



# CASCADE ELEMENTARY

Cascade Elementary School Newsletter

March 2022

## Message from the Principal

Hello Cascade Elementary families,

The recent warm weather certainly has us thinking about and feeling like Spring! As March rolls around, it brings about a very exciting time in the year for us at school.

We have appreciated the feedback that we are getting regarding the proposed school calendars for next year. This is a huge opportunity and step forward for us as a school and district. We pride ourselves on providing the best possible education for your children from the best teachers and staff that we can find. A key piece to our wonderful teachers being at their best is the ability to continue to learn new skills and strategies as well as to collaborate and grow. Our professional learning schedule this year has been restrictive in growth. For example, last Friday, February 25th was the first time that our certified staff had been together as a school building since October 4th. That is a very long time in between opportunities to collaborate and grow.

We are also very aware of the pressures that this may put on families by dismissing early on Fridays. While I know the challenges this may bring about, I will ensure you that we will take this time on Friday afternoons to directly impact your child's education in a positive way. If anyone is interested in what an agenda or schedule looks like on a professional learning days, reach out and I would love to have a conversation with you.

Our Cascade Elementary PTO is starting the planning process for our 6th Annual Color Run. This is our only fundraiser all year that we ask for money for the school. This year's event is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th with a rain date of Wednesday, May 18th. Please be on the lookout for information in the coming weeks regarding this event.

Finally, it was amazing having families back in the building for the first night of our parent teacher conferences. It is huge for our staff to have the opportunity to see you face-to-face and work together to help your child be the best that they can be. We certainly missed that through these pandemic times!

Have a wonderful month of March and good luck to our Cougar ladies at the State basketball tournament this week!

Sincerely,  
Dan Wendler

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Tammy Connolly—Secretary, ext. 2001

Ashley Botsford—Counselor, ext. 2005

Cyndi Trumm—School Nurse, ext. 1007

Website: [http://www.wdbqschools.org/cascadeelementaryschool\\_home.aspx](http://www.wdbqschools.org/cascadeelementaryschool_home.aspx)



# Classroom Spotlight

## 4th Grade

It is hard to believe it is already March! 4th graders have been busy learning and growing in their writing, reading, math, social studies, science, and social emotional skills this year.

Students recently wrapped up a writing unit on opinions. They took a new step in the writing process and learned how to peer edit one another's papers. Our current writing unit is research based and tied into social studies. Each student is researching all there is to know about a state. These state projects will eventually be a culminating writing project, highlighting their research, opinion, and narrative writing skills.

In reading, we have been diving deep into our comprehension strategies. Though we have touched on so many throughout the year, recently 4th graders have looked closely at character traits as well as main idea and details. We also continue to grow in word knowledge and fluency during our guided reading time.

So many concepts have been covered this year in math! Most recently, we have been learning all about fractions—equivalent fractions, adding fractions, and subtracting fractions. We are also continuing to learn about angles and decimals while also sharpening our skills with multidigit addition, subtraction, and multiplication.

Science and social studies have been a blast as well! In social studies, 4th graders are continuing to learn about regions in the U.S. In science, we just wrapped up an exploration of living things—goldfish and pond snails!

4th grade has also been blessed with the opportunity to have pen pals from another state. Mrs. Johnson's class has a class from Oregon and Mrs. Payne's class has a class from Massachusetts. We will get to exchange handwritten letters back and forth. Students will learn how to write a friendly letter along with addressing the envelope. This is a wonderful learning opportunity for us to get to know more about people in different states.

Lastly, 4th grade has been participating in "skill building" on Friday afternoons. Each week, we combine classes and students practice social skills like taking turns, explaining/listening to directions, sportsmanship, and teamwork. We practice these skills through games. It has been great to see them teach one another new games and practice being effective team players. We have even taught our Reading Buddies how to play the card game Garbage!

### Dates to Remember:

#### March

- 1—Dr. Seuss Dress Up Day-Fox in Sox-wear silly, mismatched sox
- 2—Nation of Diverse Readers Celebration, Dr. Seuss Dress Up Day-Green Eggs and Ham-wear green
- 3—Dr. Seuss Dress Up Day-Cat in the Hat-wear a hat
- 4—Dr. Seuss Dress Up Day-The Sleep Book-wear PJ's or comfy clothes
- 9—Yoga in School, PTO meeting 6:45 at Two Gingers
- 14—School Board Meeting 6 PM
- 21—No School, Teacher In-Service

#### April

- 4-8—ISASP Testing Week
- 11—School Board Meeting 6 PM
- 13—Yoga in School
- 14—School Make-up day
- 15-19—No School, Spring Break

### Fechas para recordar:

#### Marzo

- 1 – Día de disfraces divertidos para la Semana del Dr. Seuss: use calcetines tontos o que no coincidan;
- 2— Día de disfraces divertidos para la Semana del Dr. Seuss: vestir de verde; Celebración para nuestra "nación de lectores diversos"
- 3 – Día de disfraces divertidos para la Semana del Dr. Seuss: Usar un gorro
- 4 – Día de disfraces divertidos para la Semana del Dr. Seuss: Usar pijamas o ropa cómoda
- 9— Yoga en escuela; Reunión del PTO 6:45pm
- 14— Reunión de la junta escolar a las 6pm
- 21— No escuela, reuniones de los maestros

#### April

- 4-8— Semana de pruebas de evaluación de Iowa
- 11— Reunión de la junta escolar a las 6pm
- 13—Yoga en escuela
- 14— Día de recuperación del día de nieve
- 15-19— No escuela, vacaciones de la primavera

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## 4th Grade



# Counselor's Corner

Looking to build Social and Emotional learning from home? Take a look at these fun, interactive SEL apps available to use at home! Social Emotional learning is essential for a child's development in areas of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and decision-making! Key benefits of social emotional learning are the ability to identify feelings, increase coping tools, self-regulate, build better relationships and so much more! Explore these apps and find the power of social emotional learning!

## SEL Apps

1. [Harmony Game Room](#)
2. [Wisdom](#)
3. [Moshi](#)
4. [iTouchiLearn Feelings](#)
5. [David Duys website-school counseling apps](#)
6. [Teach Thought](#)
7. [Common Sense Media](#)
8. [Scholastic](#)
9. [Calm](#)
10. [Smiling Mind](#)

## Backpack Food Program



Backpacks include food items for breakfast, snack, and other meals. They will be distributed on Fridays to students at school.

**Please contact Ms. Botsford for more information or questions!**

**563-852-3335 Ext. 2005 | [ashley.botsford@wdbqschools.org](mailto:ashley.botsford@wdbqschools.org)**

**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.