



February - March 2021



News



Greetings Families,

It has been a very cold stretch but we were happy to get outside this week, if only for a few minutes. Last week was a busy one with the 100th day of school and our Valentine's Day celebration. The students had fun dressing up like 100 year olds and exchanging Valentine's Day cards. Special thanks to PTC for purchasing Cheez-Its and a lollipop for every student. 100 days of in person learning is quite an accomplishment!! It means even more this year. So many children in Wisconsin do not have the opportunity to attend school in person. I am thankful that we do and it has been so successful. We've been fortunate with very few staff and student exclusions as of late. We continue to focus on masking up, backing up, and washing up frequently. The children are doing a good job with this overall! Thank you, parents, for your support.

Thursday night, February 11th, seven families joined in our virtual LEGO night. It was great to see what the students created! I'm planning a second one in March and students will be asked to create a vehicle of any kind or type. This can include cars, planes, 4 wheelers, boats, etc. Watch your email for an invite and join in the fun!

Monday's, February 15, PTC meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, March 1 at 5:30 pm. This will be a virtual meeting, [Here](#) is a link to the agenda, which includes a link to the meeting.

We are looking forward to the warm up and hopefully some more skating before Spring. We've got a couple of weeks until Spring break and the end of the trimester to continue to work hard and improve our skills. The best things to do from/at home are to get your children to school every day and read with or listen to them read every night.

Have a great month,
Mrs. Drout



Important Dates

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

February 18 - Parent Teacher Conferences
4:00 - 7:45 PM

February 19 - NO SCHOOL

February 26 - Student Council Meeting - 8:15 a.m.

March 4 - Bridging Brighter Smiles Dental Clinic

March 5 - Bridging Brighter Smiles Dental Clinic

March 5 - End of 2nd Trimester

March 10 - Report Cards go Home!

March 15 - 19 - NO SCHOOL -
SPRING BREAK!!!

April 2 - Vacation - No School

April 5 - PD Day - NO School for Students



Reading *is our* THING

Dr. Seuss' BIRTHDAY is coming!

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

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 pajamas to school.

3rd Grade- "FOX IN SOCKS" ...Wear crazy SOCKS.

4th Grade- "WACKY WEDNESDAY" ...Wear wacky clothes, mismatched or backwards

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



This day will be all about him and his books.

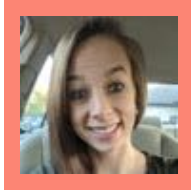
Hello Downsville Elementary Families!

Looking for something to do this winter? Check out the [Menomonie High School Field House](#). They offer various activities for children, adults, and families!

At the end of February, I will be taking a leave of absence. Social work intern, Eliza Carman, will be available to support students and families, in person, on Tuesday afternoons. Should you need assistance, please reach out to her. The other district social worker, Amanda Cruz, is also another option in my absence. I'll be back again in May!



Eliza Carman
eliza_carman@msd.k12.wi.us



Amanda Cruz
amanda_cruz@msd.k12.wi.us

Shanda Henning
School Social Worker
shanda_henning@msd.k12.wi.us

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(715) 235-9122

Habla Español: (715) 933-0338

Apply online at: www.headstart.cesa11.k12.wi.us

Here's What's Happening at Downsville School:



Dear Families,

Kindergarten News!

February has been a busy month in the Kindergarten room. We have become super readers! We are using all of our super reading strategies to read books! We have become super writers too! We are making our writing easy to read by leaving spaces between words, writing a letter for every sound we hear in words, making pictures that match our words, using punctuation, and using capital letters. In Math, we are using number bonds to help us organize our numbers when we break them up and put them together. We also celebrated the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day!

Mrs. Fiege and the Kinder Kids



1st Grade News!

We have been so busy this February learning about all things LOVE and KINDNESS in first grade! We cannot wait to see what



fun things March will bring for us... Maybe even some Leprechaun Luck?!

-Mrs. Gully's First Graders

2nd Grade News!

This month in second grade we have been working on some fun new units and have some fun projects in the works. In reading we are starting to learn about nonfiction books and how to write them in writer's workshop. For math we are finishing up our last unit on addition and subtraction before we start the basics of multiplication next unit! In social studies we are working through our unit on Black History month and in science we are wrapping up our unit on solids and liquids before a mini unit on space! We have also begun a rest of the year unit on typing using the website TypingClub which will have us typing without looking at the keyboard. All of us are excited to get our Flat Stanley projects back as well and start sharing them at the end of the month! Thank you for all your hard work and keep it up!



Mr. Voss

3rd Grade News!



Hi families!

I am looking forward to connecting with you during your child's conference. February has been eventful! Kids went ice skating a couple times, celebrated the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day. Our new math unit will focus on



fractions and last until the middle of April. Please help your child learn this new concept by thinking about daily items as fractions. Students will begin a Character Studies reading unit and a Literary Essay writing unit. These units will combine much of their knowledge they have gained this year. I am looking forward to seeing students continue to grow and be safe, respectful, responsible Downsville tigers!
Ms. Repinski



4th Grade News!

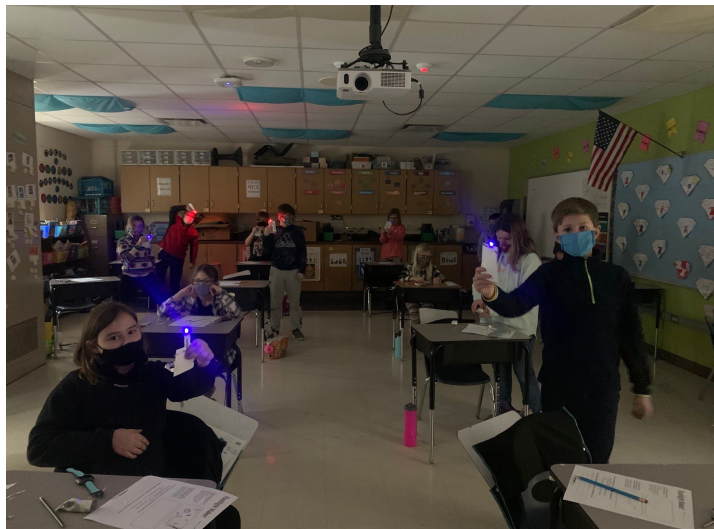
I am very proud of the entire 4th grade class for their work for the Battle of the Books Competition. In Battle of the Books, the students worked in teams to read 20 different books and then had to answer questions about the books. As a class, the students read 92 books in all. We had four teams with 4 members each. Our top team was The Main Idea. Members of the team included: Drew, Kinsley, Lexi, and Tyler. They competed against the fifth graders' top team to see who would represent Downsville at the state battle. We lost by one tie-breaker question. We wish the best of luck to the fifth-grade team with the state battle.



In reading and writing, students are working on being good researchers. The students researched countries that their ancestors came from. They are now using their research to write feature articles about their countries. The students are also reading about a topic that interests them and will create presentations to teach others about what they have learned.

Math is all about fractions right now. The students are learning how to place fractions on a number line, how to compare fractions, and how to find equivalent fractions. I have been hearing a lot of "Fractions are FUN!"

We are wrapping up our science unit on energy. The highlight of the unit was when we learned how electrical energy flows through a path and we got to show off our knowledge by making our own flashlights.



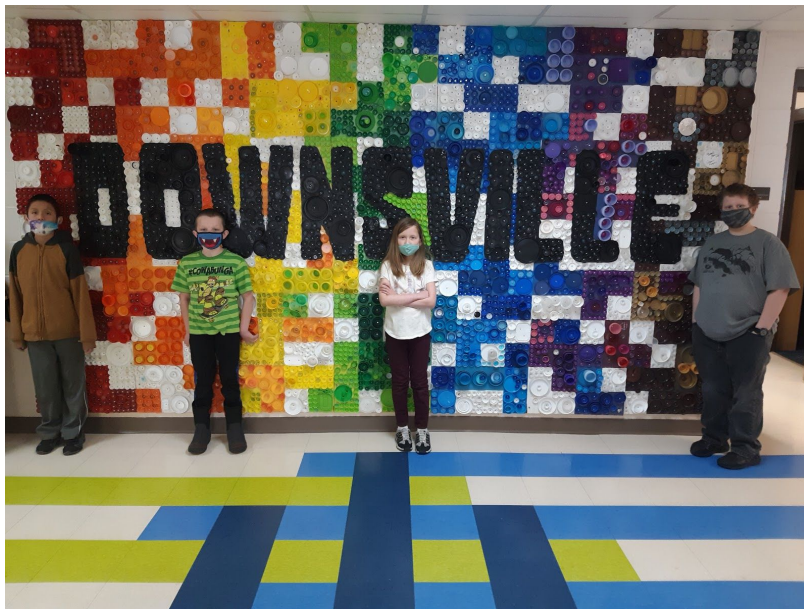
5th Grade News!

Along with all of the awesome work the 5th graders have been doing, we had two very exciting things happen last month.

First, the students competed in the Battle of the Books in February. The students were divided into four teams and had the task of reading 20 books. Then they had a competition where they had to answer questions about the stories. One 5th grade team won the class AND school competition and will be going on to the state competition in a couple of weeks. Congratulations Pedro, Adam, Evelyn and Camron.

The other exciting event to happen in 5th grade is the adoption of 200 trout. The students recently began to raise trout eggs. They will be in charge of taking care of the trout which includes making sure all of the equipment is working, testing the water quality, and figuring out what needs to be done if there is a problem. The trout will be released into a nearby stream in the spring.

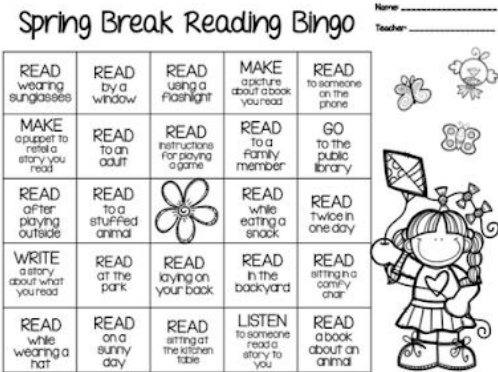
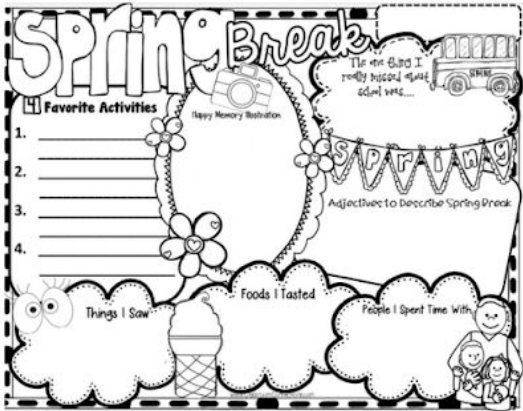
This is a program that is sponsored by the Clear Water Trout Unlimited Chapter and funding was received from the AnnMarie Grant.



*"Battle of the Book"
Winning Team!*



Please check your child's backpack the week before spring break, as a **Spring Break READING BINGO AND WRITING CHALLENGE** will be brought home. Your child will be awarded with a small prize for completing it and returning it the week after spring break.

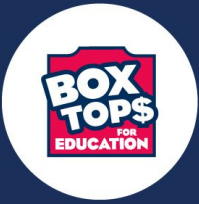


Have an enjoyable spring break and cherish your time together, as a family.

With Downsville Students In Mind,
Mrs. Holcomb



Free book give away will take place before we leave for spring break.



BOX TOPICS

FEB
2021

Easy ways to make a difference for your school.

I ♥ MY SCHOOL® SWEEPSTAKES

5 SCHOOLS WILL EACH WIN

5000 BONUS BOX TOPS!

Sweepstakes ends March 1, 2021

SWEETS FOR YOUR SWEETIES BOX TOPS FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Surprise your loved ones with sweet treats and earn cash for your school, too!



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SCANNING TIP

You can give credit to a specific child, teacher or classroom every time you scan a receipt. Just use the "Give Credit" feature in the Box Tops app!

LEARN



BOX TOPICS

MAR/APR
2021

Easy ways to make a difference for your school.

A BIG THANK YOU
to everyone who submitted their school's Box Tops clips by the March 1 deadline!



Spring earnings checks will be sent to schools in April.



TELL FRIENDS ABOUT BOX TOPS!

Use the "refer-a-friend" feature in the Box Tops app to spread the word. The more people that support your school, the bigger difference you can make. It really adds up!

Lucky Charms LUCKY #7 SWEEPS

7 SCHOOLS WILL EACH WIN
5,000 BONUS BOX TOPS

ARE YOU FEELING LUCKY?

Sweepstakes ends March 31

LEARN MORE AT BTFE.COM

Elementary Library Newsletter

February, 2021

WIN POKEMON STUFF!

Students who complete the Pokemon Reading Challenge will get free Pokemon prizes!
This started at the end of January and runs through March. Every time a student reads for 20 minutes, they color in a Pokemon Ball. Once all the balls are colored in, they return it to the librarian and will receive a prize!

This went home with every student. A copy of the reading challenge is also attached at the bottom of the newsletter if you would like to reprint one.

*****MAKE SURE THERE IS A PARENT SIGNATURE ON THE FORM BEFORE YOUR CHILD RETURNS IT*****

Disclaimer: Each student can only win one time. However, they MAY win more than one prize depending on participation.



THEME DECKS

There are two different theme decks available: Rock Steady or Luminous Frost.



ADDITIONAL GAME CARDS

Students can expand their Pokemon card collection with "10 additional game cards" booster packs.



PLUSHIES

Sunflora and Yanma are among some of the Plushies students can win!

HAND WASHING TIMERS

The Corona Virus is still spreading, so washing your hands often is important. Apple Watch can detect water when you wash your hands and begin a 20 second timer. To turn on this feature, go to: Settings> Handwashing> Handwashing Timer. There are other handwashing timers available on the app store and Fitbit has a handwashing reminder. Have fun exploring your options!



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS COMPETITION IS THIS MONTH

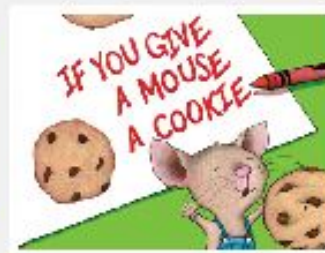
Our school battles will all take place soon. The last week in February, the winning team from each participating building (DN, RH, and OAK) will go on to participate virtually in the State Battle of the Books Competition! If your child is participating, please encourage them to practice, review, and memorize those authors! When the battle committee releases the results, I will include them in that month's newsletter. Good luck to all!

READ, THEN WATCH!



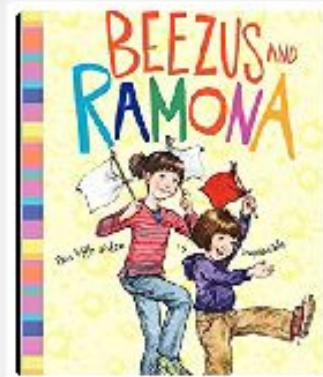
HEADSPACE GUIDE TO MEDITATION

Here is what Netflix says about the 8 episode series that started in January: "From tackling stress to embracing gratitude, each episode first teaches the basics and techniques of the practice, and then concludes with a guided meditation. Push play, close your eyes, and explore the many benefits of meditation." We have lots of books on self-care to read; meditation, yoga, and more! Enjoy!



IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE

Amazon features this series is based on the books by Laura Numeroff and Felicia Bond. Mouse and friends go on adventures together and have tons of fun! We have this series in our libraries. Read the books, then watch the show!



Ramona and Beezus

You may remember reading books by Beverly Cleary as a child, and they are sure making a comeback. Our libraries are FULL of her books. Read a chapter every night, and when you finish the book, enjoy a family movie night watching Ramona and Beezus on Disney Plus.

THE MAGIC OF STORYTELLING

All the details of this wonderful campaign are discussed on "The View." Please watch the video to learn more! If you take a "shelfie" (a picture of you with your favorite book) and post it to Twitter or Instagram using #magicofstorytelling Disney will donate one book to children in need. Our libraries work with FirstBook a lot, and we can vouch for how generous they are! If you do take a shelfie, tag your school in it as well! The twitter handles are:

@oaklawnschool
@rh_elementary
@knappschool
@downsvilleES
@sdma_wakanda

'The View' Encourages Reading with Disney's Magic of Storytelling



Jessica Graham

@teacher_graham

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