

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Happy New Year!

I hope as you rang in the New Year you were able to celebrate some of the good things that occurred during 2020. 2020 was a year where I saw amazing growth in the technology skills of both our staff and students. In the spring of 2020, staff and students quickly learned all about Zoom so that teachers could meet with students, conduct virtual read alouds and support students with the work that was sent home. I am so proud of everyone's efforts this fall to learn google classroom and a variety of online apps and tools to increase learning outside of the classroom. Creativity and innovation in schools and homes skyrocketed as we looked for new ways to engage our students and children at home. We should all take a moment to celebrate all that was accomplished in 2020.

We survived 2020 and are ready to thrive in 2021!
Here's to a happy and healthy 2021!

Student Absences

If a student needs to be out of school for a period of time due to illness, please contact the main office and we will collect work from your child's classroom teacher for you to pick up or to be mailed home. Students may have the opportunity to access class materials via Google Classroom. At the elementary level in RSU 18, remote learning is not an option for students that are absent from school due to illness. Remote classes are set up at the start of each trimester with a teacher assigned to the class. If you have questions or concerns please reach out to me.

Valentine's Day in the Age of Covid 19!

We still want to celebrate love and friendship, but in order to still celebrate Valentine's Day this particular school year, we have had to change the rules:

- Valentine's must be brought to school by **Friday, February 5th**
- Children will place their Valentine's cards into their friends' containers on that Friday, February 5th
- We won't touch the containers until the following Thursday, February 11th...and on that Friday, the children will be able to open their cards from their friends!
- Valentine's must be paper only....no food items, no toys with them
- Please do not send treats from home!
- Thank you for allowing us to still celebrate this fun occasion...safely
- If children bring cards after the date of February 5th...we will hold them until after winter break!

Black Bear Program!

The Black Bear Book Award program is starting at WES and this year, like everything else, we've had to tweak it a bit. The amazing Mrs. Smith will be reading aloud 10 fantastic stories and nonfiction titles to all 3-5 classes. Students will be able to discuss and vote on their favorite at the end of the program. Hopefully, next year we can resume our normal programming and continue to offer a much larger list of titles for students to check out and read on their own.

Cheers to a New Year of reading!

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Bailey

Your friendly WES Librarians



January NWEA & DRAs

Students will be taking the winter NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Assessment) in math and reading this month and they will also be participating in the progress monitoring DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment). These assessments help guide our teachers' instruction so that classroom activities and lessons can be tailored to meet each child's needs.

Library Books for Remote Learners!

Remote learners will have the opportunity to choose up to 4 books to borrow for 2 weeks. All books must be returned to the library in order to borrow again. If you need to renew or want new books before 2 weeks are up, just let our librarians know!

Here's what you do:

- Politely ask an adult if they are willing to pick up books at school between 7:30AM and 4:00PM.
- Search the catalog for books that are IN. Make sure you are searching the catalog of the school you would attend if you were not remote.
- Email Mrs. Bailey with your choices and school name at kbailey@rsu18.org or contact her through Google Classroom or Seesaw.
- Come pick up books through your school office next week. ***Call ahead to let the secretary know when you are coming!
- Book choices are due to Mrs. Bailey by Friday, January 8th.
- Read, return, repeat.

Warm Regards,
Melanie Smith, Principal



Congratulations to Our First Eagles of 2021!

Grade 3: Avery Violette

Mrs. Sucy nominates Avery as the third-grade eagle of the week. Avery is deserving of this because of her awesome attitude and her ability to stay positive even when things are difficult. She is a wonderful listener and a role model. Avery works well with others and is always willing to participate. Her positive attitude and kindness toward everyone bring a bright light to our classroom. Keep being an awesome student and leader Avery!

Grade 4: Elizabeth Wrigley

Three members of Team Forney have nominated Elizabeth for the fourth-grade Eagle of the Week. Elizabeth was nominated for being an excellent listener. She listens whenever teachers or students are talking to her. She is also very engaged! She always raises her hand and gives her best effort. She is not afraid to ask for help when she needs it. Elizabeth is a bright light to everyone around her.

Grade 5: Hannah Spear

A classmate and Miss Hilton nominate Hannah for Eagle of the Week for listening and effort. A classmate said about Hannah: "She is always listening to the teacher and even when things are hard for her, she always tries. Hannah puts effort into her work and has a great attitude to her classmates and friends. She always has a smile on her face and makes others smile even when they are sad. She works hard to not become distracted." Hannah is so fun to be around (don't let her quiet appearance fool you) and gives all assignments her best effort. We are lucky to have her around! Keep up the good work, Hannah!



IMPORTANT DATES

January 4 - Winter NWEAs begin. Your child's teacher will share their NWEA testing schedule with you.

January 18 - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 19 - NO SCHOOL - In Service Workshop for teachers

January 21 - Atwood/Williams virtual PTA meeting at 6PM