

# Hemlock Creek Elementary School Headlines

February 2019



Mrs. Kathleen Held, Principal

Mr. Michael Kowalczyk, Associate Principal

## Principal's News

### Reading Levels - You're Not a Level, You're a Reader!

Reading levels were created as a teaching tool for assessment and instruction. Teachers choose books at different reading levels to help support readers in their reading development. Books at certain levels have specific characteristics and complexity. For example, A and B level books offer patterned text and have limited sight words. Early readers, levels D-I, support strategy work for monitoring for meaning and structure, monitoring for visual information, and reading and writing 60-80 sight words. Word length, syllable count, word frequency, sentence length, and text length are all factors that impact a text's complexity. Teachers work to choose books at levels to support the strategies students are working on.

As a parent, do not worry about the level your child is at. Reading is not about trying to climb the "level ladder". Reading should be about enjoyment! Often students may be in a range rather than one specific level. The level of text that a student can read depends on multiple factors. Your child's interest and background knowledge can influence their ability to read at a certain level, and know that text leveling is not a perfect science. When students complete a running record with their teacher, it is one snapshot in time and may not give us an entire picture. Student interest and what the student brings to the text first (background knowledge, vocabulary), can also make a difference.

As educators, we use text levels as one tool to help students work towards independence with fluency, accuracy, and comprehension. We want students to be successful with the books they are reading. If they are reading a book that is too hard then fluency, accuracy, and comprehension break down. Parents and educators need to make sure there is not an overemphasis on levels. If overused, a reader's identity can fade as they learn to identify themselves with a letter or number. Overemphasis can eliminate student choice and often levels can be misunderstood. Remember that book levels are instructional tools for teachers who understand them, nothing more. Help your child to choose books that interest and engage them.

*Kathleen Held, Proud Principal*

### Volunteer Background Checks

If you would like to be a volunteer in the classrooms or go on fieldtrips, please complete a volunteer application form that includes a background check. These are available in the school office. An approved background check must be on file before you can work with students. Any background checks approved in 2016-2018 are still valid. You do not need to apply again for this year. Volunteer forms will not be processed after **March 15, 2019**. Parent volunteers help to make Hemlock Creek a great place for our students each day.

### Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00 pm. These conferences will be scheduled first by teachers for students who may have missed the October conference date or for students where an update of progress needs to occur. Teachers will be contacting some families and then there will be limited time slots available for other conferences. Online scheduling will be open on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 a.m. The online schedule link will close on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at noon. There will be a link on the Hemlock Creek website. Mrs. Lynn, Mrs. Linsen, Mrs. Hebl and Mrs. Madala will not be available for these scheduled conferences.

### Student Fees for 2018-2019

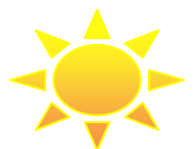
We are still collecting student fees (4K - 5) for all students whose parents have not paid or have not received an approved waiver due to free or reduced lunch status. Checks can be written to West De Pere School District. Please send payment to the office. 4K - \$15.00, Grades K & 1 - \$40.00, Grades 2-5 - \$45.00. Unpaid fees follow the student from year to year through graduation.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Barnes and Noble Event**  
**Saturday, March 2, 2019**  
**10 AM - 1 PM**

**Save the Date!**  
**Summer School 2019**

**June 12<sup>th</sup> - July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

This year's classes will be held at Hemlock Creek and West De Pere High School.



## PTO

Please join me in welcoming our new PTO Vice President, Katie Weibrecht! She will be taking over duties in March. Katie has three boys in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 4K. We're excited to have her as part of our team!

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm. Our guest presenter will be Mrs. Dawn Schaefer, our school nurse. She will be reviewing important information such as when to keep your child home from school due to illness and when it's safe to send them back. She will also share some clues to help parents distinguish between a cold, the flu, and whooping cough. As always, we will meet upstairs in the school library.

Remember that there is free babysitting provided at all of our meetings. Stay warm!

- Sarah Lisowe, PTO President

**Amazon Smile:** Do you shop Amazon? If so, you can be giving back to our school just by shopping! If you choose to support Hemlock Creek Elementary PTO your eligible purchases will give back a percentage to the school. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for details or email Wendy Schaub at [wjschaub@yahoo.com](mailto:wjschaub@yahoo.com) for questions. Program details can also be found [here](#).

**SCRIP:** SCRIP is a great easy way to earn money for the PTO. By purchasing gift cards (SCRIP) to places you already shop, a percentage comes back to your school! You should have received an order form recently in your child's take-home folder. You may also place an order any time by emailing Dee Dee Zwicky at [ddzwicky@yahoo.com](mailto:ddzwicky@yahoo.com). Cards are also available at PTO meetings.

**Box Tops:** Please keep clipping and saving your box tops! We have another collection drive coming up in March. Each box top collected is ten cents to the school - easy money! Watch for more information next month.

**PTO contact:** For questions, information, or inquiries about ways to get involved, please contact Sarah Lisowe at [slisowe@gmail.com](mailto:slisowe@gmail.com).

## Phantastic Phantom Traveling Trophy News

In January, the classrooms focused on transitioning from lunch to class at a voice level of 0/1 and keeping their hands to themselves.

K- Mrs. Raschke	1- Mrs. Kussow	2- Ms. Weber	3- Mrs. Budek	4- Mrs. May	5- Mrs. Goodman
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The next lesson was on using please and thank you throughout the day. The decision on which classroom receiving the traveling trophy was difficult because so many classrooms were respectful. The following six rooms were recognized.

K- Mrs. Neuens	1- Mrs. Lambrecht	2- Mrs. Linssen	3- Mrs. Wisneski	4- Ms. Schwanke	5- Ms. Smith
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The final lesson for this newsletter was on organizing their lockers. Students were able to place their jackets, snow pants, boots and other stuff in an organized fashion.

K- Mrs. Raschke	1- Mrs. Erdmann	2- Mrs. Bixby	3- Mrs. Krahn	4- Mr. Janquart	5- Mrs. Melichar
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## Be Safe! Parking Reminders

The front circle area must remain moving before and after school. IT IS AN EMERGENCY LANE and there is NO PARKING OR WAITING. It provides access to the building in case of an emergency and must remain clear for everyone's safety. If you are waiting for your child at the end of the day, please park in the designated parking areas. To the north of the building, there is a bus lane. There is no parking in this lane as well. Thank you for helping us keep our children safe.

To the north of the building, there is a bus lane. There is NO PARKING in this lane. This may be a bit more inconvenient for you, but thank you for helping us keep our children safe.



- Please drop off children at the curbside only in the semi-circle drive.
- Do not PARK or WAIT in the semi-circle drive area - it is a FIRE LANE.
- Always pull as far forward as you can and drive slowly and cautiously at all times.
- **For safety reasons, please cross at designated crosswalks.**

Please be patient and extend courtesy to other drivers. Your cooperation is appreciated for the safety of all children.

## Inclement Weather

Please remember to listen to local radio or television stations for school delays, early closing, and cancellations. Information is also shared via School Messenger. Please do not call the school unless it is an emergency. Calling the schools hinder our efforts to communicate the news effectively. Parents are asked to have alternate plans for their children's supervision and care in the event school is closed early due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Remember that buses will probably run a little late when the roads are in poor condition.

## 5 Year Old Kindergarten Registration Information

If you know of any students who are not enrolled in our 4K program but will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2019, please attend registration on **Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:30-7:30 p.m.** The registration will be held at the **Phantom Knight School of Opportunity**. The address is 400 Reid St. and it is located on the second floor of the building.

*For registration you need to bring your child's birth certificate, their immunization record, and proof of residency such as a utility bill or lease agreement.*

## NOTES FROM THE NURSE

### Attention 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents

#### Immunization Requirements for Students Entering 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

The Wisconsin Student Immunization law requires that all students entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade receive a dose of Tdap vaccine. To be compliant with the school law, parents must provide their student's school with proof of immunization or claim a waiver.

- **What is Tdap?** Tdap is a vaccine that protects against Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (whooping cough).
- **What do Parents need to do?** Have your child vaccinated with Tdap vaccine if he or she has not already received the vaccine or to claim a waiver for health, religious or personal convictions reasons.
- **Return** the completed Student Immunization Record to your student's school

For more information about the Wisconsin Student Immunization Law, visit the Wisconsin immunization website at [www.dhfs.state.wi.us/immunization](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/immunization). Please feel free to call our District Nurse if you have any questions at (920) 425-1900 ext. 8031.

### Oral Health Partnership

**Friendly Dental Reminder:** Oral Health Partnership wants your child to stay warm this winter, wearing hats, scarves and gloves... but don't forget about their smile: they are never fully dressed without it! Call us to schedule their routine cleaning and exam at (920) 965-0831.

## Kids Heart Challenge

Our school is proud to partner with the American Heart Association for the Kids Heart Challenge (formerly known as Jump Rope for Heart). During the week of February 11-15, 2019, our students will be having fun learning about their heart with the Heart Heroes while raising money to help fund lifesaving research. The fundraising component is completely optional and all students participate in our event with or without raising funds. Our school goal is to raise \$20,000, and in addition to helping the American Heart Association, our school can earn free PE equipment. Students can earn their own Heart Hero Characters this year by using the new mobile app (download the KHC app) or by visiting <http://www.heart.org/kidsheartchallenge> to sign up and raise money online! Just for signing up to save lives, your students will earn a glow in the dark wristband! PLUS this year, the mobile app unlocks even more fun and the Heart Heroes and wristband come to life! We are strongly encouraging donations to be made online to avoid having cash sent to school with students. All donations are due on Friday, February 15. Informational packets will be coming home with your students the week of January 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for helping a great cause! Questions? Contact Mrs. Luebke, Hemlock Creek Elementary's Kids Heart Challenge Coordinator @ [kluebke@wdpsd.com](mailto:kluebke@wdpsd.com)



## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest Winners

**First place winners:** Colton Neuens, Natalie Oates, Braelynn Rukamp, Paige Olmsted, Kayla Bevers, Sydney Reis, Tristan Wadzinski, Erik Bouchard, Alexa Rattray, Carter Maus, and Allie Henry. Carter Maus had the first ever perfect

**Second place winners:** Jack O'Brien, Riley Mertens, Sara Yaklin, Vanessa Lindsley, Tristan Lindemann, Emerson Marsden, Maleigh Cornelius, Cash Dantzman, and Johannah Rezash.



## Spelling Bee

Congratulations to the following students who emerged from each grade level as spelling bee winners: Eliza Devos, Kennedy Hogan, Levi Britton, Meg Bethke, Sam Rottier, and Lucy Suarez. These grade 3-5 finalists moved forward on January 18<sup>th</sup> to compete with Westwood students (Grades 3-5) and Middle School students (Grades 6-8). The Hemlock Creek finalist, Sam Rottier, will move forward to represent our school at the Regional Competition on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Edison Middle School.

## VFW Post 2113 and Auxiliary Patriotic Art Contest

Congratulations to Brezdan Schaub (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), Hadley Berken (1<sup>st</sup> Place), and Gemma Greivell (3<sup>rd</sup> Place) for winning the VFW Post 2113 and Auxiliary coloring contest. Each child received a certificate, ribbon, and check! Great job!



## Open Enrollment

Wisconsin's public school enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live. Open enrollment application dates for the 2019-2020 school year are February 4<sup>th</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. If you have moved out of the district, and wish for your child to remain at the West De Pere Schools, please pick up an Open Enrollment Application and Change of Address form at the school office or at the District Office. By state law, the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline cannot be extended. The State will not allow any exceptions to this timeline.

For more information, please visit the open enrollment website (below) or pick up a brochure from the school office. <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Read Across America

Celebrate Read Across America Day on March 1st! This annual reading motivation and awareness program celebrates reading and the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Hemlock Creek will be celebrating with visits from the popular children's book character Fly Guy and celebrating the whole month with reading activities. Watch for more information to come home soon!

### Family Book Club

Our Family Book Club will be reading *Nim's Island* this Spring! If you are participating we look forward to reading and discussing this book with your family! If you have ideas for future books that have a movie to go along with them we would love to hear your suggestions!

### Battle of the Books

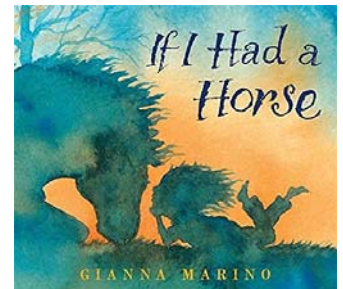
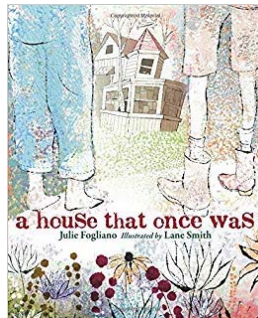
Many 5th graders are currently participating in Battle of the Books. It has been awesome to hear about all the great books the kids found out they like because of reading it for this enrichment activity.

Battles are taking place now and the winning team from Hemlock Creek will take a test online to battle against teams from all over Wisconsin!

### Mock Caldecott

K-3 students learned about the Caldecott Medal in library and will be participating in a Mock Caldecott Award. They are listening to several books during library in the next few weeks and then will be voting on which of these books they think has the best illustrations. We will find out in February which book won the real Caldecott Award and it is always fun to compare to the book the kids choose as the Hemlock Creek winner!

The books the Hemlock Creek kids will be voting on are: *Drawn Together*, *Ocean Meets Sky*, *A House that Once Was*, *Sleep Train*, and *If I Had a Horse*



## **Green Bay Gamblers - Dash for Cash 2019**

Submitted by Mrs. Luebke

On Saturday, January 19, 2019, Mrs. Luebke (one of our Physical Education teachers) was invited to participate in the Dash for Cash event at the Green Bay Gamblers game with 33 other area teachers. During the first intermission, the teachers were introduced as they walked out to center ice. Representatives from North Shore Bank and the Green Bay Gamblers Hockey Team gave them the signal to run onto a carpeted area with \$10,000 worth of crumpled up \$1 bills in a big pile. The teachers dove on it and stuffed it into their shirts as fast as they could until it was all gone. Mrs. Luebke was able to grab \$263 that is going to be put toward the purchase of golf equipment for PE classes. The Green Bay Gamblers also give back \$3 for every ticket purchased through the school to be put toward our golf equipment purchase. Thank you to all of the families that came out to represent Hemlock Creek Elementary!! A special thank you to the Green Bay Gamblers and North Shore Bank for sponsoring this awesome event!!





## Reminder!

Keep clipping and saving your box tops!  
We have another collection drive coming up in March!  
Each box top is 10¢ to the school and it adds up!

Box Tops aren't on as many products as they used to be,  
but you will find them on:

Cheerios™, Kix™, Golden Grahms™, etc

Yoplait® Go-Gurt, etc

Annie's® products, like fruit snacks, crackers, cookies, etc  
and selected Lysol®, Kleenex®

For complete list of products go to:

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>

We appreciate you clipping these and saving them  
for a drive we will be doing soon! Stay tuned for details!

For questions, contact Nicole Frank, [nicolemfrank@me.com](mailto:nicolemfrank@me.com) or  
Crystal Natzke, [cgnatzke@live.com](mailto:cgnatzke@live.com)



You can also earn money through the Box Top Bonus App

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