



# January Newsletter

## 2024

Happy New Year Downsville Elementary! I hope you all found winter break to be restful and relaxing. After nearly two weeks away, the focus of this month will be to get back into our school routines. Our staff will be reviewing behavior expectations with students, in addition to focusing on classroom and school-wide expectations. WE appreciate your help in supporting students with the following reminders:

### **“Big Five” Reminder**

Please help our students to be prepared for the weather by wearing the Big Five to school every day: Hat, Coat, Boots, Snowpants, and Gloves/Mittens.



There has been some confusion as we do not have a snowy playground YET, but if the temperature is below 32 degrees, students will be expected to wear their coat, hat, gloves/mittens and boots.

Students should also have a pair of shoes to wear everyday for inside learning. Snow boots are for outside play. We have found that boots worn throughout the school day spread germs, become very odorous, and cause damage to our classroom rugs and gym floor.

Thank you for supporting our school and helping establish school routines.

- Ms. Lee, Principal

## *Important Dates:*

January 12 - Student Council Meeting - 8:15 in Library

January 15 - PTC Meeting - 5:30 p.m. - Timber Inn

January 17 - D.A.R.E begins!

January 26 - Student Council Meeting - 8:15 in Library

January 26 - WINTER FESTIVAL

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

January 30 - PTC Sponsored Ice Skating Party (tentative)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

February 2 - Student Council Meeting - 8:15 in Library

February 6 - Parent / Teacher Conferences

4:00 - 7:30 p.m.

February 8 - Parent /Teacher Conferences

4:00 - 7:30 p.m.

**\*\*February 9 - NO SCHOOL**

**\*\*February 12 -NO SCHOOL - Teacher PD Day**

February 13 - "Make up date" for Skating Party if canceled.

February 16 - Student Council Meeting - 8:15 in Library

March 1 - End of 2nd Trimester

March 7 - Report Cards go Home

March 11 - 15 - Spring Break! - **NO SCHOOL**



Starting on January 17, our current 5<sup>th</sup> graders will begin learning about the DARE Program. DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a drug abuse prevention education program designed to equip elementary school children with skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. Deputy Gates from the Dunn County Sheriff's Department will come weekly to engage and teach the students the lessons for approximately 10 weeks. We are excited to have this program come to our school!



**Please access the December Library newsletter online:**

<https://www.smore.com/vjf9h>

Jessica Graham (She, Her, Hers)  
Library Media Technology Integrator, Menomonie School District  
715-232-3987 x6116 [jessica\\_graham@msd.k12.wi.us](mailto:jessica_graham@msd.k12.wi.us)  
615 24th Ave. W. Menomonie, WI 54751



**A couple of Downsville Book Worms!!**



## Counseling News!

In SEL classes, we are starting the Second Step Child Protection Unit. This unit focuses on different ways children can be safe. A letter was sent home with more information about the lessons. You can also access information on [www.secondstep.org](http://www.secondstep.org) using the following activation codes:

**Kindergarten: CPUK FAMI LYGK**

**1st Grade: CPU1 FAMI LYG1**

**2nd Grade: CPU2 FAMI LYG2**

**3rd Grade: CPU3 FAMI LYG3**

**4th Grade: CPU4 FAMI LYG4**

**5th Grade: CPU5 FAMI LYG5**



**Bretta Snyder**  
(she/her/hers)  
Elementary School Counselor  
Downsville Elementary School 8 am-4 pm (M, W, F am)  
715-664-8546 ext. 81103  
Knapp Elementary School 8 am-4 pm (T, Tr, F pm)  
715-665-2131 ext. 20109



*Exploring the World of Science*

## **Science Olympiad?**

4th and 5th-grade students have the opportunity to participate in Science Olympiad. Science Olympiad is an after school activity that encourages the natural curiosity of children and allows for in-depth hands-on experiences in the field of Science. Students will meet one night a week (Wednesdays) to practice various events. We will compete against other Menomonie Elementary schools on Saturday, April 20.

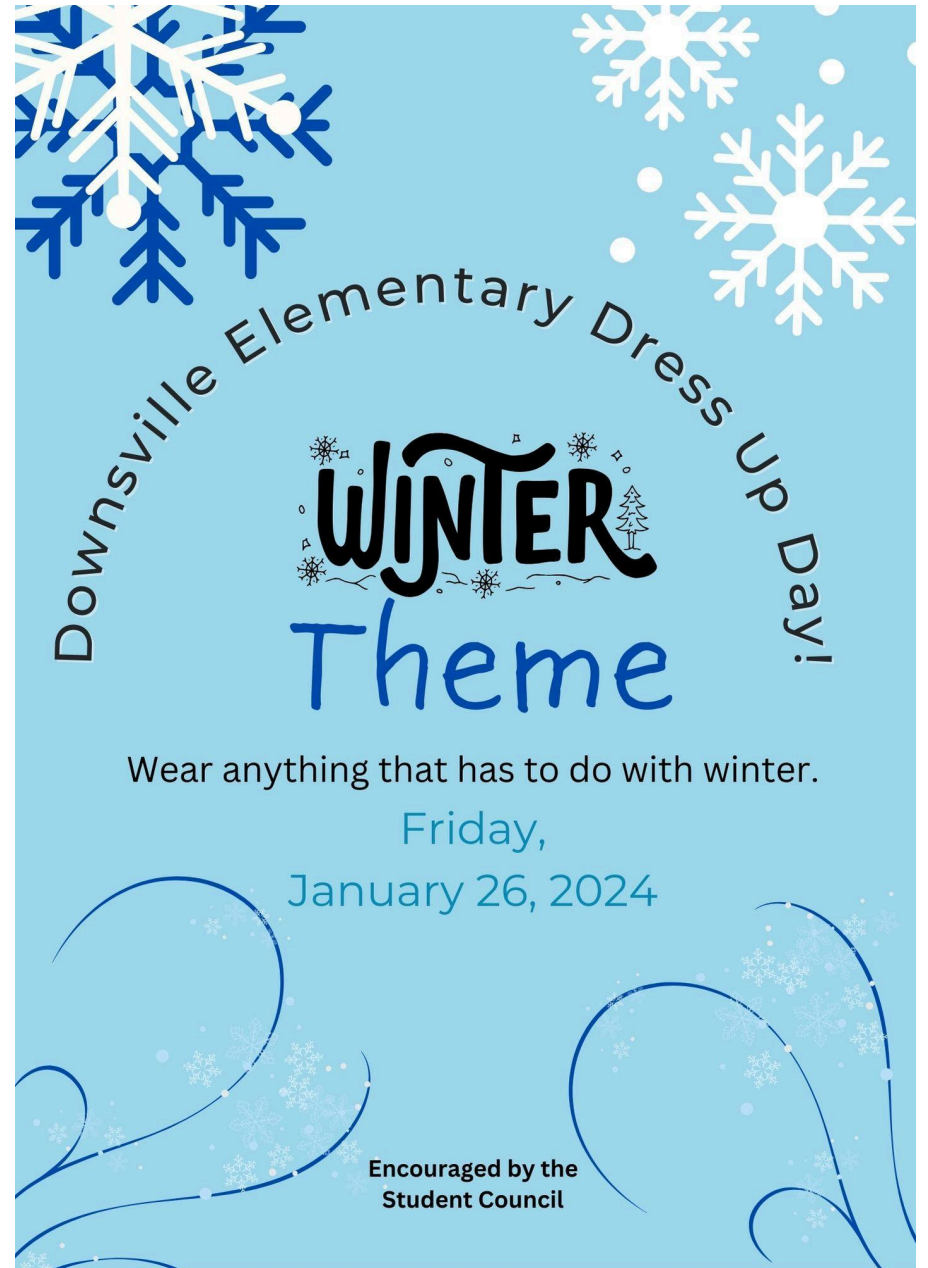
4th and 5th graders will be bringing home more information along with interest forms that will need to be completed and returned to **Mrs. Anderson by Friday, January 12.**

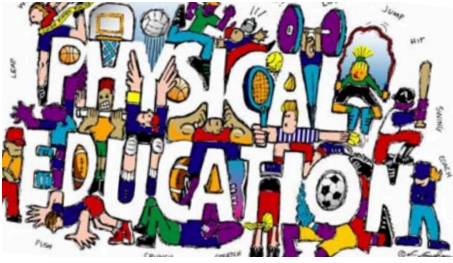


Students competing in Science Olympiad last year.



**Student Council will be popping popcorn for each classroom to enjoy on this day!**



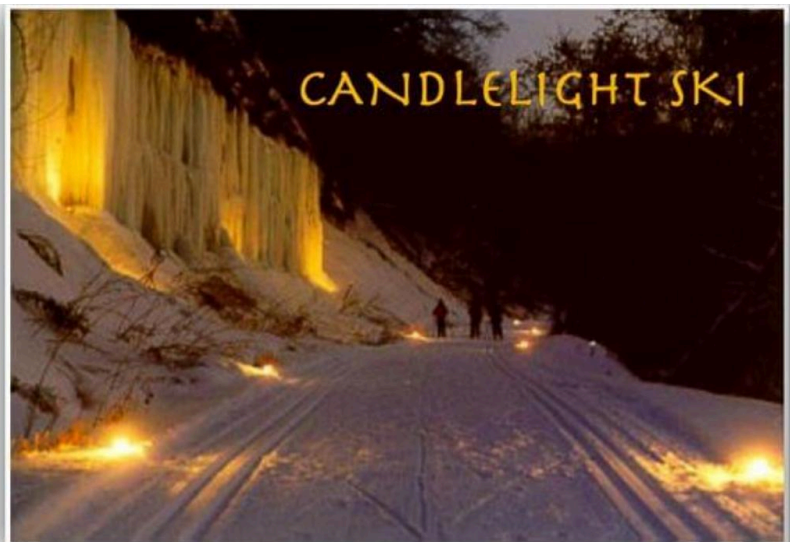


## Mrs. Blomquist's Sideline Report for PE:

Students in K-5 have been working hard on their basketball skills in the month of January. We have been working on dribbling, passing and shooting. At the end of the month we will begin playing games with our basketball skills.

Please have your child bring a pair of shoes that can be used for PE on Tuesday and Thursdays. Wearing snow boots, fashionable boots, shoes without backs, etc can be dangerous for both your child when running and playing as well as potentially others. Thank you for your understanding!

Looking for something fun to do as a family? Check out this fun event at the end of the month!  
shooting. At the end of the month we will begin playing games with our basketball skills.



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024**  
**6 to 9 PM at the Depot**

- Ski the Red Cedar Trail and see the ice wall
- Walk the Junction Trail
- Snowshoe at Riverside Park

Ski rentals available in advance from Stout Adventures.  
Snowshoes provided free at the event by Mayo Clinic Health System.

After skiing, walking or snowshoeing on candlelit trails, warm up with a cup of Swiss Miss hot chocolate provided by Conagra and cookies provided by Kwik Trip around a glowing bonfire. **It's a fun time for the whole family to experience the joys of winter.**

Event sponsored by the Friends of the Red Cedar Trail and Hoffman Hills, Wisconsin DNR, ConAgra, Landmark Conservancy and Mayo Clinic Health System.

**Website:** [redcedarhoffman.org](http://redcedarhoffman.org)  
or call 715-232-1242



Thank you to everyone who donated an item to our Food & Funds Drive @ Downsville School!

\$40 DOLLARS AND 105 LBS. OF FOOD/NONPERISHABLE ITEMS WERE DONATED TO THE LOCAL STEPPING STONES OF DUNN COUNTY



Thank you



We truly appreciate the Downsville Sportsmans Club for their donation of money. We were able to bring in an author to inspire our learning.

Downsville School is hosting  
a spectacular

# Winter Festival

COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF ...

**FOOD** ❄️ **FRIENDS** ❄️ **GAMES** ❄️ **FACE PAINTING**  
**RAFFLE BASKETS** ❄️ **MUSIC** ❄️ **FUN**

**JANUARY 26, 2024**

5:30-8:00pm

@ Downsville School

**\$1.00 ADMISSION TO THIS EVENT**  
(this is a fundraiser for our school)







# THEME BASKETS

Kindergarten-Craft Fun!  
1st Grade-Spa/Beauty  
2nd Grade-Game Night  
3rd Grade-Camping  
4th Grade-Breakfast  
5th Grade-Snacks!

Come try to win one at our Winter Festival!



## NO HEAT *Emergency*

call **715-598-4750**  
option 2 for No Heat calls

**If your furnace stops working this winter, give us a call first.  
If you qualify for Energy Assistance, we may be able to help repair your furnace at no cost to you.**

**homeenergy+**



[www.westcap.org](http://www.westcap.org)

# RESILIENT CO-PARENTING

A series of topic-specific classes for parents or caregivers raising children together while living apart. Join us for any or all of the following sessions!

## January 4 – Families Fighting Fair

*The way you manage conflicts with your co-parent greatly impacts your children. Learn skills for positive conflict management, compromise, reframing and active listening.*

## February 1 – Successful Stepfamilies

*Blended families face unique challenges when it comes to parenting. Learn about these challenges and some things that you can do to ease this transition for your children.*

## March 7 – Help Children with Strong Emotions

*Children experience a wide range of emotions through the transition of separation or divorce. Learn ways to support children through strong emotions, to reduce stress and build emotional intelligence.*

## April 4 – Co-Parenting Teens

*Teenagers need continued parental support to become happy, healthy young adults. Learn ways to co-parent cooperatively to support your teenager in developing positive family relationships, a healthy lifestyle, and a positive connection in their community.*

## May 2 – Parenting from a Distance

*Parenting from a distance can be challenging. Learn ways to stay connected with your children when living apart and to make the most of the time your time together.*

## June 6 – Healthy Coping during times of Transition

*The stress of co-parenting can be overwhelming. Learn strategies from the WeCOPE curriculum, which has been shown to reduce stress, increase positive affect, and improve health behaviors.*

**7:00-8:00 pm over Zoom**  
**1st Thursday of each month**  
**in 2024!**

Scan code or  
use link to  
register!



[go.wisc.edu/21t6cz](https://go.wisc.edu/21t6cz)



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & RELATIONSHIPS

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



## ONGOING VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS

Date and times of groups are subject to change. Check the calendar of events on the WIFCC website for the most accurate schedule. Registration is required to attend.



**COFFEE TALK**  
A relaxed chat with other Wisconsin adoptive, foster, kinship, and/or guardianship parents to connect and feel supported. This group meets on the first Friday of the month at 10:00 AM.



**BIRTH PARENT SUPPORT**  
Open to any birth parents who have had a child placed for adoption, no matter what type of adoption or agency involved. This group meets on the second Tuesday of odd months at 6:30 PM.



**ADULT ADOPTEEES**  
Connect with other adult adoptees from around Wisconsin. This group meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.




**WAITING TO ADOPT**  
A welcoming space to discuss adoption-related questions, stressors, and needs with fellow pre-adoptive families. This group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM.



**FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT**  
This group is designed to offer support to Wisconsin foster parents focused on various topics each month. This group meets monthly. Visit the calendar for details on time.



**OPEN MIC TEEN SUPPORT**  
Designed for teens in foster, adoptive, kinship, and/or guardianship families to socially connect and discuss topics related to family dynamics. This group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.



**TRAUMA INFORMED PARENTING**  
Designed for Wisconsin foster, adoptive, kinship, and guardianship caregivers with a high level of need due to complex trauma histories. This group meets on the third Monday of each month at noon.



**KINNECT RELATIVE CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN**  
Designed for grandparents, uncles/aunts, siblings, or other relatives acting as the primary caregiver for children. This group meets on the last Thursday of every month at 11:00 AM.