

# DAYTON AVENUE SHARK BITES

Sharing Small Pieces of Big Moments



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

**Leader in Me and PBIS - 2**

**Celebrations - 3**

**Nurse's Chat - 7**

**Upcoming Dates and  
Reminders - 8**

## **Embracing Kindness and Self-Love**

**Dr. Watkis**

I love the saying, "In a world where you can be anything, choose to be kind." This message empowers everyone who reads or hears it, reminding them that they have the option to be compassionate, thoughtful, and generous, among many other virtues. While we may not know what challenges each day will bring, we are always reminded that we can choose to treat others with respect.

### **Remembering Self-Love**

Let us also remember to show love to ourselves. Commit to your values, set aside time regularly for self-care, and be forgiving towards yourself. Celebrate your achievements—both big and small—and nurture a positive mindset by engaging in activities that bring you joy. Treat yourself with the same love and kindness you would offer to your closest friend.

As we honor Kindness Month and participate in PS. I Love You Day, let's keep this year's theme in mind: Be the Light!

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

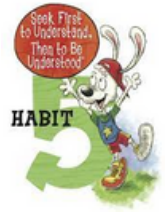
# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND PBIS

## Leader in Me and PBIS

In February, we will explore Habit 5 - Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood. This habit focuses on listening to other people's ideas and feelings. It's trying to see things from their viewpoints. It encourages students to listen to others without interrupting. It's about being confident in voicing your ideas. It's about looking people in the eyes when speaking. Habit 5 teaches us to be confident when speaking to others while also teaching the importance of listening to others when they are speaking.

We will learn to

- Listen before talking
- Listen to other people's ideas and feelings
- Try to see things from the other person's viewpoints
- Listen to others without interrupting
- Be confident in voicing our ideas
- Look people in the eyes when talking



## Attendance Goal

Shout-out to each healthy student who shows up for school on time! We recognize your commitment to meeting your personal goals.

Our Student Leadership team has been committed to helping us track our progress in meeting our school attendance goal of 95% or higher each day. This month our average attendance rate was 93%.

## Peaceful School Bus

Promoting Respect on School Buses

In our educational environment, we encourage students to show respect towards themselves, their peers, and their school community. We also expect these values to carry over to our school buses. By collaborating closely with our bus drivers, the staff members assigned to each bus help monitor students and reinforce positive behavior.

Kudos to the students who have been exemplifying respect towards themselves and others while on the bus, contributing to a smoother journey along the "road to success"!



# CELEBRATIONS

## 3rd Grade

### Exploring The World of Insects!

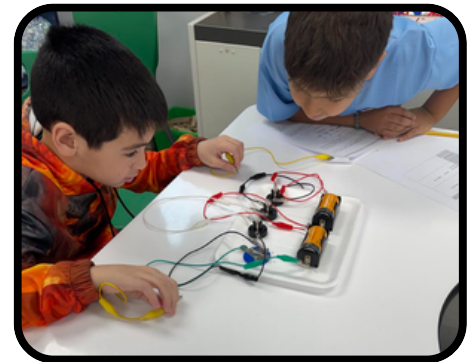
Students had the chance to explore the world of insects, arachnids, and arthropods with aspiring entomologist Aiden Bebe-Edwards. They uncovered fascinating facts and learned about the survival adaptations of these creatures as part of their science unit. This experience not only enriched their understanding but also introduced them to a science-based career where they could apply their current learning.



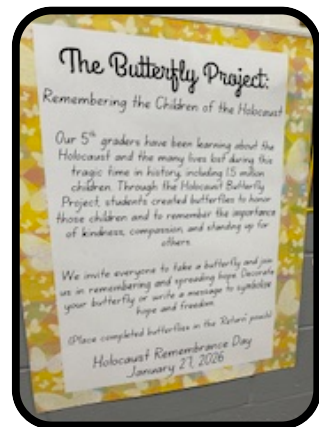
## 4th Grade

### Lighting Up Learning!

Fourth grade classrooms became mini engineering labs as students used wires, switches, bulbs, and batteries to build series circuits. Through trial and error—and lots of excitement when the bulbs lit up—students explored how energy flows and discovered that science is all about curiosity, problem-solving, and a little spark! ✨



## 5th Grade



### Exploring Holocaust History, Emphasizing Remembrance and Resilience.

As part of the 5th grade social studies curriculum, students recently engaged in a meaningful unit focused on the Children of the Holocaust. Through this study, students explored themes of remembrance, resilience, and hope, while also learning the importance of being upstanders—individuals who speak up and take action against injustice and hate.

To honor the children who were lost during the Holocaust, the 5th grade team invited students throughout the school community to participate in a special butterfly project. Students were encouraged to write messages of hope, peace, and remembrance on paper butterflies, which were then displayed as a collective act of reflection and unity.

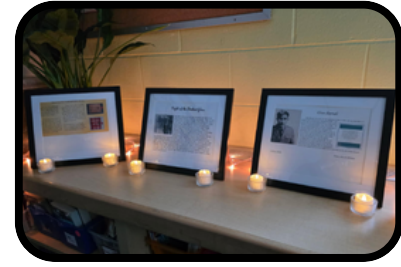
This schoolwide project provided students with an opportunity to thoughtfully connect their learning to action, reinforcing empathy, compassion, and the responsibility we all share to stand up for others. The 5th grade teachers are grateful for the support and participation that helped make this act of remembrance a powerful and lasting learning experience.



## 6th Grade

6<sup>th</sup> graders deepened their understanding of the Holocaust through the novel *Number the Stars* and by learning about the life of Anne Frank, with a focus on the themes of bravery, perseverance, and determination. Through these powerful stories, students explored how ordinary people showed extraordinary courage in the face of injustice. In recognition of Remembrance Day, students created a mini walk-through picture frame museum honoring important people and key elements of the Holocaust.

Each student also designed a commemorative candle, which came together as a hallway display honoring those who lost their lives, those who helped save Jewish people, and those who survived—serving as a meaningful reminder of remembrance, resilience, and hope.



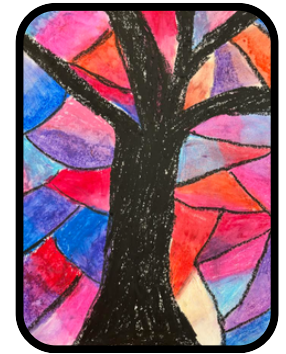
## Art

5th graders engaged in a lesson centered on the enduring teachings and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The educational experience went beyond a simple review of history, encouraging students to actively reflect on Dr. King's vision of equality, justice, and community.

As a culminating activity, the students collaborated on a large-scale collage. Each student contributed an outline of their own hand, and within this shape, they filled the space with words, phrases, and concepts. These contributions represented their collective and individual ideas about what constitutes an "ideal community." The resulting artwork serves as a powerful visual representation of the students' understanding of Dr. King's principles and their hopes for a more just and inclusive world. Their artwork was a part of the New York State Education Department virtual gallery honoring Dr. King.



4th grade students ushered in the new year with a captivating art project, focusing on the development of their technical skills with oil pastels. Their latest endeavor involved creating stunning winter scenes, with a particular emphasis on rendering beautiful and lifelike winter trees.



## Library

In Library this month, students explored Habit 4: Think Win-Win and learned how to solve problems in ways that help everyone. Students enjoyed the read-aloud *Blackout*, by John Rocco, pausing to discuss whether situations showed Win-Win, Win-Lose, or Lose-Lose outcomes.

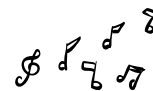
Students then worked in small groups with real-life scenarios, acting out problems and revising them to create Win-Win solutions using Habit 4 language. It was wonderful to see students collaborating, sharing ideas, and practicing empathy.

These activities helped build important skills like cooperation, communication, and problem-solving — skills students can be used both in school and beyond. Thank you for supporting your child's learning. Ask them how they can Think Win-Win at home!



## Music

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



### Musicians of the Month

#### Band

4th Grade - Matthew Benitez

5th Grade - Roberto Ventura Javiel

6th Grade - Leonardo Guzman



#### General Music and Chorus

3rd Grade: Kyle Visconti

4th Grade : Skylar Stanek

5th Grade : Ariana Ingoglia

6th Grade: Nathan Franco



#### Orchestra

4th Grade - Emma Rose

5th Grade - Tamani Langs

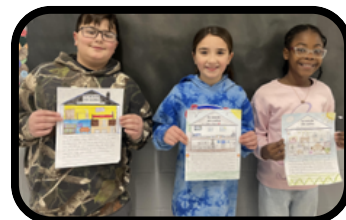
6th Grade - Olivia Capeleris



## Spanish

### 5th Grade Dream Home Designs

Our fifth-grade students have been hard at work crafting their dream homes! They tapped into their creativity and imagination to envision what their ideal living space would look like and the number of rooms it would feature. Afterward, they chose three rooms to design, complete with furniture and intricate details. This project inspired students to think critically, make decisions, and showcase their artistic flair while using Spanish. They were thrilled to present their designs!



### Journey Through the Spanish-Speaking World

Our fourth graders have set off on an exciting adventure through the Spanish-speaking world as part of their travel unit. During their explorations, they discovered fascinating facts about each country's geography and notable features—did you know El Salvador is home to numerous dormant volcanoes? They also “packed” their suitcases with essential items tailored to the weather conditions of each destination. To wrap up their journey in each country, they delved into typical cultural aspects. For instance, did you know that rock climbing is a popular activity in Argentina due to its mountainous landscape?



## STEAM

This month in STEAM, 3rd and 5th grade students explored LEGO kits featuring motors and movable parts. They designed and built projects such as rotating ferris wheels and coded cars, while practicing collaboration and communication skills to work efficiently in teams.



Meanwhile, 4th and 6th grade students are designing their own digital escape rooms. Using Canva, students are creating visuals that challenge their peers to think critically. Once completed, escape rooms will be tested and critiqued by classmates, allowing students to give and receive constructive feedback.



# **Congratulations to all students who participated in our annual Spelling Bee!**

Our building was buzzing with excitement this month! Students cheered on classmates during the annual Spelling Bee. Our artist bees, decorator bees, and funny bees helped to make this event memorable.

Congratulations to this year's winners.

Grade 3 - Eesa Mir from Ms. Murphy and Ms. Hayton's class!

Grades 4 - 6 - Alana Drummond



## **Contestants 3rd Grade**

Jaxon Galante  
Nate Raffloer  
Mara Wisniewski  
BillieRae Vasilia  
Eesa Mir  
Danna Villavicencio  
Owen Kirk  
Aurora Benvenuto  
Jerry Soto  
Sofia Velasquez  
Violet Allo  
Sophia Teason  
Austin Callegari  
Jase Morabito  
Casey Booth

## **Contestants 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Kenny Fiore  
Harper Conrad  
Alexandra Hernandez  
Cataleya Lucas  
Alana Drummond  
Joseph Dubon Zabala  
Lucas Bennett  
Leo Sikora  
Eva Prebish  
Kaelyn Blake  
Gino Corica  
Lynn Purcell  
Patrick Butler  
Edwin Munoz  
Philip Burkard  
Owen Forman

## **Runner Ups 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Anthony Verdi  
Quinn O'Brien  
Aubrey Pederson  
Galilea Duarte  
Frank Cutrone  
Kailani Darjania  
Avery Thrane  
Nicholas Dzanoucakis  
Declyn Madigan  
Patrick Maund  
Lily Allo  
Kamryn Jackson  
Allison Sarmiento-Ortega  
Sean Stith  
Nathan Franco  
Nate Forman  
Jonathan Cochoy Ajanel

# STAYING HEALTHY CHAT WITH NURSE GROSSKOPF

## MRS G'S LESSONS ON HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEART

February 2026

### What Does Your Heart Do?

#### Your Heart is a Muscle

The heart is the size of your fist and it beats all day and night to pump blood around your body. The blood carries nutrients and oxygen to help you learn, think and play!

#### How to Keep your Heart Healthy?

We must aim to work out our heart at least 60 minutes per day.

Run in PE class, at recess, and at home.

It all counts in making our heart strong!

#### Eat Foods that Help our Heart

Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein like chicken, eggs, fish and beans. Try to only have 1 serving per day of candy, chips, or unhealthy food.

### NO CAFFEINE

Caffeinated beverages can make our heart race and beat irregular. Ask for drinks at Starbucks and Dunkin with no caffeine.

Always read ingredients in cans, many drinks have caffeine in the ingredients.

### Drink Water

- Bring your water bottle every day.
- Choose water instead of soda or juice

### Social Media Can Be Bad for Your Heart

Getting upset over comments we see on social media can make your heart beat fast and make you anxious. It is hard to keep the heart in a relaxed state at bedtime, so no social media for 2 hours before we lay down to rest.

# UPCOMING DATES

February 5 - SMPTA Meeting @ SSS

February 6 - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Circus Performance

February 10 - Shared Decision Meeting

February 11 - BOE Meeting 7pm

February 13 - PS I Love You Day (Wear Purple)

February 16-20 - Schools & Offices Closed - Mid-Winter 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

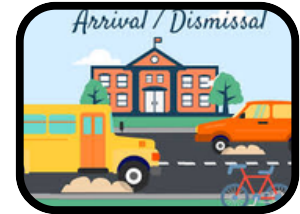
We use ParentSquare to stay in touch with our families. Download the app in the App Store or on Google play to receive important texts and other messages. You have the option of choosing how to receive information (such as text and email), when you receive them (immediately or at a set time) and in what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

