



THE WINDS
FEBRUARY 7, 2024

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 1-27	Read-a-Thon
Feb. 5-9	National School Counseling Week
Feb. 7	Student Leadership, 2:40-3:20
Feb. 8	PTA Dad's Night Out at Haskell's, 6-9 p.m.
Feb. 19	No School - Presidents Day
Feb. 28	Wacky Wednesday: Favorite Book Character
Feb. 29	Conferences, 3-7 p.m.
Mar. 1	No School - Conferences 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

National School Counseling Week is this week. Thank you, **Troy Dvorak & Christine Edlefsen**, Deephaven's counselors, for all you do to support our students. Whether you are meeting with one student, a group of students, or talking to an entire class, you make a huge difference in the lives of our students.

No School on Monday, February 19 – Presidents Day

Read-a-Thon continues through the end of February. Please see the PTA Pulse for more details.

Yearbook Orders end on February 29. Order a yearbook today so your child will have one on the day they are distributed.

Black History Month – Classrooms will feature daily highlights of different African American leaders from all walks of life. Our morning announcements will share stories of leaders and their journey to becoming influential role models in the black community and beyond. The media center will also continue to feature black authors and encourage our students to explore these stories.

Spring Conferences – Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 29, from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (in person) and on Friday, March 1, from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (virtually). Our goal is to have all our parents participate. Please work directly with your child's teacher if you would like to meet in person on Friday. You will be receiving an email on **Wednesday, February 7 at 5 p.m.** with instructions on how to sign up for conferences. Please work directly with your child's teacher if you would like to meet in person on Friday. **The deadline to sign up for conferences/make changes is Wednesday, February 28 at 4 p.m.**

No School on Friday, March 1 - Conferences

Lines of Communication at Deephaven - Begin with the adult closest to the situation. Following our lines of communication allows for staff involved to resolve the concern.

1. Staff member involved
2. Classroom teacher
3. Health/attendance office
4. Principal/Assistant Principal
5. Superintendent

Nominate a Teacher, Para, Other Staff Member, or School Volunteer for a 2024 Celebration of Excellence Award

Minnetonka Public Schools is seeking nominations for its 19th annual **Celebration of Excellence Awards**. These awards recognize teachers, paraprofessionals, other staff members, collaborative teams and school volunteers for their dedication and positive impact.

Nominations are open now through Thursday, February 29, 2024. To learn more about the award categories and submit a nomination online, visit minnetonkaschools.org/celebrate. Questions may be directed to celebrateexcellence@minnetonkaschools.org.

Those selected as honorees will receive their awards at the Celebration of Excellence Awards Program to be held on Thursday, May 16 at the Arts Center on 7 at Minnetonka High School.

OLWEUS BULLYING PREVENTION

This week's classroom meeting talks about how to disagree with someone without being disagreeable. Students will discuss some tricky situations and decide how to disagree respectfully with another person without hurting anyone's feelings. Students will also talk about strategies we can use to assert ourselves and our opinions appropriately.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Valentine's Day poses unique challenges for students with life threatening food allergies. Please remember our classroom food guidelines. Food allergens, especially dairy, peanuts and tree nuts are found in many types of chocolates and other candies. Read all labels carefully before you send any food/candy items to school or put them in Valentine cards. **We encourage you to consider non-food treats for Valentine's Day.** Thank you.

PTA PULSE

READ-A-THON Updates - "Rising Tide Lifts All Boats"

We're one week into the Read-a-Thon and we are having so much fun! As our school's biggest fundraiser, the read-a-thon supports field trips, teacher grants, STEM events, library books, educational apps like IXL and Lexia and SO MUCH MORE.

Help your student join the fun by registering them in [Pledgestar](#).

Our goal for this week is to have kids enter 5 pledge requests into the system. If they do that by 2/9, they win 5 I love to read stickers and twinkle lights to decorate their reading space.

Week #1 Results

- There are 458 students participating in the Read-A-Thon. We're at 67% participation!
- As of Monday, students have read a total of 83,000 minutes! We're at 16% of our goal to read 500,000 minutes!
- We're at 60% of our goal to raise \$30,000.

We Need Volunteers! The Read-A-Thon is looking for volunteers with many roles requiring less than two hours of time. Sign up on [membership toolkit](#).

Dad's Night Out - Feb 8 Thursday from 6PM – 9PM at Haskell's in Excelsior. Open house style event so come any time and bring a friend. We'll be joined by Groveland Dads as they also want to connect so feel free to invite someone from the broader Minnetonka Elementary school network. Please contact Andy Punch at 612-670-8506 with any questions.