

# From Mrs. Smith's Desk

## Greetings!

The first month of 2021 has flown by and boy have we been busy at Williams! Students are wrapping up their DRA progress monitoring assessments and NWEA assessments. I am so proud of their efforts on these assessments. We will be using this data to develop next instructional steps for your children.

## The Great Kindness Challenge

Our students and staff had a blast this week participating in The 2021 Great Kindness Challenge. Williams participated in the challenge with over **16 million students in 32,165 schools in 115 countries!** There is no doubt about it, **KINDNESS UNITES** us all! We celebrated kindness with a special spirit week, daily activities, reading books about kindness, making valentines for hospice and writing positive messages on our links for kindness and Great Kindness Chalk Wall. We are so fortunate at Williams...our students have huge hearts, are compassionate and go above and beyond to help their peers and staff in our building. We will continue to shine our light throughout the year.

## Global Play Day & World Read Aloud Day

Global Play Day and World Read Aloud Day take place this Wednesday, February 3! In a typical year, there is absolutely no screen time during Global Play Day, however this year we are allowing students to use iPads to play games safely with their classmates. We are not sharing materials, so we are unable to play board games at this time. Teachers have scheduled special virtual read alouds with famous authors and illustrators of some of our favorite books.

Students also had the opportunity to sign up for snowshoeing/hiking, extra recess, open gym and craft activities. It will be a fun-filled day for all!



## 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 5<sup>th</sup>**
- Children will place their Valentine's cards into their friends' containers on that Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>
- We won't touch the containers until the following Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>...and on that Thursday, 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 5<sup>th</sup>...we will hold them until after winter break!

## National Children's Dental Health Month

February is National Children's Dental Health Month! In the month of February, the nurse will be going to each classroom to encourage dental hygiene. The students will be participating 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 the month of February. If the calendar is completed and returned by March 5<sup>th</sup> the student can collect a prize.

### Children's Dental Health Month



## February Staycation Bags Coming Home Soon!

We are happy to announce that we were one of the winners of RSU 18's Gratitude Grant this year. For our Gratitude Grant this year we wanted to express our gratitude to our families for all of your support over the past 11 months. We greatly appreciate the help you provided your children last spring with their learning materials, adjusting to new protocols at school this year, attending virtual meetings with staff, learning online platforms (Google Classroom, Google Meets, Zoom, etc.), and continuing to support your children (in-person and remote learners) with their schoolwork this year. The past 11 months have been extremely challenging. We greatly appreciate your involvement in your child's education during these trying times. On February 11, we will be sending home February Staycation Bags with your children to show our appreciation. We hope you and your family enjoy the activities while you are at home during February vacation.

Educationally Yours,  
Melanie Smith, Principal

## Congratulations to Our New Eagles!

### Grade 3: Allie Clark

Ms. Warren would like to nominate Allie as the third-grade Eagle of the week. Allie is more than deserving of this award by being a true role model in the classroom. Ms. Warren appreciates her positive attitude and the effort she shows in her learning every single day! Allie spreads kindness and positivity in the classroom by always offering to lend a helping hand to her classmates. Allie is genuine, thoughtful and most of all kind. We are so lucky to have you in our class Allie!!

### Grade 4: Lauren Wolfe

Lauren was nominated by Mrs. Mayo for her excellent effort on all her tasks and assignments - she truly is an eagle! She is always engaged in her learning and does not waste a moment of her time in the classroom. Lauren is very self-motivated and is always reaching towards her goals. She is also always willing to help others when asked, has a great attitude, and is a wonderful role model in the classroom. Lauren is always listening, participates in class discussions, and is willing to share her thinking and strategies. She is a positive light in our classroom that shines bright every day!! Way to go Lauren!!



### Grade 5: Caleb Zimmerman

Caleb Zimmerman was nominated by Miss Cotter for his excellent effort during Math Workshop. Caleb is a role model during this period because he puts all of his attention and energy into focusing on the new concepts we're learning, and then goes off on his own to apply them during independent work. Caleb is more than willing to help out another classmate during math as well. Keep on shining brightly, Z! You're amazing!

## IMPORTANT DATES

- February 2** - Be the Light Virtual Assembly
- February 3** - Global Play Day & World Read Aloud Day
- February 11** - PTA Meeting at 6 PM via video conferencing at <https://meet.sangoma.com/420271442644#3124>
- February 12** - **NO SCHOOL** - In Service Workshop for staff
- February 15-19** - **NO SCHOOL** - February Vacation

