



Orca NEWSLETTER

October

We can move mountains

Dear Parents and Guardians,

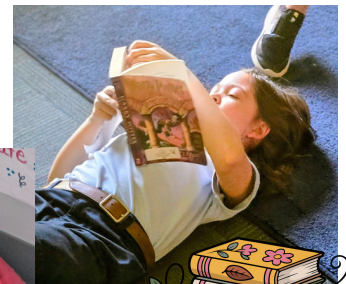
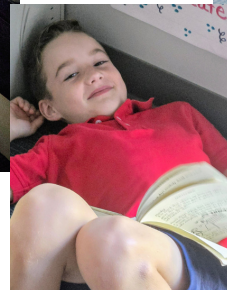
September has brought so many positives to the Orca classroom! Our students have been working hard to learn and follow classroom procedures, develop new friendships, and dive into lots of learning using a growth mindset.

As educators, building strong relationships is always our top priority especially, at the beginning of the school year. It has been such a joy getting to know our students and watching them connect and form new friendships. It is important that every student finds their place within the Orca classroom family, and we feel these first few weeks have been a wonderful start toward achieving exactly that.



BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!

Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Russell to the Orca Classroom! She brings many years of experience in education, having taught Kindergarten through 3rd grade and served as a reading interventionist. With her extensive background, kind demeanor, and positive attitude, we are confident she will be a wonderful addition to CSA!



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 1-Orca NWEA Math Test
Thursday, October 2-Orca NWEA Reading Test
Monday, October 13 -District Parent Council Meeting @
CSA

Thursday, October 23 -No School for Students:
Comprehensive Student Reviews
Friday, October 24-No School for Students: Comprehensive
Student Reviews

Wednesday, October 29-Picture Retakes
Thursday, October 30-Halloween Party Decorating After
School

Friday, October 31-Halloween Party
Thursday, November 6-Evening Comprehensive Student
Reviews

What's Happening:

Writing:

In writing, students will learn the difference between a narrative and a personal narrative as they take their work through the entire writing process. We will continue to focus on what good writers do and what strong writing looks like. This month, students will also add characterization, incorporate figurative language, and use transition words to start new thoughts. By the end of the month, students will have many writing pieces to add to their portfolios.

Reading:

Students will learn to identify the point of view in a text and to ask and answer questions while citing evidence to support their answers. They are also practicing making inferences—using clues from the text to make educated guesses about what is happening in the story. These skills enable our students to become thoughtful, engaged readers who can think critically about the books they read. Our guided book clubs are also well underway. Ask your student what book they are reading with their group.

Early Math:

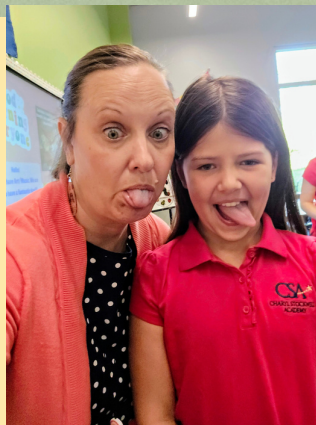
Students will use multiplication and division within 100 to solve word problems. They are applying these skills to real-world situations involving equal groups, arrays, and measurement quantities. Students will use drawings and equations, including symbols for unknown numbers, to represent and solve problems, building a strong foundation in problem-solving and mathematical reasoning. Students will also learn that shapes in different categories (e.g., rhombuses, rectangles, and others) may share attributes, such as having four sides, and that these shared attributes can define a larger category, like quadrilaterals.

Developing Math:

This month, students will learn to multiply whole numbers, including multiplying a number up to four digits by a one-digit number, and multiplying two two-digit numbers. They will use strategies based on place value and the properties of operations, and illustrate their calculations using equations, rectangular arrays, and area models. Students will also be introduced to lines, angles, and symmetry, building a foundation for understanding shapes and their properties.

Social Studies:

We will explore questions geographers ask when examining the United States. Students will use hemispheres, continents, oceans, and major lines of latitude to describe the relative location of the United States. They will also identify the human and physical characteristics of major U.S. regions and compare them to those of the Great Lakes region. Using maps, students examine elevation, climate, and population density patterns, as well as explore the different ways the United States can be divided into regions.



Parent Partnership

Help support your student's learning this month by reading with them every day and asking them to share what they visualized. We highly suggest that students **read for a minimum of 15 minutes every evening**.

Math fluency is a key part of our Voyager math unit. Building speed and accuracy with basic facts helps support deeper problem-solving and overall confidence in math.

Practicing Reflex at home at least 2 times a week is a great way to reinforce these skills and boost your child's success. We will send home your student's login information if we haven't already done so. Every minute of practice counts!

Uniform Policy

As a reminder, uniform policies make a statement about the standards and expectations of the school. The intent of the dress code/uniform policy at Charyl Stockwell Academy is to promote optimum learning opportunities throughout the school day and to help ensure a safe environment for all.

We will be upholding the uniform policy in its entirety this school year. Please review the policy and make any changes necessary to your students uniform as needed. We will be giving gentle reminders to the students as well as reaching out to parents if there are any uniform/dress code guidelines not being followed. We would like to remind parents that students shirts should be tucked in and a black or brown belt should be worn. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to the classroom teachers or Mrs. Winters.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17a2XzAi4UaV8qeYVxoLXDoMyIXiAXSJA-vNaxdqdrBQ/>

Just a Note

Many of our students are ordering breakfast and/or lunch through our school program, which we love to see! That being said, there are times when students may not care for what is being served and end up not eating the provided food. Our monthly menus are available through the link at the bottom of our Tuesday Times. Please take a moment to review the menu with your student before school so they are aware of the options. We want to make sure our kiddos stay fueled and ready to learn, and we hate to see them hungry if they don't eat the provided lunch. Just a quick reminder, students are not permitted to just order milk; they must order the entire meal.

READ ME

IMPORTANT

Character Corner

One goal all Voyager classrooms have set for the first couple of months of the school year is to help students develop a growth mindset. A growth mindset encourages the belief that all students can learn and master new concepts, while a fixed (or closed) mindset sends the message that we "can't do something" or that there is nothing more to learn.

Changing the language we use daily can help shift our mindset. For example, replacing "This is too hard" with "This may take some time" can help students approach challenges with a positive perspective. In particular, we are focusing on fostering a growth mindset in Science and Reading. Using encouraging language to describe our experiences in these subjects helps students build confidence and work toward their goals. We want students to start saying, "I can do this" or "I may need to ask for help."

You can support this at home by being mindful of the language you use when your child encounters challenging tasks. Encourage them with positive phrases, avoiding statements like "I was never good at that," and help them see that effort and persistence lead to growth. Together, we can make learning fun and rewarding for all Orca students this year!



Internal Motivation Psychology

At CSA, we value Internal Motivation Psychology as a core philosophy that guides our relationships, practices, and teaching. We recognize that all humans are born with specific needs that we are naturally motivated to satisfy.

Every behavior—positive or negative—represents a desire to meet a basic need.

In addition to our physical need for survival, we focus on four other essential needs: belonging and connection, power or competence, freedom or choice, and fun 😊. The power of relationships lies in understanding where each child is in fulfilling these needs. By prioritizing connection, we aim to earn trust and respect, build confidence through authentic feedback, and lead with empathy.

Supporting a child's internal motivation means ensuring their needs are met holistically within a safe, relationship-driven environment. When children feel connected, competent, free to make choices, and able to have fun, they are more motivated, engaged, and ready to thrive academically and socially.

Orca Wishlist
Click Me!

Reminder

Please be sure to include both teachers on ALL emails. This helps ensure messages are received and responded to in a timely manner.

Thank you!

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Book Tasting Dive into Reading

What is a Book Tasting?

A fun and interactive way to explore different books and genres. Students rotate through several "book stations," sampling a variety of books by reading a few pages, looking at illustrations, or reading short passages. After sampling, students will share their thoughts and choose a book they are excited to read independently or with their book clubs.

Book tastings are a great way to spark curiosity, introduce students to new authors and genres, and help them build excitement and confidence in making reading choices.