

Irrawaddy Inquirer

"ONCE A WADDLE, ALWAYS A WADDLE"

From Mrs. Ritter and Ms. Vallecorse

October 2025

Contact Us - Mrs. Ritter: ritter@csaschool.org AND Ms. Vallecorse: svallecorse@csaschool.org

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

Important Dates

10/3 - Field Trip Permission Slips Due
10/10 - CSA Spiritwear Day
10/13 - NWEA Testing - Reading
10/14 - NWEA Testing - Math
10/20 - Field Trip to Indian Springs
10/23 - No School - CSRs
10/24 - No School - CSRs
10/27 - 10/31 - Book Fair
10/29 - Picture Retake Day
10/31 - Halloween Party

Upcoming Learning Targets

Here are some key skills our learners are developing this month in each of our academic workshops:

Reading: Students are building their understanding of story elements through a character study, understanding the role of the beginning, middle and end, and collaborating with reading partners to discuss what they've learned.

Math: Our mathematicians are focusing on addition and subtraction strategies, fact fluency, story problems, understanding the value of a digit and modeling and writing numbers up to 1,000.

Writing: Students are learning to expand their ideas by adding more details, revising their work like detectives to identify needed changes, working on increasing their writing stamina and beginning to study mentor texts to test out

different techniques in their own writing.

Comprehensive Student Reviews (CSR's)

We are excited to meet with you and discuss your child's progress so far this year! Please join us for our fall Comprehensive Student Reviews (CSRs) on Thursday, October 23, and Friday, October 24.

CSRs are an opportunity for teachers and parents to come together and talk about your child's development as a whole — academically/ intellectually, socially/emotionally, physically, and in terms of character/moral growth. We deeply value these discussions as they provide valuable insights that shape our teaching, instruction, and interactions with each student. Prior to the meeting, we typically send out a pre-conference form for you to complete and return. This helps guide our conversation and allows us to gather any resources that might be useful during our time together.

The CSRs will take place all day on Thursday, October 23, and Friday, October 24. There will be **NO SCHOOL** for students on these days. We will use signupgenius.com to schedule conferences and may offer additional meeting days if needed. A link for the signup will be shared soon. If you experience any issues signing up, please email both teachers, and we'll be happy to assist.

We look forward to meeting with you!

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" - Aesop

October Learning Extension Choice Board

In your student's Tuesday folder, you will see an October Learning Extension Choice Board. This is an optional, literacy-based learning extension. This choice board provides students with extra opportunities to practice what we are learning about during Writing and Reading Workshop, and apply it to projects or writing pieces at home. We hope your learners enjoy these fun and engaging activities!

NWEA MAP Testing

We've been busy working through getting to know our learners and chipping away at assessments with each of them. Another way we assess is by using the NWEA MAP testing for reading and for mathematics. The NWEA MAP assessment is a Computer Adaptive Test that asks students multiple choice questions based on state standards and benchmarks. While students are taking the test, the questions they are presented with will become easier or more difficult depending upon their responses. In the Navigator unit, this first testing window helps us to introduce students to the testing format that they'll continue to encounter throughout their education.

Our class will be testing on 10/13 and 10/14. You can help your child prepare for this assessment by ensuring they are well rested prior to their testing day and that they receive a healthy and filling breakfast the day of the test.

Please also make sure your child is on time for school. Thanks!

Early Literacy Volunteers (ELV's)

Our library is still looking for volunteers to help get our Early Literacy Volunteers (ELVs) program up and running. Check the Tuesday Times or email lpick@csaschool.org for more information and to help out.

Halloween Party

Our class Halloween party is just around the corner! We'll be using an online system to organize donations, so keep an eye on your email for a link to the signup through signupgenius.com. If you have any trouble accessing the system but would still like to contribute, feel free to reach out to classroom teachers, and we'll help find a donation slot for you. You can expect the signup to be available by the end of this week or early next week.

The party will take place on Friday, October 31, and students are welcome to wear school-appropriate costumes that day. As you plan costumes, please remember that masks, fake weapons, and gory makeup are not permitted to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. We appreciate your support!

Please have students come to school in their costumes, ready for the fun. If they'd like to bring a change of clothes in case they get too warm, that's perfectly fine. We're excited for a spook-tacular celebration!



Character Corner

In this section of our newsletter, we will share information regarding our character education program including character traits, social protocols, emotional language, and related concepts like manners and kind acts. Although we might highlight specific concepts here, we will continue to discuss and practice all components naturally throughout the year. We encourage you to use these ideas and language at home in order to help reinforce and connect it to the classroom!

This month, we continue our journey into the six key character traits in our character education program: Respect, Kindness, Responsibility, Getting Along, Work Ethic, and Optimism. Our focus remains on finding natural opportunities to highlight each trait through daily learning moments and activities. Throughout the end of September and into October, the Navigator unit is shining a special spotlight on Kindness, as it connects deeply with the other traits and much of what we do.

Kindness, simply put, is about thinking and acting with care toward others. It's the foundation for forming new friendships, strengthening relationships, and turning a community into a close-knit family. From our new "Buddy Bench" at recess for students looking for a friend, to activities like sharing what we appreciate about one another, and collaborative classroom art projects – kindness is everywhere! In the classroom, we stress the importance of using kind words and tones when resolving conflicts. Recognizing moments for kindness helps students build stronger character and creates a supportive classroom environment, even in challenging situations.

Kindness is a trait we all possess, and it's something the world could use more of. Helping students understand the emotional impact of kind actions makes the concept more tangible and meaningful.

Looking for ways to reinforce this lesson at home? Try modeling supportive language, especially during disagreements or stressful moments, so your child can see kindness in action. Sharing positive news stories that highlight acts of kindness in the community provides real-world examples. Acknowledging when your child shows kindness helps reinforce this important trait. Additionally, reading books like *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud or *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña, and visiting websites like sparkkindness.org can further deepen the discussion and provide fun activities to try together!



