

Irrawaddy Inquirer

"ONCE A WADDLE, ALWAYS A WADDLE"

From Mrs. Ritter and Mrs. Poremba

June 2025

Contact Us - Mrs. Ritter: iritter@csaschool.org AND Mrs. Poremba: eporemba@csaschool.org

REMINDER: When emailing with the teachers, please make sure to add both of them into the email.

Important Dates

- 6/6- Picnic Day Lunch forms due!
- 6/9 - Readers Theater Culminating Event -
5:00 - 6:00 (students need to arrive by 4:30)
- 6/17 - Summer Birthday Celebration
- 6/18 - Picnic Day! Full day of school
- 6/19 - Last Day of School - Half Day!
- 6/19 - Spirit Wear Day - CSA spirit wear day

Picnic Day T-Shirts

Order forms for our Picnic Day classroom t-shirts were due May 29. It is tradition for students to sign class shirts on Picnic day. *****If you or your student prefer to NOT have their shirt signed, please email classroom teachers so that we can help to be mindful of that.***** Please also be sure to return the sunscreen permission note. If your learner needs a specific brand, be sure to send them in with their own labeled bottle to apply themselves on Picnic Day. Our breakfast/lunch program will have concluded by then, and so students will need a snack and lunch for the day. If purchasing a lunch order, forms are due to Mrs. Scott by June 6, otherwise please send a regular lunch from home. We will still have snack that day and also ask that a couple extra items be sent for snack as our lunch time may be later than our usual lunch window.

Upcoming Learning Targets

Reading: Readers enjoyed thinking about and finding the author's message, or moral of the story, in books of many genres. They also started to make text-to-text connections highlighting the importance of comprehension of books across a series - focusing on characters, finding patterns, and making predictions. We will continue to work on these text-to-text skills, as well as things like tapping into interests and topics inspired by the books we are reading in order to learn more about them. Of course, we will also celebrate all of our reading growth!

Writing: Our writers are working on fine-tuning their writing and really working to increase that independence and consistency in showing what they know on their own. Emergent writers are working to really solidify capital letters and the start of a sentence and punctuation at the end, and also adding details. Developing writers are working hard at a beginning paragraph structure with topic sentence, details, and concluding sentence.

Math: Mathematicians engaged successfully in exploring the world of time and money! From learning coins to making change to solving money story problems, students were challenged at their readiness level. For time, many students began reading clocks up to the 5 minute increments. To finish the year, some students will apply their subtraction strategies to numbers within 1,000, while others will use their math facts to learn about double digit addition. We will also make sure to increase our exposure and practice of one and two-step story problems using the appropriate computation strategies.



Culminating Event - Readers Theater

We will be hosting our final culminating event on Monday, June 9. This event will focus on Reader's Theater, and each student will participate in an oral reading, as a part in performing a scripted skit. Readers Theater is an activity in which students, while reading directly from scripts, are able to tell a story in a most entertaining form, without or with minimal props, costumes, or sets. This is a reading activity, and students are not asked to memorize their lines. They are, however, encouraged to "ham it up" and use intonation and gestures appropriate to their characters and their characters' words.

Readers' Theater serves many useful functions:

- It provides repeated reading practice—an important factor in building fluency. Repeated reading practice also improves students' confidence in, and enthusiasm for reading. It's an enjoyable change of pace from everyday practice sessions.
- It gives students the opportunity to practice using expression while reading.
- It helps students with public speaking; encouraging them to use appropriate volume and eye contact when interacting with their audience.

This will be an evening event, after school, from 5:00- (approximately) 6:00pm. The performances will be taking place on the stage in the Gym. Students will need to be dropped off NO LATER than 4:45 to prepare for the event in the Hector classroom while families find seats in the Irrawaddy Theater (aka the Gym). We're hoping the change to seating in the Gym helps to alleviate some congestion, but it does get packed and is limited to the space available. To accommodate space for all families, please consider making arrangements for siblings and consider this an adults-only event.

Scripts and costume notices have already gone home. Again, these do NOT need to be memorized—students are meant to read directly from scripts for the performance, but extra reading practice at home can only help increase confidence.

We look forward to celebrating reading with you!



Term 3 Report Cards

We are proud to share and delight in the growth and progress of each of our learners this year and will be busy working on Term 3 report cards! The document gives a comprehensive look at how your child is progressing in reading, writing, and math concepts taught over the last term. Also included is a summary of what they have been working on in all enhancements so far this year. You will also find a more detailed narrative in your child's comments section which is reflective of the skills taught portion.

Term 3 report cards will be mailed out to all families the last week of June. Keep your eye on your mailbox at the end of June/early July for those reports to arrive.

Character Corner

As the year winds down, June is a time to demonstrate and celebrate the **WHOLE** of our character education program and the thoughtful time and effort put into incorporating into our daily practice and learning. It also happens to be the time of the school year when having strong character and social skills and protocols becomes most needed. Having consistent **WORK ETHIC** and growing **RESPONSIBILITY** to keep building a growth mindset as we wrap up our last units of learning keeps us on task and focused. Continuing to **RESPECT** others, procedures, and supplies in order to keep the classroom environment a safe place for learning and making friends even up until the last second of the last day. Thinking extra hard about our role in spreading **KINDNESS** to all (even when we are exhausted) and working at **GETTING ALONG** with everyone we encounter and not just our closest friends will make the CSA family community stronger and more welcoming than ever. Finally, keeping an **OPTIMISTIC** outlook as we have big feelings about meeting or not meeting our goals, navigating social woes, and starting to think about the sad thought that these are the last days of **THIS** classroom family together will help keep us going strong and fulfilling high expectations!

We must celebrate the individual and collective character growth of our students, as no matter their starting point - they have made tremendous progress in one or all areas of our character program. It's often easy to notice the moments where a student might be wavering on a specific social skill or character trait - sometimes they're the loudest and most frustrating moments for us. However, mistakes do not define our character, but are helpful reminders that we are all human and growing in this life together. If you look closely enough, you will be wowed at the many small ways your child has grown, leading to a big **SUCCESS!**

As part of our end of the year reflections, we spend time with our learners thinking back over moments of growth, selecting favorite memories, and their highlights of what made this year memorable. We often zero in on our character traits as part of these reflections and have our students expand upon their own understandings of these traits and how they've worked to demonstrate them through the course of the school year. We encourage you to take time to celebrate accomplishments with your child as well. Think about ways you've seen their character grow and then ask them about it, too. Which character trait do you think they might highlight as their strongest trait? Which do you think they showed the biggest improvement in understanding and demonstrating? Ask your learner these questions. Have a positive dialogue with your learner surrounding these questions and listen as they share their thinking. Opening this dialogue now will help to keep that door open for future discussions and sets the tone for them to continue to evolve their thinking and mature their ideas about what each character trait means and resembles as they grow older.

Summer Learning Packets

In the next few weeks, we will be emailing out resources for additional learning opportunities over the summer. We have put together a variety of resources into packets that you can download and utilize as you see fit for your learner's needs. These have been crafted in order to promote continued growth over the next couple of months. It's important to relax and enjoy summer and make memories as a family, and it's also important to build a summer routine to incorporate learning activities daily. We hope these packets provide a useful guide to help establish a continued learning plan in a way that makes sense for your family.

This year, we are sending summer packets out in the form of a .pdf document that will be sent to you in an email. There will be one reading and writing packet for ALL students. Then, there will be a "Returning Navigator" math packet, "Voyager Bound" math packet, and "Voyager Bound Challenge" math packet. You can select the one that best fits the needs of your child. *****If you would like to receive a paper copy of these packets, please contact teachers and we would be happy to send one home.***** Students do not need to return packets to school, but are encouraged to show us in the fall!

