

HEMLOCK CREEK

NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2023

A NOTE FROM MRS. HELD

As December arrives, we're embracing the warmth and joy of the holiday season while prioritizing the safety and well-being of our entire school community. It's a time for celebration, reflection, and cherishing moments with loved ones.

With the winter season upon us, it's important to prepare our young learners for the chilly weather ahead. Please remember to send your child to school dressed in warm winter clothing, including coats, hats, gloves, and boots. Labeling their items with their names also helps when mittens or hats get lost.

In the spirit of the season, let's also take a moment to appreciate the incredible growth and progress our students have made to this point. Each child's journey is unique and inspiring, and their dedication to learning and personal development fills us with immense pride.

As partners in your child's education, we encourage you to engage in activities that foster continued growth during the holidays. Reading together, exploring educational games, and engaging in creative projects are wonderful ways to keep the learning spirit alive during this festive season.

On behalf of Hemlock Creek Elementary, may your holidays be filled with love, laughter, and cherished moments. Wishing you all a safe and joyous holiday season!



Important Dates

- Dec. 1 - Early Dismissal @ 11:50 a.m.
- Dec. 11 - Student Council Bell Ringing at Festival, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 12 - Tri 1 Report Cards Emailed Home
- Dec. 25th - Jan. 1st: No School

SPELLING BEE

This year students in grades 3 and 4 will be participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Three representatives from each classroom will compete in their grade level competition on December 8th. Two finalists from each grade level will then compete with WW and students from grades 5-8 at the middle school on January 12th to determine one finalist to move forward representing West De Pere. There will be one finalist representing Hemlock Creek.



COLD WEATHER REMINDERS

With the winter months upon us, please make sure your child comes to school with appropriate outdoor wear. Remind your child to wear boots, hat, gloves, warm clothing, etc. when the weather calls for this type of apparel.

Dress for the weather! It is our Phantastic Phantom Style.

If the temperature determined at school is in the negative digit, indoor recess will occur.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please remember to listen to local radio or television stations for school delays, early closing, and cancellations. Please do not call the school unless it is an emergency. Calling the schools hinders our efforts to communicate the news effectively. Parents are asked to have alternate plans for their children's supervision and care in the event school is closed early due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Remember that buses will probably run a little late when the roads are in poor condition. You should also receive a message from the district about delays or cancellations. Be sure your contact info is up to date.

HAS PHONE NUMBERS OR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

Please help us by keeping your child(ren)'s emergency information up-to-date. Remember to always let us know when you change phone numbers, cell phone numbers and work numbers. When your child gets sick or hurt at school, we need to get a hold of you as soon as possible. It is also important to have some contact people listed when we can't reach you. You may call us or stop by the office and change the information on the profile sheet. Thank you for your assistance.

SCHOOL CONCERTS

Save the date!

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

4th Grade- Friday, May 10th @ 10:00-10:30

3rd Grade- Friday, May 10th @ 2:30-3:00

2nd Grade- Friday, May 17th @ 10:00-10:30

1st Grade- Friday, May 17th @ 2:30-3:00

Kindergarten (Walker, Raschke, Sands, Herlache)-

Tuesday, May 7th @ 2:30-3:00

Kindergarten (Neuens, Loch, Rohr)-

Thursday, May 9th @ 2:30-3:00

Concerts will be held at Hemlock Creek in the large gym. More detailed information will be shared as soon as possible.

-Kelsey Allen and Mary Bain, music teachers

MATH NIGHT



A special thank you to the families who attended our annual Hemlock Creek Math Night. We had over 170 families this year! We hope you all enjoyed the evening playing math games together as a family. We hope to see you again next year!

PBIS FOCUS FOR NOVEMBER

The PBIS focus for the month of November was respect. The learning target for the focus was: I am respectful to myself and/or others. Some of the discussion starters were: What does respect look like in the classroom? At home? In the community? Talk about a time when you were honest. How did it make you feel? A few of the activities that were addressed by the classrooms were: Writing letters to veterans to show how much they were respected and appreciated, playing simon says which demonstrated respect towards the leader and being honest, and reading books like "Pop" which talks about individuality, and then making a poster sharing some of the ways to be respectful to things, places, and people.

Classrooms earning the Phantastic Phantom Trophy for the month were:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Raschke, and Mrs. Herlache class

First grade: Mrs. Dunathan, Mrs. Pierce, and Mrs. Kussow class.

Second grade: Mrs. Linssen, Ms. Legois, and Mrs. Bixby class.

Third grade: Mrs. Hebl, Mrs. Lynn, and Mr. Prebelski class.

Fourth grade: Mr. Fietzer, Ms. Glaeser, and Mrs. Brossard class.



NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

WooHoo! Thanks to the Fun Run efforts along with the PTO Read-a-thon, the Hemlock Creek playground will be getting a new piece of playground equipment. The NUCLEUS Cruiser! At the November PTO meeting funds were approved to make the purchase. The total price including installation is \$39,032 with the FUN RUN supporting \$24,205 and PTO picking up the difference. This piece will connect with some of our existing pieces and it provides access for all students! Spring installation is scheduled. We can't wait! Thank you to Fun Run participants and business partnerships in the last three years, Read-a-Thon participants and donors, and the committees that have organized these events!



REPORT CARDS GO HOME

As we approach the end of the first trimester, we're excited to share your child's progress report electronically on December 12th. This report card reflects their efforts, achievements, and growth during these initial months of the school year.

We encourage you to take the time to review the report card together with your child. This presents an invaluable opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments, identify areas of improvement, and set goals for the upcoming trimester.

Discussing the report card together can be a meaningful way to support your child's learning journey. It allows for open communication about their strengths, challenges, and aspirations, fostering a sense of responsibility and accountability in their academic endeavors.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification regarding the report card, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers. We're here to support and guide your child toward their educational success.

Thank you for your continued involvement in your child's education. Your partnership is instrumental in their growth and development. Here's to a successful trimester and the ongoing progress of our students!



School Counselor Corner

Mrs. Hettmann & Mrs. Johnson

During Phantom Skills in the month of December, our Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders will learn how to recognize their feelings and the feelings of others. We will also practice strategies to help them feel better when they experience strong feelings. Students will practice the calm down strategies of deep breathing, counting, speaking kindly to themselves, and thinking happy thoughts.

Support Healthy Emotion Management at Home

- Listen to your child and empathize with their feelings. It shows you recognize and care about their feelings and encourages problem-solving.
- Model helpful emotion regulation skills when you're dealing with your own feelings. Tell your student which strategy you used to calm down when you were upset.
- Help them learn relaxation or calming skills like deep breathing exercises by doing them together!
- Notice and encourage your child when they use these skills to cope with big feelings. "I like how you calmed your brain and body down by counting to 10. I am so proud of you!"

Grief Support Opportunity

To better meet the needs of our students, 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.

Through participating in this group, we hope students gain insights into their own grief experience as well as make connections with peers who have also experienced a loss while in a safe, supportive environment.

The dates for the Grief Group will be:

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

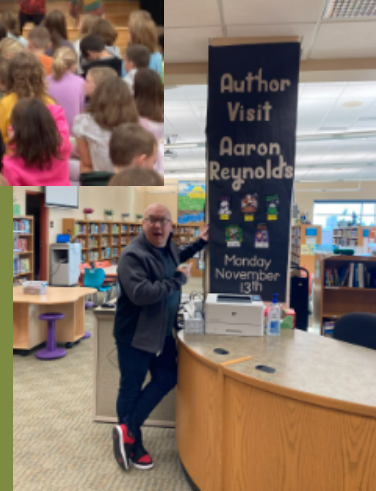
Please call or email Mardi Johnson at 920-425-1900 x 3225 or mjohnson@wdpsd.com if you would like your child to participate!



LIBRARY NEWS

Aaron Reynolds Author Visit

In November, we had an awesome author visit with Aaron Reynolds. The kids loved his energetic presentations! We learned about how Aaron did not like reading until 5th grade when he found a book that he loved, *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl. His 5th grade teacher helped to get him hooked! He decided that he wanted to write funny books that would help kids enjoy reading. We are thankful that he did because his books are some of the most popular books in the library!



Family Book Club

We are excited for another year of the family book club! Check Tuesday notes for the parent letter to sign up. This year we are reading *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. The sign up forms are due December 8th. We will once again celebrate the end of the book by watching the movie together in March. We are looking forward to reading with your families!

Hour of Code Week

Hemlock Creek participates in The Hour of Code! During Computer Science Education Week (December 4-10th) many of our students will be among over 2 million worldwide spending one hour learning the basics of coding. The students love coding and we love seeing their excitement! For those that are interested in continuing to learn about coding at home here are some resources. The Hour of Code website has many resources for learning how to code. In addition to websites, there are several coding apps (Kodable, Tynker, Scratch) and coding toys such as BeeBots, Sphero, Ozobot, and Dash.

