

Nydamnews

a monthly newsletter from Joel Nydam



News & Updates

Dear Parents, December 3, 2019

Welcome to the last issue of the Nydam News in 2019. The years seem to be going by so quickly as I remember the saying, "The Days are long but the Years are short."

December is a busy month with many programs and fun activities planned. With the late Thanksgiving, there are only three weeks of school before Christmas break. We love hearing the concerts from the 7th – 12th grade students in band and choir that will happen in chapel on December 4th (Choir) and December 11th (Band).

As we head into the new year, continue to encourage and build up your child to give their best effort to grow as a person. I love working with my children and talking about how they can grow not only academically, but also emotionally, socially and spiritually. I remind them of how God created them uniquely for His purpose and that His plan is greater than ours.

As we head into this Christmas season, I encourage you to help your children to look back at what they can be grateful for and look forward to what they can grow to be. Blessings to you as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior!



Upcoming Events

December 3rd - Bring a Friend to School Day

This is a great day where students bring friends to school who have registered for this day.

December 10 - 6th Grade Ski Trip

Mr. Manske helps lead this trip. This is a great experience for students to try skiing for the first time or have fun carving up the slopes!

December 20 - Buddy Day

The Elementary students love meeting with their older buddies throughout the year. This is another special day for the students to meet before the Christmas break.

December 25 - Merry Christmas!

Joke of the Month:

Q: What is the absolute best Christmas present?

A: A broken drum ... you can't beat it!

Q: What do you call a blind reindeer?

A: I have no eye deer.

Books/Resources to check out... Here is a link to an advent calendar to use with the family.

[LINK #1](#)

[LINK #2](#)

Art & Technology



Mr. Andy Anderson - Art/Tech

Students within the 2nd-4th grades have been exploring the world of building and constructing with Keva Planks. These are small wooden blocks made of maple and shaped in a small rectangle block. These blocks are held together with nothing more than gravity and carefully balanced construction. With Keva planks, students discover the joy of creating original structures and contraptions while exploring the world of engineering and architecture at an early age. Keva planks are available for order online, just visit kervaplanks.com as a starting point. They make a great gift that engages the mind and hands. I absolutely love seeing them work together to solve problems and express creative solutions to a wide variety of building challenges I present them. This is a photo of a 'controlled collapse' that took place in my 2nd grade tech class this week. Just look at those faces!

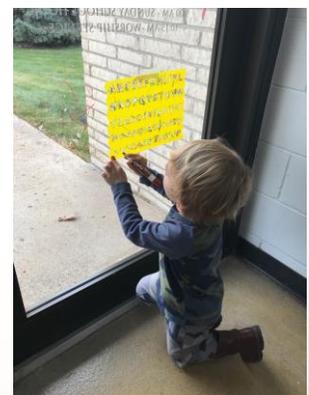


Ms. Jayme Buchelt - Art/Tech

Classes: PreK-8th Grade Art and K-1st Technology

FOCUS: Preschool Art

The wonderful preschoolers were learning about how art can be done on different surfaces. To learn this, they were allowed to experiment with dry-erase markers on the windows of the Academic entrance. They were amazed at how the markers could erase off of the window just as quickly as they could draw it. Some of the students experimented with coloring with stencils on the windows as well.



Band/Choir



Rolly Rudzitis
Band Director



Tirzah Gerber
Choir Director

As we start the next trimester, we have a new group of students starting the Music Tech class. At the beginning stages we are recording some simple phrases and then manipulating the effects to change the sound of the voice. Students then are submitting the project to me, via Google Docs or by e-mail. They are to "bounce" down the recording as an mp3, or mp4 and then submit it to me for evaluation. This will be the process for future projects as well.

PreK-4th Grade - Everyone loves a good story! The elementary students have been discovering how some of the best musical storytellers can bring a story to life through the use of melody, harmony, dynamics, and tempo. In the process, we learned about the four instrument families: Strings, Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion. PreK, 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade explored the exciting story of "*Peter & the Wolf*" by Peter Tchaikovsky and our Kindergarten heard the Minnesota Orchestra Notes Alive Story Concert version of "*Dr. Suess's My Many Colored Days*." The 4th grade students learned the story of the famous composer; Ludwig van Beethoven and is learning to sing and play his famous melody "*Ode to Joy*."



Festival Band warming up Tuesday morning before Thanksgiving break!



2nd Grade students displaying coloring sheets from Peter & the Wolf

5th - 6th Grade Musical - A Hallmark Experience Speaking of storytellers, I think our 5-6th graders are some of the best! Their production of "*Danny & the Shacks*" recounted the adventures of **Daniel** ("Danny," as we call him in our 21st-century version of the story) and his bandmates, **The Shacks** (better known Bible scholars out there as *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*). The musical took the audience on a roller-coaster-thrill-ride of experiences as they encountered King Neb, his golden statue, some crazy Babylonians, the fiery furnace, and of course, the infamous lions den. Through it all, the powerful truth of God's Word and the importance of being obedient and faithful to His teaching comes through loud and clear!

<https://wordchoralclub.com/shop/danny-the-shacks>



PhyEd



Mrs. Cheryl Fregeau

PE and Health Teacher

Mrs. Fregeau introduced a new Nutrition Unit in November during PE classes. While introducing basic nutritional concepts that build each year on prior learning, the students played games like: Steal the Fruit/Vegetable Bean Bag, Partner Plate, Healthy Pirate, Balance Mania, Cafeteria, and Partner Pickup.

Here are just a few of the Essential Questions we focused on during this unit.

1EQ: What is Nutrition? How does what I eat affect me?

3EQ: What does the food plate tell me? What does a balanced meal look like?

5EQ: What is a whole food? What makes a food processed?

Pictured below are 6th grade girls playing Pirate Partners!



Mr. Todd Manske

PE and Health Teacher

This month in Mr. Manske's PE class had a lot of fun with Volleyball, Fitness Testing, Dodgeball, Hula Hoops, and the Parachute!

The 5th -6th grade boys did an excellent job in volleyball! They learned serving rotations and had some great volleys.

The Kindergarten class had a great time rolling, spinning, balancing, playing tag and walking with the hula hoops. We even had a few students roll the hoop and jump through a rolling hoop! We also spent time working with balance cards.

The 2nd -6th grade students did a great job testing sit-ups for one minute, running the shuttle run, stretching, sit and reach, and flexing some muscle on the pull-up bar! One 2nd grader did 9 pull ups!

Next up for 5th -6th grade boys is floor hockey!

K-3 will be working on some favorite activities; the parachute and scooters!



Media Center



Stacey Smitsdorff

Media Center Specialist

Preschool has been busy writing a cookbook *How to Cook a Turkey*, check your child's folder for the print edition!

Kindergarten read many books about turkeys and Thanksgiving during the month of November. We finished our last library class with Turkey Stations: color by number, M&M feather game, I-Spy Thanksgiving, and How to Draw a Turkey.

1st grade did a read aloud of Judith Viorst's book *Lulu and the Brontosaurus*. We completed a character diagram of the main character Lulu and discussed how Lulu learned to be polite!

2nd grade learned about Peggy Parish's books *Amelia Bedelia*. We learned the difference between an idiom and figurative speech.

3rd grade is close to finishing the book *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Each student created a WORDLE of their favorite character; you can find them on display in the library.

4th grade is reading the Newberry Award book *The Whipping Boy* together as a class.

