

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Happy Lunar New Year!

Did you know that the year 2022 in the Gregorian calendar is designated the Year of the Tiger. In the past century, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998 and 2010 were all Tiger years. "In Asian cultures, the tiger -- not the lion -- is the king of the jungle: People born during a Tiger Year are thought to be natural leaders who are both brave and thrill-seeking, often craving attention. They are courageous and energetic, love a challenge or competition and are prepared to take risks," according to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. (source: <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/lunar-new-year-2022-year-of-the-tiger-explained/>)



My children and I have been talking about the Lunar New Year and discussing how it is celebrated. The Chinese celebrations include parades, boat races, lantern festivals and fireworks to ward off bad luck. Tonight, my family plans to celebrate with some evening sledding races and sparklers.

Health Screenings

The State of Maine requires school nurses to obtain health screenings for all 3rd and 5th graders. The nurse will start these health screenings in February, which include vision, hearing, height and weight checks. If you want your child to be opted out of health screenings please send a letter into the nurse.



February is Children's Dental Health Month

tooth decay is the most common childhood disease

3 out of every 5 children are affected by tooth decay

5x more common than asthma

51 million school hours missed due to oral disease

National Children's Dental Health Month

February is National Children's Dental Health Month! This month our nurse, Candace Tardif, will visit all classrooms to encourage dental hygiene. The students will participate in fun activities to learn good oral health. A check off calendar to monitor teeth brushing will be sent home to be filled out during this month. If the calendar is completed and returned by March 4th the student can pick up a prize from Nurse Tardif.

Global Play Day Coming Soon!

We are excited to participate in Global Play Day on Friday, February 4. This is a full school day dedicated to play. Students will have an opportunity to play with toys, build with legos, construct cardboard and blanket forts, participate in arts and crafts, go for a snowshoe hike, sledding, enjoy open gym time, play board games and enjoy the fresh air with an extra recess. Just a friendly reminder, students are encouraged to bring in toys and games from home to play with on February 4 (as long as they do not require batteries or electricity). This is also a screen-free day. Please make sure students also bring to school their winter gear (hats, gloves/mittens, boots and ski pants) for the outdoor opportunities they will have throughout the day. We are looking forward to a fun-filled day for all.



The Great Kindness Challenge

We had a fabulous time participating in The Great Kindness Challenge last week. We would like to thank you all for the generous donations to our food drive that supported our local Oakland Food Pantry. They were very appreciative of the donations from our school. Here are a few pictures from our week. Throughout the week, students completed random acts of kindness and wrote each act on a heart to post in our lobby. I enjoyed reading all of the kind things our students and staff did throughout the week. Students and staff also worked throughout the week to fill up our Great Kindness Chalk Wall with positive sayings, pictures and compliments. Friday we voted for the winner of our school wide door decorating contest. There was a tie. Miss Davis and Ms. Kinney's classrooms were crowned the winners.

Congratulations to Our Newly Announced Eagles!

Grade 3: Reid Desjardins

Ms. Kinney and a peer would like to nominate Reid Desjardins for this week's third grade Eagle of the Week. Reid is always kind and polite to others. The peer said, "He has an AWESOME attitude." Reid continually tries his best on his daily assignments and works hard to reach whatever goal he sets for himself. He has a great sense of humor and is very creative! Continue being you, Reid!! You are EAGLE AWESOME!

Grade 4: Akadia Bourassa

Mrs. Mayo would like to nominate Akadia Bourassa for the 4th grade Eagle of the Week! Akadia is always giving her personal best. She uses her class time wisely and always completes all work that is expected with excellent effort. Akadia is a role model for many students in our class and is always respectful, kind, and caring. Akadia, you are a wonderful student and we're lucky to have you in our class!

Grade 5: Molly Swett

Ms. Warren's class is proudly nominating Molly Swett for Eagle of the Week! The words her classmates used to describe her were "kind, helpful, positive, and hardworking". Molly always tries her best in everything she does. She is such a kind-hearted person. As her teacher, I can honestly say that she makes each day better, and always makes me smile. Molly is a true friend to everyone. Keep up the good work, Molly. We love you.

Educationally Yours,

Melanie Smith, Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

February 2: World Read Aloud Day

February 4: Global Play Day (snow date: 2/7)

February 14: Valentine's Day - Your child's teacher will be sending home class lists and class party details if they have not done so already.

February 21-25: February Vacation

