

NARWHAL NEWS

lchurchill@csaschool.org edostal@csaschool.org

Navigator News

Comprehensive Student Reviews

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 was already sent via email. 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!

October Learning Extension Choice Board

In your student's Tuesday folder, you'll find an October Learning Extension Choice Board. This optional resource offers additional ways for students to reinforce what we're covering in our academic workshops. It encourages them to apply their learning to creative projects, interactive games, or writing activities at home. We hope your child enjoys these engaging and enjoyable opportunities!

Important Dates

10/10 - CSA Spiritwear Day

10/13 - NWEA Testing - Reading; Field Trip Permission Slips Due

10/14 - NWEA Testing - Math

10/23 - No School - CSRs

10/24 - No School - CSRs

10/27 - 10/31 - Book Fair

10/28 - Field Trip to Indian Springs - wear uniforms, pack a lunch!

10/29 - Picture Retake Day - Please send us an email if you would like your child to retake their picture

10/31 - Halloween Party

October Birthdays:

Happy birthday month to Riley R.! :-)



Halloween Party

Our class Halloween party is just around the corner! We've sent our signup for donations needed as well as a separate response form if you'd like to express interest in volunteering for the party. If you have any trouble accessing the systems but would still like to contribute, feel free to reach out to classroom teachers, and we'll help find a donation slot for you.

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!

Book Orders/Book Fair

Our classroom book orders are still running through Scholastic. Every book order made earns our class points for free stuff! :-). You can use the link below or shop more widely at [scholastic.com](https://orders.scholastic.com/XNNZQ) with class code XNNZQ when ordering:
<https://orders.scholastic.com/XNNZQ>

There is a book fair coming our way, however! The Literati Book Fair will be here October 27-31. Our class will have a time to preview desired books and a separate time to make any purchases. Flyers with more information about payment options will be coming and/or linked via the Tuesday Times. This book fair also has amazing deals that result in lots of returned funds to our school! Keep an eye out for sweet deals!

Narwhal of the Week

Each week, 1-2 students will have the chance to be up for “Narwhal of the Week” and participate in an extended share (like show and tell). We’re excited to hear more about our Narwhals! Notes with the specifics on procedures and dates will be sent in Tuesday folders. Here’s our October schedule. :-)

Week of 10/13: Hannah and Vanessa

Week of 10/20: Ziva

Week of 10/27: Charlie S. and Collin

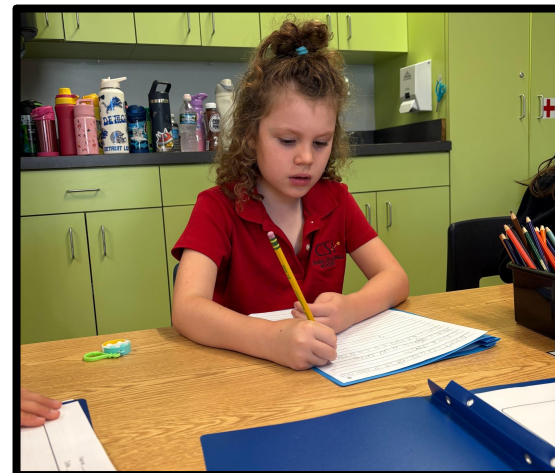
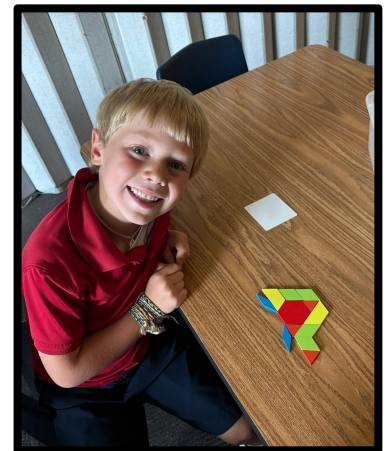
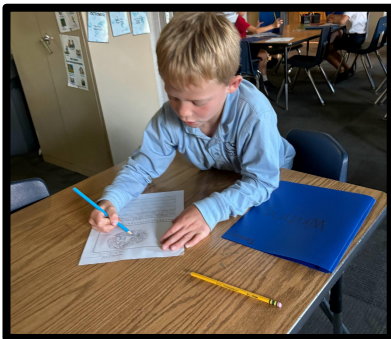
Week of 11/3: Benny and Gabe

Early Literacy Volunteers

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.

Learners at Work

We’ve been working hard across all academic areas—reading, writing, and math—to build strong routines and student independence. Learners are practicing how to access materials, clean up their spaces, and work together respectfully and productively. Across all blocks, students are developing collaboration skills, learning how to stay focused during partner work, and supporting each other’s growth. Ask your student how they’ve been working with others and what routines they’ve mastered so far!



Learning Targets

In October, we continue to build on procedures and routines, helping students to continue to adjust and take ownership of their learning space. Workshops continue with teacher guidance and students begin to lean more on each other to take hold of their responsibilities. Read on for highlights from 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.

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!

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!

September Highlights

September sure was a month to remember! We packed in a lot of love, fun, and growth already! We love our amazing group of learners and can't wait for more wonderful moment with them! Check out a few September snapshots below.

