



# CASCADE ELEMENTARY

Cascade Elementary School Newsletter

February 2020

## Message from the Principal

Dear Cougar family and friends,

I'm reusing a quote that I shared last August in the newsletter from Drew Dudley, author of *This is Day One*, "Work incredibly hard to make your grades extraordinary, and then work twice as hard to make them the least impressive thing about you."

This past week we received word that we had earned an "exceptional" rating on the Iowa school performance profile, which is the report card for all Iowa Schools. In 2018 we had set a goal to be exceptional by the year 2022, and to be completely honest, we weren't sure if that was even going to be attainable, it was a lofty goal. Just two years later, we've accomplished it!

Only 25 Iowa schools earned an exceptional rating (1.93%). 25! Around 2013 Cascade Elementary had been designated as a School in Need of Assistance (SINA) and by 2015-16 had dug back out of that status. This was a huge accomplishment, yet, this incredible staff never stopped working to get better. Remained committed and motivated, continued pushing and learning and growing. These teachers, this staff, you amazing parents and community members all have a hand in this school and these students being recognized for their hard work.

We still have more work to do, but we are proud to take a moment and reflect on the amazing environment our kids get to enjoy every day! Coming to Cascade and being given the opportunity to be part of this team and this community is one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I love this place and I'm thankful for every person who has been a part of this journey. We are a family!

Thanks for your support! We wouldn't be here without it!

Sincerely,  
Dan Wendler

Main Office 563-852-3335  
Dan Wendler—Principal, ext. 2002  
Tammy Connolly—Secretary, ext. 2001  
Jane Boffeli—Counselor, ext. 2005  
Cyndi Trumm—School Nurse, ext. 1007  
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# Classroom Spotlight

## 2nd Grade

**Fun!** In the month of December, CES had fun participating



in Penny Wars. Everything we made as a school was donated to Dance Marathon which goes to the Iowa City Hospitals to help cancer patients. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade WON the penny wars and was awarded with a pizza party!

## Reading

When we got back from Winter Break, we started assessing our students in reading. We are seeing AMAZING growth in reading comprehension, fluency, and text levels. We greatly appreciate you reading with your child each night- you can tell it is making a difference! This year students have learned a variety of comprehension strategies they can use while they are reading. Students get practice using these strategies during reading centers, independent reading time, and whole group reading. Our goal is that they are using these strategies while they read by themselves.



## Writing

Our students just finished writing a How-To in Writers Workshop. We learned some great things like, How to Make Mrs. Gravel Happy, How to Drive a Tractor, How to Change a Baby's Diaper, How to Decorate a Christmas Tree, and How to Take Care of a Horse. Our next writing will be researching

## Dates to Remember:

### February

- 3—3rd Grade Kids on the Block
- 4—6th Grade Solo and Ensemble Contest
- 3:15-6:00 at CES Cafeteria and Gym
- 10—School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 11—PBIS Assembly, PreK Registration/ Open House (new families) 6:30
- 12—PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 18—Yoga in School, Make-up date for PreK Registration/Open House (new families) 6:30
- 25—Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00
- 27—VIP Breakfast 8:00-10:30, End of Trimester, 2 Hr. Early Dismissal, Parent Teacher Conferences 2:00-7:00
- 28—No School, Contracted Teacher Learning

### March

- 2—No School
- 4—6th Grade Band NEIBA Large Group Contest
- 9—School Board Meeting
- 10—PBIS Assembly
- 11—PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 16—5th-12th Band Rehearsal 8:15 a.m.
- 17—5th-12th Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 31—Yoga in School

### Fechas para recordar:

#### febrero

- 3 - Asamblea para tercero grado
- 4 - Concurso individual y grupal de coro de sexto grado a las 3: 10-6: 00 a la cafetería de Cascade Elementary
- 10 - Reunión de la Junta Escolar 6:00 p.m.
- 11 - Asamblea de buen comportamiento; Registración de PreK y Kindergarten (nuevos estudiantes por próximo año) a las 6:30pm
- 12 - Reunión de la organización de padres y maestros de Cascade Elementary a las 7:00pm
- 18 - Yoga en la escuela
- 25 - Conferencias de padres y maestros a las 3: 30-7: 00pm
- 27 - Desayuno con un VIP (persona muy importante en tu vida) 8:00-10:30am, Fin del trimestre, 2 horas de salida temprana, conferencias de padres y maestros a las 2: 00-7: 00pm
- 28 - No hay clases, Reuniones de maestras

#### marzo

- 2 - Hay no escuela
- 4 - Concurso de grupo grande de la banda (NEIBA) de 6to grado
- 9 - Reunión de la Junta Escolar 6:00 p.m.
- 10 - Asamblea de buen comportamiento
- 11 - Reunión de la organización de padres y maestros de Cascade Elementary a las 7:00pm
- 16 - Ensayo de banda de 5º a 12º grado a las 8:15am
- 17 - Concierto de banda de 5º a 12º grado a las 7:00pm en la escuela secundaria
- 31 - Yoga en la escuela

# 2nd Grade

about a state. Each student will get to choose a state they would like to learn about, and we will be researching about that state and then writing a report.

## Math

2<sup>nd</sup> graders are math wizards! We are flying through math. We are already finishing Unit 6.

Things we have recently learned are ballpark estimate, expanded form, making and using

graphs, two-step word problems, and adding by breaking numbers into their place values. Mental Math (Flash Cards) is always an area that can be practiced at home.



**ROAR!** 2<sup>ND</sup> Grade has been showing great ROAR traits and they won the PBIS Class trophy for having no referrals in the month of December.



## PTO News

Our VIP breakfast event will be held February 27th! Mark your calendars! More information will be coming!

**Non-Discrimination Policy Statement:** It is the policy of the Western Dubuque County Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator at 310 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Farley, Iowa 52046 or 563-744-3885.