

# DAYTON AVENUE SHARK BITES

Sharing Small Pieces of Big Moments



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6th Graders - World Kindness Day

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**Dr. Watkis**

As the calendar turns to December, our communities begin to reflect the spirit of the season. This is a special time of year, not only for celebrating various holidays and traditions but also for reflecting on the progress and growth our students have made since the start of the school year. On behalf of the staff, I want to express our sincere gratitude for your continued partnership. Your involvement and support are vital to our students' success, and it's wonderful to see so many families participating in our school events.

This month, students will be engaging in seasonal-themed learning activities that promote creativity, collaboration, and cultural awareness. We encourage you to continue fostering a love of reading at home, especially during the colder evenings. A cozy blanket and a good book are a wonderful way to spend time together!

Please note the important dates for our holiday break and upcoming events listed on the last page. We hope you and your family enjoy a safe, restful, and joyful holiday season.

As we move through this year, I will continue to 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 and follow me on Instagram @principal\_das

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND PBIS

## Leader in Me and PBIS

In October we focused on Habit 1 - Be Proactive. Then we focused on Habit 2 in November - Begin With The End In Mind. In December, we will explore Habit 3 with our students. Habit 3 is all about working first, then playing. This habit encourages students to prioritize. As we discuss this habit, students will be encouraged to do the things they have to do before they do the things they want to do. Stay focused on what they are doing, minimize distractions and get back on track when necessary. Spend their time on the things that are most important, set priorities, make a schedule, follow their plan. Our students will participate in activities in class to help build this habit. Also, during our monthly assembly, students will focus on building this habit. We look forward to acknowledging those students who demonstrate this new habit. During our assembly, we will talk about Big Rocks and Little Rocks. Big Rocks are the most important things for you to do, such as spending time with your family, planning family meals, and getting an education. Little rocks are the less important things for you to do, such as watching TV for long periods of time, playing video games, or aimlessly searching the internet or social media.



## No Shave November

We held our No Shave November fundraiser assembly. The fundraiser ran through the month of November. Students were able to purchase \$1 tickets for the opportunity to shave a male faculty member or throw a pie in the face of a female faculty member and then shave her whipped cream faux hair!

After all the fun of throwing pies and shaving beards, the students at Dayton Avenue School raised over \$1400. That money was donated to the American Brain Tumor Association.



## Gobble, Gobble... Give!

This November, our Dayton Avenue community showed what it truly means to fill hearts while filling carts! Students across the school participated in our annual Turkey Trot Food Drive, bringing in cans, boxes, and pantry items to help support the local Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. With grateful hearts and generous hands, our students made a meaningful difference for families in need this Thanksgiving season.



# CELEBRATIONS

## 3rd Grade

### Save the Turkey, Eat More Pizza!

Third graders enthusiastically engaged in opinion writing to convince their families to save the turkeys and opt for more pizza this Thanksgiving! Rather than a conventional turkey dinner, students celebrated their efforts by expressing gratitude alongside their classmates and families. Their achievements as writers were highlighted as they shared their persuasive pieces.



## 4th Grade

### Fourth Graders Get Wild: Lessons in Survival from Quogue Wildlife Refuge

Fourth graders recently had an incredible hands-on science presentation which brought the classroom to life, teaching students all about the amazing animal adaptations that help creatures survive and thrive in their environments.

The students got to meet three very special guests up close and in person: Charlie the Red-Tailed Hawk: Students learned that this hunter has a built-in sun visor—bushy eyebrows that act like a baseball cap, shading the hawk's eyes on sunny days to ensure hunting success.

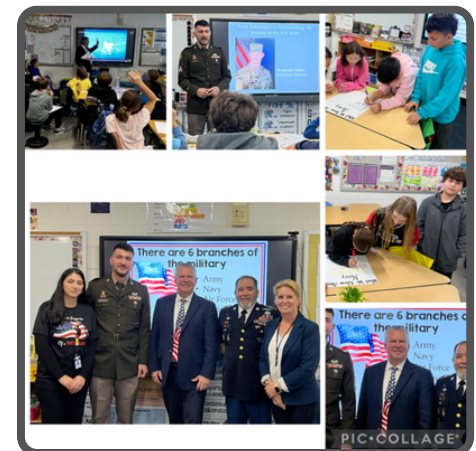
Monti the Python: This incredible snake demonstrated its "super sense." Pythons can see the heat emitted by warm-blooded animals, allowing them to locate a meal even in the dark! Sugar Blossom the Virginia Opossum: Students discovered that this unique mammal has two amazing defenses. First, compounds in its blood make it immune to venomous snake bites. Second, when terrified, its body magically takes over, causing it to "play dead"—lying stiffly and even emitting a bad smell—a perfect bluff to deter predators.



The most important takeaway for the students was a vital lesson in conservation: when you're afraid of a creature, do some research and learn about them. The more people know, the better we can care for our precious environment and protect our valuable ecosystems.

## 5th Grade

5th grade students welcomed special guest speakers, Mr. Arroyo, Mr. Griego, Mr. Bonovetz, Dr. Christie and Mr. Avdiu representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Each speaker shared real-world insights about their branch's mission, traditions, and roles in protecting the nation. Students had the opportunity to ask questions, and connect classroom learning to the experiences of those who serve. The visit not only deepened their understanding of the military but also fostered appreciation, curiosity, and respect for the men and women who dedicate their lives to service.





## 6th Grade

Sixth graders connected their grade-level novel, *Wonder*, to both World Kindness Day and the spirit of Thanksgiving. Students created festive artwork and reflected on the people in their lives who continue to warm their hearts through acts of kindness. They also wrote about how these acts of kindness inspire them to "pay it forward" and be kind to others in their daily lives. In addition, they worked together to design collaborative banners that brighten the hallway, and they exchanged thoughtful messages with their peers in celebration of World Kindness Day. Through these activities, students embraced the themes of kindness, gratitude, and community.



## Art

### Exciting Art Projects in Progress

- 3rd Grade: The students are wrapping up their fall forest collages! They discovered how to incorporate space and dimension into their artwork by designing a background, middleground, and foreground using cut paper.
- 6th Grade: The students enjoyed kicking off their printmaking unit! They explored the cultural significance of sugar skulls and crafted their own unique designs. Then, they embraced the creative chaos by using ink to transfer their designs into impressive prints!



## Library

### Falling For Gratitude

Students have been listening on their devices to a variety of books about Thanksgiving, the fall season, or the importance of having gratitude. These stories have sparked wonderful discussions and helped set a warm, reflective tone in our space.

We've also been talking a lot about what the word "gratitude" really means. Students eagerly shared how they can show appreciation—both at school and at home—and added their ideas to our "Falling for Gratitude" display. It has been wonderful to see how thoughtful and creative their contributions have been! It has been inspiring to watch their understanding deepen as we move into this season of giving thanks.





## Music

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

### Musicians of the Month Band

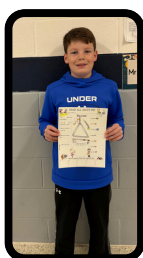
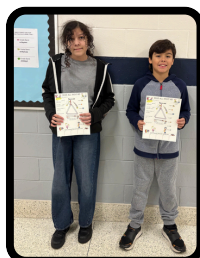
4th Grade - Felipe Goncalves  
5th Grade - Kyle Schulze  
6th Grade - Talia Galiano

### General Music and Chorus

3rd Grade: Elizabeth Anderson  
4th Grade : Noelle Rossi  
5th Grade : Derick Chamorro Tacan  
6th Grade: Olivia Sarin

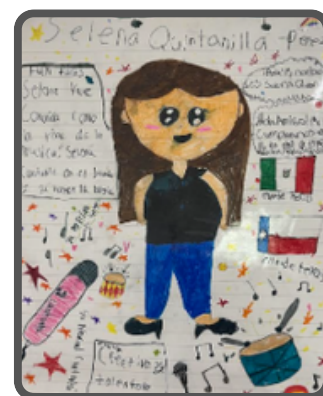
### Orchestra

4th Grade - Laia Balik Jimenez  
5th Grade - Yaney Quintanilla Moreno  
6th Grade - Sophia Pacella



## Spanish

Students in 5th grade recently completed a unit on famous Hispanic individuals and the lasting contributions they have made around the world. Throughout the unit, students explored the achievements, and impacts of influential figures from a variety of fields. Among those studied were Frida Kahlo, Ellen Ochoa, Selena Quintanilla, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Roberto Clemente, Bruno Mars, and many more. Students learned how each person's work has shaped art, science, music, sports, and society as a whole.



Working in small groups, students selected one notable figure to research in greater depth. Using the information they gathered, students created presentations to share with their classmates. Through this project, students not only learned about important Hispanic leaders but also developed a deeper appreciation for the diversity and richness of Hispanic culture.

## STEAM

Our STEAM classes have been busy bringing their Balloons Over Dayton designs to life! After planning their parade balloons during library, students used a variety of materials—such as cardboard, construction paper, pipe cleaners, and felt—to construct 3D models inspired by real engineering and design careers. Throughout the project, students practiced the engineering design process by problem-solving, refining their work, and making creative decisions as challenges came up. They also learned how real parade balloons are designed and built, connecting their classroom work to real-world engineering. Students will proudly showcase their finished balloons by walking with them in our upcoming school parade!





# BALLOONS OVER DAYTON



# STAYING HEALTHY CHAT WITH NURSE GROSSKOPF



## Dress Warm

Proper layered clothing is key to staying warm at school. Many times the children go out for PE and then again at recess. Hats, gloves, coats and good shoes- no CROCS! The students constantly come in to the nurse and complain that their feet are cold!

## Winter Nosebleeds

- This is common due to dry air
- Use a cold air humidifier at night
- Saline nose drops work well
- Petroleum jelly works well also
- If they bleed heavily for 30 minutes call your Pediatrician or go to Urgent Care

## Friendly Reminders

- Don't just sit inside all winter. Get out and MOVE your body.
- Many of the holiday plants are poisonous- protect your pets. And chocolate can cause seizures in dogs, so watch those stockings full of goodies.
- Pet Poison Hotline is 888-426-4435
- Don't neglect the value of sleep.
- Boost immunity with healthy snacks.
- Wash hands like a winter warrior while you sing Jingle Bells.
- Stay home when ill and taking Tylenol or Motrin.
- Stay hydrated, even when it is cold.

Have a Wonderful Holiday!

email: [grosskopfl@esmonline.org](mailto:grosskopfl@esmonline.org)

Phone: 631-801-3090



# UPCOMING DATES

December 4 - 5 - SMPTA Holiday Boutique

December 5 - Elementary Trimester 1 Ends

December 9 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

December 9 - Shared Decision Meeting

December 10 - Half Day Grades K-6 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

December 10 - BOE Meeting 7pm

December 12 - Dayton's Got Talent - 6pm

December 18 - DAS Winter Concert

December 22 - January 2 - Schools & Offices Closed - Winter Recess



## REMINDERS

### 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.



### 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.

