

Hemlock Creek

Newsletter

1900 WILLIAMS GRANT DR

(920) 425-1900

NOVEMBER 2024

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!

Kathleen Held, Proud Principal

Important Dates

**DEC
10**

Tri 1 Report Cards Emailed Home

**DEC
16**

Student Council Bell Ringing at Festival,
5:00-7:00 p.m.

**DEC 23
to
JAN 1**

No School

**JAN
2**

Classes Resume



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 Friday, December 6th, 3rd grade will start at 9:00 a.m. and 4th grade will begin at 1:30 p.m. Two finalists from each grade level will then compete with WW and students from grades 5-8 at the middle school on Friday, January 10th to determine one finalist to move forward representing West De Pere. There will be one finalist representing Hemlock Creek.

Cold Weather Dress 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.

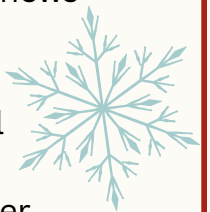
Dress for the weather! It is our Phantastic Phantom Style.



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

Cold Weather Communication

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.



Have 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.



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 Volta Spinner! At the November PTO meeting funds were approved to make the purchase. We are hoping for installation this year. We can't wait! Thank you to Fun Run participants and business partnerships, Read-a-Thon participants and donors, and the committees that have organized these events!



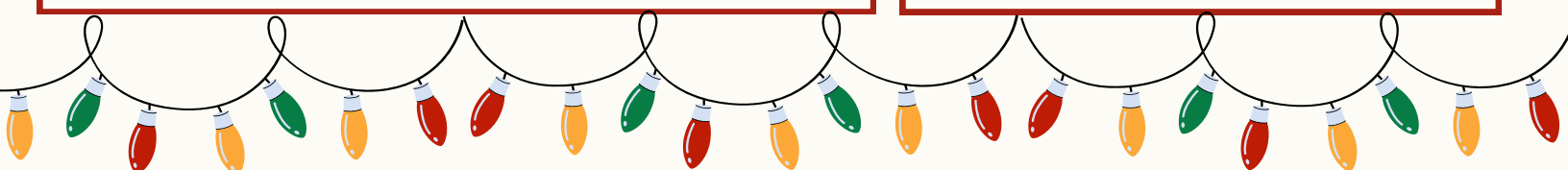
Read-a-thon Top Earners

These are the top earners in their grade level for donations in the PTO Read a thon! Congratulations to Aria, Brady, Dom , Hope and Hayden! Together they raised over \$2865! Our top earner for the school, Hayden, earned a whopping \$1085! A school wide assembly was held and these kiddos "slimed" their teachers!



Math Night

A special thank you to the families who attended our annual Hemlock Creek Math Night. We had around 175 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 December

The PBIS focus for the month of December will be problem solving. The learning target for the focus will be I can pick one solution to solve a problem. In the younger grades there is a focus on asking an adult for help. In the older grades the students are working on the STEP acronym to help them be better problem solvers. Say the problem, Think of Solutions, Explore Outcomes, Pick a Solution. Some of the discussion starters might be: While playing a math game the dice rolled off the table. One player wants to re-role, and the other player wants to keep the number that landed on the floor. What are some ways to solve this issue? At recess you are walking around the playground struggling to find something to do. How can you solve your problem? A few of the activities that will be addressed by the classrooms are: using classroom read alouds to analyze and discuss problems between character and earning how to use Kelso's Wheel during Phantom Skills Class with Mrs. Hettmann & Mrs. Crozier.



Classrooms earning the Phantastic Phantom Trophy for the month were:

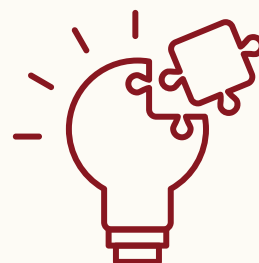
Kindergarten: Mrs. Walker's, Ms. Stumpf's, and Mrs. Herlache's classes.

First grade: Mrs. Lambrecht's, Mrs. Dunathan's, and Mrs. Hopkin's classes.

Second grade: Ms. Ellenbecker's, Mrs. Luce's, and Mrs. Linssen's classes.

Third grade: Mrs. Ribarchek's, Mr. Prebelski's, and Mrs. Hebl's classes.

Fourth grade: Ms. Glaeser's, Mrs. Brossard's, and Mrs. Schmidt's classes.



WI Act 20 State Legislation

What is Act 20 testing?

Act 20 refers to legislation passed by Wisconsin lawmakers that requires schools to test all students for reading readiness in grades 4K-3.

What kind of test is being used?

The state has entered into a contract with Pearson to provide the aimswebPlus test to all districts and schools. The screener will check important literacy skills including alphabet knowledge, letter sound knowledge, phonemic awareness, decoding, and oral vocabulary. The skills are tested differently based on your child's grade level.

When will this start?

Per state guidance, West De Pere will be screening K-3 students in January, 2025. All students, including those in 4K, will be screened again in Spring.

Why?

The assessment data will be used to help your teacher understand your child's reading readiness. Students scoring in the lowest 25% may have individual plans written for them following additional diagnostic testing.

Can I opt my child out of the test?

No. State law does not allow this.

What can I do to prepare?

Read to (or with) your child regularly, and encourage them to make it a daily habit.

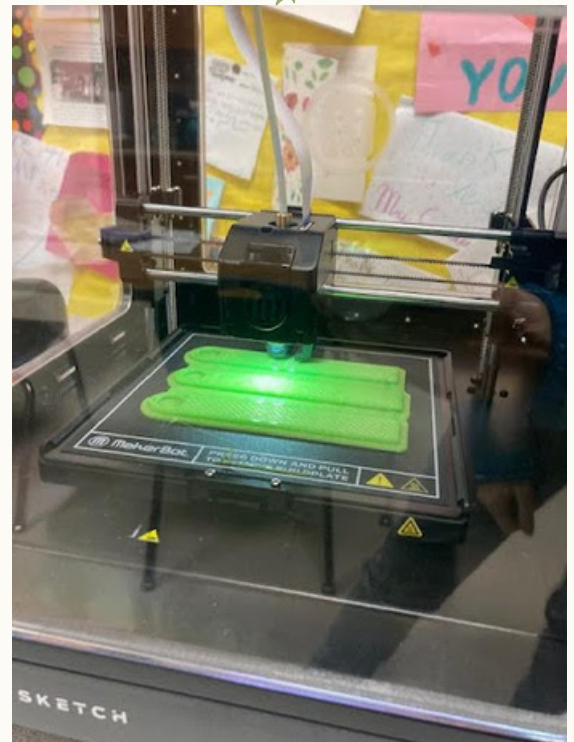
As part of Wisconsin Legislation Act 20, districts are required to send out a Family Literacy Survey to students in grades K-3. West De Pere will be sending a link via PowerSchool to families on Tuesday, December 10th that will be four questions. We appreciate your time to complete this family literacy survey.

LIBRARY NEWS



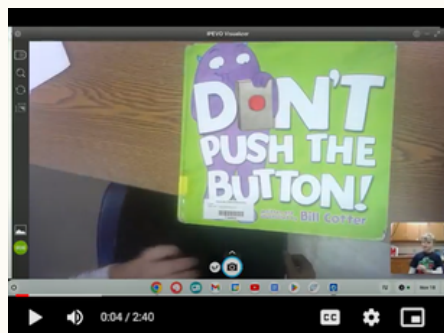
3D Printing

A group of 4th graders worked with Mrs. Gossen to learn how to use the 3D printer. They created keychains with their names on them in Tinkercad. Then they learned how those creations can be printed with the 3D printer.



Story Group

A group of 3rd graders worked with Mrs. Gossen to read and record stories for the kindergarteners. They did a great job reading with expression! The kindergarten students will love listening to the stories!



Family Book Club

Watch Tuesday Notes for the family book club sign up from Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gossen! This year's book is *The BFG* by Roald Dahl. We are looking forward to reading with your families and watching the movie together at the De Pere Cinema.

SCHOOL COUNELOR CORNER

Mrs. Hettman & Mrs. Crozier

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 Cheryl Crozier, 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. This group will meet during the school day.

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:

- Thursday, January 16, 2025
- Thursday, January 23, 2025
- Thursday, January 30, 2025
- Thursday, February 6, 2025
- Thursday, February 13, 2025
- Thursday, February 20, 2025



Please call or email Cheryl Crozier at: 920-425-1900 x 3307 or ccrozier@wdpsd.com if you would like your child to participate!



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 10th. 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!



Pictures from Read-a-thon Earned Assembly



Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

On Friday, November 8, 2024, Hemlock Creek Elementary School's 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. Here are the results:

Boys: age 9

1st place:

Jonah W (4Schmidt)

2nd place:

Vince K (4Brossard)

Girls: age 9

1st place:

Kennedy O (4Brossard)

2nd place:

Keyana C (4Ford)
Emma S (4 Brossard)

Boys: age 10

1st place:

Sage D (4Brossard)

2nd place:

Nathaniel J (4Sampe)
Hurley N (4Brossard)
Colton R (4Ford)

Girls: age 10

1st place:

Allison C (4Fietzer)

2nd place:

Lauren B (4Glaeser)
Aubree O (4Fietzer)

Certificates will be presented and a group photo taken at a later date. Those students who placed first will be invited to compete in the next level of competition. Details on that event will be given to students when the certificates are presented.

Congratulations to Jonah, Kennedy, Sage, and Allison who placed first within their division!!



City of De Pere No Idling Clean Air Initiative

The No Idling Clean Air Initiative was implemented in 2023 with the support of the Unified School District of De Pere and the West De Pere School District to lower harmful gas emissions and protect the lungs of our children. This year, we are again asking drivers to turn off their engines when waiting more than 10 seconds (weather permitting) while picking up children.

We would love you to commit to No Idling; the positive affects are great for our schools, students, community, and our environment!

Not idling is a great way to make sure the air in your children's classroom is clean and it helps the schools out too!

Not idling means that children with asthma and allergies will not get sick because fumes from idling affect their health. 1 in 13 school age children have asthma.

Not idling means that greenhouse gas emissions will be lower and that is good for the challenges of climate change.

We ask for your support; it is an easy way to provide clean air for everyone! To further promote this initiative, Idle Citizens can pick up Clean Air Initiative bumper stickers at the De Pere Municipal Service Center at 925 S. Sixth Street to help spread the word.

Can car idling reduce asthma risk?

Air toxins are pollutants known to cause serious health problems such as asthma. Vehicle exhaust is a major source of air pollution. By reducing car idling, the potential of lung irritation and inflammation can be reduced, therefore **potentially reducing the risk of developing asthma** and other exhaust-related health problems.

CLEAN AIR: DON'T SIT IDLE-LY BY

BECOME THE IDLE CITIZEN BY
TURNING YOUR CAR OFF
WHILE YOU WAIT
#cleanaircleanlungs



City of De Pere