

NOVEMBER 2025

# DAYTON AVENUE SHARK BITES

## Sharing Small Pieces of Big Moments

### GIVING THANKS

**Dr. Watkis**

With Halloween behind us, our attention turns towards Thanksgiving. I often find myself reflecting on the things I'm grateful for. While it's easy to recognize the "big" aspects of our lives, we sometimes overlook the "little" ones. I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to spend my days with the wonderful individuals I encounter regularly. Working alongside a fantastic team, we witness students reaching their Widely Important Goals. I also partner with families to nurture student growth. The highlight of my day is experiencing those "Aha moments" and celebrating with students as they accomplish their goals. What are you thankful for? Who has made a difference in your life?

As we move through this year, I will share some small pieces of our big moments in our monthly newsletter and on Instagram. I hope that you will take some time to read each newsletter.

**SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S  
INSIDE:**

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# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND PBIS

## Leader in Me and PBIS

In October, we focused on Habit 1 - Be Proactive. We now shift to explicitly discussing Habit 2! As we continue to build leaders, we will discuss what it means to Begin With The End in Mind throughout November. This habit encourages us to have a plan. People who begin with the end in mind

- Plan ahead and set goals for themselves
- Are prepared at all times
- Think about how the choices they make affect their future
- Think about the positive or negative consequences of their actions before they act



We will continue to be proactive (habit 1) and demonstrate a "can-do" attitude. We will choose our own actions, attitudes and moods and we will not blame others for wrongdoing, while working on growing habit 2.

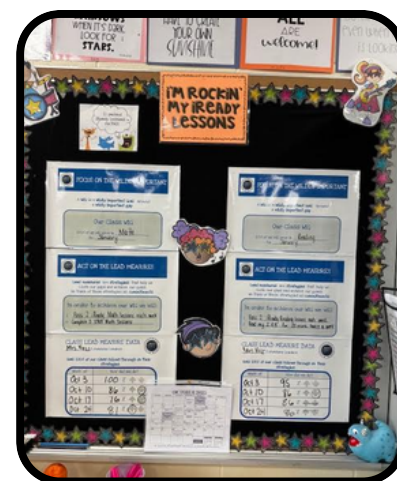
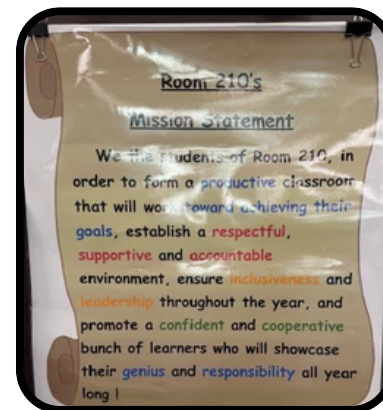


### Showcasing Our Journey with The Leader in Me

Our district recently hosted a regional event for The Leader in Me program. This gathering featured a student panel and school tours, giving participants an opportunity to observe our implementation of the program. Raegan Alp and Mackenzie Lanza proudly represented our school, sharing their authentic experiences in response to various questions. We are incredibly proud of them.



We also opened our doors to participants who chose to visit our school. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the student leaders who prepared a list of focus areas for our guests, led tours, and explained different aspects of our application of The Leader in Me. Key highlights included our work on goal setting, monitoring progress, leadership binders, leadership roles, mission statements, and accountability partners.



# CELEBRATIONS

## 3rd Grade

### **An Exciting Day for Third Graders at Brookhaven National Laboratory!**

Third grade had an exciting, hands-on field trip to Brookhaven National Laboratory! Students became real scientists for the day as they explored the fascinating world of forces, motion, magnets, and electricity. They discovered how pushes and pulls can change the speed and direction of moving objects, experimented with different types of magnets to see how magnetic forces attract and repel, and even created simple circuits to test which materials are conductors or insulators. Through each interactive station, students practiced making predictions, testing their ideas, and sharing their observations—building both their curiosity and understanding of how science connects to the world around them. It was a day full of discovery, teamwork, and fun learning!



## 4th Grade

### **Exploring the Power of Our Senses!**

Fourth graders at Dayton Avenue have been busy exploring how their brains and senses work together to help them understand the world around them! As part of their science unit, Structure, Function, and Information Processing, students took part in a hands-on lesson called “I Can Use My Senses.”

Rotating through sensory stations, they used sight, smell, touch, and sound to identify mystery objects, test reaction times, and gather evidence about how our bodies detect and process information. Through these exciting investigations, students discovered that while our senses help us take in information, it's the brain that interprets those signals, stores memories, and guides our actions. It was wonderful to see curiosity, teamwork, and critical thinking come alive as students explored the amazing connections between the body and the brain!



## 5th Grade

### **Experiencing the Natural History**

Our fifth graders had an absolute blast on their recent field trip to the Vanderbilt Museum & Planetarium! This science field trip aligned perfectly with our Science 21 curriculum, allowing students to make real-world connections to what they've been learning in class. They explored the wonders of space and discovered fascinating facts about stars, planets, and our galaxy. Students also learned about the rich history behind Mr. Vanderbilt and his beautiful estate as they walked the grounds and toured the museum. One of the most exciting parts of the trip was seeing an actual mummy! It was an engaging and memorable day filled with curiosity, learning, and fun.





## 6th Grade

### 6th Grade Science – Young Scientists on the Case!

Our 6th grade scientists have been hard at work investigating a big question: Where does the water in the air come from? To find out, they designed simulated environments—like the beach, desert, snow-covered land, a puddle, and grass—and compared them to a control. Using lamps to act as the sun and humidity probes to collect data, our young researchers measured how much water vapor each environment added to the air.

Through this investigation, students discovered how evaporation and transpiration move water into the atmosphere. By the end, they weren't just learning about the water cycle—they were living it, thinking like real scientists, and having a blast uncovering how Earth's systems work together!



## Library

Last month, our library launched a two-week project for Balloons Over Dayton. We began with a read-aloud of *Balloons Over Broadway*, where the 6th graders showcased exceptional leadership. They confidently choral read the book to their peers, demonstrating impressive teamwork, focus, and clear communication. Their enthusiasm and sense of responsibility served as an excellent model for everyone involved.

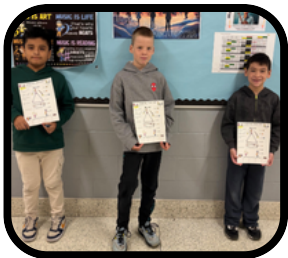
The project will continue with a two-week build in a STEAM environment. Here, students will apply their creativity and problem-solving skills to bring their balloon designs to life!



## Music

Congratulations to our musicians of the month! Keep on making music.

### Musicians of the Month



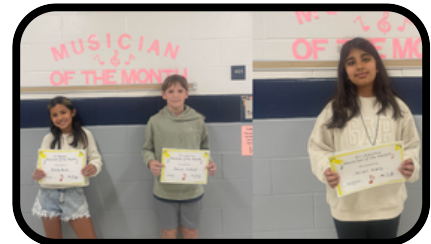
#### Band

4th Grade - Tyler Plank  
5th Grade - David Zalagaitis  
6th Grade - Edwin Munoz



#### General Music and Chorus

3rd Grade: Patrick Camilleri  
4th Grade : Kaiden Ferrufino  
5th Grade : Penelope Laino  
6th Grade: Cosette LeMelledo



#### Orchestra

4th Grade - Ariel Kang  
5th Grade - Declyn Madigan  
6th Grade - Emely Boch

## Spanish

### Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

In partnership with the art department, the Dayton FLES team designed a mural featuring student-created feathers. Each feather was adorned with a variety of colors and patterns, and each also displayed a job that the students aspired to have, expressed in Spanish.



In our 4th grade classrooms, Hispanic Heritage Month began with students exploring various Hispanic figures and their significant contributions to society. The discussion evolved as students delved into the concept of culture and its relevance in their daily lives. They began to compare cultural expressions, including those of individuals from beyond the borders of the United States.

Did you know that Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15? To end our month long celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, all students participated in an interactive Latin dance assembly.



## STEAM

With the background to the right, students moved into Tinkercad to bring designs to life, focusing on meaningful symbols and shapes that would resonate with Veterans. As they finalize their designs, they're preparing to print the pins on our 3D printers, adding a special touch of craftsmanship to their creations. When completed, these pins will be presented to Veterans, who will undoubtedly feel the appreciation and respect woven into each design. Take a look at some of the impressive works in progress!



# STAYING HEALTHY CHAT WITH NURSE GROSSKOPF

## Healthy Drinks For Children.

### Healthy Drinks for Kids SIP SMART

MANY STUDENTS ARE COMING TO SCHOOL  
WITH HIGHLY CAFFEINATED DRINKS.

**These students are complaining of a caffeine crash around 10am**

**Signs and symptoms of a caffeine crash include:**

- Headache and Dizziness
- Tiredness
- Anxiety
- Heart palpitations

### HEALTHY DRINKS FOR KIDS

- Water: The Superhero Drink
- Milk: Strong Bones
- Fruit Juice diluted with sparkling water
- Cold Herbal Teas
- Coconut Water: Nature's Sports Drink
- Chocolate Milk - is a great treat!

### MRS. G'S BERRY BANANA SMOOTHIE

Ingredients:

1/2 cup of frozen berries

1/2 banana

1/2 cup of the milk of your choice

1/4 cup plain or vanilla yogurt

1/2 tsp of honey

Put all ingredients in the blender  
and blend until smooth.

ENJOY!!!





# UPCOMING DATES

**November 4** - Schools Closed - No Student Attendance

**November 5-25** - Thanksgiving Food Drive

**November 11** - Schools & Offices Closed - Veterans Day

**November 13** - SMPTA Meeting 7pm @ DAS

**November 18** - DAS Shared Decision Meeting

**November 19** - Fall Picture Retake Day

**November 27 & 28** - Schools & Offices Closed - Thanksgiving Recess



## Attendance Matters

Our school day begins at 8:30 and ends at 2:53.

It is important that students arrive to school by 8:30 and remain in school until classes end at 2:53. Please let us know when your child(ren) will not be in school and call or send in doctor's notes so we may excuse absences for illnesses.



ParentSquare

## Communication

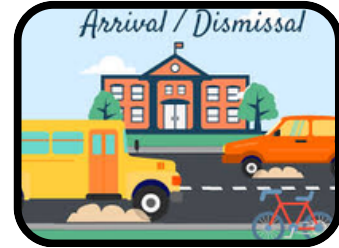
We use ParentSquare to stay in touch with our families. Download the app in the App Store or on Google play to receive important texts and other messages. You have the option of choosing how to receive information (such as text and email), when you receive them (immediately or at a set time) and in what language.



## Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast is served every day at 8:15am. All students may receive one free breakfast every day. Students may also receive one free lunch every day. A la carte items are available for purchase. Please remember to add funds to your child's account.

## REMINDERS



## Student Dropoff and Pickup

Students may be dropped off beginning at 8:15am. Students attending extra help on the day assigned by their teachers may be dropped off at 8am. Students being picked up are dismissed from the main entrance. We begin dismissing students being picked up at 2:53. Please send in a note if your child will be picked up at dismissal. Be sure to include the full name of the person picking up and that person should be prepared to show their license. All students must be picked up by 2:55. Students not picked up by 2:55 will be put on their home buses.

## Chromebooks

We use Chromebooks everyday. Students need to bring them in fully charged. Leave chargers at home. Please use your child's Chromebook to view information in their Google classroom.

