

December 2018

Baby it's Cold Outside!

We enjoy every minute of our time outside. Students go out 3 times per day. We believe that outside fresh air and physical activity are so important for their growing brains and bodies. When the temperature is 0 degrees and above you will find us outside. **Please** help your child make sure they have all their winter gear. We call it the **BIG FIVE**-snowpants, jacket, boots, mitten/gloves and a hat. An extra pair of gloves/mittens and socks are always helpful.



Here's What's Happening!

Kindergarten- Greetings! In December, Kindergarteners are learning to use their "Super Power Reading Strategies" to read "just right" books, find patterns in books, and figure out tricky words. Our reading muscles are growing! In Writing, we are like scientists, paying close attention to



details as we write about things we observe. We are learning to stretch words across the page, label pictures and add detail to drawings and text. In Math, we are discovering 2D and 3D shapes. In Science, we are in the middle of our Wood Unit. We recently made plywood and particle board. In Social Studies, we are studying families and Holiday Traditions. *Mrs. Fiege and the Kinder Kids*

First Grade- In December First Graders are busy learning all about Non-Fiction in reading and writing! We have begun a new math unit, using new strategies. We are learning about Fiestas in Social Studies and Sound and Light in Science. We are also working hard on social emotional skills like: being kind to peers and teachers, caring about friends and apologizing for our actions.



Here's What's Happening!

Second Grade- Wow! What a wonderful time of year. We are enjoying some holiday fun intertwined with our 2nd grade learning standards. We are counting down with Kindness ideas till the last day before vacation. Our holiday craft event was successful and the students enjoyed themselves. We love discovering what each day in second grade will bring.



~Mrs. Holcomb, Mrs. Buntrock and the rest of "The Master Learner Community"

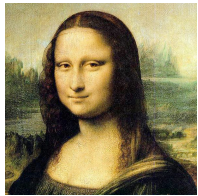
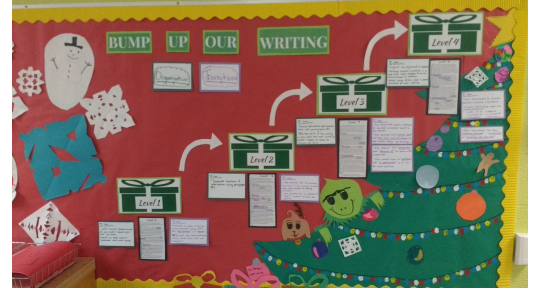
Third Grade- The 3rd Grade Class is staying busy with starting a few new units in December! In Science, we have wrapped up our unit on Weather and Climate and are now starting Motion and Matter. We have started our unit by exploring magnets and magnetic forces. Nonfiction is our focus in both Reading and Writing as we look at main ideas, supporting details and text features. Lastly, we are learning all about Menomonie History in Social Studies and are having fun making connections to places we still see around our community.



Fourth Grade- I am so proud of these wonderful fourth graders! They continue to work hard and learn so much! In math, we are learning about factor pairs, multiples of numbers, and continuing division strategies. In reading, we are working on our nonfiction research group projects. Students are looking forward to presenting them to the class throughout the next couple of weeks! We are also looking forward to Battle of the Books in February! We just started our poetry unit in writing. Students have observed and read a variety of poems, and we are now learning how to write our own! Students have also started to prepare for the Spelling Bee that will be held at the end of January. We started our energy unit in science and the kids are very excited for it! As always, there is lots going on, but the kids are doing an amazing job! We continue to promote kindness and respect in the classroom, and I have seen our classroom dynamics change for the better because of it! Yay!



Fifth Grade- Hard to believe it's December already! 5th grade continues to work incredibly hard to achieve greatness and success. This month in Math we are diving deeper into multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers as well as decimals. In Reading and Writing, we are starting our Argument and Advocacy unit. Our students are learning how to become good citizens by researching important issues and taking a stance! In Science, we are exploring the world around us by learning about mixtures and solutions. In Social Studies, we are learning about early colonization from European settlers! Our Tiger Talker program is up and running as well, as our 5th-grade students step in as peer mediators for Downsville Elementary.



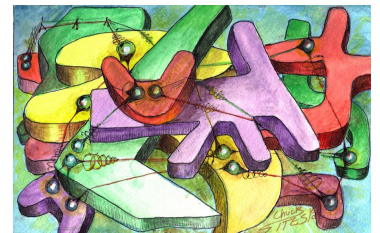
In the art room...

K-4 have been working on winter themed projects, while learning about shading, portraits, shape, weaving, and famous artists.

5th grade has been working on a community project. They have been working hard at painting some abstract pictures of cats from the Dunn County Humane Society. The students "adopted" a picture of a cat from the humane society, and have been working on painting them on an 8x10 canvas. They have abstracted the paintings by changing the colors of the cats, and using bright, funky colors.



Though the students will get a nice printed photo of their canvas, the paintings themselves will be hung up at Tabby's Catfe in downtown Menomonie, a cafe that hosts adoptable cats from the humane society. There we will sell our paintings, and use the profit to buy and donate items for the humane society. The humane society will also be visiting our art room on December 20th to talk to us more about what they do for these animals in our community.



Important Dates

Each month we will let you know some of the important upcoming dates at Downsville

December 17th - PTC Meeting 5:30 (@ Cubby's)

December 18th - Winter Concert - 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade.

1:15 - Dress Rehearsal - River Heights Gym

(Parents/Grandparents welcome!)

6:00 p.m. River Heights Elementary Gym

December 20th - 5th Grade DARE Graduation - 2:30 p.m.

December 21st - 1:30 p.m. Downsville "Sing-a-Long"

December 21st - Student Council Dress up day!

"Ugly Sweater Day"!

December 24 - January 1 - NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK

January 2nd - Return to School



Clothing Donation!!

Our health room is in need of "generic" sweatpants and or leggings to have on hand when students need a change of clothing. We have many sweat shirts and tops but our pants supply is depleted.



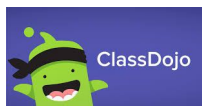
If your child has outgrown items and they are in good shape - we would appreciate the donation. All sizes welcome!

Thank you!



A big "THANK YOU" to families who have donated their used snow pants to our supply. They are greatly appreciated!

Connecting with Families



@downsvilleES

MUSIC 2018-2019

the
Music Update

Mrs. Orf's Classroom

3-5 Winter Concert: KidFlix

Come and watch 3rd, 4th and 5th grade perform songs from their favorite movies.

When: Tuesday, December 18th

Time: Students report at 5:50 in RH Library 6:00pm Start

Where: River Heights Elementary Gym

Who: Families are all invited to watch



Save the Date!

Dec. 18, 2018
3-5 Winter Concert
6:00pm
River Heights
Gym

May 7, 2019
K-2 Informance
6:00pm
River Heights
Gym

A Note From Mrs. Orf

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe it is already December. Students have all been working hard to prepare for the concert. K,1,2 have all been learning about rhythms and keeping the beat.

Please don't forget about our winter concert at River Heights. Students are to arrive at 5:50pm and report to the River Heights Library.

We look forward to performing for you all the fun and exciting musical numbers we have been working so hard on.

-Mrs. Orf



Elementary Library Newsletter

December

Jessica Graham: District Elementary Library Media
jessica_graham@msd.k12.wi.us (715) 232-3987 x61162

What's Flying Off the Shelves

Downsville: Paranormal Books, Piggy and Gerald Books

Knapp: Dog Man Series, Paranormal Books, Piggy and Gerald Books

Wakanda: Dog Man Series, Amulet Series, Piggy and Gerald Books, any Playaway

Oaklawn: Babysitters Club Graphic Novels, Dog Man Series, Amulet Series, Wonder by R.J. Palacio

River Heights: Boxcar Children Series, Amulet Series, Dog Man Series

Give the Power of Choice

Whether your child is a reluctant reader or a voracious one, consider giving them a gift card to a bookstore or buy a magazine subscription. This way, your child gets to decide what they want to read!

The elementary library staff would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Is This App, Website, Book, Song, Movie, or TV show Appropriate For Your Child? Find Out Using Common Sense Media!

Common Sense Media is a website with a wealth of resources. Among them is the ability for parents and children to review books, movies, TV shows, music, apps, and websites. All you have to do is type a keyword into the search bar to see what people are saying. Feedback includes a star rating system, age recommendations, and written comments. Visit

www.commonsensemedia.org for more information.



NEED HELP PAYING FOR PRESCRIPTIONS?

Pharmacy vouchers are available for Dunn County patients struggling to afford out-of-pocket expenses for prescriptions specific to **diabetes** or **cancer**.



REQUEST A VOUCHER FORM AT THE FOLLOWING PHARMACIES:

The Medicine Shoppe - Menomonie, WI

Mayo Clinic Red Cedar Pharmacy - Menomonie, WI

Colfax Health Mart Pharmacy - Colfax, WI

Spring Valley Drug - Spring Valley, WI

GO TO WWW.CFDUNNCOUNTY.ORG/VOUCHER FOR MORE DETAILS

Made possible by the CJ Diabetic Care Fund and the
Garding Against Cancer Fund of the Community Foundation of Dunn County