

MARCH 2026

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**

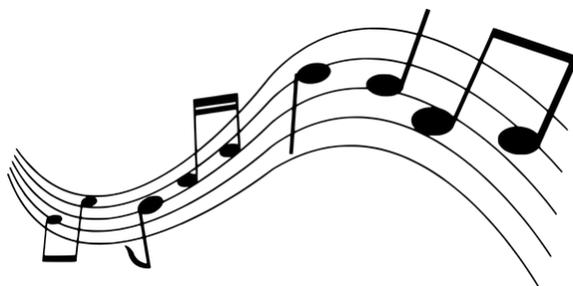
Music: The Brain's Friend!

Dr. Watkis

Elementary Music education is more than just learning notes and rhythms. It's actually boosting children's brainpower! When students learn to play an instrument or sing, they are strengthening connections for math, language, and problem-solving. Music education also helps our young learners practice patience, listening skills, and working together as part of an ensemble. It's a wonderful way to build confidence and creativity.

March is Music in Our Schools Month. During this month, we will celebrate the unique talents of our musicians and encourage them to Synergize to make beautiful music.

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 March, we will explore Habit 6 - Synergize - Working Together Is Better. While exploring this habit we will focus on the power of teamwork. This habit encourages problem solving with others who have a different point of view. Synergy, in simple words means "two heads are better than one." Synergize is the habit of creative cooperation. It is teamwork, open-mindedness, and the adventure of finding new solutions to old problems.

We will learn to

- Value other people's strengths and learn from them.
- Get along well with others, even people who are different from us.
- Work well in groups; seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because we know that by teaming with others, we can create better solutions than by working alone.
- Be humble.

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. Our average attendance rate for February was 92%.



Here's a recap of the Habits that we have covered.

Habit 1 - Be Proactive (You're in Charge)



Habit 2 - Begin With The End In Mind (Have a Plan)



Habit 3 - Put First Things First (Work First, Then Play)



Habit 4 - Think Win Win

Habit 5 - Seek First To Understand, Then To Be Understood



P.S. I Love You

On February 13, we joined numerous other schools in turning the world purple for the annual celebration of P.S. I Love You Day. This year's theme was **"BE THE LIGHT."**

Students crafted uplifting messages that were displayed on walls throughout the building, serving as reminders to connect, listen to, and be present for those who may need a friend. The key takeaway is that we are never truly alone.



CELEBRATIONS

3rd Grade

Forces in Motion

Students in Mr. Davis' class engaged in a comprehensive exploration of motion. Our scientists examined engineering principles to understand the dynamics of movement, the mechanisms underlying it, and the forces driving it.

Students not only acquired new skills but also applied their knowledge in a collaborative project to design and construct their own balloon-propelled cars. They meticulously followed multi-step instructions to create unique designs and wheels were 3D printed in STEAM. They engineered balloon-powered vehicles to investigate motion and the transfer of energy. Upon completion, these young engineers tested their skills on the race track, competing with their custom-built balloon cars! Each student not only gained valuable academic skills but also developed communication abilities, peer collaboration skills, and the capacity to work effectively with others.



4th Grade

Kindness Begins...When You Think Win-Win

Incorporating both the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Kindness Week, our 4th graders practiced a Think Win-Win mindset, which means looking for solutions where everyone can feel respected and included. We connected this idea to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who showed a win-win attitude by standing up for fairness using kindness, peaceful actions, and respect—even when things were difficult.

Students shared real-life examples of how Dr. King showed a win-win mindset, like using peaceful protests instead of violence and encouraging people to work together so everyone could have equal rights. They also talked about ways they can show win-win thinking in their own lives, such as sharing materials, listening to others' ideas, including classmates at recess, and solving problems calmly.

Our students learned that just like Dr. King, they can make a difference every day by choosing kindness, fairness, and cooperation—helping everyone win!



5th Grade

Cloud In a Bottle

Fifth-grade students from Mrs. Petriello's and Ms. Savino's classes synergized during the NYS "Cloud in a Bottle" Science lab to investigate how air pressure, temperature, and moisture affect cloud formation. Working collaboratively, they manipulated variables, recorded temperature data, and observed when clouds appeared or disappeared. This hands-on experience strengthened their understanding of the water cycle and weather processes.



6th Grade

During an exciting and energetic week, the sixth grade students immersed themselves in the world of circus arts, learning and practicing a variety of unique acts. Each student chose a specific skill to focus on, including diabolo, devil sticks, clowning, hoops, stilts, and balancing acts, dedicating time each day to building confidence and improving technique. As the week progressed, students challenged themselves to step outside their comfort zones, demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and a willingness to try something completely new.



Their hard work culminated in a lively end-of-week school assembly, where they proudly showcased their talents to classmates and teachers, followed by an evening performance for parents. The students did an outstanding job, impressing their audiences with their creativity, coordination, and showmanship while celebrating the rewards of perseverance and practice.

Art

3rd grade celebrated Valentine's Day with some love-filled projects! We practiced warm and cool colors while creating different patterns.



4th grade learned all about texture to create these unique folk-art styled trees! We learned about the elements of art: line and texture and put them to practice!



5th grade got creative in sculpting some 3D dragon eyes. They made everything from scratch—including the shiny eyes!



6th grade finished up their miniature food project where we learned about scale, texture, and realism in design!



Library

Students focused on Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood which means listening first and trying to understand others before speaking or interrupting. We discussed what it feels like to be listened to and what a good listener looks like, learning about active listening skills such as making eye contact, staying focused, and showing respect. Students then enjoyed a read-aloud of *The Invisible Boy*, pausing throughout the story to talk about characters' feelings, acts of kindness, and how listening can help others feel seen and included.



To wrap up the lesson, students created speech bubble reflections, writing about how they can practice Habit 5 in their everyday lives using prompts like "I will seek first to understand by..." and "I can be a better listener when I...". These reflections encouraged students to think about how active listening can make a positive difference at school, at home, and with friends.

Music

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



Musicians of the Month

Band

- 4th Grade - Kimberly Argueta Robles
- 5th Grade - Mason Cerdas
- 6th Grade - Damian Berkowitz



General Music and Chorus

- 3rd: Mason Zackman
- 4th: Darryl Prestano
- 5th: Isabel Bello
- 6th: Jah'Kari Booker



Orchestra

- 4th grade: Cassandra Zambardino
- 5th grade: Emma Ferone
- 6th Grade: Aria Wood



Spanish

Our 3rd grade students were busy creating a beautiful garden of flowers! Each student selected Spanish adjectives that describe who they are, and wrote it on their flower petals. Students also added a self-portrait to make their creation uniquely their own. This special project is paired with a song the students are learning called "Somos como las flores" ("We Are Like the Flowers"), which celebrates how each of us is unique and helps our classroom community grow. We can't wait for you to see our garden in bloom!



Our 4th grade students have just begun an exciting new adventure - reading our first chapter book written entirely in Spanish! The story follows Carlos, the capybara, as he navigates life in the Amazon Rainforest and what makes him different from the other capybaras. Students are building their confidence as Spanish readers while eagerly following Carlos' journey. We can't wait to discover what happens next in his adventure!



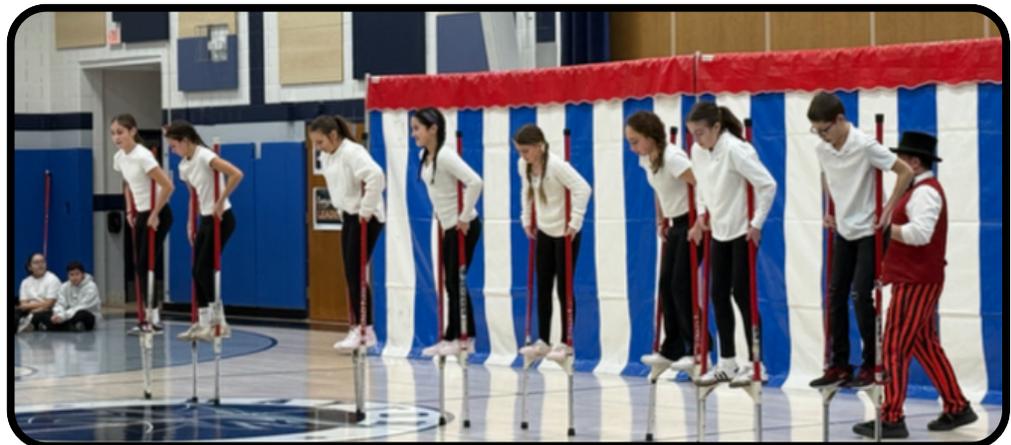
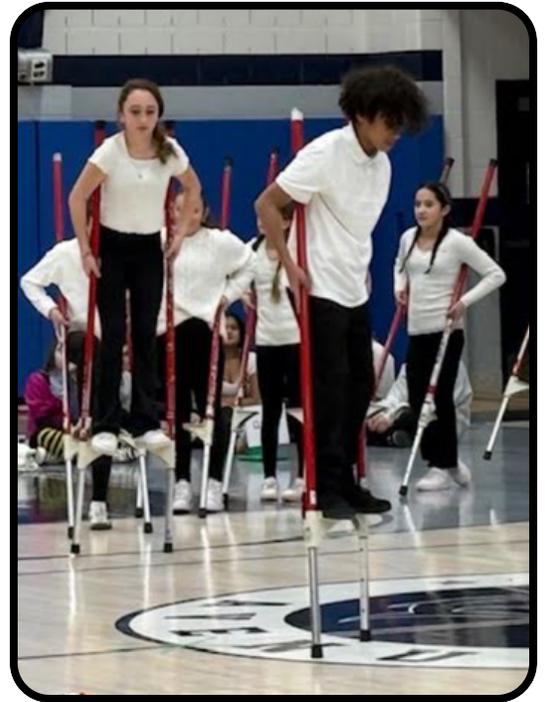
STEAM

Our STEAM classroom has been buzzing with creativity and collaboration! Fourth and sixth grade students recently wrapped up their exciting Escape Room projects. After weeks of designing puzzles, building challenges, and testing their problem-solving pathways, their final creations are now being peer reviewed. Students are providing thoughtful feedback to one another, practicing critical thinking and constructive communication while celebrating each other's innovative designs.



Meanwhile, our third and fifth grade students have jumped into the world of coding! They are learning foundational programming concepts, exploring sequences, loops, and problem-solving strategies as they begin creating their own interactive projects. It's inspiring to see their confidence grow as they discover the power of technology to bring their ideas to life. We are proud of the creativity, perseverance, and teamwork happening every day in STEAM!

Congratulations to our 6th graders who performed in our annual Dayton Avenue Circus!



STAYING HEALTHY CHAT WITH NURSE GROSSKOPF



LUCKY TO BE HEALTHY

Mrs G's Goals



Welcome Spring!

Time to get moving and be healthy!

HEALTHY HEART CHALLENGE

Your heart beats
100,000 times a day.
Exercise & start to
move at least 30
minutes each day.

GO GREEN CHALLENGE

Try to eat one green
food every day:
Green apples
Broccoli
Spinach
Peas
Kiwi

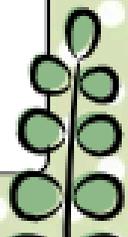
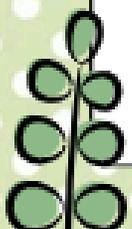
ALLERGIES

Mark your calendars!

Allergy medications work
best when started in early
March. If you have pollen
allergies to the grass and
trees you should be
taking your allergy
medicine now.

WATER = LIQUID GOLD

Drink water with each
meal and drink your
whole water bottle in
school.



UPCOMING DATES

March 2 - SMPTA Meeting @ DAS

March 4 - BOE Meeting 7pm

March 10 - Shared Decision Meeting

March 19 - Elementary Trimester 2 Ends

March 20 - Schools & Offices Closed - Eid al-Fitr

March 25 - BOE Meeting 7pm



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

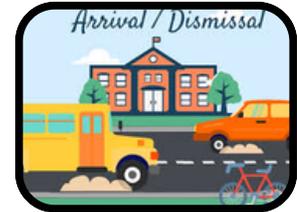
We use ParentSquare to stay in touch with our families. Download the app in the App Store or on Google play to receive important texts and other messages. You have the option of choosing how to receive information (such as text and email), when you receive them (immediately or at a set time) and in what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

