



## Downsville Elementary News November 2020



We continue to roll along with **in person learning** at Downsville. With all of the new challenges we face, I am impressed by the resilience of our students and staff. We have new procedures for many things, and many of our favorite things are changed (Halloween, Fall Festival are just a few), but we move on and accept and make the best of the situation. Thank you for guiding your children in this challenging time. We all miss these fun events, but know that we have to take precautions for the health and safety of all of our students, staff, and families.

**COVID** cases are on the rise in Dunn County. Please continue to follow suggested guidelines and refer to information sent by Dr. Zydowsky each Wednesday. The mitigation and procedures in place in school have allowed us to continue to stay open. Stay home when you are ill, wear masks and practice good hygiene, and keep 6' whenever possible. Avoid large gatherings and use good health practices when in public. Working together we hope to continue to keep schools open. With MHS closure this week, please know that at this time there is no plan to move to safer at home learning for elementary at this time.

Our **Student Council**, under the direction of Mrs. Holcomb, made a **voting information video** to show the whole school. It was very impressive! We then had an election- choosing our favorite snack between popcorn or pretzels. Popcorn was the winner! In addition to the election, they also sponsored our Halloween BINGO. I called BINGO over the PA in my office and students played in their classrooms. We really had a great time! Student Council is 5th grade only this year and they meet Friday mornings and are learning about leadership.

The students are learning skills on the **Chromebooks** for use in school and to prepare for learning at home should we move to a safer at home learning plan. They can login and access a variety of materials and are getting quite proficient and independent! The teachers are working very hard to teach these skills to make any potential transition smoother.

This week we welcomed the **Bridging Brighter Smiles** dental clinic. They are going to return Friday, November 13 to see all of the students that they missed. We also had picture retake day.

The end of the first trimester is just a few weeks away which means report cards will be sent home in about a month. Thank you for your continued support. If you ever have any questions or concerns, feel free to call or email anytime. Have a great week!

Mrs. Drout



## Important Dates

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

November 13 - Bridging Brighter Smiles - Dental Clinic!  
2nd Day!

November 24 - Dress-Up Day! (Camo and Bright Orange!)  
See note in newsletter!

November 25 - 27 - No School - Vacation!

December 2 - Report Cards go home!

December 3 - Virtual Family Night!

December 23 - January 4 - NO SCHOOL  
WINTER BREAK!

Mark your calendar for:

# Virtual Family Night!

## Thursday, December 3rd



## More information to come!

# Here's What's Happening!

## Kindergarten: Hi Families,

The Kindergarten class was busy during the month of October. We finished our 1<sup>st</sup> Math module where we learned about numbers 1-10. We learned how to name, recognize and write the numbers. We also practiced counting and learned the partners (ie...5 is 1 + 4, 2 + 3, and 0+ 5) of each number. We will continue to practice what we learned in Module 1 and start our 2<sup>nd</sup> module on Shapes in November. In Reading, we practiced being Storybook Readers! We listened to, reread, and acted out many favorite stories. Some of our favorites to read and act out were Caps For Sale, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs, and The Gingerbread Man. We also loved the "David books". In phonics, we became experts at many letters. We learned the name, and sound of each letter and made mini books with pictures to match the letter sounds. We also practiced taking each letter "to the street" (lined paper) and forming the letters correctly. Our brains are on fire in Kindergarten!



Mrs. Fiege, Mrs. Livingston and the Kinder Kids



# First Grade:

We have been SO BUSY building, creating, constructing, painting, coloring, collaborating, and discovering that we didn't even realize we were LEARNING! In first grade we like to learn by "Taking Chances, Making Mistakes and Getting Messy!" as Miss Frizzle from the Magic School Bus likes to say. We are REALLY enjoying our year so far!



-Mrs. Gully's First Grade Friends



## Second Grade:



Hello Families! This month in our classroom we are working on decoding new words in reading, learning place values in math, creating non-fiction books in writing, learning about farms in social studies, and learning about soil in science.

For the month of November we will also be learning about our local and national native american



tribes as we celebrate native american heritage month!

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and thank you for your continued support as we make the best out of our time in school.

Mr. Voss

## Third Grade: Hello families!

Third graders have been working hard this fall! We just began a new reading unit focused on nonfiction books which fits with our informational writing unit.

Students continue to learn multiplication facts and different ways to measure- time, weight, volume.

Keep sending these energetic, engaged students every day!



Ms. Repinski

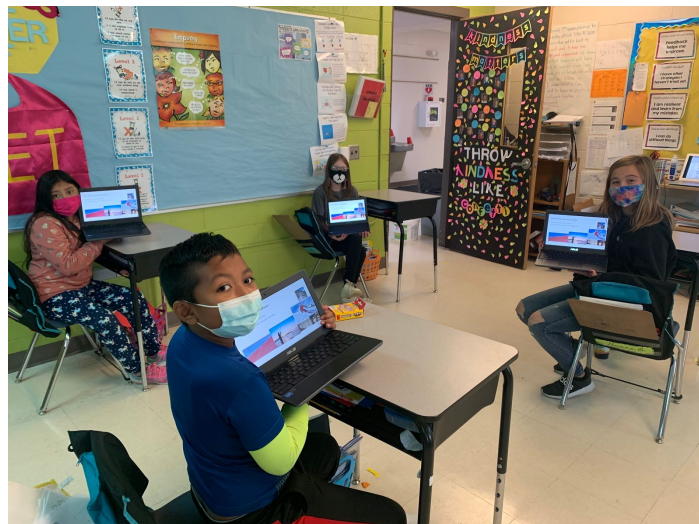
**Fourth Grade:** The fourth graders were sad to say goodbye to our student teacher Miss White last week. We were very lucky to have her with us for the last 9 weeks. Soon we will be getting a new addition to our class, Mrs. Anderson has adopted a virtual class cow for us. We are anxiously awaiting news about the farm our calf lives on and the name of our new class calf.

The fourth graders have been working really hard and learning lots of new things. They have begun their Battle of the Books reading. They are trying to read 20 different books by February! They have also been digging deep into learning about characters both as readers and writers. They have been looking closely at characters as they read their books. They created character puppets to show that they got to know both the inside and outside of their characters. They used what they knew about good characters to create their own characters and wrote several of their own stories. Next, we will be learning about being good nonfiction readers and writers.

In math, we have completed our first two units. We have become very good at adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers, rounding, and converting metric units. We have just started our big unit on multiplication and division. We are excited to learn how to multiply two-digit by two-digit numbers. But first, we are working hard to find patterns and to learn different strategies to figure out our math facts.

In social studies and science, we are learning about different landforms and how land changes over time. We solved the mystery of how the Ashfall fossil beds in Nebraska were buried so deep and took so many years for scientists to discover. We have also researched and presented information about the 5 different regions of Wisconsin.

It is amazing how many new things we can learn and discover in 9 short weeks!



**Fifth Grade:** We've been doing many exciting projects and lessons in fifth grade. In addition to the normal reading, writing, and math the students are familiar with, they have done activities that are new to Downsville. One such activity that the students really enjoy is Tree Journaling. Once a month the kids go out and visit their "tree buddies." They write about what they are observing and draw a sketch of the tree. It is a great way for them to work on their writing skills and get outside in nature.



**Art News:** Hello Families:

The students have been creating some amazing artwork so far this year! I want to keep you up to date with the art projects the students are creating by sharing photos of your child's artwork and the projects we create. I have created an art teacher instagram account which will allow me to share what your student is working on in art class! I will be sharing photos of the projects each grade level will create, as well as photos of student artwork.



Please follow @artwithmissseidler on instagram for updates of your child's creations! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at any time!

-Miss Seidler



## Drum Roll Please!!!

Mrs. Holcomb and the Downsville Staff  
are Proud to Announce the Members  
of the 2020-2021 Student Council



### 5th Grade

Evelyn C.

Vincent W.

Brayden W.

Jadyn M.

Gabe G.

Alyssa P.

Camron D.

Jayden B.

Watch out...Good things are coming our way Downsville School!!

DOWNSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Oh Deer, Our November  
Dress Up Day is Here!*

DIG OUT YOUR CAMO AND  
BRIGHT ORANGE CLOTHING!



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

SUGGESTED BY OUR DOWNSVILLE STUDENT COUNCIL



# Holcomb Highlights!

Wow! Have I mentioned this school year how **AWESOME** each one of the Downsville Students are? Well... they are the best in my opinion!

- they help one another
- they greet one another
- they show great effort
- they say kind words
- they laugh, giggle, and have fun

Some areas that I have noticed the Downsville Students enjoying at our school...

- Fun Fact Friday...Did you know?
- Weekly quotes
- hearing their birthday and other messages on the daily announcements
- receiving a Downsville dollar

Ask your child about any of them.

Be Mindful when you are with your child.  
The best gift is the gift of time.

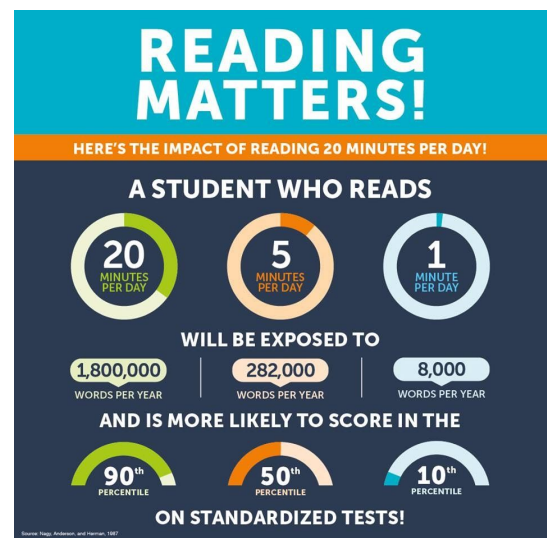
## HAPPINESS IS...



being curious

The Learning Adventures Continue...

With Your Child In Mind,  
Mrs. Sara Holcomb  
Intervention Specialist



We are a team, let's all work together!



PTC secretary's report October 19, 2020 - via GOOGLE MEETS

**Attendees:** Tawny Nelson, Keila Drout, Jennifer Sol, Tammy Christianson, Julie Fiege, Michelle Lablonde, Candace Moore, Lexi Marsh

**Call to order:** Lexi called the meeting to order at 5 PM.

**Secretary's report:** Jen motioned to approve the secretary's report, Julie seconded.

**Treasurer's report:** Jen motioned to approve the treasurer's report, Michelle seconded.

**Checking beginning balance dated 9/20/2020 \$6,805.13**

**Deposits:** Book fair \$100  
Apparel \$135

**Total deposits \$235**

**Disbursements:**

**Total disbursements \$0**

**Checking ending balance dated 10/19/2020 \$7,040.13**

**Old business:** The new budget was approved.

The staff appreciated the food for conferences, the food that was ordered in worked well.

We discussed the possibility of having a fundraiser this year. Staff is worried that families may already be struggling financially. Staff is also concerned that they already have a lot of extra duties this year (cleaning, and other covid related responsibilities). Staff felt maybe waiting until spring would be better. Staff thought that since we will not have a lot of the same opportunities this year we may not need as large of a budget. Sara Holcombe also shared that the student council has a budget and is willing to help with expenses. We will be tabling the idea of a fundraiser until closer to spring break.

**New business:** We have Scholastic dollars that we need to spend soon. We were unable to host a book fair last spring and again this fall. Teachers are able to send home book orders from Scholastic and families can order books through the teachers. We discussed hosting an online book fair, Tammy shared that families at Downsville did not use the E-wallet available last year and we feel families would not be interested in an online book fair. Tammy made a motion for teaching staff to have access to the funds to purchase books, Candace seconded.

The parent survey results are in. We received 4 responses. Most responses wanted to keep with Monday nights at 5:30pm. We will continue to keep with the day and time, staying with the 3rd Monday of the month and keeping meetings virtual for now. We may not need to have a meeting each month as we currently do not have as many events to discuss. Right now we do not see a need to hold a meeting in November. Keila mentioned that we should try to hold a meeting most months so that the dedicated group remains. Tammy motioned that we should wait until December 21st to hold the next meeting, Lexit seconded the motion.

**Principal's report:** Keila thanked PTC for all the support at school. Food for conferences, Downsville clothing, ect. Julie also shared that kids are doing amazing at school, especially with all the new routines that are in place. Lexi did let Keila know that if she does need anything from PTC we are willing to help!

**Meeting adjourned:** Tammy motioned to adjourn, Jen seconded the motion at 6:09.

**Next PTC meeting scheduled for:** December 21st 2020 @ 5:30 pm.

**\*Meetings are generally scheduled for the 3rd monday of the month.**

**\*No meetings are scheduled during the summer months.**

**Submitted by: Tawny Nelson**



## Our school is partnering with Kinsa's FLUency™ School Health Program this year!

### Sign up now to receive your FREE smart thermometer

If you haven't ordered yours yet, now's your chance!

1. Text **FLUENCY** to **900900!** Open the link to download the free Kinsa app.\*
2. Finish signing up with our school in the Kinsa app to get your free thermometer!

*\*Messages and data rates may apply. You can always text STOP to end messages.*

### ¡Regístrese ahora para recibir un termómetro inteligente GRATIS!

1. ¡Textea la palabra **FLUENCY** al **900900!** Abre el enlace para descargar la aplicación gratuita Kinsa.\*
2. ¡Regístrese con su escuela a través de la aplicación Kinsa para obtener su termómetro gratis!



### WHAT IS KINSA'S FLUENCY PROGRAM?

Kinsa is on a mission to stop the spread of illness! [Learn more at kinsahealth.co](http://kinsahealth.co). FLUency is Kinsa's school health program. For the past five years, FLUency has partnered with sponsors to provide parents free thermometers and a smartphone app to help detect and respond to spreading illnesses. This year, participation in FLUency matters more than ever to keep your school community healthy!



#### Know what's going around your child's school

*Sepa lo que pasa en la escuela de su hijo*



#### Receive messages from your school nurse

*Recibe mensajes de la enfermera de tu escuela*

# **K5 LIBRARY NEWSLETTER**

NOVEMBER, 2020

## **IT COULD BE A WIN-WIN SITUATION!**

You want your kids to read more, they want more screen time. I might have just the solution for you!  
Turn on closed captioning!

Closed captioning is a function for the hearing impaired, which puts the text on the screen to match what is being said. However, it's also great to reinforce reading!

At first closed captioning might take some getting used to, but over time they won't even notice it anymore...and they won't notice how much extra reading they are doing!

Closed Captioning can be turned on your TV, while streaming, and while playing DVD's.

Try it out!

## **LITTLE ORANGE BOXES**

There are a huge number of missing playaways at the elementary level. Please take a look around for the bright orange, DVD sized boxes that playaways come in. They are very expensive. Any fines associated with these missing playaways will be deleted immediately when the playaway is returned.



Don't forget to open the case and make sure the actual playaway is inside!

Where could they be, you ask?

- under the bed. -on a bookshelf or nightstand
- in an old backpack -in the car
- at a relatives house -at a work table or desk

Thank you so much for looking!

## LIBRARY BOOKS AND CONNECTIONS TO STREAMING



### Last Kids on Earth

As the title suggests, "Last Kids on Earth" is about a loner student who bands together with classmates to fight zombies and other monsters in a post-apocalyptic world. We have these in all our elementary libraries; best suited for grades 3-5.



### NARUTO

Naruto is very popular among our upper grade students. Its a Japanese Manga series. Hulu has 9 seasons available for your Naruto loving kiddo(s). Enjoy!



### The Witches

Roald Dahl books are hard to keep on the shelves. The BFG and James and the Giant Peach are movies, and now "The Witches" is a movie, too, streaming on HBO Max. [Here's a link to the trailer!](#) This one's sure to be fun for all ages!

## FINE NOTICES FROM CONFERENCES

If you received a fine notice from conferences, you have options.

You can:

1. Return the book if it's still in good condition, and the fine will be removed
2. Buy a replacement copy of the book from Amazon, Goodwill, etc. for the library as long as it's in good condition and the fine will be removed
3. Pay the fine and the fine will be removed
4. Donate any book in good condition to the library and the fine will be removed



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[tinyurl.com/sdmalibraryk5](https://tinyurl.com/sdmalibraryk5)