

School News

Washington Elementary School



I Love to Read Month

March will be an exciting month as Washington School celebrates “I Love to Read” Month with special activities and events. Our goal is to focus on the enjoyment of reading and the importance of becoming good readers by reading as often as possible. The celebration begins on Thursday, March 2 with “Read Across America.” Students and staff will be invited to wear red, white, or stripes on that day. “Each Friday will offer a special reading themes that children may dress for. Information was sent home last week and is also included on the March calendar. We are looking forward to a month of reading and hope you continue the excitement at home as you share the joy of reading.

Early Childhood Screening will be Monday, March 6th & Tuesday, March 7th. Call 281-5078 for more information or to schedule an appointment for your three, four or five year old child. The State of MN requires screening before entering K or pre-K.

**Sunday,
March 12th,
at 2 a.m.**



Turn your clocks ahead

Upcoming Dates

No School—Staff Development	Mar. 20
End of 3rd Quarter	Mar. 24
WES PTO Meeting	Mar. 28
Spring Break	Apr. 7, 10
Kindergarten Roundup	Apr. 13
Kindergarten Music Program	May 3, 5
WES PTO Family Picnic	May 15
Last Day of School Readiness	May 19
Last Student Day, K–12	June 1



Building Attention

Have you ever marveled at how a child can sit for long stretches of time mesmerized by a screen, yet often loses focus after a few minutes in a real conversation or working on a chore? The way we consume media has changed the way we pay attention. We are compelled to scroll and tap and consume an ever-broadening spectrum of content. We can always navi-

gate elsewhere if something gets boring. Information is instantly available—a bit different from asking a parent, grandparent, or friend for help.

Screen time conditions your child to have unrealistic expectations for the real world—that every interaction will be interesting, instant and immediately rewarding. How can we counter this trend? Start by raising a reader. Reading is a foundation skill for all children, and it helps

them develop focus by being engaged in a single thought process. While reading, children learn to stay with one topic and absorb something deeply.

Your child’s ability to pay attention and to demonstrate this critical social skill affects academics, family life, and relationships with friends.

Adapted from portions of Growing Up Social: Raising Relational Kids in a Screen-Driven World, by Dr. Gary Chapman and Arlene Pellicane.

Washington School

Principal

Denice Oliver

Admin. Assts.

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281-2762
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Community Education
281-5078

Transportation Director

Rick Niemela
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Pirate Pride at Washington School



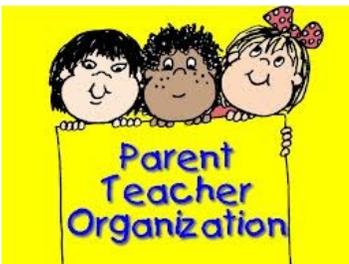
Washington School Kindergarten celebrated Pirate Pride while posing for a photo. The Washington and Highland Schools PTO groups contributed money to purchase a Pirate Pride shirt for each kindergarten

student. With the effort of PTO members with Lorri Capistran and Janessa and Jared Quanrud, each child was able to order and receive a preferred shirt size. For several years, students at Washington School have received a Pirate Pride

shirt that can continue to be worn as students move to 1st Grade at Highland



More Washington PTO News



The PTO will be sponsoring the activities for I Love to Read Month in March. Each child will receive a book during the Fishing for Books event,

compliments of the Crookston Rotary Club. The month long reading celebration will build children's skills. The PTO contributes to classroom enhancement through out the year.

Two PTO meetings remain this year at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28th and on Tuesday, April 15th. Please RSVP for childcare by noon the day before the meeting.

Thank you, Parents, for participating in Parent/Teacher Conferences.

The interest you show in your child's education and connection with their teacher increases your child's success at school.

Respect Counts Program



The Washington School Respect Counts program was held on February 9th. The theme of this program was about friendship, being kind and showing respect. I Care Cat and Whiskers performed a skit on bullying that intends to teach students what “heart crushers” and “heart smoothers” mean and how to live by the Golden Rule. Students also shared their dreams for the world through what they learned about Martin Luther King Jr. Since the program, Mrs. Oliver has heard students talking about “heart crushers” and “heart smoothers” in their relationships with friends in their classrooms. We have high expectations for student behaviors and hope that what they learn during these programs will help them be kind and respectful to others.

**Do the safe thing.
Do the kind thing.
Respect Counts!**



After School Chats



“What’s in your backpack?”

Greet your child with this question, and you’ll discover a lot about what your child does in class.

Kindergarten Round Up Thursday, April 13th

Washington School is already planning for the Class of 2036! We are contacting families that we know have a child who will be five years old by September 1st, to gain an estimate of our incoming Kindergarten class numbers. If you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten and have not been contacted, please call Washington School at 281-2762.

If you know of a family who recently moved to Crookston or whose child was not born in Crookston, ask them to call Washington School at 281-2762 to receive information about Kindergarten Roundup.



Character Words for March:

*Enthusiasm
Truthfulness
Forgiveness
Patience
Gentleness*

- Set aside time each day to go through your child’s papers. Try to do it first thing after school when the day is fresh in their mind.
- Look over your youngster’s work together. Help them feel proud by making specific comments

Upcoming Events

The Kindergarten Music Programs

will be

May 3rd & 5th

at 1:30 p.m.

More information to follow.



Early Childhood Event

March Musical

Madness

Monday, March 27

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Highland Elementary School



about something they have done. For instance, if your child shows you a picture they drew in art class, you might say, “The gray sky and big waves look just like our rainy day at the beach.”

- Have your child talk through math problems or science experiments to show you what they have learned.

Students Feed the Bear for the United Way



During the beginning of February, students at Washington Elementary School collected pennies, quarters, dimes and nickels to "Feed the Bear" in support of The United Way of Crookston. The Preschool and Kindergarten students were welcome to drop their coins into the bear-shaped containers each day through Valentines Day. The collection created an opportunity for students to demonstrate the character words that were a focus in February - friendliness, helpfulness, love and consideration. The students watched the jars daily to note the progress of the collection. Both jars were completely filled, with one even overflowing with coins! Altogether, \$747.19 was collected for the United Way of Crookston.

More Ways to Show Kids You Care

1. Play outside together.
2. Surprise them.
3. Stay with them when they're afraid.
4. Suggest better behaviors when they act out.
5. Feed them when they are hungry.
6. Delight in their discoveries.
7. Share their excitement.
8. Send them a letter or postcard.
9. Follow them when they lead.
10. Notice when they are absent.



Generosity Continues

When the Crookston Rotary Club learned of the Washington PTO's



goal of giving a free book to each student during I Love to Read Month, the group quickly responded with a \$200 donation to the WES PTO.

The Crookston Rotary's web page displays their mission: "We believe that a single action can make a difference in the community, and that collective action can greatly impact the world." A book given to a child today can help the child become a reader, which in turns improves learning skills. Our staff is grateful for the gift that will impact each student.

The North Star 4—H Club

collected a generous amount of warm hats, mittens, and coats for our young students at Washington School as seen in the bags and box in the photo below. These items will keep heads and hands warm as the winter weather "Marches" on! The North Star 4-H have also warmed our hearts with their thoughtfulness.



UMC Students in the Kindergarten Classrooms



Crookston Public Schools work with the University of Minnesota Crookston to provide field experience opportunities for college students in the Education Program. A group of students recently finished a five-week Math practicum at Washington School. In the photos, Mrs. Winger's students are celebrating the completion of the assignment with Mr. Chan and Miss Eden. The collaborative effort is a benefit to both UMC and Washington School students.



Winter Fun Day Photos below.
More photos on page 8!



100th Day at Washington School

School Readiness and Kindergarten students celebrated being "100 Days Smarter." Teachers shared photos of activities and projects from that day. Additional photos are on the following page.

100th Day Poem

By Rachel Lukacsko

We've been learning for awhile

In fact, 100 days!

We can spell, read, and write

We can count in many ways.

We've had fun and made good friends.

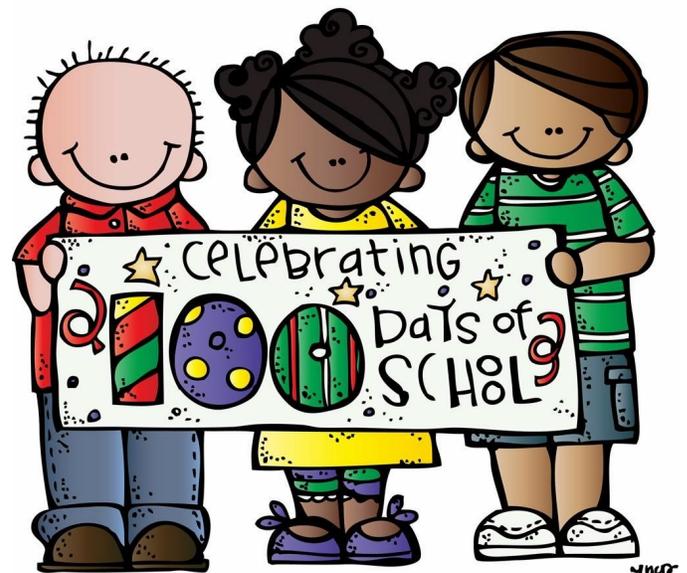
But it isn't over yet.

Let's keep going, going, going

And see how smart we can get!



The 100th Day Celebration continued in Phy-Ed with a Cup stacking challenge from Mr. Lubinski. Each group was asked to include all of the cups in their stacking creation. The smiles in each photo are proof of successful teamwork!





Kindergarten students celebrated with number focused activities.

