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Events

- * 2/3 OLPA Reading Ends Grades 3-8
- * 2/7-10 OLPA (Reading/Math) Make-ups Grades 3-8
- * 2/20 Presidents' Day (**No School**)
- * 2/22 WiDA (Listening) Grades 1-8
- * 2/23 WiDA (Reading) Grades 1-8
- * 2/28 WiDA (Speaking) Grades 1-8

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Kindergarten

Dear Kindergarteners and Families,

February will be a fun month full of learning and projects. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day and the 100th Day of School! For Valentine's Day, we will do a small treat/card exchange on Tuesday, February 14th. If you would like your child to participate, please bring in a small item for each student in the class. The 100th Day of School is February 8th. For the 100th Day of School we will be doing various activities centered around the number 100! Please look for more information about Valentine's Day and the 100th Day of School in your child's homework folder.

In math, we will continue to work on counting and skip counting by 10s. We will continue to work on addition and subtraction strategies. We will introduce word problems and POWER math strategies to solve them.

In reading, we will continue to work on SuperKids. We will work on blending, writing words and sentences and introduce new letters.

For science/social studies we will learn about President's Day, Black History Month and social skills. We will tie the 100th day to concepts about the past and do a silly activity about what we might look like when we're 100 years old!

Reminder! With the weather getting colder, please make sure your student is dressed appropriately for the weather, ex. Mittens/gloves, warm coat, boots to change into when it snows, etc. We will continue to go outside throughout the winter if it is above 10 degrees, and children who are not dressed for the weather will have to stay inside.

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team

1st Grade

Hello Families,

We cannot believe that it is already February! The school year is flying by, but we still have a lot of learning to do. In first grade, we are having a short celebration for Valentine's Day. If you would like to have your child bring in valentines on February 14th feel free. This is not a requirement though. A quick reminder for the month of February is we will not have school on Monday February 20th. Another reminder is our classes will be having outdoor recess if it is above 10 degrees. Please make sure that your child has the appropriate gear to wear outside to stay warm!

For reading, first grade is going to begin Unit 10 in Superkids. During this unit students will be working on decoding words with soft c and g. For example; ice and cage. We will also identify rhyming words and reading rhythmically. At home please make sure your child is reading as much as possible and completing their homework.

1st Grade continued...

In math, first grade is practicing time by the hour. We will also be working on two digit story problems. We will apply our knowledge of two digit numbers and place values to a problem. At the end of the unit we will begin learning about pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.

Sincerely,
Your child's first grade teacher!

2nd Grade

Dear Second Grade Families,

We have had a great start to the New Year! We finished with our first reader in Superkids! Our reading level should be a 2.5. This means your child is reading at a second grade level in the fifth month of school. Continue to have your child read 30 minutes a day. It can be with someone, independently, or some of both!

Valentine's is approaching. Look for a letter from your child's teacher about how they will handle Valentine's in their classroom.

Our next unit in math is working with more adding and subtraction. They will learn more with exchanging and using POWER math with story problems.

We learned about the seasons, clouds, and water cycle in January. We will be switching back to social studies. Our topic will be economics.

Remember, they can do Xtramath, IXL, and take AR quizzes at home on the computer if you have a computer. IXL is available as an app on handheld devices for your convenience.

Our class field trip to the Minnesota History Center will be in April. We will give you more details as it gets closer. If you are interested in being a chaperone, let your child's teacher know.

Remember to continue wearing appropriate winter clothing. It is important to still wear boots for warmth. Also, there are days it's warmer and muddy.

February is Black History month and Dental Health month. These are important topics that we will incorporate into our learning.

Happy Valentine's Day!

The Second Grade Team

3rd Grade

Dear 3rd Grade Parents,

We are in the middle of our poetry unit right now. Students have been enjoying a wide variety of poems from different authors.

We were so proud to see a lot of growth in student test scores after taking the second math OLPA and the reading OLPA.

We are learning about a variety of landforms during science, and the words for our spelling and vocabulary quizzes are coming from this unit.

In math, we are deepening our knowledge of fractions as we compare and use them in number stories. We have also worked with liquid volume, mass, and length.

There will be no school on Monday, February 20, for Presidents' Day. Thanks for your continued support and partnership!

Sincerely,
3rd Grade Team

4th Grade

Dear 4th Grade Families,

We have a busy month ahead! We have just wrapped up Math OLPA testing, and are beginning the Reading OLPA test. These tests are good practice for your children for the MCAs at the end of the year. In reading, we are so excited to begin our poetry unit. Students will be reading a variety of poetry and will eventually be writing poems of their own! In math we are beginning our 5th unit, where we will be adding and subtracting fractions as well as measuring angles.

As a reminder, please make sure your child is reading 30 minutes each night, writing five sentences about what they've read, and completing their math homework. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us!

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Team – Carissa Jobe, Destinie Hsu, Ann Ferber, and Sarah Krall

5th Grade

Dear Families,

In January, students learned about earth and space science. Students created planet brochures and did experiments in science. In reading, 5th graders learned about parts of speech: adjective & adverbs, figurative language, synonyms & antonyms, and sequencing. In math, students completed unit 5 on fractions.

This month, our theme is “Animals and Habitats”. Students will be classifying animals and learning about habitats of the world. In reading, students will be focusing on making connections, noting details, structures of text, theme, and gathering relevant information. In math, students will be working on operations with fractions.

As a reminder, there are 2 events in the month of February.

- OLPA Reading Test week of January 30th to February 3rd
- WIDA Testing February 22nd to 28th

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Please continue to encourage your child to read and complete IXL skills at home!!

Sincerely,

5th Grade Team

6th Grade

Dear 6th Grade parents and Families,

What a great couple of weeks since break it has been! We have finished up our reading unit on figurative language and students were tested in their ability to determine the mood and tone of a text using their knowledge of imagery and sensory language. We are taking a short break from our normal reading units to talk about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this week, in honor of his birthday last Monday. Students acquired background knowledge on his life and the Civil Rights Movement that he led. They then analyzed his lesser-known speech, “What Is Your Life’s Blueprint?” and wrote about their own life’s blueprint.

Our break from reading comes in time for OLPA testing! This week we are taking the Math OLPA and in two weeks we will be taking the Reading OLPA. We have seen growth from a lot of students. Make sure they take a little bit of time to review those skills we learned way back in the beginning of the year!

Math will start up again after OLPA testing is done. We will continue our unit on ratios and rates and then quickly move in to probability. The students have all been working very hard to practice their math skills in class.

6th Grade continued...

Make sure they are using their notes, POWER math, and thinking deeply when they do their math homework at home!

We have been alternating between social studies and science throughout the year. Currently, in science, we have moved into the topic of energy and students love the stations and experiments we have for them. Students are required to understand how energy is transferred from one object to another, which leads us into some chemistry too!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email us! Your students are a joy to have in class and we want to work with you to see your students grow!

Sincerely,

Hannah Schrempp, Elizabeth Morton, and Stephanie Hendrickson

hschrempp@nobleacademy.us, emorton@nobleacademy.us, shendrickson@nobleacademy.us

Middle School (7th and 8th Grade)

Dear Families,

Hello! We've just wrapped up MCA practice testing and we are so proud of all our middle school students. Overall, we saw major growth and we look forward to telling you all about it at conferences Friday, March 27th. In February, we will be WIDA testing our English language learners. Also, we will be going on a field trip to the Science museum to study weather systems and climate. These are big science standards in middle school so we look forward to boosting MCA science scores!

Look out for students selling cookie dough for another field trip coming up to Highland Hills Ski Park in March 10th. The cost is \$16 per order and you will receive 2.5 pounds of cookie dough! Thanks for supporting our school and students! We look forward to all of these upcoming activities to round off our second trimester! Please email or call any of us if you have any questions or concerns about your students.

Sincerely,

The Middle School Team

Art

Hello Noble Families!

February is going to be full of culture and new materials in Art class. Our 5th graders are already taking a look at Australian artwork and creating their own paintings in the style of the Aborigines. Moving forward, they will be looking at printmaking and all of the processes that go with it as a form of art. Fourth grade will be learning the art of weaving. Many cultures from around the world have traditional weaving patterns and styles, and we will be taking a look at a few before trying our own weaving. Sixth grade is moving forward into a modern art of graffiti style painting. We will be looking into how graffiti has changed over the years and creating our own name "Tags". Middle school will be moving into a unit that pushes for a mature use of art materials. We will be practicing mixing paints, recycling magazines, and creating artwork with balanced composition. I am very exciting to keep working with all of the talented Noble artists to build their creativity and to see what they make. As the year moves forward, students become more confident in their abilities and the artwork keeps getting better!

Sincerely,

Ms. Amanda Wisner

Hmong Art & Culture

Dear Families,

We are continuing our theme of Art in the Winter Time. Our kindergarteners have been working on an art project related to the book, *A Penguin Story*, by Antoinette Portis. In the story, a penguin named Edna only knows of the

Hmong Art & Culture continued...

three colors that surround her: the white snow, black night, and blue sea. She is convinced that there is more out there and is on a mission to seek out colors. Students have enjoyed painting a beautiful color filled background for Edna. First graders have been working on an art collage relating to the book, *Snowmen at Night*, by Caralyn Buehner. We've analyzed the wonderful artwork in this book and created our own paintings of the night for our snowmen. Second and third graders have been exploring perspective, color, and texture and have incorporated these elements into their winter art. They have also learned how to cut symmetrical snowflakes and used them in their artwork. Look for these wonderful piece of art coming home soon, if not already.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Chang

Hmong Literacy/Culture

Nyob Zoo!

Time is going fast and we are already half way through our second trimester. We hope that many of you are doing well in 2017 so far. In Hmong Literacy/Culture, we are working hard learning Hmong language and culture. In K-3, we worked on family, numbers and colors. In 4-8, we finished single consonants and our project on religion. For the month of February, we will continue to work on numbers, colors and weather vocabularies in K-3. In 4-8, we will be working on double consonants and family.

Again, please continue to encourage your child with their Hmong's fluency. Our goal is that k-3 students will master theirs single consonants and vowels by the end of this school year. Our goal for 4-8 students is to master theirs double consonants, vowels and tone markers by the end of this school year.

We hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday! Please do not hesitate and feel free to call us if you have any question or concern. Ua tsaug.

Sincerely,
Hmong Literacy/Culture Specialists

Physical Education

Hello Noble Academy Students and Families,

In February, our K – 3 students will continue to work on basic fundamental movements and playground games with an emphasis on safety. Our main focus this month will be travelling movements along with a jump rope unit. Students will be learning the 4 steps to a skip, leap, gallop, or jump and use it in many different activities. For example, they will be playing capture the flag where they can only skip. We will also be doing a jump rope unit where students will learn how to time the rotations of the rope. Timing and movements serve as a great tool to foster coordination in the students. As always, our goal is to promote an active and healthy lifestyle for everyone. Safety is our main concern so students are taught to understand personal space and general space and how to navigate with safety in mind. We are taking every step to ensure safety in the gym and wherever students choose to be active.

In February, our 4th – 8th grade students will be developing and enhancing their Floor Hockey skills. As the state of hockey, it is important to give students a brief unit on what hockey and floor hockey is all about. During floor hockey, we look at skills such as dribbling, passing and shooting along with some defensive strategies. With floor hockey, we always discuss safety and have a safety rule put in place since we are using hockey sticks. Along with all of the great skills floor hockey has to offer, it also shows great teamwork. As always, our goal is to showcase the many different ways and opportunities students can lead active and healthy lifestyles.

With the bone chilling temperatures, it is hard to get outside, but Minnesota weather always allows us some days to get outside. Make sure to use those beautiful winter days to get outside and enjoy the wonderful weather.

Whether it's a walk around the neighborhood, a sledding day, or making a snow fort, let's get outside. Keep living

Physical Education continued...

an active and healthy lifestyle!

Reminder: All K – 8 students are expected to wear tennis shoes during gym class. It is very important our 4th – 8th graders are remembering their Noble Academy Gym Uniforms during physical education. Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely,

Your Physical Education Teachers

Music

Hello Parents and Guardians,

In music, the middle school classes have been learning how to compose their own music for the piano. They are given pre-written rhythms and then have to choose which notes to play. Their compositions sound great! We have also been listening to a variety of music from all over the world. It is my goal to open their ears and minds to music of the world. We are discussing similarities and differences between music of different countries and the music the students listen to outside of school.

If you have a 4th grade student who ordered a recorder, they will be getting them when they see me for music class next.

Lastly, if you have a student in band, please remind them to look at their lesson calendar! We have had way too many students forgetting to bring their instruments. I only see them once a week for lessons.

Best,

Mr. Ethan Wightkin

Music

Hello Noble Parents,

I hope your winter break was wonderful and were able to spend time with old friends and family. In January we started doing some new and exciting things in music and I'm excited to share with you what we have done so far.

In Kindergarten and 1st grade, we have been taking a couple children's books, "Jump Frog Jump" and "Mortimer," and learning many different music concepts. In "Jump Frog Jump", we have been learning about improvisation. Any time in the book where it says "jump frog jump" the students need to play on their xylophones. They are able to play on any bars they like. With "Mortimer" we learned about bordun ostinatos. A bordun is when you play the 5th and ostinato means we repeat it many times. The students really enjoyed singing the song in "Mortimer" and playing their xylophones at the same time.

In 2nd grade, we have been doing a rhythm stick and drumming activity. We learned how to count many different rhythms and eventually I had the students create their own rhythms to a song called "Play the Hand Drum."

Third grade has started doing recorder. When doing recorder I use two different curriculum books. Recorder Karate is one I have been using for a long time. Students get "karate belts" every time they pass a song. Another book I like is "Everyday Recorder, Recorder Everyday." The students and I really enjoy this because it works on improvisational skills and later students make their own melodies on the recorder.

Thanks for all your support. Again, if you have any questions about what we are doing in music, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Alex Michenfelder

Special Education

Greetings Noble Parents,

Can you believe it? It's already February. This month the students will be continuing to take their OLPA reading test in grades 3-8. In addition, they will also take the WIDA test for grades 1-8. It's important for students to get enough rest and a good breakfast since they will be taking important assessments.

In grades K-2, students are currently working on reading and spelling sight words. In addition, they are learning digraphs (ch, br) and reading words with vowel combinations such as 'ea'. As for math, the students are working on identifying 3-dimensional shapes. They are working on various math skills such as counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s as well as math fact fluency in addition.

In grades 3-5, the students are working on reading skills which include: identifying the main idea, making inferences, defining the meaning of new vocabulary word, and using context clues to find the meaning of unknown words. The students are learning how to separate parts of a word in order to increase in their fluency.

In grades 6-8 in reading, students will be focusing even more on writing summaries and paragraphs of passages or stories they have read. Students are using graphic organizers to assist them in writing summaries and paragraphs which include a topic sentence with supporting sentences and a concluding sentence. Students are also continuing to work on new vocabulary words found in their story each week.

In math for grades 6-8, students will be focusing on math story problems and percent, decimals and fractions. Students are continuing to work on solving more complex math story problems, using graphic organizers to help them solve problems independently and accurately.

We enjoy working with your children and sharing in all their successes throughout the year! Please feel free to call us anytime!

Sincerely,

Jenny Yang and Sue Welle
Special Education Teachers