

HEMLOCK CREEK

NEWSLETTER

1900 WILLIAMS GRANT DR

(920) 425-1900

FEBRUARY 2024

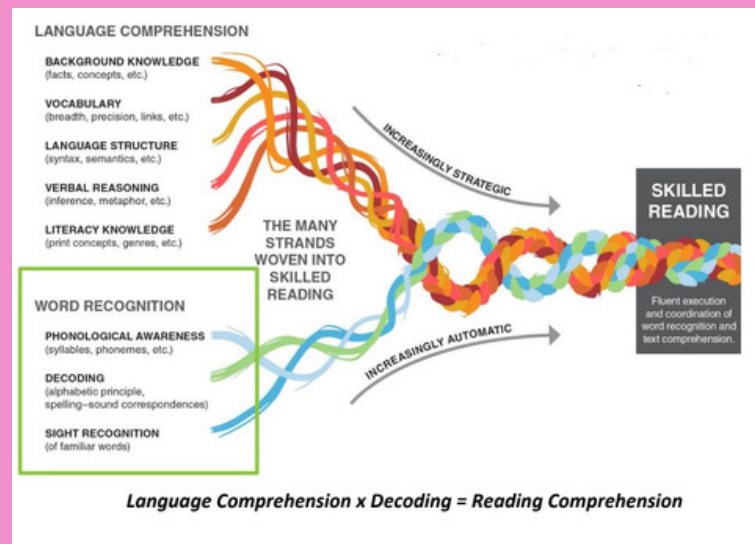
A NOTE FROM MRS. HELD

- Our February conference time will be held on Thursday, February 22 from 4-8 PM. These conferences will be in person at Hemlock Creek. Since there is a limited number of available time slots, we encourage families who are new or were unable to attend the fall conferences to sign up right away.
- For Valentine's Day celebrations, most classrooms will be sending home information. We ask that you include everyone in the classroom for any treats or Valentine's celebrations rather than leaving anyone out. Please be aware of any classroom food allergies. We want everyone to feel included. Please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions.

Did You Know?

When we encounter any type of print our goal is to be a skilled reader. A skilled reader is fluent, has word recognition and can comprehend the print. In the "brain of a reader" we have two strands that are intertwined to help us become skilled readers. One is the language comprehension strand that includes background knowledge, vocabulary, language structure, verbal reasoning, and literacy knowledge. The other strand is word recognition which includes phonological awareness, decoding and sign recognition. Learning to read is very complex and has many strands. Did you know that reading aloud is the single most important factor to help children become proficient, avid readers? Reading aloud introduces new vocabulary, builds background knowledge and exposes children to language and text structures and gives them a positive interaction with books. When you have conversations about what you are reading aloud together (interactive reading), that helps to build vocabulary and verbal fluency skills. What was your favorite book as a child? What is your favorite book to read to your children now?

Mrs. Held, Proud Principal



Important Dates

- Feb 1 - STEAM Night @ 6:00 PM
- Feb 6 - PTO Meeting @ 6:30 PM, Brickhouse Craft Burgers & Brews
- Feb 22 - Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00-8:00 PM

STUDENT FEES FOR 2023-2024

We are still collecting student fees (4K-4) for all students whose parents have not paid or have not received an approved waiver due to free or reduced lunch status. Checks can be written to West De Pere School District. Please send payment to the office.
4K - \$15.00, Grades K & 1 - \$40.00, Grades 2-4 - \$45.00. Unpaid fees follow the student from year to year through graduation.

2024 Summer School

Dates:
Monday, June 10th -
Friday, June 28th

Locations:
Hemlock Creek
Westwood
WDP Intermediate School

Most classes will run between the hours of:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Course offerings information will be available on the District website starting March 19th.

Registration will open at 2:30pm on Thursday, April 4th.
Registration will close at 4:00pm on Thursday, April 18th.

All registrations and payments will be processed online.
Go to www.wdpsd.com, click on About the District, then the Summer School tab for additional information and registration.

Questions?
Please email summerschool@wdpsd.com
or call 920-337-1087 ext 3100



Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 22nd from 4:00-8:00 pm. These conferences will be scheduled first by teachers for students who may have missed the October conference date or for students where an update of progress needs to occur. Teachers will be contacting some families and then there will be limited time slots available for other conferences. Online scheduling will be open on Wednesday, February 14th beginning at 6:00 a.m. The online schedule link will close on Wednesday, February 21st at noon. There will be a link on the Hemlock Creek website.

DISTRICT SPELLING BEE



Congratulations to Hudson B, Camden B, Aubrey C and Dedeepya A for competing at the middle school spelling bee on Jan. 16th. Dedeepya will be moving on to the regional spelling bee representing Hemlock Creek.



PHANTASTIC PHANTOM NEWS

Mr. Kowalczyk, Associate Principal

The PBIS focus for the month of January was self control. The learning target was: "I can recognize my own emotions." A few of the strategies discussed during the month were: breathing, counting, self talk, checking our own thoughts, and asking for help. Some of the discussion starters were: When was a time that you haven't gotten your way? What did you do? What can a break look like? In the classroom? On the playground? At home?

Students were recognized for being Phantastic Phantom problem solvers. We topped the month off with a recognition day of pick an activity.

Classrooms earning the Phantastic Phantom Trophy for the month were:

K: Mrs. Raschke's, Mrs. Sands', and Mrs. Rohr's classes.

1st: Mrs. Roth's, Mrs. Dunathan's, and Mrs. Kussow's classes.

2nd: Mrs. Schoenwalders', Mrs. Linssen's, and Ms. Legois' classes.

3rd: Ms. Ribarcheck's, Mrs. Lynn's, and Mr. Prebel'ski's classes.

4th: Mrs. Sampe's, Mr. Fietzer's, and Mrs. Schmidt's classes.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CONTEST

Congratulations to Neima, Reese, Max, Graham, and Jaxson on their first place finishes and Chloe, Callie, Kaylee, Aubrey, Bailey, Beckett, and Treydan their second place finishes in their age groups for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest at Hemlock Creek. These students will be moving on to the next round of competition at West DePere High School in March of 2024. We are very proud of their accomplishment.



First Place Finishers: Neima, Reese, Max, Graham, and Jaxson



Second Place Finishers: Chloe, Callie, Kaylee, Aubrey, Bailey, Beckett, and Trey.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Mrs. Hettmann & Mrs. Johnson

National School Counseling Week is February 5th–9th! The purpose of this week is to highlight the unique and integral role school counselors play in student success. School counselors work with all students to remove barriers to learning by addressing students' academic concerns, teaching social/emotional skills, and helping students plan for careers.



This month's Phantom Skills lessons will focus on problem-solving. Students will learn how to solve common peer conflicts on their own and with adult support. Last month, students learned how to show empathy and kindness in friendships. Here are a few ways to teach kindness and empathy to your child at home:

- **Be kind to yourself.** It's hard to be kind to others if we do not take care of ourselves.
- **Try starting a gratitude practice.** This can be as simple as having each family member talk about what they are grateful for during dinner. You can also encourage your child to make a card for someone special to express gratitude towards that special someone.
- **Show empathy when you read a book or watch a movie together.** If you see a character experiencing an intense emotion, ask your child, "How do you think they feel? Tell your child to look at the character's face to give them clues.

Grief Support Opportunity

Hemlock Creek Elementary School is pleased to offer our students the opportunity to participate in a Grief Support Group in collaboration with Unity Grief and Education Center.

One of our Hemlock Creek School Counselors Mardi Johnson, and a Unity Grief Counselor will be leading a **six-week grief support group** designed to provide students the opportunity to explore their grief through activities and conversation while learning about grief and developing coping skills.

The group will meet during the school day from 12:00PM–1:00PM on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 5, 2024
- Tuesday, March 12, 2024
- Tuesday, March 19, 2024
- Tuesday, April 2, 2024
- Tuesday, April 9, 2024
- Tuesday, April 16, 2024

SCHOOL CONCERTS

Hemlock Creek will have grade-level concerts this year on the following dates:

- 4th Grade- Friday, May 10 @ 10:00–10:30 AM
- 3rd Grade - Friday, May 10th @ 2:30–3:00 PM
- 2nd Grade - Friday, May 17th @ 10:00–10:30 AM
- 1st Grade- Friday, May 17th @ 2:30–3:00 PM
- K (Herlace, Raschke, Sands, Walker)- Tuesday, May 7th @ 2:30–3:00 PM
- K (Loch, Neuens, Rohr) - Thursday, May 9th @ 2:0–3:00 PM

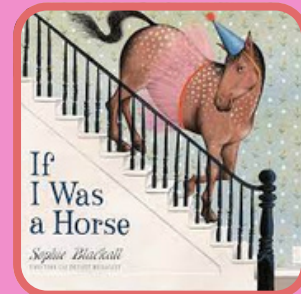


LIBRARY NEWS

Mock Caldecott

Students learned about the Caldecott Medal during their library time and will be participating in a Mock Caldecott Award. They are listening to several books in the library during the next few weeks and then will be voting on which of these books they think has the best illustrations.

The books the Hemlock Creek kids will be voting on are: *Beneath*, *Once Upon a Book*, *If I Was a Horse*, *Evergreen*, and *In the Night Garden*.



Therapy Dogs

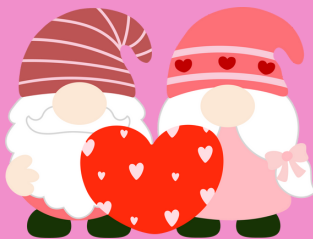
Tucker, a four year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, has been at school once a month listening to kids read. This is his third year coming to school as a therapy dog. We also have a Golden Doodle named Teddy who visits monthly!



2023–24 Wisconsin Forward Exam Window Opens in March

From March 18 through April 26 Wisconsin students will once again be taking the Wisconsin Forward Exam. The Wisconsin Forward is the test that schools are required to give to students in grades 3–8 and 10. Questions on the Forward Exam will measure each student's achievement relative to grade level in two areas: English language arts and mathematics. In addition, a science test will be given to fourth and eighth grade students and a social studies test will be administered to fourth, eighth and tenth grade students. All testing sessions are online and untimed, so students can take breaks without their score being impacted.

West De Pere schools will be administering the Forward Exam over the course of the entire window. Our aim is to give students the time and support they need to complete each portion of the test to the best of their ability. Parents and students can be confident that teachers and school personnel will have student welfare as their top priority. Parents seeking to know more about the Forward Exam can visit the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website (<http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward>). Additional questions about the Wisconsin Forward Exam can be directed to building principals or Joe Feldhausen, Teaching and Learning Coordinator at 337-1393 extension 8035.



HEMLOCK CREEK PTO



4K AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

4K and Kindergarten (if your child is not currently enrolled in the WDP 4K program) registration for the 2024–2025 school year will take place on Thursday, March 7th from 4:30–7:30 p.m. The registration will be held at Hemlock Creek Elementary School for those residing in the Hemlock Creek attendance area.

For registration you need to bring your child's birth certificate, their immunization record/waiver, and proof of residency such as a utility bill or lease agreement.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Wisconsin's public school enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live. Open enrollment application dates for the 2024–2025 school year are February 5 – April 30, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.. If you have moved out of the district, and wish for your child to remain at the West De Pere Schools, please pick up an Open Enrollment Application and Change of Address form at the school office or at the District Office. By state law, the April 30th deadline cannot be extended. The State will not allow any exceptions to this timeline.

For more information, please visit the open enrollment website (below) or pick up a brochure from the school office. <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>