

# STAR SCOOP

WAKANDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Dec 2022/Jan 2023



## MESSAGE FROM MRS. BRANCH

As we welcome the new year, I want to thank our families for the commitment you have shown to the development of your children academically, socially, and emotionally as well as the support you have shown to the staff of Wakanda Elementary. We are looking forward to seeing the growth in our students this year!

Please be sure to take a look at the reminders for arrival and dismissal procedures as well as communication with staff during the school day.

~Mrs. Shannon Branch, Principal



## REMINDERS

### DROP-OFF

-As part of our district-wide elementary safety and security protocol system, building entry is limited to only students at the beginning and ending of our school day. All other adult visitors must check into the office for entry throughout the school day.

-Please plan on utilizing our carpool system or using the sidewalk to accompany your child to the front door to prepare to say good-bye.

### COMMUNICATION DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

-Parents/Guardians are asked to remain in the office area when picking up or dropping off students for appointments as a part of our safety and security procedures.

-Student clothing or lunches can be dropped off in the office and provided to our office clerical for delivery to classrooms.

-If you wish to speak to your child's teacher during the school day, please plan to send an email to the instructor or provide our office clerical with a detailed phone message. Teachers are unable to receive parent phone calls while instructing or other children are present in the classroom. Staff will return your email or phone call as soon as possible. Thank you for understanding.

-If you wish to volunteer for your child's classroom, please schedule a volunteer opportunity with your child's teacher and complete the district required Background Check form. Background Check forms can be picked up in the school office or sent home with your student upon request to the classroom teacher.

### **CARPOOL STUDENT PICK-UP**

-We are requesting parents/guardians to wait outdoors at the end of the school day to pick-up your child as the safety and security of our students is a priority.

-Please continue to utilize the Family Card to display in your front window helping us to quickly identify those students who you are picking up. Family Cards will ask you to identify your family name, the names of your elementary-aged students and corresponding grade levels. Family Cards are available in our front office or by contacting your child's teacher.

### **BUSSING**

-Please contact Menomonie Transportation if you need further information at 715-235-4995.

Let's get ready to play in the snow!

1	2	3	4	5
				
snow pants	boots	coat	hat	gloves

### **RECESS CLOTHING**

Don't forget your "BIG 5": HAT, MITTENS/GLOVES, COAT, SNOW PANTS, BOOTS when you return to school in January. We want to make sure our Wakanda Stars are warm outside.



### **KINDERGARTEN**

The kindergartners had a busy month of December. In literacy, we utilized our growing knowledge of snap words to foster both our reading and writing. In math, we finished up our unit on shapes. Students identified, defined, and categorized 2D and 3D shapes. In social studies, we spent time talking about wants and needs, and in science we discussed winter. We ended the month of December with a week of festive celebration. Students assembled and decorated gingerbread houses, participated in a craft exchange, and enjoyed a winter party. It was a wonderful end to 2022 and we look forward to continued learning and fun in 2023!

### **FIRST GRADE**

Boy, it seems like the month of December just started and here we are nearing the end. In Readers Workshop this month the first graders have been strengthening their Word Detective skills and using everything they know to solve tricky words. This was the case in Phonics too as they studied contractions, letter twins, vowel teams and more! The first grade Mathematicians have been busy getting to know and understand place value in both addition and subtraction word problems. They have practiced a variety of strategies including making ten and counting on. Social Studies has introduced us to life in the past which was complete with a trip to the Rassbach Museum. Grinch Day followed our two SNOW DAYS and was a fun day in December filled with "grinchy" activities, clothing and hair! We are excited to welcome 2023 and can't wait to see all the accomplishments these first graders complete in the New Year!

## SECOND GRADE

Second grade is eagerly anticipating the holiday season! The second graders are very excited to bring home their "top secret" gifts they have been creating for their families! We hope you all enjoy them!

In math we have been working hard on two digit addition. We are excited about the progress the second graders are showing with this. We will begin working on two digit subtraction strategies next week and will continue working on this after break. These are two important skills we focus on in second grade. Any extra practice at home would be very beneficial. We also continue to work on solving math story problems and build our addition and subtraction facts fluency each day.

In writing we are working on completing our nonfiction animal books and are so proud of them! Each student selected an animal to research and took notes on various topics about that animal. Some of the facts they discovered are amazing! We continue to stress using periods and capital letters in each sentence we write.

In reading we have worked on strategies for solving words we don't know. We now have so many great strategies to use! Our stamina in reading also keeps growing by the day!

We wish all of the second graders and their families a safe, healthy and memory filled holiday season!

## THIRD GRADE

Third Graders were very excited to perform in the December concert! Many had speaking parts and everyone did such a wonderful job singing and speaking. 😊

We have been busy in math class. We have been working hard on learning our multiplication facts and using them to answer word problems.

In Social Studies students are learning about how America became a country. So far we've discussed some of the first explorers, the Native Americans, and the Colonists. We also learned about some of the reasons the colonists decided that they wanted to be an independent country with rules of their own.

The 3rd graders have also been typing their writing projects. They are getting better and better at keyboarding on their Chromebooks and editing their work. They reflected on holiday traditions and wrote about them.

## FOURTH GRADE

During the month of December, our fourth grade researchers have been busy learning about an extreme weather topic in our writer's workshop. Students explored weather topics like tsunamis, tornadoes, hurricanes, blizzards, and earthquakes. After much research and note taking, students produced a chapter book. During our reader's workshop, students have been busy reading about how the different levels of government affect their lives. We have been busy practicing the skills of inferring, summarizing, and comparing and contrasting.

We finished up the third math module. The end of our module brought on lots of practice with long division and division word problems. We are so proud of all the hard work our students have shown over this very important module.

Science has been filled with many discussions of how energy can be stored and transferred. Students have tested these ideas through experiments with paper roller coasters and the creation of chain reaction machines. The end of the unit shifted to focus more on different forms of energy like electrical energy through the creation of a flashlight.

We wish all our Wakanda families a safe and happy holiday! We will see you next year!

## FIFTH GRADE

Life is certainly good in Grade 5. Our National Park Ranger Project will wrap up on January 19, 2023, with our *National Park Ranger Night & Chili Dinner Fundraiser*. All are invited to attend this wonderful event from 4:30-6:00. Our 69 Rangers will be hard at work in true Design-Thinking style *CREATING* a display container that honors their park as well as functions as a coin holder to collect donations for

our National Parks. Each ranger composed an "Advice From..." Poem and created an artistic representation to include on their displays. Parks from all across our beautiful 50 states will be represented wonderfully by the Rangers. Each ranger will be receiving assessments on their Research Process, the written components of their ACOVA Jr. Ranger Talks presented to their classmates, as well as their National Park Containers. The 5th Grade Team is proud of the *GRIT* that our rangers have displayed throughout the month of December. A big thank you to all who contributed to our rangers' success by helping them out at school & on the home front!

## SCHOOL HOURS

8:30A.M. is our Warning Bell

8:35A.M. is our Start Time-Attendance is Taken

3:30P.M. is our Dismissal Time



12/23 - 12/30 - NO SCHOOL

1/2 - SCHOOL RESUMES

1/11 - PTO MEETING @ 5:30pm IN SCHOOL LIBRARY


1/16 - NO SCHOOL - STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY




## Contact Information

 @SDMA\_Wakanda

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 715-232-3898

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