

HEMLOCK CREEK

NEWSLETTER

1900 WILLIAMS GRANT DR

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MARCH 2025

A Note From Mrs. Held

March is around the corner, and hopefully, spring is on the way! Spring break will be the week of March 24, with an early release on Friday, March 21. We hope you all have a restful, fun, and healthy spring break.

March also marks the beginning of state testing for our WI Forward exam, which grade 3 and grade 4 students participate in. The testing window opens on March 17. If possible, we ask that you avoid scheduling appointments for your child during their testing time. If a student misses a test, they will make it up at another time and/or day. Students will practice with their teachers beforehand to familiarize themselves with the online system. During this testing period, please help ensure your child gets a good night's sleep, stays hydrated, and eats a healthy breakfast. Classroom teachers will share a specific testing schedule as we approach March 17.

Did you know that the State of Wisconsin expects student attendance rates to be at 90%? Attendance rates can vary weekly, and we understand that illness may cause absences. However, regular school attendance is crucial for a student's academic success, as it allows them to consistently access instruction, participate in classroom activities, and keep up with the class. Frequent absences can result in learning gaps. If your child's attendance at Hemlock Creek falls below state expectations, you may receive an attendance letter from Mr. Kowalczyk or a phone call. If there are barriers preventing your child from attending school, we want to work with you to find a solution.

You may have also noticed that attendance is being monitored for students with a Personal Reading Plan in grades K-3. The system automatically marks attendance concerns if a child's attendance was below 90% on the day their plan was created. Additionally, the Spring Act 20 screening for grades K-3 will begin the week of April 7.

Lastly, we are excited to celebrate March is Reading Month! There are many literacy activities planned throughout the month, so be sure to check SeeSaw posts and our Hemlock Creek Facebook page. During the week of March 10, we will welcome an artist-in-residence who will be working in the art classrooms. Thank you to the PTO for funding this wonderful opportunity for our students!

Kathleen Held, Proud Principal

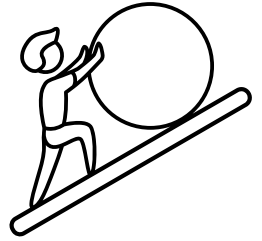
Important Dates

- **March 1:** Family Book Club Movie, 9:00 or 11:30 AM @ De Pere Cinema
- **March 4:** PTO Meeting @ 6:30 PM, HC Library
- **March 7:** Early Dismissal @ 11:50 AM
- **March 18:** Tri 2 Report Cards Emailed Home
- **March 18:** 4K Registration, 4:30-7:30 PM, Westwood Elementary
- **March 21:** Early Dismissal @ 11:50 AM
- **March 24-28:** No School - Spring Break
- **March 31:** Classes resume

PBIS MARCH FOCUS: COURAGE/RESILIENCE

The PBIS focus for the month of March will be courage and resilience. The learning target for this focus is: *Phantastic Phantoms can be brave, even when things get hard.*

One question students will reflect on is: *What do you tell yourself when you are facing a challenge?* Instead of saying, "I give up!" try saying, "I'll keep trying!" Small moments of positive self-talk can make a big difference.



You are Phantastic Phantoms!

Classrooms earning the Phantastic Phantom Trophy for the month were:

K: Ms. Stumpf's Class and Mrs. Herlache's Class

1st: Mrs. Kussow's Class and Mrs. Hopkins' Class

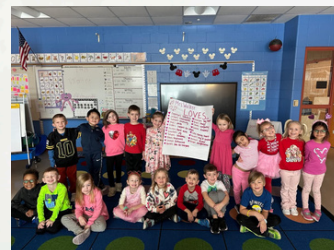
2nd: Mrs. Bixby's Class and Ms. Ellenbecker's Class

3rd: Mrs. Lynn's Class and Mrs. Krahn's Class

4th: Mrs. Schmidt's Class and Mrs. Sampe's



During February's PBIS focus on **kindness**, many acts of kindness took place. One highlight was the **Kindness Tree** activity. When a student was recognized for a kind act, they were given a paper hand to decorate, cut out, and place on the tree as a leaf. Take a look at how our tree is blossoming...



Dash for Cash 2025

Hemlock Creek PE Teacher Raises Over \$700 in Fun "Dash for Cash" Event!

On Saturday, January 25th, Hemlock Creek's very own Mrs. Luebke, one of our physical education (PE) teachers, took the ice at the Green Bay Gamblers hockey game in an exciting "Dash for Cash" competition! In this event, held after the first period, Mrs. Luebke competed against other area educators to see who could grab the most items from a pile at center ice, to raise money for our school's PE program.



Her dedication and competitive spirit paid off! Through a combination of the \$3 ticket kick-back and her on-ice winnings, Mrs. Luebke raised an impressive \$727. These funds will go toward a replacement Bluetooth speaker and additional equipment to enhance our students' physical education experience. The best part of the evening was having so many Hemlock Creek families on hand to cheer Mrs. Luebke on. She truly appreciated your support! We also extend our gratitude to the Green Bay Gamblers for hosting this fun and impactful event.



Report Cards

Report cards and progress reports will be sent home electronically on Tuesday, March 18th. Please take time to look it over carefully and discuss it with your child. We sincerely appreciate your support and efforts to help make this second trimester a success! Please know that our staff is always available to meet with you to discuss your child's work and progress.

PTO News

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 4th** at 6:30 pm. We will meet in the HC library and as always, childcare will be provided.

- Sarah Lisowe, PTO President

PTO contact: For questions, information, or inquiries about ways to get involved, please contact Sarah Lisowe at slisowe@gmail.com.

Change of Address

Please keep address and telephone numbers up to date in the school office at all times. You may notify us of a change in information by sending a note with your child or calling the front office.

In case of emergency, it is vital that we are able to contact you.

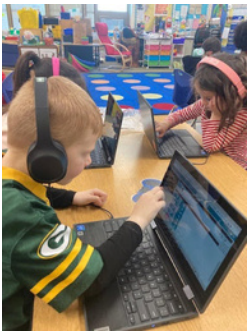
Library News

March is Reading Month!

In March we celebrate reading month with fun activities throughout the month. Our theme this year is If You Give a Kid a Book! This year we have the book character Penelope Rex visiting K-2 classes. We will also have dress up days, a book swap, book challenges, and lots of reading! Look for more information in Tuesday Notes!

Technology

There has been a lot of fantastic uses of technology lately! Several classes have experienced virtual reality tours, learning math skills with Osmo and Owlet, and coding with Dash robots, BeeBots, and code.org. Virtual reality has taken students to the moon, across the globe to explore different landforms, and even allowed them to witness the impact of natural disasters. Coding activities with robots and code.org are teaching valuable problem-solving skills and persistence, while also exposing students to potential future careers. Osmo and Owlet both combine hands-on manipulatives with an iPad to learn math skills.



Screenagers

The third and final showing in the Screenagers film series is on March 3rd from 6-8pm at West De Pere High School. Screenagers Under the Influence explores the impact of our digital age on teens' decision-making in relation to substances such as vaping, drugs, and alcohol. Join us for the film and the discussion afterward. Families who have attended have really valued the chance to connect with and support each other during the discussions as we navigate being parents in the digital age.

We hope to see you there! For more information please visit this website:

<https://sites.google.com/wdpsd.com/digitalsafetynight/home>



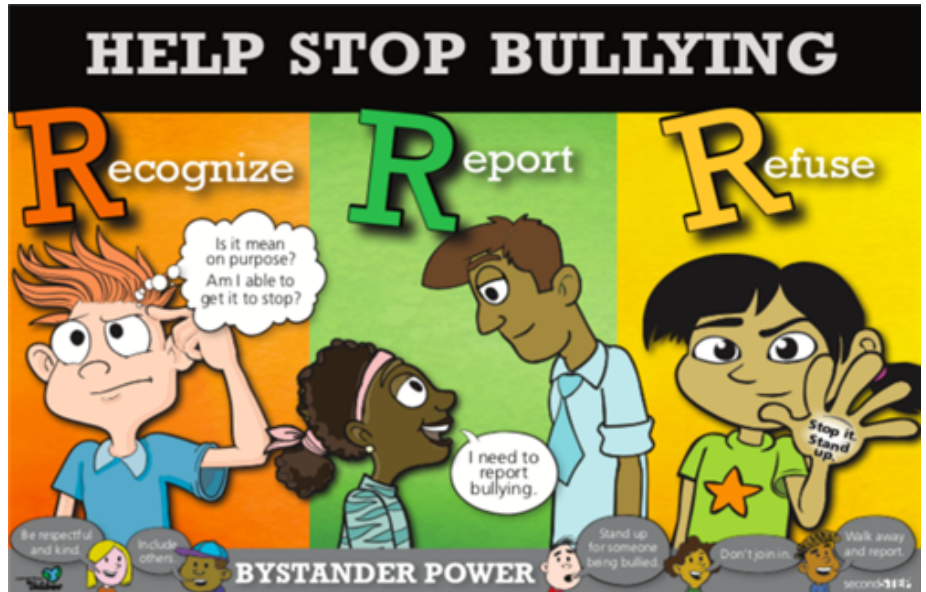
School Counselor Corner

Mrs. Hettmann & Mrs. Crozier

During the month of March, students will begin the Bullying Prevention unit in Phantom Skills. Students learn the definition of bullying, how to refuse bullying by standing up for themselves and others, and reporting bullying to an adult.

What is Bullying?

Bullying includes behaviors such as hitting, teasing, spreading rumors and gossip, stealing, and excluding someone from a group. Bullying actions are carried out on purpose with the intent to harm someone. Bullying is usually a repeated activity and it always involves a power imbalance. The person bullying has more power due to factors such as age, size, strength, support of friends, and access to resources such as toys.



Children and adults sometimes find it difficult to recognize bullying. For example, a fight between friends or rough play between children with equal power are not bullying situations. They become bullying, however, when one person has more power and uses it to hurt, frighten, or exclude the other person.

Promoting Respectful Behavior at Home:

Children need to learn that respectful behavior is an essential part of all relationships. Below are some strategies for reinforcing that idea with your child:

- Plan time each day to talk with your children about any joys or difficulties they encounter. When problems come up, help your children think of respectful, cooperative ways to solve them.
- Keep tabs on your children's Internet use. Bullying over the Internet, also called cyber bullying, is growing rapidly.
- Help your children see other points of view. Children who bully often have difficulty interpreting facial expressions or tone of voice. They forget to consider other children's feelings. Explore with your children how they might feel "in someone else's shoes."
- Role-play friendship-developing social skills with your child. For example, you could help him or her practice making conversation, joining a group activity, being respectful, and being assertive. Friendships can help buffer a child from the harmful effects of bullying.
- Advise your child to report all bullying incidents to an adult at school or a parent. Help your child be specific in describing bullying incidents: who, what, where, when.

Hemlock Creek Class Planning 2025-2026

Parent requests for classroom placements for the 2025-2026 school year will be considered based on your child's educational needs. Parent requests need to be submitted in writing to Mrs. Held by Friday, April 11th. Please do not put your child's current teacher in the position of being asked to recommend a specific teacher. Requests will be taken into consideration, but are not guaranteed. We work to make sure our classrooms are balanced as much as possible. A letter will be coming home in Tuesday notes. Please refer to that letter for the process and guidelines.

4K Registration for 2025-2026

The School District of West De Pere will be holding 4K registration for children who are planning to attend in the Fall of 2025 on March 18th at Westwood Elementary. To be eligible for 4K enrollment, your child must turn 4 years of age on or before September 1st, 2025 and live in the West De Pere School District. Registration forms and additional information can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/wdpsd.com/hemlockcreekregistration/home>

Please bring proof of residency, birth certificate, and immunization record/waiver to enroll. Your confirmed registration helps us in planning for staff.

KIDS HEART CHALLENGE 2025

Kids Heart Challenge 2025 was another action packed event here at Hemlock Creek Elementary!

All students had the opportunity to participate in their choice of activity stations during their PE classes the week of February 10-14 while also learning about their hearts.



Activity choices included: walking, jogging, climbing wall, GaGa ball, Hippity Hops, jump sticks, jump rope, pogo sticks, pogo balls, balance boards, slam balls, ribbon wands/dance party, the Floor is Lava, and a heart rate check station. Once again our many generous families made donations to support the American Heart Association, helping Hemlock Creek Elementary to raise \$7,101.44. The instant gifts for those donors have been handed out (bracelets, keychains, and mystery gifts); the additional thank you gifts (t-shirts, jump ropes, kickballs, etc) have been ordered and will be distributed upon their arrival. Any questions, please contact Hemlock Creek's KHC coordinator Mrs. Luebke: kluebke@wdpsd.com



Artist in Residence Event

Hemlock Creek will be welcoming artist and published author, Jeanne Styczinski, to join our regularly scheduled art classes on the week of March 10th through the 14th. Each class will have the opportunity to meet the artist and learn about her art making and storytelling processes. Each student will contribute to a large installation piece, to be on display in the cafeteria, by either using their painting or collage skills. The following week, Mrs. Janssen and Ms. Coveyou will continue to work with their art classes on collaged bookmarks that each student will be able to bring home.



Jeanne Styczinski

IS HEMLOCK CREEK'S

Artist in Residence

► OUR ARTIST

Jeanne Styczinski is a guest artist, published author, and educator.

► DURING ART CLASSES THE WEEK OF MARCH 10TH

Students will be collaborating with local artist Jeanne Styczinski and contributing to an installation piece for our school.

► QUESTIONS

Contact Kim Janssen kjanssen2@wdpsd.com or Kelsey Allen kallen@wdpsd.com



Check out mrsjeanne.com
or scan here.

MARCH IS READING MONTH

This year's reading month theme is:

If you Give a Kid a Book...

Hemlock Creek will be participating in Reading Month for the month of March to encourage additional reading and fun activities for our students. We have lots of fun and exciting events planned for this month at school. Please also consider taking some time to read as a family this month at home. You can read books together, visit the library, or even listen to books in the car.

Special Days:

- March 7th- Flashlight Friday- Bring a flashlight to Read!
- March 14th- Read a Shirt - Wear a shirt with words.
- March 21st- We "REaD" all month long- wear the color **red**!

