

Netherwood News

February 2024

Hello Netherwood Knoll Families,

Welcome to February!

This month includes celebrations / appreciation days for several important school staff. Thank you for helping us celebrate:

- National School Counselor Appreciation Week: Mrs. Griebner
- National School Bus Driver Appreciation Week
- National School Resource Officer Appreciation Week: Office Schewe
- National Crossing Guard Appreciation Week

NKE Highlights from January:

- Finally playing in the snow!
- Oregon Public Library opening!
- Cosmic bowling with Mr. S
- Whole school January Paw Celebration
- Welcoming Phoenix the Service Dog to NKE
- End of semester

Things we are looking forward to in February:

- Gymnastics in PE Class
- The Figure Heads performing at our NKE Assembly 2/28
- Kindergarten Sings
- Black History Month
- No School 2/16 and 2/19
- PTO Meeting: 2/22 at 6:30 in the NKE Library

With Gratitude,

Lindsay Eimerman

Lisa Lucas

Ruth Greiber

Kelsey Antoniewicz

NKE Principal

NKE Admin Intern

School Counselor

School Psychologist

News and Reminders:

A note regarding Arrival / Dismissal Traffic:

As the colder winter temperatures have set in, more families are choosing to drive their students to school. The result is increased traffic around our schools during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. We want to take an opportunity to share some reminders to help our parking lots be as safe and efficient as possible. Please review and share the following information with anyone who may be transporting your student to school:

- Remain patient, alert, drive slowly, and observe all posted traffic signs.
- Pull as far forward as possible in the drop-off line to keep traffic moving.
- Ask your student to depart quickly; park in the lot if you must get out of the car yourself or need extra time to unload.
- Talk with older students who are dropped off across the street from school to use the marked crosswalk.
- Review and follow your school's parking lot protocols and traffic flow information, available at OregonSD.org/TrafficSafety.

Thank you for your help in keeping our school parking lots as safe and efficient as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Leslie Bergstrom

Attendance letters:

In Wisconsin, caregivers may excuse their learner from school for UP to 10 days. As learners miss days, our student services team will send home communication to caregivers. Attendance letters are NOT intended to increase a family's anxiety about absences and are a requirement from the state. If you or your family have questions about attendance, or any communication you receive from school, please let us know. Our hope is that this will allow us to work as a school / family team, to support your learners.

Note from Mrs. Griebner

Dear NKE Families and Caregivers,

As you know, we are using the Second Step program in your child's class. The Second Step program teaches children important skills for getting along with others and doing well in school. It also helps our school be a safe and supportive place where everyone can learn.

To help make our school even more safe and supportive, we are also going to use the Second Step Child Protection Unit. This unit will begin in February for all grade levels. In this unit, your child will learn the following specific skills to help him or her stay safe from dangerous or abusive situations:

- How to use the *Ways to Stay Safe* to recognize when something is unsafe, report anything unsafe to an adult, and refuse to participate.
- How to always ask a parent or the person in charge first before going somewhere, doing something, or accepting something from someone.
- How to recognize safe, unsafe, and unwanted touches, and how to use the *Private Body Parts Rule*.
- How to refuse and report unsafe or unwanted touches and how to report a broken Private Body Parts Rule.

To keep your child safe and protected, everyone at school needs to be involved. All of our staff have been trained to:

- Recognize and report suspected child sexual abuse and other forms of maltreatment.
- Respond to and support children who have been abused or who are facing other challenges.
- Use strategies that promote a safe and supportive classroom.

You also have an important role in helping your child stay safe! Home Lesson Links 1-5 in the Child Protection Unit have activities to help you and your child create a family safety plan. I will send the home links after we have covered those lessons. These activities are NOT homework and do not have to be returned.

If you have any questions about the Child Protection Unit or the Second Step program, please contact me at the email address below.

Thank you for helping us make our school a safe and supportive place where everyone can learn!

Sincerely,

Ruth Greiber
NKE School Counselor
rag3@oregonsd.net

More News and Reminders

Remember to Dress Your Children For Colder Weather

The changing elements of our Wisconsin weather sometimes mean colder or wetter conditions at mid-day than when they left in the morning. Please send your child with warm clothing and gear as every class has two daily outdoor recesses. **If the “Feels Like” Temperature is below zero, we will hold indoor recess.** When in doubt, send warmer gear than may be necessary.



Lost and Found

Your Kids' Stuff Misses Them Too!

Please remember to take the time to stop and look over the many items in our Lost and Found.



PTO Updates: Please Read!

Our most popular event has begun -- Fosdal Home Bakery Donut Delivery! Orders may be placed via Google Form (link below) from January 16-February 16 and will be delivered to your door the morning of Saturday, February 24. Order here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhhWyly6rVPd8264rl6m7j9GVF54LrBgymSsNK9qBeAH7_3w/viewform

January through March, Infinity Martial Arts offers a Beat the Winter Blues Special! For \$35, students receive 6 weeks of lessons and a uniform. Lessons can be started anytime, and all funds go to whichever PTO the registrant selects (Brooklyn PTO, Forest Edge PTO, or Oregon PTO). Register here:

https://sparkpages.io/cart/2/?i=_k9bb&c=&ocu=

In March, the PTO will be helping with parent teacher conferences at NKE, PVE, and RCI. Additional details about donating time, donating food, or volunteering will be available soon.

Lots of excitement to come, please save the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 28th: Dine Out at Me & Julio's in Fitchburg
- May 6-10: Teacher Appreciation Week - Details on how you can help will be advertised soon!
- Saturday, May 11th: Our Third Annual Community Fun Run/Walk @ 9AM

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 22 at 6:30pm at the NKE library. If you are unable to join in person, you may also join via Google Meet here:

<https://meet.google.com/uzd-pxno-ioy>

Please subscribe to our mailing list for information on events and updates at:

<https://www.oregonpto.org/join-mailing-list/>

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (links below) for our latest news and updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/OregonPTO>

<https://www.instagram.com/oregonpto/>

Thanks for your support of the Oregon PTO!

With sincere appreciation,
Julie, Denise, Laura, and Mickie



NKE Rotation Updates

Art

- At the end of January and into February students will be starting and finishing our Ceramics unit.
 - 4th will be using slab, coil, scratch/attach methods to build a vessel.
 - 3rd will be using slab, scratch/attach methods to create a tile.
 - 2nd will use the coil method to create a heart.
 - 1st will use the pinch pot, scratch/attach methods to create a half apple.
 - Kinder will use texture to create a pendant and a pinch pot.
- In February students will be starting our NKE Square 1 Art fundraiser. More information to follow.
- The NKE Art Room will also have a guest student teacher from UW Madison, Ms. Haller! She will be with us from January 22 - March 22.



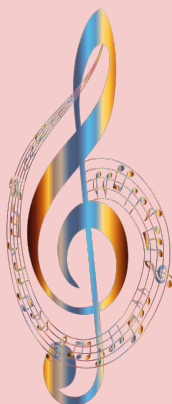
Physical Education

- At the end of January and beginning of February we will be starting Racquet sports
 - Pickleball
 - Badminton
 - Target Games
 - We will be focusing a lot on stations during this unit and getting a lot of repetitions in with underhanded hits, overhand hits, and hitting to a target or over a net
- 
- In February we will be starting Gymnastics (gymnastics runs for almost all of February!!)
 - All grades will be focusing on safety, balances, rolls
 - 3rd and 4th graders will perform gymnastics routines for their class
 - 1st and 2nd graders will be learning what a routine is and stringing moves together
 - The big focus for gymnastics is Safety! We will focus on keeping our head/neck safe and landing on our feet
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- We will also be participating in NINJA WARRIOR Courses including:
 - Climbing Ropes
 - Cargo Net
 - Rock Wall Climbing
 - Lava Rock Jumping

NKE Rotation Updates

Music

- Kindergarteners are going to be using instruments to make soundscape effects to literature.
- In 1st grade, we are exploring tempo and dynamics in *Carnival of the Animals*.
- In 2nd grade, we were working on Peter and the Wolf sounds and have started working on form.
- In 3rd and 4th grade, we are doing some simple composing, as well as learning folk songs and collaborative dances.



World Language

- Kindergarteners are starting to learn about family members and pets in Spanish. We will be sharing if our family is big or small.
- In 1st grade, we are learning about the different places in our school and connecting to activities we do there.
- 2nd and 4th graders are learning about body parts and healthy activities!
- 3rd graders are learning about family and pets that they have or want.



Technology and Library News

TECHNOLOGY

4th- At the end January we had some great discussions on why we learn to code. Now, we are reviewing coding terminology and given algorithms to see what the main focus is in that algorithm. After our review we will be working with code.org for students to continue to build their confidence on coding.

3rd- Now that we have completed working with Micro.bits we are now looking into code.org as well. We will start out by reviewing some of our coding terminology then students will have the opportunity to use code.org on their own. This is also an opportunity for students to teach others what they have discovered they can do and show classmates. We will also spend some of our time on building our typing skills.

2nd- We've used our problem solving skills to see if we could write an algorithm to have Dash move in a square or even rectangle. We too, will be moving onto code.org to work on our coding skills more on an individual basis.

1st- Now that we have mastered what an algorithm is and introduced other terminology we as well will be focusing on code.org. Students will be challenged to write the correct algorithm in their program before they can move onto the next level.

K- We have been introduced with coding terminology such as algorithm, sequencing, looping with our Dash robots. We've had the opportunity to work in groups to help strengthen our knowledge of how to use our devices with the robots. In February, we are going to finish up our coding with code.org.

Mrs. Condra



LIBRARY

In the library, we discover new books; ask questions; and find the answers to our wonderings.

4th Grade: Fourth graders continue to learn about "wickedly clever" animal defenses, including a frog whose claws are bones that pierce its own skin.

3rd Grade: Third graders are working on choosing the most interesting facts for themselves in nonfiction texts, thinking about what more they want to learn, and deciding where they will look first to find their answers. Among other topics, we are learning about rare and unusual frog species to connect with their research in their classrooms.

2nd Grade: Second graders are building on their classroom knowledge of paleontology and practicing asking questions about famous paleontologists such as Sue Hendrickson and O.C. Marsh.

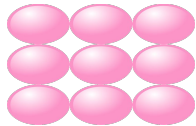
1st Grade: First Graders are practicing noticing details in nonfiction books. If you could trade your ears for an animal's ears, which animal ears would you choose? We like okapi and meerkat ears.

Kindergarten: We continue to expand our knowledge and practice asking questions about what we read. Recent shared books include *Ten Ways to Hear Snow* and *When Cloud Became a Cloud*.

- Mrs. Timmins

Greetings, Netherwood Knoll Families!

Here is the third installment of our focus on math fact fluency and ideas for how to practice outside of school! Jennifer Bay-Williams & Gina Kling who wrote Math Fact Fluency: 60+ games and Tools to Support Learning and Retention, note that procedural fluency is the ability to compute numbers with accuracy (getting the correct answer), efficiency (reasonable time & strategy selection), and flexibility (apply and/or adapt strategy to new problems). This month's focus is on foundational fact sets for multiplication and division and a sample game or strategy is provided for each. Enjoy!

This Month's Focus:	Foundational Fact Sets for Multiplication/Division Math Fact Fluency
Why?	.Foundational fact sets are “sets of facts that illustrate a specific pattern or number relationship” (Williams & Kling, pg. 9). When learners can see the relationships and patterns within and between basic facts, they are strengthening their foundational number sense and their ability to think deeply about numbers and strategies. This leads to better recall of facts versus relying on rote memorization with no meaning.
x/\div 2s, 5s, 10s	These 3 fact sets are foundational because learners have a lot of exposure in younger grades through skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s, addition doubles and working with our base-ten systems for place value. Capture 5 First
Special Properties: 1s and 0s	These 2 fact sets can be confusing for learners, so starting with x2, x10, x5 is the best place to start. Drawing a quick sketch helps learners to visualize that a number x 1 really means 1 <u>group of</u> the given number. Similarly, using stories and drawing a picture to represent a problem times zero is helpful. For example, 0 x 3 could be 3 empty trash cans, how many pieces of trash - drawing 3 bins with no pieces of trash can help learners see that the product/answer is 0.
Square Numbers	Drawing an array, such as this 3 x 3 shown below, helps learners to quickly see why these facts are called square products and can observe their patterns. 

I hope you have found a few ideas to try with your learner. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information or resources. My email address is jas3@oregonsd.net

Source: Math Fact Fluency: 60+ games and Tools to Support Learning and Retention by Williams & Kling, 2019