

# HEMLOCK CREEK

## NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 2023

### A NOTE FROM MRS. HELD

In November, we celebrate math with NUMBERS IN NOVEMBER. There are math activities and related celebration days planned for school and home during the entire month. Check out the HC monthly calendar for events and watch for the family math creative shape activity challenge going home to families on Friday, November 3rd.

Brrr! Winter weather seems like it has arrived. Please be sure your child has winter gear (boots, jacket, hat, gloves/mittens) for recess. Students are outside unless the weather is below zero. If there is snow, students are expected to wear boots. For our younger students, practicing getting on that snow gear may be helpful. If you need assistance with access to winter gear, please contact the office, your child's teacher, or our school social worker Sabrina Esala at [sesala@wdpsd.com](mailto:sesala@wdpsd.com)

Thank you to the PTO who provided a meal to staff during conferences and to the volunteers helping with the Book Fair. The book fair was a huge success and will provide birthday books for every student in the school. Students select a free book during their birthday month that has been purchased by the PTO.

Hemlock Creek will be hosting the monthly school board meeting on Wednesday, November 15th at 5:30 PM. The meeting will be taking place in the commons, and we invite you to attend.



### Important Dates

- Nov. 1, Ambrosius Picture Retake Day, K-4
- Nov. 7th- PTO Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 9th - Math Night @ 6:00 p.m.
- Nov. 22nd - Early Dismissal @ 11:50 a.m.
- Nov. 23rd & 24th - No School

## PTO NEWS

### Updates & Upcoming Events

#### Read-a-thon

As I'm sure most everyone knows by now, the Read-a-thon was a HUGE success!! Our students *crushed* their reading goals and together we raised over **\$64,000** for our school! We have been communicating with our teachers and will be discussing best ways to spend those funds at our next meeting. This fundraiser wouldn't have been possible without the help from many, but I'd like to especially thank Stephanie Krahn, Kelly Sturgill, Meghan Stahl, Emily Brossard, Jen Lambrecht, and all the teachers who volunteered to record one of the read-a-louds. You're the best!

#### Book Fair

Thanks to all who stopped by and shopped at the book fair! We had over **\$16,200** in sales!! Those profits go directly to the school's "Birthday Book" program, which ensures every student at Hemlock Creek gets to pick out a special book for their birthday each year. What a positive way to support literacy! Another thank you goes to all those who volunteered their time during the event and a huge thank you to Jackie VerBruggen for organizing and running the fair.

#### PTO sponsored teacher dinner

One of the ways we like to show appreciation to our staff is to feed them! On conference day, we had Mac's catered in for our teachers and office staff. Thank you to Laura Rauch for organizing! This is Laura's last year with us as a HC parent, so we are looking to fill this position next year. Let me know if you are interested!

#### Next meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our October meeting! We had a couple of new faces which is always exciting to see. 😊 Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 7th at 6:30 pm**. We will be meeting upstairs at Brickhouse Burgers & Brews.

**PTO contact:** For questions, information, or inquiries about ways to get involved, please contact Sarah Lisowe at [slisowe@gmail.com](mailto:slisowe@gmail.com). You can also follow us on Facebook and view information on our website, <https://www.hemlockcreekelementarypto.com>

## FAMILY MATH NIGHT

Please join us for our annual Family Math Night at Hemlock Creek Elementary on Thursday, November 9th from 6:00-7:00 PM.

This is for all students in Kindergarten through Grade 4. Please come with your school age children to this exciting event to experience games and activities that build math skills and incorporate math at home.

Please register using the link provided as it will help in planning for the evening : <https://tinyurl.com/HCMath23>  
We look forward to seeing you!



## NUMBERS IN NOVEMBER

Hemlock Creek will be participating in Numbers in November for the month of November to celebrate math in our daily lives. We have fun activities planned for school and optional activities for you at home to participate in. Numbers in November will officially begin on Tuesday, November 1st. Please consider taking some time as a family to focus in on math and numbers at home.

## PTO Read-a-thon Wrap UP

WOW! Thank you for participating in the first-ever PTO Read a Thon fundraiser for Hemlock Creek Elementary! The goal was \$35,000 and the total raised was over \$64,000! Unbelievable! This was the major fundraiser of the year for PTO but we also wanted to encourage a lifelong love of reading so we had opportunities for participation with reading minutes and/or pledges.

A few interesting facts!

- 50 out of 50 states were represented.
- 8 countries were represented with donations from the USA, Australia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands
- 91.71% of our student population registered online with 72.18% with donor credits.
- There were 1, 226 webpage shares!
- Our school had 1998 total donations.
- We had 80 students reach the SUPERSTAR goal of \$250+.
- 264 students met their grade level SUPER READ GOAL in reading minutes!
- Grade 4 read the most minutes with 74,256!
- Schoolwide students read 282,906 minutes!

Currently, PTO is working on scheduling classroom parties that were earned and we are finalizing the plan for the schoolwide assembly that was earned for reaching the reading goal of 150,000 minutes!

The top classroom donations leaderboard:

- 1st – Mrs. Luce with \$3,431.22
- 2nd – Mr. P's Power Readers! with \$3,275.00
- 3rd – Ms. Ford's Mighty Minion Readers! with \$3, 085
- 4th – Fietzer's Phantoms! with \$3,055
- 5th – Mrs. Krahn with \$2,715.00

Reading Minutes Final Standings:

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Grade	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>KDG</b>	Loch's Little Learners 6,164	Raschke's Reading Rockstars 6,116	Herlache's Super Readers 5,427
<b>Grade 1</b>	Dunathan's Reading Champs 8,778	Erdmann's Excited Readers 8,576	Roth's Shrektacular Readers 7,209
<b>Grade 2</b>	Bixby's Budding Bookworms 10,762	Luce 9,710	Schoenwalder 9,204
<b>Grade 3</b>	Mr. P's Power Readers 11,292	Hebl's Reading Heroes 10,045	Seidl 8,927
<b>Grade 4</b>	Glaeser 15,445	Fietzer's Phantoms 14,247	Sampe 13,867

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Students in 3rd and 4th grade elected fellow students to represent our school in Student Council. To run for Student Council, students had to create a poster to promote themselves and give one minute speeches telling us about themselves and their leadership abilities. Students that were elected are: (3rd grade) Sawyer E, Kennedy O, Liam M, Kya W, Rosie B, Colton R, Lana C, Lucy G, Brynn V, Emily N, Kennedy K, and Andi P. (4th grade) Joel U, Norman H, Jackson K, Isla M, Kaylee S, Haley L, Ella W, Aiden F, Sloane B, Chase B, Callie V, and Noah S. Advisors for student council are Mrs. Gossen and Mr. Prebelski.

Each month, Student Council participates or leads in activities and events that help our school or give back to our community. Some examples are placing flags in a local cemetery for Veteran's Day or ringing bells for the Salvation Army. Student Council members also work hard promoting a variety of activities at our school by being a part of Hemlock Creek Happenings, a news show that showcases special announcements or events in the upcoming month.

The enthusiasm of the Student Council members is always contagious. They enjoy working with teachers, staff and their peers on school-wide projects.

## PBIS NEWS

The PBIS focus for the month of October was Safety. A few of the topics that were covered during the month were: Am I safe on the bus and am I making a safe choice on the playground. Discussion starters like the following ones are talked about here at school, but please feel free to have them with your child at home.

- What are some ways you can show that you are making a safe choice on the bus?
- When you're playing a game at recess (i.e. football, 4-square, etc.) and someone does something you don't like: What do you do? Who can you ask for help?

Over the past few weeks we were able to recognize two classrooms at each grade level for their outstanding work of being Phantastic Phantoms with the Phantastic Phantom Traveling Trophy. In Kindergarten – Mrs. Walker's Class and Mrs. Rohr's Class. In First Grade – Mrs. Hopkins' Class and Mrs. Lambrecht's Class. In Second Grade – Mrs. Luce's Class and Mrs. Schoenwalder's Class. In Third Grade – Ms. Ribarchek's Class and Mr. Prebelski's Class. In Fourth Grade – Ms. Ford's Class and Mrs. Sampe's Class.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CONTEST

On Friday, October 6, 2023, Hemlock Creek Elementary Schools 4th graders participated in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest. The students participated within their age divisions to see how many baskets they could make out of 15 attempts. We are very proud of how hard everyone tried and how they encouraged each other throughout the competition.

Those students who placed first will be invited to compete in the next level of competition. Congratulations to Graham, Reese, Max, Jaxson, and Neima M-H who placed first within their division!



**2ND PLACE**

Boys: age 9 Trey E	Boys: age 10 Beckett L
Girls: age 9 Aubrey C Bailey K Kaylee S	Girls: age 10 Chloe S Claire S Callie V

**1ST PLACE**

Boys: age 9 Graham B	Boys: age 10 Max M Jaxson M
Girls: age 9 Reese R	Girls: age 10 Neima M-H



## LIBRARY NEWS

### GRAPHIC NOVELS

Often, graphic novels are viewed as not being a real book. In fact, this literary format, which has grown in popularity over the last few years, can be beneficial for readers. Some ways that graphic novels can help readers are:

- They look and feel more approachable. Kids feel more confident that they can get through the story. For some kids, they are much less overwhelming than traditional text.
- They can help with reading comprehension. Many kids with reading difficulties are visual learners. Having images alongside words provides a bridge for understanding the text. Reading a graphic novel involves more than just making sense of the words on the page. The art tells part of the story so the reader has to decode and comprehend the text, images, and the relationship between the two.
- Less text, or more pictures, doesn't mean less active reading. With graphic novels, kids still have to do the mental work of understanding the plot, characters, etc.
- Many graphic novels are written at high levels and require strong reading skills. They are high-quality reading material and just like traditional novels, they have exciting and complex plots, characters, and conflict. The only difference is that graphic novels have more images to support the story development.
- Graphic novels level the academic playing field. Struggling readers are able to read books that their classmates are reading and have conversations about higher-level text. Graphic novels allow children to read above their independent reading level so they can engage with more challenging text.
- They can prepare kids for other types of books. Graphic novels can turn reading into a positive experience for children, which can lead to them becoming lifelong readers.
- Graphic novels are engaging. They get kids excited about reading!



### DIGITAL SAFETY

October was “Keeping Kids Safe Online” month. Schools, families, and communities have all been impacted by the increased use of technology. Our focus is on safe and healthy online habits. Last year the School District of West De Pere hosted a digital safety night for parents. You can visit [www.wdpsd.com](http://www.wdpsd.com), then click on family resources, then digital safety night to view the resources that were shared. There you will find several resources, including links for several free and paid technology monitoring services, website resources, and app resources. The app resources include things parents need to know about these apps and how to use the parental controls built into the apps.

## HEMLOCK CREEK FUN RUN/WALK FOLLOW-UP

The 7th Annual Hemlock Creek Phantom Fun Run/Walk took place on Saturday, September 30th, 2023. Over 480 participants took part in the 2-mile run/walk. With approximately \$9,000 raised for new playground equipment at Hemlock Creek Elementary School, we plan to install a new piece of playground equipment this school year! After the run/walk, families enjoyed snacks and chocolate milk donated by area businesses followed by a variety of activities including: exploring a Town of Lawrence fire truck and Hobart/Lawrence police car, CrossFire Kids Fitness, a WDPMS Dance Team and WDPHS Drumline performances, PTO Plinko, hula hooping, music, and raffle prizes. We would like to thank everyone who came out to support the event including all participants and volunteers.

In addition, thank you to the following businesses and families who sponsored the event: Advanced Roofing & Siding, Ambrosius Sales & Services, Ambrosius Studios, Bellin Health, BeSt Machine, Cellcom, CrossFire Fitness, De Pere Smiles S.C., Delta Dental, Drift Inn, Green Bay Packers Give Back, Haworth Family, Hendricks Concrete Construction, Impact Sports Academy, Irish Waters Golf Club, Khayla Kanitz Photography, Kiddie College, Logos & Promos, Me Time Salon, Michelson Family, Music Caterer, Nicolet Bank, Nicolet Restaurant, Orthodontic Specialists of GB, Patel Family, Pink Flamingo Classic, Plank Road Pub & Grill, Pool Works, Scott's Subs & Pizza, She Runs This Town, Green Bay, WI Chapter, Sidekicks Bar & Grill, Titledown Dentistry, Van's Heating and Cooling, VOS Electric, Wagg Inn Pet Hotel, Weihbrecht Photography, Vintage Rose Bakery

Thank you to the following businesses who made donations to help at our event: Altitude Trampoline Park, Badger Sports Park, Bellin Health, Big Apple Bagels, Brickhouse, Brown County Dairy Promotions, Cherrydale, Crest & Oral B, CrossFire Fitness, De Pere Greenhouse, Festival Foods, Get Air, Green Bay Gamblers Hockey, Green Bay Rockers, Gyro & Kabobs, Hey Soup Sisters, Hilly Haven Golf Course, Infinity, Irish Waters Golf Club, Julie's Cafe, Kayak Wisconsin, Khayla Kanitz Photography, Kowalczyk Family, Kwik Trip, Luna Coffee, Me Time Salon, Mid Vallee Golf Club, Nicolet Restaurant, Oak Street Cafe, Plank Road Pub & Grill, Pool Works, Potter House Macarons, Revive Nutrition, Sam's Club, Schreiber Foods, Scott's Subs, Seroogy's, Texas Roadhouse, The Abbey, The Children's Museum of Green Bay, The Driveway, Two Birds Bakery Vintage Rose Bakery, Wal-Mart, Weihbrecht Photography, Wisconsin Timber Rattlers Baseball

Congratulations to the top 3 Fun Run adults and kids finishers:

Adults:	Kids:
1. John T	1. Gavin L
2. Matt L	2. C.J. B
3. Andrew W	3. Pierce H



Be on the lookout for our 8th annual event date coming out later this school year!

## COLD WEATHER REMINDERS

With the winter months quickly approaching, 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 Phantom Style



## LOST AND FOUND

Many items have accumulated in our Lost and Found area over the past couple months. Parents, always mark your child's items/clothes so that when they lose something, it will be easier to find the rightful owner. We also ask that you remind your child that if they lose something, to check out our Lost & Found area in the main hallway.

## SCHOOL COUNSELOR CORNER

### Phantom Skills

This month in Phantom Skills, students are learning how to understand their own emotions and they will begin to develop tools for coping with strong feelings.

Here is the breakdown of November Lesson topics by grade level:

- **Kindergarten:** *Emotion Management: Happy, Sad, and Mad*
- **1st Grade:** *Noticing Feelings and Managing Feeling Frustrated and Worried*
- **2nd Grade:** *Feeling Proud, Feeling Disappointed, and Help Yourself Feel Better*
- **3rd Grade:** *Making a Learning Goal and Why We Have Emotions.*
- **4th Grade:** *Reflecting on our Goal-Setting Journey and Emotions And The Brain*



Here are some ways you can help your child practice these skills at home:

- Model helpful coping 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!"

### Social Skills Groups

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Hettmann will be running social skills groups this fall. Social skills groups are opportunities for groups of students to learn positive friendship skills and the skills necessary to help them be successful in school. Each group session meets approximately 6-8 times weekly for 25 minutes.

Small group topics include:

- School Success Skills (following directions, taking turns, making transitions, etc.)
- Making friends
- Positive friendship skills
- Self-control
- Managing strong feelings (anger, anxiety, etc)

If you would like your child to participate in one of these groups this fall, please email the school counselors ([mjohnson@wdpsd.com](mailto:mjohnson@wdpsd.com) and [dhattmann@wdpsd.com](mailto:dhattmann@wdpsd.com)).

