



The Timberwolf Times

March 2026

A message from the Principal

It is hard to believe that we are at Spring Break. Once students return, the rest of the school year will fly by!

I am super proud of how hard our 3rd-5th graders worked on IAR this month. It is very difficult to take 6 tests, but they truly tried hard. We will anxiously await the results of IAR and make plans to better serve our students and ensure everyone grows and excels in reading and math.



When students return from Spring Break, we will hit the ground running getting students ready for to move on to their next grade level. Teachers are working hard, carefully designing instruction to meet students where they are at to increase their growth and achievement. Thank you in advance for ensuring students come to school every day, ready to learn!

Please be on the lookout for communication about end-of-year events in the next few weeks!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Del Toro



Kindergarten

Hello Kindergarten Families!

During March we will have our Spring Parent Teacher Conferences.

Students will start Spring Break on March 30, 2026.

During the month of March, we will be working on the following units:

Amplify Knowledge:

Students will continue to work on Unit #7 Kings & Queens students will listen to read-alouds about kings and queens.

Mid- march students will start to work on Unit #8 Seasons and Weather. In this unit students will learn about the concept of weather. Students will learn that different regions of Earth experience different weather patterns throughout the year. They will also learn that we can think about a year and the related weather patterns in terms of four seasons: winter, spring, summer, and autumn. Students will also learn why knowing about the weather is important, and how weather affects our daily lives and activities.

UFLI:

Students are working on Phonemic Awareness, blending, letter formation, letter sounds, letter names, CVC words, VC words, vowels, short vowels and long vowels.

Eureka Math:

Students will continue working Math Module #4. In this unit students will work on Compositions and Decompositions of 2, 3, 4, and 5, Decompositions of 6, 7, and 8 into Number Pairs, Addition with Totals of 6, 7, and 8, Subtraction from Numbers to 8, Decompositions of 9 and 10 into Number Pairs, Addition with Totals of 9 and 10, Subtraction from 9 and 10, and Patterns with Adding 0 and 1 and Making 10. Students will work on this unit till the end of this month.

In monolingual class for BUF students are working on:

UNIT # 3: Force and motion

In this month-long unit, students will plan, conduct, and analyze force and motion with the focus on push, pull, speed and direction. Students will also be using the scientific method while conducting their performance task of creating the fastest slide. Students will transfer this learning and be able to analyze data, develop a visual representation and ask questions.

In our one-way dual classrooms, we are working on:

Lectoescritura:

Students will start to work on Unit #7. In unit #7 students will learn consonant clusters, "dr, bl, pl, fl, kl, and gl. And 12 new high frequency words. Students will work on this unit till mid-April.

The kindergarten teachers,

Ms. Pinto, Ms. Morrison, and Mrs. Calderón.



1st Grade

Hello 1st Grade Families,

During language arts we are working on blending and segmenting words to help us with our daily writing. In addition, we are also working on our fluency and reading comprehension skills.

In our Knowledge Unit we are studying The History of the Earth. Students will learn the features of the earth's surface and characteristics of its layers. First graders will also learn about the North and South Poles and the equator.

In math we continue to work on Module 4. We have been learning how to use our knowledge of place value to compare numbers using greater than, less than and equal to symbols. First graders are also using the making ten strategy for addition of numbers to 40. We will also be learning how to use tape diagrams to solve story problems.

We hope everybody has a wonderful Spring Break!



2nd Grade

During March we will have our Spring Parent Teacher Conferences.

Students will start Spring Break on March 30, 2026.

During the month of March, we will be working on the following units:

Amplify Knowledge:

Students will learn about the causes that led up to the Civil War and the time line of the Civil War. They will learn about historical figures and how they impacted the country at that time.

Eureka Math:

Students will continue to learn the foundational skills for multiplication and division. They will be working with columns/rows, arrays and repeated addition.

In the monolingual class for BUF students are working on Habitats.



3rd Grade

Hello 3rd grade families!

Literacy: We are in the middle of Unit 7, which is all about astronomy. The students are learning a lot of facts about our solar system. They are reading informational texts with grade level vocabulary words. Ask them to tell you some facts about astronomy that they have learned about. They are also taking this information to compare/contrast facts in their informational summaries.

Math: We are currently in Module 5 which focuses on fractions. It is important that students use academic language such as: numerator, denominator, partition, part and whole. Students should understand that the numerator is the part and the denominator is the whole. Students will soon need to compare fractions by determining which ones are bigger than others. Understanding division is a great way to understand fractions. Please try and find fractions using real world experiences (example: cooking). It is also very important that students are still practicing their math facts at least 10 minutes per night.

We know that students have just had many difficult days doing IAR. It's a very challenging time of year but we are very proud of our students for working so hard. We also know that spring break is right around the corner. Due to both, students are very distracted and unfocused. It is very important that students get plenty of rest, are limited to technology and ready to focus at school. This will ensure that they finish the year strong doing their best work.

We look forward to seeing many of our families at spring parent/teacher conferences on Tuesday, March 17.

Ms. Carrasco, Mrs. Gorgas, Mrs. Mojica



4th Grade

Hello 4th Grade Families!

In literacy, we have finished up our Geology: Earth's Changing Surface unit. Our next unit is The American Revolution. In this unit, students will focus on what caused the thirteen North American colonies to break away and become an independent nation. Students will learn about the important events and

people that led to the colonists' decision to declare independence from the British government. They will also read two literary selections from that time period. Students will review the stages of the writing process and will engage in a variety of writing activities, such as recording key information from what they are reading about the American Revolution. These activities will prepare them to write a five-paragraph cause-and-effect essay focused on what they have learned.

In math, students continue to explore fraction equivalence and extend this understanding to mixed numbers. They continue to compare and represent fractions and mixed numbers using a variety of models. Toward the end of the module, they will use what they know to be true about whole number operations to apply to fractions and mixed number operations.

In Science, we are finishing up our unit on Earth's Changing Surface and Earthquakes. Students explore different topics about fossils, volcanoes, and earthquakes through engaging conversations and experiments.

This year, students will also get the opportunity to represent IK at our district's STEM Fair. Students will work in groups to construct a bridge or building that can withstand an earthquake. Students will use their knowledge that they learned in Amplify and science to help determine the best supports and designs for their bridge or building. The winning teams will get the opportunity to represent IK at our district's STEM Fair on April 28th at Lemay Middle School from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. More information to come once the date gets closer.



5th Grade

Hello 5th grade Families!

Here are some updates for the content we are teaching the second trimester:

Eureka Math Grade 5 Module 4 focuses on extending student understanding of fraction operations to multiplication and division, along with multiplying decimals. Over 38 days, students move from interpreting data on line plots to multiplying fractions by fractions/whole numbers, interpreting fractions as division, and dividing unit fractions by whole

numbers, using visual models like tape diagrams and area models.

Unit 6 of Amplify's Grade 5 curriculum introduces students to Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, focusing on themes of love, magic, and confusion. Throughout the unit, students will learn about and focus on characters and plot, Shakespearean language, and elements of drama.

In science students will be learning about Interacting Earth Systems. Students will learn about the four major Earth systems, the atmosphere (air), hydrosphere (water), geosphere (land and rocks), and biosphere (living things). Students will also explore how these systems are interconnected and constantly influence one another. Through class discussions and hands-on activities, students will examine processes such as the water cycle, weather patterns, erosion, and natural events to understand how changes in one system can impact the others.



Primary Cross-Cat

Hello Families!

In March, we will begin our new science unit focused on light and sound. Students will explore how light helps us see and how different light sources affect the way objects appear. We will also investigate sound—how it is made, how it travels, and how it can be made louder or softer. Throughout the unit, we will continue building our comprehension skills and practice writing about the sounds we hear in our environment.

In math, we are focusing on shapes, equal parts, more/less and continue different levels of math/subtraction according to individual learning ability. We will also introduce the basics of telling time.

Students will start Spring Break on March 30, 2026.



Intermediate Cross-Cat

In March, we will begin our new science unit focused on light and sound. Students will explore how light helps us see and how different light sources affect the way objects appear. We will also investigate sound—how it is made, how it travels, and how it can be made louder or softer. Throughout the unit, we will continue building our comprehension skills and practice writing about the sounds we hear in our environment.

In math, we are focusing on shapes and equal parts, learning how parts come together to make a whole as we begin introducing basic fraction concepts. Later in the month, we will transition into learning about clocks and telling time.



Art

In Kindergarten, students have been learning about narrative art. We read stories such as *I'm Not Just a Scribble* and *Color Monster* for inspiration. Students will create their own narrative art using subject and background.

In 1st grade, we are creating clay sculptures! This year, students had a choice between clay turtles or pinchpots. Soon, students will paint their clay projects and take them home.

In 2nd grade, students are learning about art museums and art curation. We have been analyzing art history, different art subjects, and art movements in order to complete a small curating activity.

In 3rd grade, students have been learning about embroidery! Students learned how to prepare their own embroidery hoops using burlap. Students will complete an embroidery project using the backstitch and the satin stitch.

In 4th grade, students are collaborating! Students will be creating an artwork of their choice with a partner. Before collaborating, students completed a partner interview to learn more about their partner in order to combine ideas to create a unique artwork.

In 5th grade, we learned about different art movements such as pop art and street art. Students analyzed and responded to artworks by Andy Warhol and Jean Michel Basquiat in their sketchbooks. Students had a choice to explore either art movement with new materials such as paint markers to mimic bright and bold colors, as well as expressive drawing.



Music

Happy Music in Our School Month!

5th graders have been enjoying a March Madness competition using decades of music. We will listen to music from the 1950's-2020's and voted which songs we liked best and why.

4th graders are learning how to read music on the treble staff and playing the recorder. I am so proud of how much they are progressing!

3rd graders know all about the 4 families of the symphony orchestra!! Strings, Brass, Woodwinds and Percussion are the families we have studied and listened to during March.

They can identify instruments by sight and timbre (sound).

K-2nd graders enjoyed dancing Rakes of Mallow, an Irish folk dance, together and learning about Irish Dance.

We are exploring classroom percussion instruments and can identify them by sight and timbre.



P.E.

In March K-2nd grade students will be working on fitness runs outside, as well as, fitness games and locomotor skills(Gallop, skip and slide)

3rd-5th Grade will be completing their fitnessgram testing(Push ups, sit ups, pacer test and sit and reach test)

5th Grade students will also begin preparing for the District 33 track meet in May.

Please remember students need proper Gym shoes for P.E. (No Sandals or Crocs) Wearing comfortable clothes is important as well.



Library

We have been racing to finish both our Illinois Monarch Reader's Choice Award Nominees and our Illinois Bluestem Reader's Choice Award Nominees. Students are voting for their favorite the week of March 9th-13th. I will tally our votes from Indian Knoll and submit them to the voting committee. Then we wait anxiously to find out which Author and Illustrator wins for their title. We are also doing a couple Author studies, in preparation for our Author visits in April. We are lucky to be having Tom Watson and Amy Logan come to talk with our students about writing and illustrating.

SEL

In SEL/Health Class students continue to learn about social behavior.

Kindergarten-Second: Students are learning to differentiate between positive and negative behavior in the classroom and how it impacts others.

Third-Fifth: Students are learning about how to resolve conflicts positively.



Upcoming Events



- **March 27th-** ALL REGISTRATIONS SHOULD BE COMPLETED
- **March 27th-April 3rd-** NO SCHOOL- Spring Break
- **April 9th-** April PTO Meeting (Virtual-5:30-6:00)
- **April 10th-** Smile Squad at IK
- **April 20th-** Midterms for Trimester 3
- **April 25th-** Día del Niño Event (11-1pm)
- **May 4th-8th-** Staff Appreciation Day!
- **May 12th-** Kinder Round-Up (incoming Kinders for 26-27 SY)
- **May 12th-** IK Chorus Concert (6:30-7:00)
- **May 14th-** May PTO Meeting (Virtual-5:30-6:00)
- **May 15th-** NO SCHOOL- PD Day
- **May 22nd-** 5th Grade Track Meet
- **May 25th-** NO SCHOOL- Memorial Day Holiday
- **May 27th-** D33 Orchestra Concert @ WCCHS (6:00-8:00pm)
- **May 28th-** D33 Band Concert @ WCCHS (6:00-8:00pm)



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Principal, Indian Knoll Elementary School

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