

WILDCAT PRIDE

January NEWSLETTER



Dear Wildcat Elementary Families,

January came and went quickly and in looking back at last month's newsletter we had a lot to celebrate with our greatly improved progress on our reading scores. Our staff is continuing to work hard to build on our first semester gains as well as continuing to try and build our Wildcat PRIDE. PRIDE stands for Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Empathy. This month's focus is on EMPATHY and working to understand how others feel. PRIDE has been a schoolwide behavioral focus for the past few years and everyone at school is quite familiar with them.

Our PRIDE characteristics are of great importance in the month of February. February is often a difficult month in school for students and staff. Everyone has spent many days and hours with one another over the past 6 months, the content at each grade is at its highest level of difficulty, and the winter weather and lack of daylight seems to wear on everyone. Please try to incorporate PRIDE characteristics in your own home when dealing with behaviors and have conversations about what they all mean at home and school. This common language between home and school helps kids to understand their expectations and would be helpful to us all.

SUMMER SCHOOL

We will plan on holding summer school and the Kids First After School Program again this summer. The time frames will likely be similar to the past. The past time frames were Monday-Thursday from 8:00-11:30 for summer school and 11:30-3:00 for ASP during the month of June. **This however is NOT officially set yet** and will depend on a variety of factors. Once we have all our summer programs planned, we will send out more information with exact dates and times and will probably all be made official sometime in early April.

A change last year regarding summer school was that we made recommendations to parents for their child to attend based on their overall reading and math performance. Before last year, summer school had been by choice and mainly project based, along with some academic components. However, in looking at trend data of student performance, I have found certain groups and individual students not making adequate yearly progress. To help these students meet their potential last year we began giving these students priority to access a summer program with a larger academic focus specific to their needs. At parent teacher conferences, teachers will be providing parents with a summer school recommendation form if their child has not met certain grade level criteria. A DRAFT version of this letter which teachers may be giving you at conferences is attached to the end of this newsletter for you to preview.

We will plan on being able to offer a general summer school as well. This will be for students who we have evidence of that are making adequate progress. These students will take part in more project based learning activities and previewing some new skills and reviewing others.

*All summer school activities are dependent upon staffing and space will be limited. When paperwork comes home, the sooner it is returned the better your chances will be to attend. Last year we were able to have adequate staff for 90 students and had well over 100 wanting to come and I did have to turn several people away.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences are coming up again and are a very important and a great time to hear about how your child is performing academically and behaviorally. **Conferences will take place on March 16 and 17.** Conference date and times will be sent home at the end of this week. Please be on the lookout for them.

Please make every effort to come at your designated day and time. With the time frame available over those two nights and with the way sibling groups are split across grade levels, there is really not much room at all for any changes to occur. We will have your day and time sent home soon so you can plan accordingly with your other schedules and meet with your child's teacher in person.

Until next month, take care and GO WILDCATS! Mr. Hansen

Other Information

*ALL LOST AND FOUND items from the beginning of the year were donated after winter break and will be again at the end of this. It continues to amaze me at how many items we accumulate and we do not have a practice space to accommodate all the items. If you feel you are missing anything, you better come before the end of the day Friday.

*For any transportation issues contact Felicia Rounph.

*For Kids First After School Program and Youth Sports, Contact Jeff Beckman

*For classroom related behaviors and academics contact your child's teacher.

*If you need additional support in one of these areas contact Mr. Hansen.

***Parent Teacher Conferences will be held March 17-18. Your scheduled time is being sent home this week. Please plan on attending in person.**

*Kindergarten Roun Up February 25 from 10:00-11:30.

*No school Feb 25, March 18, April 15/18.

*1:30 Early Out April 1, April 14 and May 19. May 19 is the last day of school.

January PRIDE Award Winners Were:

PK: Lily Jacob, Lynkyn Jurgens **Kindergarten:** Ronald Amaya, Quinnton Mohr **First Grade:** Sutton Tejkl, Arantza Quintero **Second Grade:** Keke Moore, Evie Thiesen **Third Grade:** Lilly Wolf, Elly Moore **Fourth Grade:** Elijah Ledgerwood Hunter Meyer, **Fifth Grade:** Aidan Bubbart, Bentley Christensen

These students were nominated by a teacher in the building for exhibiting DETERMINATION. Our Wildcat PRIDE characteristics are **Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Empathy.** Congratulations to these students for being leaders in our building and exemplifying what it means to be a Cedar Bluffs WILDCAT.

GO WILDCATS!

DRAFT OF SUMMER SCHOOL LETTER TO BE GIVEN OUT AT PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES SHOULD WE BE RECOMMENDING YOUR CHILD FOR SUMMER SCHOOL BASED ON THEIR PERFORMANCE THIS YEAR

Summer School 2022

This letter is to inform you that your child is being recommended to attend summer school based on his or her performance during the 2021-2022 school year.

Every summer over the past few years we have held summer school sessions and they have been project based, voluntary and coincided with the summer Kids First After School Program. However, in looking at trend data of student performance not only from this year, but since 2019, I have found certain groups and individual students not making adequate yearly progress. To help these students meet their potential we last year began giving these students priority to access a summer program with a larger academic focus specific to their needs. We will continue to make this our summer school priority. Our hope is that if we focus our summer program on narrowing learning gaps for these students, we can help ensure their progress and meet their full academic potential.

In order to help your child maintain what they have learned and make adequate progress to make them successful in the 2022-2023 school year, we are recommending specific students to attend summer school.

Your child is one of these students. The recommendation is being made based on their performance on four grade level criteria. If your child has at least 3 of 4 criteria checked below, it is indicating they fell short of grade level standards this year and we want them to attend summer school to help make them successful as they enter next year.

___AimsWeb Composite Score (Reading Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension)

___MAPS Math Winter Benchmark Score (General Grade Level Math Concepts)

___District Common Math Assessments (Did Not Meet Benchmark Score on at least 3 of the 4)

___Teacher Recommended (Overall Performance, Report Card Evidence, Level of Support for Success)

The exact dates and times are yet to be determined as we finalize exact plans for the summer and all the programs we will operate, but we wanted to give families notice of the recommendation and begin to make plans for the summer. The dates will likely be Monday-Thursday June 6 through July 2. Students attending summer school can also attend the Kids First After School Program and eat school lunch. Summer school will likely be from 9-12 and Kids First ASP will likely be from 12-3. Transportation will be available (but not guaranteed) and all are free of charge. More information will come as plans finalize.