trait that is important for all students to understand and show in and out of the classroom. On January 28th, 4th Grade students from Humphrey Elementary and Winsted Elementary went to HLWW High School and participated in a Kindness Retreat. The Kindness Retreat is put on by the Youth Frontiers. Youth Frontiers states that their mission is to "provide experiences that inspire character, civility and community". With this mission in mind they structured the day to be filled with small group discussions, whole group discussions, stories, games, singing and dancing. Throughout all the activities the students learned about how we can be better at showing kindness in our school. After the retreat, I asked each of my students to share one way they could show kindness at school. Here is what Mrs. Dockendorf's 4th graders shared about showing kindness at school...

<u>Colton BV.</u> : being respectful	<u>Kassidy</u> : helping people who need help
<u>Wilton</u> : helping others when they are hurt	<u>Lainey</u> : giving nice compliments to people when they are sad
<u>Ben</u> : inviting people to play	<u>Jaxson</u> : helping kids
<u>Ernest</u> : being nice	<u>Zharia</u> : include others at recess
<u>Colton H.</u> : helping others	<u>Emily</u> : by helping people
<u>Abby</u> : holding the door open for someone	<u>Raya</u> : high five classmates
<u>Gavin</u> : helping people	<u>Jase</u> : being helpful
<u>Brady</u> : by stopping fights	<u>Mac</u> : not excluding people
<u>Graysen</u> : give high fives to classmates	<u>Emma</u> : holding the door for someone
<u>Harleigh</u> : being nice and being more helpful	<u>Lilly</u> : helping people when needed
<u>Grace</u> : being helpful	<u>Valerie</u> : treat people how I like to be treated
<u>Jaxon</u> : being nice	
<u>Eve</u> : sharing more	

## Sensory Friendly Recreation In Minnesota

Andrea Travis, Special Education Teacher. Humphrey Elementary

Many recreational organizations and institutions in Minnesota understand the importance of sensory friendly options and resources for children with Autism and other disabilities. Anxiety, fear of the unknown, or an overloaded sensory system can be a barrier for a child to participate in and enjoy leisure and recreational activities. It may also be difficult for parents and caregivers to find these friendly activities. Below is a list of some sensory friendly attractions Minnesota has to offer.

Mall of America and Nickelodeon Universe are Certified Autism Centers. 80% of the staff have received autism sensitivity training and they have a sensory guide for the rides and attractions at Nickelodeon. Como Zoo in St. Paul offers early entry and sensory-friendly visitor information. AMC offers sensory friendly movie showings. Bell Museum of Natural History in St. Paul offers one sensory friendly Saturday per month. Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis offers sensory friendly performances. Minnesota State Parks offer geocaching which combines technology, a clearly defined goal and a reward at the end.

There are plenty more - the Autism Society of Minnesota has an extensive resource list of recreation and leisure activities on its website - from community events to sensory-friendly locations.



## Loving February Fun

Stefanie Gunderson, Kindergarten Teacher, Humphrey Elementary

Whenever I think about teaching, I think there are three extra busy times of the year. The first, is the weeks surrounding the start of school. The second is closing the year out in May/June. The third is February. February is filled with activities, celebrations, and excitement.

The month is home to our 100th Day of School, Valentine's Day, and I Love to Read Month. This year, it boasted a Humphrey Music Program and Parent Teacher Conferences on top of all the day to day happenings of a busy elementary school mid-year. Of all of these, my personal favorites are the I Love to Read Month festivities.

Across the district you could find us dressing up to celebrate reading, reading in crazy ways for I Love to Read Month Bingo, and trying our luck at predicting the best books in a bracket for Book Madness (think of March Madness but with great...often funny...children's literature). On Tuesdays throughout the month we dressed up and found creative ways to read when we Stopped, Dropped and Read with flashlights, on beach towels, and with blankets and stuffies! On Wednesdays and Fridays students listened to Mystery Readers and tried to guess who exactly was reading short passages! The month has been filled with pockets of fun reading opportunities amidst all of our normal curriculum and learning.

In our Kindergarten classroom, we did all of this plus we listened to our first chapter book, Flat Stanley, aloud. We counted how many books we read throughout the month (We are currently at 411 and counting!), and we had three parent mystery readers surprise our class with some of their favorite books. The month is winding down but my hope is that the activities helped to incite a passion for reading in each and everyone one of my students!

As I write this, our I Love to Read Month is nearly over. We have more to celebrate with guest and mystery readers and more giggles from pages left unturned. At the end of the month we have a plethora of prizes to give out for our different activities. As a teacher I get to see the joy and excitement this month brings to my Kinders and I look forward to seeing them years down the road enjoying the extra love of literature and excitement that comes in February each year.

## **HLWW ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE**

### **MARCH LUNCH MENU**

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

March 4 - 2025-26 Kindergarten Registration @ Winsted Elementary 5:30-7:00 PM

March 6 - HES PTA Meeting @ Humphrey Elementary 6:30 PM

March 7 - HES PTA Family Movie Night @ Humphrey Elementary, doors open 5:45 PM

March 11 - 2025-26 Kindergarten Registration @ Humphrey Elementary 5:30-7:00 PM

March 13 - WES PTA Meeting @ Winsted Elementary 6:30 PM

March 18 - WES Grades 1-2 Music Program @ HLWW High School Auditorium 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

March 21 - HLWW No School - Staff Workshop Day

March 24-28 - HLWW No School - Spring Break

April 4 - WES PTA Family Bingo Night @ Winsted Elementary 6:00-7:15 PM



### **HLWW Elementary Schools**

Jennifer Olson - Elementary Principal

Humphrey Elementary 320-543-4680

Winsted Elementary 320-543-4690

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