



# CASCADE ELEMENTARY

Cascade Elementary School Newsletter

May 2021

## Message from the Principal

Hello Cascade Elementary families,

Can you believe it is May? This has been one of the most challenging school years that we have ever experienced, but it has also been one of my favorites! The resilience that our families, students and staff have shown exemplify what Cougar pride really is. Thank you for the support as we have navigated these challenges!

Are we sick of the masks? Absolutely. But let us not forget that there have been benefits which have come with the annoyance of wearing mask. We were able to keep COVID-19 positive cases lower than we could have imagined. Which meant kids and teachers were in school for full days all year. We saw quite possibly the lowest influenza absences ever, amazing. While many of our teachers, students and families are ready to ditch the masks (myself included), by us wearing the masks, if a student test's positive for COVID-19, we do not have to quarantine the students who were in close contact. This keeps us from sending home many more students for exposure who are healthy. Let us continue to accept the challenges and hope for less restrictions in the not-too-distant future.

We have two exciting projects coming up this summer at Cascade Elementary. The first is that we will be replacing the old, tiled gym floor with a new surface. This will be a rubberized material that is incredibly durable and safe for our students. He also boasts a welcoming new look. Please check out the picture of what it will look like on page 4. Secondly, we will be continuing our renovations of the kindergarten classrooms by removing the original windows from the 1960's. This will complement the new flooring and case work renovations that we did last summer, making our oldest classrooms almost completely updated for our students.

Finally, we are working towards our fourth annual Color Run. We are asking students to solicit donations which will help our Cascade Elementary PTO to fund projects around the school as well as field trips and the free community events such as Holiday in the Garden, Trunk or Treat and VIP breakfast. Please help your students to raise funds for our PTO and earn more opportunities to win prizes at the Color Run.

I hope you all enjoy this weather for the last month as we close the school year June 4th. Thank you for your continued support of our teachers and students in school.

Sincerely,  
Dan Wendler  
Elementary Principal

*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*

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



# Classroom Spotlight

## ELL

The ELL students of Cascade Elementary are such hard workers, and have improved their language skills tremendously this year! I am always amazed at the resiliency of my ELL families, but managing life, school, and work during a pandemic with limited English skills, truly speaks volumes to the grit these kids and families have.

In March, we wrapped up our annual English Language assessment – ELPA-21. This test takes the students several days to complete and shows their annual growth in the four areas of language: Reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Again, kudos to the kids! Testing is **STRESSFUL!** They did a wonderful job!

To begin the month of May, Cascade Elementary's Multicultural Committee is teaching lessons about Cinco de Mayo in ALL classrooms through enrichment and the students will enjoy a fun "fiesta" the week of Cinco de Mayo as well!

Fun Fact: Cinco de Mayo is NOT Mexico's Independence Day. Cinco de Mayo was first celebrated in the United States in Southern California in 1863 as a show of solidarity with Mexico against French rule. The holiday commemorates Mexico's winning the Battle of Puebla on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1862 against a VERY strong French army. The French had more men and better weapons, yet somehow, the Mexican forces were able to defeat them on this day. It's really sort of a David and Goliath story – even when you think you can't, and the odds are stacked against you, all hope is not lost. In the United States, Cinco de Mayo, or May 5<sup>th</sup>, is seen as a day to celebrate Mexican food, culture, and traditions, however in Mexico, it is actually a very low-key "bank" holiday.

## Dates to Remember:

### May

- 4—School-wide "Cinco de Mayo" Celebration
- 5—ROAR Assembly
- 10—School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 12—1st Grade Field Trip, Yoga in School
- 17—5th Grade Band Solo Contest
- 18—PreK Field Trip
- 19—PreK Field Trip (rain date)
- 20—Kindergarten Field trip, 5th Grade Band Solo Contest
- 24—5th Grade Field Trip
- 25—Color Run
- 26—Color Run (rain date)
- 27—3rd Grade Field Trip
- 31—No School, Memorial Day

### June

- 1—2nd Grade Field Trip, PreK Graduation 1:30
- 2—PreK Last Day of School, ROAR Assembly, Color Run (rain date #2)
- 4—2 Hr. Early Dismissal, Last Day of School

### *Fechas para recordar:*

### mayo

- 4 – Celebración del Cinco de Mayo en toda la escuela
- 5 – Asamblea por buen comportamiento
- 10— Reunión de la junta escolar 6:00 p.m.
- 12—Yoga en escuela, Paseo escolar de las clases del primer grado
- 17— Concurso de banda en solitario para estudiantes de quinto grado
- 18 – Paseo escolar de las clases de Pre-Kinder
- 19 – Paseo escolar de las clases de Pre-Kinder (en caso de lluvia)
- 20— Paseo escolar del kindergarten, Concurso de banda en solitario para estudiantes de quinto grado
- 24- Viaje de los estudios del grado 5
- 25—Color Run (Correr de colores)
- 26—Color Run (en caso de lluvia)
- 27 – Paseo escolar de las clases del tercer grado
- 31—No escuela, Memorial Day (Día Conmemorativo)

### junio

- 1 – Paseo escolar de las clases del segundo grado, Graduación del Pre-Kinder 1:30pm
- 2— El ultimo día de escuela por estudiantes en Pre-Kinder, Asamblea por buen comportamiento, Color Run (en caso de lluvia #2)
- 4 – Salir 2 horas temprano, Ultimo día del escuela

## TAG

This has been a busy and productive year for the students in my classroom. We have enjoyed meeting twice a week. We diligently fill out our gratitude journals, explore new topics, enjoy the challenges of brain teasers, and also build relationships by working on social emotional skills and enjoying questions from a book call Coke or Pepsi at the end of class most days.

Some of the students' favorite activities have been: writing poetry and typing them, creating power points of new learning, and breakout.edu games and Math Olympiads. The students have also enjoyed "game day" once a month where they practice winning *and* losing, cooperation and good sportsmanship.

Mrs. Recker also visits each classroom twice a month where she shares seasonal books about holidays and special historical events, teaches new topics using non-fiction books, as well as gets the kids moving with activities like desk drumming that encompasses whole brain learning.

In the last month of school Mrs. Recker plans to get the kids outside more often for outdoor learning activities!

# Counselor's Corner

## Internet Technology and Education Presentation

INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS BELOW.

On April 26 and 27, Cascade and Dyersville Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were presented with education about the internet and staying safe while on the internet. Below is a link for you, as parent/guardian, to be informed of what was presented. At the end of the presentation is contact information if you have questions or concerns about any of the topics presented or feel you or someone else is a victim of an internet crime.

<https://cloud.swivl.com/v/e33e2b628424abb36e4dbd375ac01d5b>

## Technology

Technology can help students learn new and important skills but as a parents, we may worry about the amount of time our children spend on technology and the content they will find there.

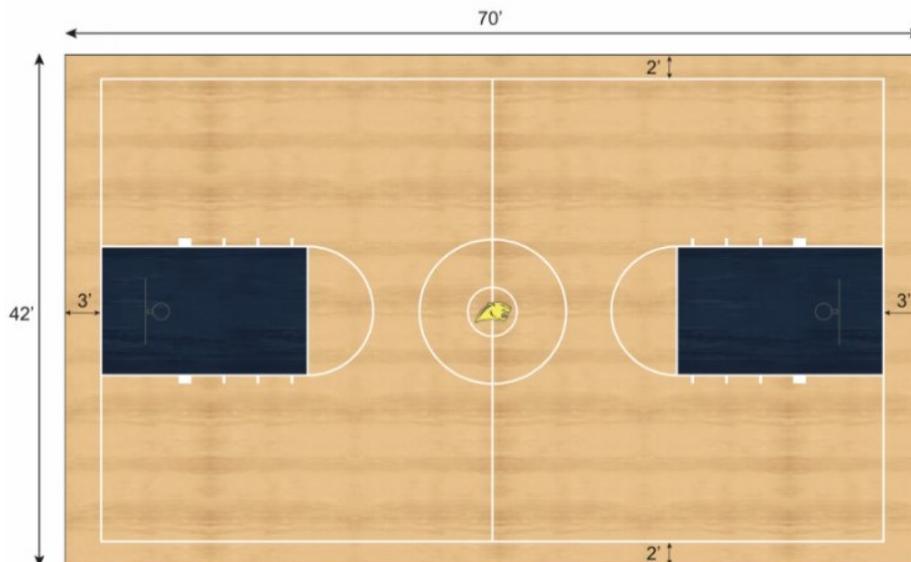
I want to share a link with you that the Cascade High School DARE Officer shared with me. I found the information about Omegle particularly alarming as it is an app to communicate with complete strangers. Please take time to explore this site to keep in the loop of potentially dangerous apps.

<https://mailchi.mp/dc4f1b092bff/children-and-technology-navigating-new-times-4864617?e=761a8f9d9b>

This information does not provide a complete guide to dangerous apps for our children, but it may encourage you to check out your child(ren)'s device(s) to ensure they are safe online.

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## Gym Floor



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