

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing break and returns to school rested and ready to return to a year full of fun and excitement that a new year brings to us each year.

We are starting off our new year in school with grade level assemblies recognizing our students' achievements during a challenging school year. It has been some time since we gathered to celebrate together, and the staff and students are looking forward to cheering on their friends in one of our popular traditions we hold at Ed Smith. I was able to visit classrooms in December to hand out awards and it was an exciting time for our students once again.

We also are excited to announce that we will hold our Winter concert during the month of January. To ensure safety and social distancing, we will hold the concert at Nottingham High School on January 27 at 6pm. There will be more details coming from our Music department staff soon, so stay tuned. We are very excited to be able to bring back another tradition for our families and students.

As we move into 2022, we will be planning more in school events for our students. I will be meeting with students to hear what they would like to see happening at Ed Smith school that brings joy, engagement and fun that has been missing since Covid began. We are looking for ways to make school fun once again and give something for our students to look forward to. It is greatly needed.

We will also be planning some virtual parent events to help you learn about your child's testing data and how you can help your child at home. Information will be coming soon.

Our PTO is planning a free book give-away this month and I would like to thank the PTO for their efforts. Slowly, we are bringing back our traditions and grateful for the support of the enthusiastic PTO team. The next PTO meeting will be on January 20th at 7 pm on Zoom.

We celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, January 17th – there is no school that day. So be sure to mark your calendars and enjoy the day off from school in his honor. There will be local events on volunteering in the community on the news.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for their support this past year. We certainly continue to face challenges brought by Covid and the new variants. We will continue to work with you through these difficult times and try to bring as much normalcy as we can to Ed Smith School as we enter 2022. Happy New Year from all of us at Ed Smith School!

All the best,

Mr. Barber

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4 Special Education Parent/ Council Meeting 5pm	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Dr. Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL	18	19	20 Virtual PTO Meeting 7pm	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Winter Concert @ Nottingham 6pm	28	29
30	31					

Family Corner

January's Recipe:

Snowman Kabobs



Ingredients: Bananas, an apple, mini chocolate chips, pretzel sticks, skewers

How to: Cut the bananas into thick slices, Trim the apple in a triangle for the hat. To assemble, thread three slices of banana on a skewer, followed by the apple hat. Press on chocolate chips into the bananas for eyes and buttons, place the pretzel sticks into the sides of the banana for arms. Enjoy!



Homemade Snow Globes:

What you need: A jar, clear glue, water, glitter, a figurine or decoration.

How to: Place the lid facing upward and create the snow globes scene.

Fill the jar with cold water

Add about a teaspoon of glitter and clear glue.

Screw the top onto the jar (or glue it for more security)

School Spotlights:

Third Grade:

Happy New Year!!! We are off and running with the coming of a new year. We started off by looking at data and setting goals for Reading & Math first thing when we returned from break. The students will be working hard to achieve their goals, please ask them to tell you about them at home as well.

We are excited to begin a new ELA and Humanities unit. Our new reading unit is on Biographies. We will be learning about some interesting and influential figures throughout this unit. One big focus is how a person overcomes obstacles and succeeds. We hope students will enjoy learning about these people and will be inspired by their stories too. Students should be reading at home for 20 minutes each night. Please ask questions after your child reads to check for understanding- who, what, where, why & how are always good questions to start with.

We are continuing our Baby Literature unit in Writing. Before vacation we worked on making a claim and supporting our claim with evidence and reasoning from the story Fox. Now, students will choose a story from five choices to read on their own or in small groups. After reading the story they choose, students will make a claim about the character in the story and support their claim with evidence and reasoning from their story.

In math, we will continue working in 3rd grade Module 2. We are [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

answering one and two step word problems involving rounding, and measurement. Students are building fluency with adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers with and without regrouping. At home, student should continue completing homework sent home along with practicing their multiplication facts. Third grade students must know multiplication facts 0-10 by the end of third grade in order to be successful in fourth grade. Please use flash cards to practice every night- they need to know them and know them quickly!! Old fashioned flash cards work well, or you can use websites:

<http://www.factmonster.com> and <http://mathfactspro.com/#/home>

When we return, we will continue to try and take students outside for a 15 minute recess. Please make sure your child has boots, snow pants, hats, and gloves, along with a warm coat. We appreciate your help.

Students will not have school on Monday, January 17, 2022 in honor of Martin Luther King.

The Third Grade Team

Fourth Grade:

ELA- The fourth grade classes are now in their Humanities unit called A Changing New York. We are learning about the fight for freedom and equal rights during the 1800's. We are reading and investigating primary and secondary sources. We are reading about influential people like Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglas, and Harriet Tubman and their role in the evolution of New York State. We are also learning about the Women's Suffrage Movement and its ties to New York State. We will read stories about Susan B. Anthony, Ida B. Wells and President Wilson and compare them to a few primary resources. At the same time, in Writing, students are writing their own informational texts. They have been given choices of topics related to the ELA curriculum. They are including text features and creating an opinion page where they will make a claim and support it with evidence from various sources.

Math- Students are now in the thick of our multiplication and division unit. Students are being exposed to the standard algorithms for both operations. They are supported with work on place value charts, use of manipulatives and multiplication tables. They are solving single and multi-step word problems that include larger numbers. Students will also begin to work with two-digit by two-digit multiplication. We begin with area models and move to the standard algorithm while solving word problems.

Once our writing unit concludes, students will begin the science unit on Electricity and Magnets. This part of the curriculum includes open and closed circuits, magnetic force, electromagnets and simple machines.

Sumell's 4th/5th grade class

Math: In addition to differentiated skills work aimed at addressing students' individual needs, we have just completed a unit on Place Value. The students worked hard and enjoyed using digital representation and concrete manipulatives to facilitate their understanding. After the break we will review number sense skills and begin a unit that focuses on Comparing Numbers.

ELA: We have completed The American Revolution Unit and will start the "A Changing New York" unit after the holiday break. Social Studies standards are also addressed in the Humanities block. Students are making progress with their reading using the Edmark whole word reading program and Wilson activities.

Writing: Students have just completed narrative piece about entitled "The Best Present is. . ." and continue to work on grammar and punctuation using ULS materials in conjunction with other materials. Writing standards are also addressed in the Humanities Unit and in Science.

Science: Students will be starting a unit entitled "Bringing History to Life", which is aligned with "A Changing NY")

Fifth Grade:

This month in Humanities Students will become familiar with the concept of Human Rights and how these rights or lack thereof can change stories both fictional and in real life. Students will explore how in a world without human rights, characters and people are consistently challenged. Students will read the novel Esperanza Rising throughout this unit. In math, we will begin Module 3 titled Addition and Subtraction of Fractions. In this module, students' understanding of addition and subtraction of fractions will be extended from earlier work with fraction equivalence. Students will learn these skills in both whole group and personalized learning small group settings. This month in science we dive into our next seven week long unit, titled Mixtures and Solutions. Throughout the unit, students will expand their understanding of matter being made of particles too small to be seen and that matter is conserved when it changes state. This will be taught through the following investigations: Separating Mixtures, Concentration, Reaching Saturation, and Fizz Quiz.