



CASCADE ELEMENTARY

Cascade Elementary School Newsletter

January 2023

Message from the Principal

Happy holidays Cascade Elementary families,

As expected December flew by. There was a great deal of learning this month, mixed in with a lot of fun. Our teachers coordinated a holiday celebration for the students this past Monday, where they did arts and crafts, decorated cookies, and listened to holiday music.

Just today, the Cascade High School choir serenaded our students with carols during lunch. It was special to see former students come back and share their talents with our current students.

It's hard to believe that 2022 is coming to an end. It has been a great year for us with many celebrations and victories along the way. It would not be possible without the support of our families and community. We sincerely thank you for all that you do for our students, teachers and school.

Happy Holidays, enjoy your break.

Sincerely,
Dan Wendler

The Cascade Elementary PTO would like to thank all of those who joined us for Holiday in the Garden! Our Grinch theme seemed to go over well. Our next event will be VIP Breakfast on February 15. More details to come in the new year. Thank you for your support of the PTO.



Kendra Kedley, Lisa Aschtgen, Stephanie Zalaznik, Jody Noonan, The Grinch and Max

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Classroom Spotlight

Art

We have Started TAB (teaching for artistic behavior) and it's in full swing in the art room. Students have more choice and autonomy over their choices in the art room. They are learning the expectations and 2-5 grade are posting their own projects to Seesaw with artist statements (see example). I have used art history, art techniques and elements of art to add ideas to student's artist toolboxes and they may use my ideas or create their own new and exciting things as well. It has been so fun watching the excitement and innovation of students' own imaginations in this process. Some projects are more about the process than the project and that's wonderful too. So far we have three centers open with more coming after break. Some centers will be a permanent staple while others may be a limited edition depending on supply and demand.

I have included some pictures of expectations, centers and a student's work. This student photographed and posted to her art Seesaw journal. I love using Seesaw in this process. It allows me to track students work, and make sure everyone is participating and no one is falling through the cracks and not creating in art.



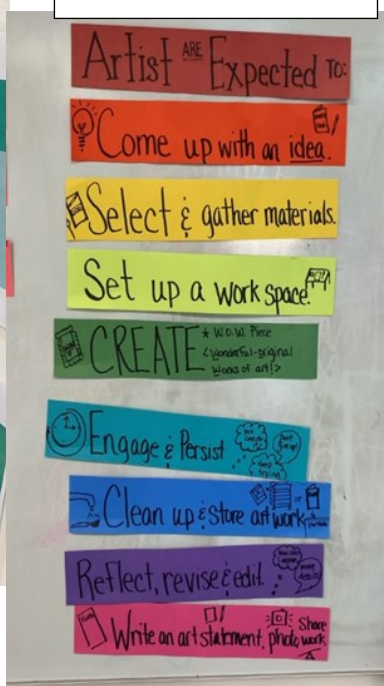
Students post to Seesaw



Centers and setup



TAB artist expectations



Dates to Remember:

January

2—No School, Winter Break
3—No School for PreK only
11—Yoga in Schools, PTO Meeting 6:45 at Two Gingers
13—CES Dubuque Fight Saints Hockey Night 6:30 pm
16—No School, Martin Luther King Jr., Day

February

8—Yoga in Schools
14—Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00
15—End of Trimester, VIP Breakfast, Parent Teacher Conferences 3:00-7:00
16—No School, Teacher In-service
17-20—No School

Fechas para recordar:

enero

2—No escuela, vacaciones de invierno
3—No hay clases solo para PreK
11—Yoga en las escuelas, reunión de PTO 6:45 en Two Gingers
13—CES Dubuque Fight Saints Hockey Night 6:30 pm
16—No hay escuela, Martin Luther King Jr., Día

febrero

8—Yoga en las escuelas
14—Conferencias de padres y maestros 3:30-7:00
15—Fin del trimestre, desayuno VIP, conferencias de padres y maestros 3:00-7:00
16—No clases, Reuniones de Maestros
17-20—No clases

Classroom Spotlight

TAG

The TAG Classroom has relocated and the students are enjoying a room with a window, a new TV/projector and a remodeled clean space to learn together.

We have been learning about holidays around the world including Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. We have learned that all three holidays have rich history and several unique traditions, yet are similar in many ways too.

The fifth graders continue to practice every week for Math Olympiads – a contest that they will participate in this spring at Drexler Middle School. When we aren't practicing for the contest, we are learning about the great state of Iowa.

Mrs. Recker has enjoyed lots of time with all of the classrooms she gets to spend time with each month during classroom enrichment. Cascade Elementary is filled to the brim with bright, inquisitive students!



Classroom Spotlight

NURSE'S PAGE

Parent Information for Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Head Lice (Pediculosis)

Parents are the key to looking for and treating head lice! The Iowa Department of Public Health advises parents to spend 15 minutes each week on each child carefully looking for head lice or nits. Persons with nits within ¼ inch of the scalp OR live lice should be treated. Careful nightly use of a nit comb can potentially remove all lice and nits. Parents should teach children NOT to share hair accessories such as: hats, scarves, brushes, combs, and hair fasteners.

Students diagnosed with live head lice typically do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice. Children can be excluded from school if live lice continue after a two week treatment plan is completed. Re-admittance of the child will be at the discretion of the school nurse in the building.

Head lice can be a nuisance but they have not been shown to spread disease. Personal hygiene or cleanliness in the home or school has nothing to do with getting head lice.

"No-nit" policies that require a child to be free of nits before they can return to schools should be discontinued for the following reasons:

- Many nits are more than ¼ inch from the scalp. Such nits are usually not viable and very unlikely to hatch to become crawling lice, or may in fact be empty shells, also known as 'casings'.
- Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people.
- The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice.
- Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by non-medical personnel.

Schools will not do mass screenings for head lice but instead will screen on an individual basis or by referral from parents/guardians, or school staff.

Families are responsible to carry out the treatment protocol including nit removal. It is also their responsibility to share information regarding lice exposure with school personnel and other close contacts as appropriate.

Source: cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/schools.html idph.iowa.gov

Counselor's Corner

Dear Families,

As you know, we are using the Second Step program in your child's classroom. The Second Step program teaches children important skills for getting along with others and doing well in school. It also helps our school be a safe, respectful place where everyone can learn. To further help our school be a safe and respectful place, we are also going to use the Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit. In this unit, your child will learn specific skills to help stop bullying.

Students will learn how to:

- Recognize when bullying is happening
- Report bullying to a caring adult
- Refuse to let bullying happen to themselves or others
- Be a bystander who stands up and is part of the solution to bullying

In addition, your child will complete simple fun activities during guidance and sometimes have activities to bring home. These activities give your child another chance to practice his or her skills for handling bullying. They will also help you understand what your child is learning about bullying and how you can assist your child if he or she needs to respond to bullying. Our Bullying Prevention Unit will begin after winter break. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact me!

Have a wonderful break!

Ashley Gansen
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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 4th Street SW, Farley, Iowa 52046 or 563-744-3885.