



# February 2020

Social Media is a big part of our students lives. Even kindergarteners who are unable to identify the letter F can tell you it stands for Facebook. One of the newer more popular social media platforms is called Tik Tok.

*TikTok is a free social media app that lets you watch, create, and share videos -- often to a soundtrack of the top hits in music -- right from your phone.*

We have heard from even primary aged children who have viewed this site. If you are unfamiliar with Tik Tok please take a moment to read from this informative link recommended by our District Technology Director Katie Krueger. [Tik Tok](#) is not recommended for children under the age of 13.. Common Sense Media is a valuable parent resource website.

\*\*\*\*\*

I would like to share with families that I have made the very difficult decision to retire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. I have enjoyed 27 wonderful years in the Menomonie School District and look forward to a strong finish with Downsville students and families.





## Important Dates

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



February 11 - After School Soccer Club

3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

February 17 - PTC Meeting.

5:30 p.m. - Downsville Library

February 18 - Parent Teacher Conferences and Book Fair

4 - 7:45 p.m.

February 19 - After School Soccer Club

3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

February 20 - Parent Teacher Conferences and Book Fair

4 - 7:45 p.m.

February 21 - NO SCHOOL

February 25 - After School Soccer Club

3:30 - 4:45 p.m.



March 2 - Dr. Seuss's Birthday Celebration

See information in the Newsletter!

March 6 - End of 2nd Trimester!

March 11 - Report Cards go home!

March 12 - 4th and 5th Grade "Fuel Up 2 Play 60" Field Trip!

March 16 - 20 - NO SCHOOL!

S P R I N G   B R E A K



## MENU CHANGE:

The menu for February 19th and February 26 have been exchanged.

Menu now is:

February 19  
Soft Shell Tacos

February 26  
Macaroni & Cheese

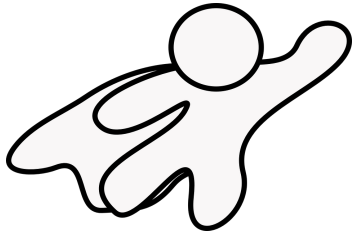
# Here's What's Happening!



## Kindergarten

Dear Families,

In Kindergarten, we are finishing up our "Super Powers" unit in Reading. We will be learning how to become Avid/Lifelong Readers in our next unit.



In Writing, we just started our Small Moments Unit. We will write about events that have really happened to us. We are working on being brave spellers so others can read our books.

In Math, we are composing and decomposing numbers. We are using number bonds to help us.



In Science, we have been learning about Wood. We had a blast making particle board and plywood!

With our 5th Grade buddies, we practiced ice skating! We love learning new things!

Mrs. Fiege and the Kinder Kids

## First Grade

In first grade we have been working hard on "Bringing our Books to Life" through voices, acting and body movements.



In writing we are working on sharing our opinions about books, places to eat, and movies.

Math time is focusing on measurement right now and our favorite time of the day lately has been science time!

We are learning about sound through hands on experiments, instruments, and challenges.

I look forward to touching base with all parents at conferences in a few weeks!

Mrs. Gully



## Second Grade

Hello families and happy February! Things are moving along smoothly in second grade and I have a couple of exciting announcements to make!

First up in reading we are finishing up reading nonfiction books as we also move into finishing informational writing with chapter books.

In math we are close to finishing adding and subtracting with three digit numbers and will soon be starting multiplication and division!

For science we are continuing to look at solids and liquids while in social studies we are doing a mini unit on Black History Month.



As Valentine's Day approaches I want you all to know we are having our party in the afternoon where your child can bring a box and valentines to share.

Additionally, if you have not sent in money or the slip for our Crystal Cave trip in April please send those in as soon as you can. If you need another sheet please ask :) I am looking forward to seeing you all at conferences and happy February!

Mr. Voss

## Third Grade

Hello families,  
I hope you are well and trying  
to stay healthy!

In math, we began our  
exploration of fractions.

Your children are becoming  
stronger readers and writers  
by diving deeper into the lives  
of the characters in their  
books. We have found many  
new series that we love!

The students have enjoyed  
learning about the American  
Revolution through the Liberty  
Kids series and study of  
famous figures.



I look forward to seeing you  
and your child at conferences!

Ms. Repinski

## Fourth Grade

The fourth graders are doing  
an awesome job as we  
continue our learning into the  
new year!

We are busy working on  
fractions in math.

We are just beginning our  
informational writing piece  
about a country of our choice  
this week.

We are wrapping up our  
historical fiction book clubs  
soon.

We are looking forward to  
doing our final battle for Battle  
of the Books against the fifth  
grade team this month.

We are continuing to practice  
being kind and respectful to  
others, in and out of the  
classroom.

I am thankful for this bunch of  
kids and all the great learning  
we are doing every day!

Mrs. Minnich

## Fifth Grade

This year is really flying by!  
Hard to believe it's already  
February! Here's what is going  
on in our 5th Grade jungle.

In Math, we have finished our  
decimals unit and have moved  
on to fractions! Wooo! For this  
month we will be heavily  
focused on reviewing adding  
and subtracting using new  
methods such as rectangular  
models and multiplication  
(standard algorithm). We will  
then move on to multiplying  
and dividing fractions!

## Fifth Grade

Continued

In Reading, we have been  
working hard on our Argument  
and Advocacy unit. We have  
been researching different  
social issues and learning how  
to make claims and support  
reasons with evidence. We will  
be recording our debates in  
order to assess our learning.

In Writing, we have been  
working on our Persuasive  
arguments! I gave each of our  
students the same question:  
Should we ban chocolate milk  
at Downsview Elementary? The  
students used their  
claim-making skills, interviews,  
polls, and elaboration to create  
convincing arguments.

In Science, we are continuing  
to learn more about the world  
around us through mixtures  
and solutions. We just finished  
our learning about extracts  
and where they come from. We  
also talked about how extracts  
are used in everyday life!

This month for Social Studies  
we are taking a break from our  
Studies Weekly to focus on the  
School District Writing  
Challenge. 3rd, 4th, and 5th  
grade are thinking about what  
civil rights really means to us  
and others. We will be creating  
writing projects inspired by the  
amazing acts and deeds of  
civil rights activists in order to  
learn and appreciate the hard  
work and dedication done by  
civil rights leaders/role  
models.

Have a great February,  
Mr. Jonathan Strege





# Holcomb Highlights

Feb. 2020

## DEVELOP A LOVE FOR READING!

Great readers truly love to read. All readers may not love to read novels but that's the great thing about reading, there are so many different kinds of text to read! It is important that your child find something that they love to read. Below are some tips to foster a LOVE of reading!

### WE **Love** TO READ!

- Let your child explore all different kinds of text. Expose them to books, magazines, comics, e-books, newspapers and more! Let them choose what they want to read even if it may not be a great fit from time to time.
- Model great reading for your child. Show them how you can gain new information from text.
- Develop reading routines and establish reading times each day. Read aloud to your child.
- Take them to the library or bookstore. Ask your child's teacher for other ways to borrow books.
- Talk to your child about what they're reading, ask them questions to check for understanding.



I encourage and challenge your child to practice writing by writing out their own Valentine's this holiday. Whether they are from scratch or ones that are pre bought. It is also a great idea to have your child find paper and writing utensils outside of their school day. I will be providing each grade level at Downsville with some fun February writing prompts to enjoy writing about.



The Learning Adventure Continues...

With Downsville Students In Mind,

Mrs. Holcomb

# Reading is our THING

DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY is coming!

Monday, March 2nd.

This day will be all about him and his books.

\*\*\*Each grade level will have a different book theme to dress up as.

**Kindergarten-** "ONE FISH, TWO FISH, RED FISH, BLUE FISH"...Wear something RED and/or BLUE

**1st grade-** "Green EGGS and Ham"... Wear something GREEN.

**2nd grade-** "SLEEP BOOK" zZz... Wear school appropriate pajamas to school.

**3rd grade-** "FOX IN SOCKS"... Wear crazy SOCKS.

**4th grade-** "WACKY WEDNESDAY"... wear wacky clothes, such as mismatched or backwards

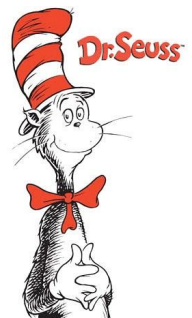
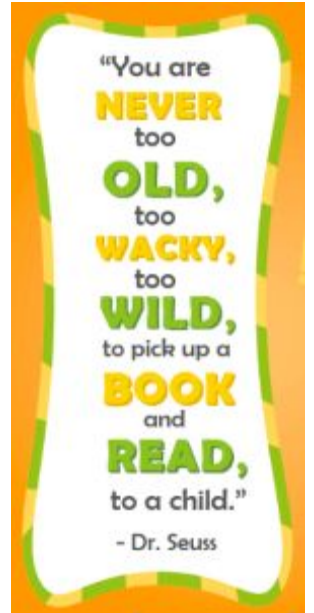
**5th grade-** "THE CAT IN THE HAT"... WEAR a fun hat.

Remember to ask your child what they did to celebrate this famous author.



The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go.

- Dr. Seuss





# District Elementary Library Newsletter

## Librarians Available During Conferences

As with previous years, if your child has any lost, damaged, or long overdue books you will receive a notice at parent teacher conferences. Payment and replacement information will be on your letter.

For the first time ever, librarians will be available during conference night! Feel free to stop in the library to discuss those lost/overdue items, make payments, and/or talk about awesome books!

We are here to help, and look forward to talking with you!

## **Library Bins**

An article was recently published showcasing the amazing success we are having with our non-fiction library bins. You can read about it at [www.tinyurl.com/binarticle](http://www.tinyurl.com/binarticle)

This project is not yet completed. If you are interested in donating to help us finish, the library would be very grateful! Visit my fundraising link at [www.donorschoose.org/jessicagraham](http://www.donorschoose.org/jessicagraham)

A huge THANK YOU for your past and present support!



## Golden Archer Awards

The Golden Archer Award is given at the primary, intermediate, and middle/junior high levels.

There are 5 nominees each year, which have been selected by a committee based on books read by Wisconsin Students.

During library, our K, 1, and 2 students read each book and do an activity to help them remember the book and their favorite parts.

When all 5 titles have been read, students do a quick review, and then vote for the book they feel should win the Golden Archer Award.

This year the nominees are:

- ❖ The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors
- ❖ Lost in the Library: A Story of Patience and Fortitude
- ❖ I Really Like Slop
- ❖ The Itchy Book
- ❖ Pete the Kitty and the Groovy Playdate

## **What's Flying Off the Shelves**

River Heights	Knapp	Oaklawn	Wakanda	Downsville
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Dog Man Books</li><li>o Star Wars Books</li><li>o Minecraft Books</li><li>o Piggie &amp; Gerald books by Mo Willems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Bailey's Story</li><li>o Inside Out and Back Again</li><li>o Restart</li><li>o Binder of Doom</li><li>o Barbie</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Who Is/Who Was</li><li>o Spy School Series</li><li>o Dragon Master Series</li><li>o Animal Books</li><li>o Weird But True</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Mo Willems Books</li><li>o You Choose Books</li><li>o Battle and Golden Archer Books</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Drew Daywalt books</li><li>o Dragonology</li><li>o The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors</li></ul>

**Library Media Technology Integrator**  
[Jessica\\_graham@msd.k12.wi.us](mailto:Jessica_graham@msd.k12.wi.us)





## EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

NO MORE CLIPPING. ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR SMARTPHONE.

The NEW and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online.

LOOK FOR  
THE NEW  
LABEL:



### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



#### BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.



#### SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



#### EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated at BTFE.com.

You do not need to clip or send Box Tops labels to school.



### BOX TOPS CLIPS ON PACKAGES

Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store as packages transition to the new Box Tops labels. **You can still clip these and send them to school.** Please make sure each clip has a valid expiration date.



BUY  
BOX TOPS  
PRODUCTS



CUT  
OUT THE BOX TOP  
FROM EACH PACKAGE



SEND  
YOUR BOX TOPS  
TO SCHOOL

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTFE.COM](http://BTFE.COM)

THE ALL-NEW BOX TOPS IS HERE!  
DOWNLOAD THE APP:



© General Mills

**AS STATED ABOVE:** *You can still clip the box tops from packages and continue to send them to school. We will be sending them in one more time this year!*  
*Thank you for saving to help our school!*

**All Box Tops need to be into the Downsview Office before February 21st for submission!**