

Nydam news

a monthly newsletter from Joel Nydam



News & Updates

Dear Parents,

February 7, 2019

COLD, COLD, and more COLD is what's outside, but FUN, FUN, and more FUN is what is happening at school, because we are focusing on READ, READ, and more READING.

February is our month to celebrate the gift of reading and to challenge students (and parents) to read above and beyond their normal reading amounts. The K-4th students were challenged this week to collectively read 80,000 minutes in the month of February. If they accomplish this goal, Mr. Nydam and Mr. Mulvihill will sleep outside on the roof of the school on February 28th!

Also, Mrs. Barb Anderson, a grandparent and author will be sharing a special book that she wrote this past year. She has some great experiences and ideas to share with us.

Lastly, I am so proud of the reading committee as they have put together a super fun schedule to bring excitement for reading this month. Please mark your calendar for March 1st, as you will be invited to a day of fun and learning!



Come check out what teachers are reading! (By School Office).

Upcoming Events

February 15th – Daddy Daughter Dance. Please register online for this fun event for Dads and daughters

February 19th and 21st – Parent Teacher Conferences. Please sign up for a time to connect with your child(ren)'s teachers as they are excited to share about the students' growth.

March 1st – Reading Fair and Wax Museum. This day is full of activities for you and your child. The students will be presenting their Reading Month Projects and hearing from author, Barb Anderson. The 5th grade students will also be showcasing their Christian Hero research by performing as a wax figure in the wax museum. Please look for details in the upcoming weeks.

Joke of the Month:

Q: What do you call an old snowman?

A: Water

Q: Why is a bad joke like a broken pencil?

A: Because it has no point.

Books/Resources to check out...

With his being reading month, here is a great article full of ideas to help your child extend their reading. [LINK](#)

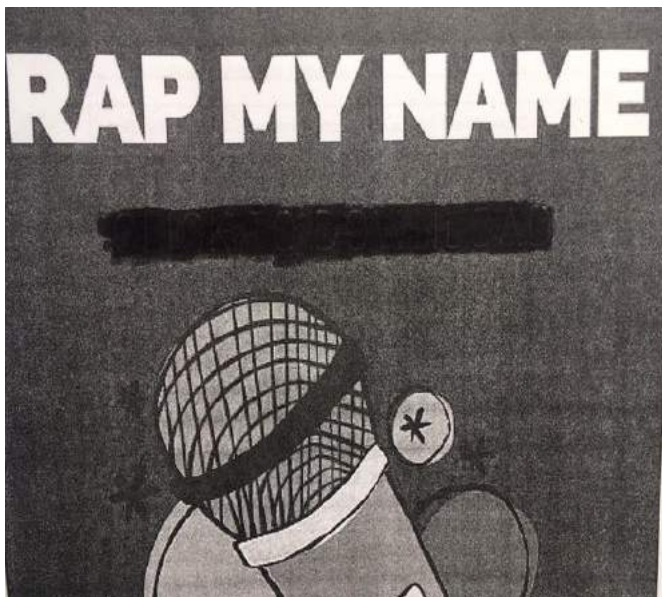
Band/Choir



Rolly Rudzitis

Band Director

Students in Band and Music Tech worked on creating a "RAP" using drum loops, effects, voices and their own text. They were to create a 30 second RAP about themselves and time their RAP to either a pre-recorded music loop, or one they designed themselves. They then could manipulate their voices to give it a different texture. Many of our students were very creative and used a variety of methods to put together some very interesting projects. That's a RAP!



Tirzah Gerber

PreK - 6th Grade Music Teacher

PreK: Students have been learning about how God has created animals and people with unique voices. A favorite song is "All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir."

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade: These classes have been busy trying to beat Mrs. Gerber in a fun game called *Forbidden Pattern* (ask your son or daughter to explain). Each class is learning how music is made up of melody patterns and rhythm patterns. They are growing in their ability to read the language of music!

3rd-4th Grade: Tis' the season for recorders to invade the homes of our students. This year we are launching a new recorder curriculum called "Recorder Karate." Check out this Youtube Channel for at home lessons.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm8oNISrEJl2geUTju4b8wA>



5th Grade: During January, the 5th grade students have been reviewing foundations in rhythm. Small groups composed and performed their "Just Give Me That Beat" rhythms using Boomwhackers for an accompaniment.

6th Grade: What a fun month as students have dug right in and spent the month researching famous composers and their music. This interdisciplinary project, in cooperation with Mrs. Kubiszewski who teaches ILA (Integrated Language Arts), culminates in each student writing a research paper on a composer of their choice.

PhyEd



Mrs. Cheryl Fregeau

PE and Health Teacher

Mrs. Fregeau is featuring her 4th Grade (Mrs. Niessen) PE class this month. The goal was throwing and catching using a scoop and a whiffle ball which transitioned into throwing and catching with a lacrosse stick. This was a great way to develop hand/eye coordination. We learned very basic rules and ended the unit by playing a modified game.



Kindergarten, 1st & 3rd graders also focused on similar skills of rolling, scooping, catching and throwing whiffle balls. *Mouse in the House* was their favorite game that implemented these skills. The 1st graders are seen here playing *Snowman Blitz* in the chapel during Homecoming events!



A number of 5th-6th grade girls are playing in JO volleyball clubs this winter so they loved doing this VB unit. We worked on fundamentals like forearm and overhead passing (setting), and serving. Moving to the ball and confidently passing was our main goal. We played a lead up game call *Nukem* before reviewing rules and playing a real game of volleyball!



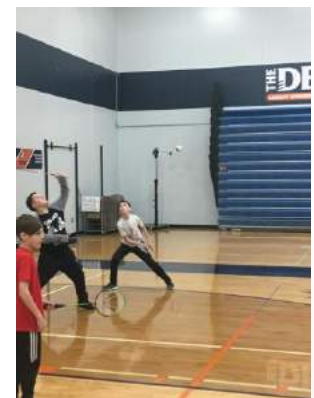
Mr. Todd Manske

PE and Health Teacher

During, the very short month of January, the elementary classes worked on paddle and racket skills:

2nd - 4th grade classes worked on paddle and ball skills, hitting the ball against the wall, dribbling the ball with a paddle and juggling the ball with their paddle. They also used bean bags with their paddles making ice cream cones, flipping pancakes and throwing and catching them with a partner.

5th - 6th grade classes learned the basics of badminton and are just finishing up their competitive tournament. It has been great seeing them improve their skills and knowledge of badminton. Soon we will introduce pickle ball and then go on to some fun scooter activities!



Art & Technology



Mr. Andy Anderson: Art/Tech

Sprinkled throughout the year, technology students get a taste of technology as it applies to the space industry.

I've discovered that students are naturally curious about the subject matter and really enjoy getting updates on recent space activity, launches, vehicles and travel.

Earlier this winter, all technology classes watched as Insight, the newest Mars lander, successfully landed itself on Mars. Students watched live updates as the lander approached and landed on the surface. The lander will drop seismometers onto the surface, drill core samples, take high-definition photos and record sound.

Listen to the wind on Mars! Check out this web link for more info and have your child help you navigate!

<https://mars.nasa.gov/insight/>

Students also toured the International Space Station with astronaut, Sonny Williams, who explained to students each interior module of the station, crew living quarters, work-out equipment and how to live in space. Students showed particular interest in how to sleep in space, how to brush teeth and use the restroom, as well as what scientists eat. Again, take a moment and check out the tour we took. You can imagine the questions and the comments students had!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGP6Y0Pnhe4&t=613s>

As we look forward to more space technology updates in tech class, students are aware of and looking forward to a historic space launch this spring, as SpaceX teams up with NASA to launch its first manned crew aboard its Falcon 9 rocket. <https://www.spacex.com/news> The launch is slated to for April and will be watched live from technology classes on the day of the launch.



Ms. Jayme Buchelt: Art/Tech

Art Focus: 7th and 8th Grade - Since returning from winter break, all Kindergarten through 8th grade classes have been focusing on the painting and drawing unit. Each project focuses on a specific artist from history and creating artwork inspired by their specific style. This past month, the 7th and 8th grade classes have been learning about the ancient form of painting called Encaustics. Encaustics dates back as far as the Trojans and have significant mentions during the Egyptian and Greek histories as well. Encaustic medium contains mostly beeswax with a touch of varnish added for durability. After learning about the history of this painting, the students then endured a demonstration and tool understanding lesson. Encaustic as a medium is painted in its liquid form which involves the use of various heating mechanisms. This medium is versatile and explorative allowing the students to stretch their creative understanding of what painting is and could be. In the picture below, you can see students using the heated griddle with melted wax to paint on their practice boards.



Kindergarten-2nd Grade Tech - Unit: Coding
January and February are the months for coding in Kindergarten through second grade. Coding is the writing of a computer program, basically, telling the computer how to run efficiently while finishing a task assigned by a user. An example would be, the computer user clicking on google chrome, the process of "clicking" send a code to the computer telling it that you are wanting to open that application. We use the website code.org, where each student has their own coding profile and will solve various puzzles. These puzzles teach students critical thinking and problem solving as they must place "blocks" of code (or directions) to solve the puzzle.

