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## Wakanda Walkathon.... Here We Come!

**APRIL 26TH, 2019**

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# WAKANDA NEWS

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## You can't catch me...I'm the gingerbread man!

Nothing is as exciting as when the gingerbread man is on the loose in kindergarten! Mayhem ensues and students (and staff) can feel the excitement and energy as the students spend the week looking for the gingerbread man. Luckily, we eventually find him. Thank you Dentist Emma for helping us find him this year!

## Grade Level Update...

The **Kindergartners** started March off with Read Across America Week! The students loved participating in the themed days and reading with their Kindergarten friends. We also were introduced to our science unit on goldfish and guppies. The students have been learning about the parts of the fish and how to care for them as well. Students are exploring subtraction in math. We have been learning to write equations and utilize number bonds. We are looking forward to seeing signs of Spring soon! However, don't forget to continue to send your students in the BIG 5-snow pants, boots, hat, mittens, and a jacket. Even though we are experiencing a warm up in our weather, our kindergarten playground is quite snow covered and wet. Your child's kindergarten teacher will let you know when these materials are no longer needed. Thanks for your support and willingness to wash your child's wet gear this time of year.

**First grade** is ready for Spring, and with that in mind we have been busy learning all about plants. It has been exciting to watch how quickly rye grass and alfalfa seeds grow. The first graders even got to "mow" their lawns before Spring Break. We are excited to see what happens to our wheat seeds planted in straws. It will be fun to watch as the roots grow down through the straw and the plant grows up through the top!

**Second grade** is rolling into spring! We completed our "Write Like a Scientist" unit and celebrated our success with a Science Day. The experiments the second graders demonstrated were amazing and it was a wonderful experience for all. We are now beginning a poetry unit in writing and focusing on reading longer books in a series during our reading time. In math we are finishing up our unit on adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers and moving into an introductory unit about multiplication and division. We call them equal groups and equal sharing. We are looking forward to our Poetry and Punch programs coming up in April. Please continue to have your child practice his/her poem each evening.

Spring has sprung in **third grade**. We have crayfish that we are watching and taking care of for our current science unit. Social studies found us learning about colonial days. We played colonial day games and made butter. We had a fun time writing fractured fairy tales. We plan on reading our creations to some younger students. In math we conquered fractions! We are currently in the middle of State Testing and will finish after Spring Break.

**Fourth Grade** has been busy this month! We have been working hard on finishing up our Module learning about fractions in math, and the students have been enjoying learning about their ancestors in social studies. We will be wrapping up our research and feature article writing about the countries our ancestors came from with a Festival of Nations right after spring break!

*Congrats goes out to Mr. Dingwall for being honored at a recent board meeting for his work with students.*



*Congrats to Ms. Bialik for winning a new female educator award.*



**Breaking the Box: The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright Unit Begins in Grade 5...**

The high-achieving architects delved into the well that is Frank Lloyd Wright's sources of inspiration. Our student architects conducted an interior and exterior analysis of the Japanese Paper House, as well as several art experiences inspired by Japan with Ms. J. We discovered a strong connection to nature as well. Through the ideas of a lovable dachshund named Moxie, we learned just how Mr. Wright used nature in his design of Falling Water. He often returned to the days of his youth, remembering the days spent working on his uncles' farms. He delighted in the beautiful forms found in nature and incorporated many into his designs. Mr. Wright's love of nature can also be found in the simple, every day natural materials he chose to construct his buildings and furniture throughout his career. The third influence we investigated was the Froebel Gift System, one more source of inspiration for Mr. Wright. A nine-year old Frank Lloyd Wright received these maple blocks from his mother, Anna. Throughout his career, Mr. Wright is quoted as saying that "he could still feel the maple blocks in his hands." Students move through a series of building tasks focusing on both forms of nature and forms of beauty. The Froebel Gifts challenge our thinking! We also looked at the musical inspiration Mr. Wright inherited from his father. He tells us the mind of the musician is much the same as the mind of an architect. Frank Lloyd Wright was an accomplished musician himself and all six of his children learned how to play musical instruments. He said "that buildings were like music; just as the notes blend together to make a melody, the parts of a building fit together to make a whole." Finally, Ms. J. unlocked Mr. Wright's fifth influence, his mentor Louis Sullivan in her famous Form Follows Function Walk. Primary Source documents also made an appearance! Students reviewed letters from three children who actually lived in the homes Mr. Wright created, looking for common themes and main ideas! These Primary Source documents help us get a better feel for life inside Mr. Wright's world from the perspective of the people who lived there. Grade 5 will also be hosting our version of March Madness with a 64-Building Bracket of Frank Lloyd Wright's most iconic buildings! The future is very bright for these 5th grade architects of Wakanda Elementary School!



**Upcoming Events:**

**April 1st - School Resumes**

**April 8th - Summer School registration begins at noon**

**April 10th - Spring Pictures**

**April 13th - Elementary Science Olympiad Tournament at MMS**

**April 19th - NO SCHOOL**

**April 22nd - We DO have school!**

**April 26th - Wakanda Walkathon**

**April 29th - Laser Show/Family Event**

**April 29th - May 2nd - Book Fair**

**May 1st - K-2 Music Concert at 9:30am and 2pm**

