

Irrawaddy Inquirer

"ONCE A WADDLE, ALWAYS A WADDLE"

From Mrs. Ritter and Ms. Vallecorse

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

January 2026

Important Dates

- 1/5 - School Resumes
- 1/9 - Pep Rally and CSA spirit wear day
- 1/13 - Parent Council Meeting @CSAMS - 6 pm
- 1/16 - Rollerama
- 1/19- Triple S Boosters Parent's Night Out!
- 1/19- MLK Jr. Day- School is IN session!
- 1/22 - Family Fitness Night
- 1/30 - Parent Council Family Movie Night



Cold Weather Gear

As the weather is getting colder, students should be bringing a coat, hat, and gloves to school every single day for recess and carpool. Teachers check for the wind-chill and radar daily before recess and we will go outside unless the windchill is below zero. To ensure students are adequately prepared, girls that wear skirts can bring in pants to put on underneath for recess and carpool and students can even leave their gear in their locker. It is important for students to be prepared for the daily changes in Michigan's weather. Please label all of their gear. Please ensure your child knows that they must wear a coat outside as weather is colder.

Beluga Ball

The annual Beluga Ball will be taking place virtually this Spring! In order for this event to be a success, each classroom is responsible for creating a themed basket and larger item to auction off. We have collected a few items for our themed baskets but we could still use a few more items. If you are able to donate items to our classroom project we would greatly appreciate it! Thank you for your support! We couldn't do it without you!

Upcoming Learning Targets

Reading: Readers will begin to explore nonfiction texts, learning about nonfiction text features and how they help readers learn new information (table of contents, glossary, index, etc.), ask and answer questions about an informational text before, during, and after reading it, and being able to retell learned information with a partner and/or group.

Writing: In connection with learning about nonfiction text features as readers, students will explore non-fiction writing as well. We will be discussing the author's purpose of a text (in this case, to inform others) and help our students to understand that they can also write to inform others about topics they already know much about. This will then lead us to basic steps in researching new information. From there, students will be able to apply their knowledge of nonfiction text features and craft animal reports based on shared research. We will also continue to review the components of the writing process, with a specific focus on editing, appropriate to each student's writing experience.

Math: Mathematicians will learn about missing addends in addition sentences, continue to focus on math fact fluency, learning about the relationship between addition and subtraction, and working on addition and subtraction within 1,000 (as it applies to our students and their independent math understanding- for some this may focus on two-digit problems and for others, it may extend into three-digits or beyond).

Items From Home

With the holidays over break, there is often much excitement over some new gifts and treasures. We tend to see an influx of new toys and trinkets coming to school. While we so appreciate that excitement and sense of wonderment in our students, the reality is that there are a lot of wandering thoughts towards treasures in lockers. There's also an increase in hallway meetings to look at/share/trade items. We would appreciate help in leaving these treasures at home. There should be absolutely no electronics coming to school at all, especially devices which can take pictures or record. Sometimes things get left in backpacks from weekend sleepovers or play dates, so an extra check for toys in the morning might be a good idea. :-) Students participating in any programs after school should keep any necessary items in backpacks for use only at those programs and should not appear during the day. Thank you so much for your support!!! :-)



January Choice Board

Coming soon in your student's Tuesday folder, you will see the January Learning Extension Choice Board. Remember that this is an optional activity board, but is designed to facilitate and support learning at home by making fun and real-world connections to what we'll be working on in the classroom. Each box can be completed more than once, adjusted to fit your learner's needs and the level they are personally working at as necessary. Students are welcome to send in any completed work items to share and the checked off choice board can be returned at the end of the month. Have fun!

Uniform Reminders

As an integral piece of our school's philosophy, CSA has crafted a uniform policy that aims to promote a safe learning environment. As a school-wide initiative, we are sending out some uniform reminders. Please take some time to review the reminders below and make any adjustments needed. Please see the CSA Family Handbook for the full description of the uniform policy. Attached to the newsletter is an excerpt copied directly from the handbook for your convenience. If you have questions, we are happy to provide guidance, or you can always follow up with Leadership directly. Thank you for helping to maintain a core piece of CSA's mission.

Shirts: Solid colors in white, light blue, or red. Undershirts must be solid white.

Socks/Tights: Must be solid white or solid navy blue.

Shoes: Dress shoes are allowed in the following solid colors: brown, navy, or black. Tennis shoes are allowed in the following solid colors: black, white, navy, and grey.

Sweaters/Cardigans/Vests: Must be solid navy blue.

Hair accessories: Must be red, light blue, navy blue, white, brown, or black.

Leggings are not permitted except as extra layers for recess or carpool. Pants must be navy blue.

Character Corner

As we transition back from Christmas Break, it's natural for students to need time to reestablish their routines, reacquaint themselves with classroom procedures, and step back into their roles as learners. This adjustment can feel like a challenge for some, but our goal is to harness their work ethic to quickly regain momentum and continue building on the progress we made before the break.

Last month, we focused on developing a strong work ethic and explored how it connects to producing high-quality work. We also introduced the idea of a growth mindset—a concept rooted in Carol Dweck's research that examines the difference between growth and fixed mindsets. A growth mindset is the belief that learning and growth are always possible, no matter where you are in your journey. It's the mindset that says, "I can improve if I try." In contrast, a fixed mindset assumes that abilities are static, leading to complacency or doubt about the potential for growth. Dweck's research highlights the transformative power of adopting a growth mindset.

By encouraging students to trust in their capacity to learn and grow, regardless of their starting point, we can help them achieve greater success. That's the energy we want to bring into the New Year—celebrating the accomplishments of Term 1 while fostering a mindset that fuels motivation and perseverance for the challenges ahead.

In the classroom, a growth mindset shows up in students who embrace challenges, approach mistakes with optimism, and experiment with different strategies to solve problems. Phrases like "I'll give it a try" or "I can do this" are clear indicators of a budding growth mindset. Importantly, this mindset is not limited to any one group of learners—it's about how each individual approaches the next challenge.

As we move forward, we'll continue to reinforce the foundations we've been building since the start of the year. This includes setting positive, action-oriented goals like "I will...", using "I can" statements to articulate daily learning objectives, emphasizing optimism and work ethic through discussions and modeling, and celebrating growth mindsets through carefully selected read-alouds like *Rosie Revere*. We're also creating opportunities for students to take on challenges in areas like math and writing within a supportive environment.

Looking ahead, we'll integrate growth mindset principles into activities like the upcoming NWEA testing, reflecting on how far we've come since September, setting new goals for Term 2, and engaging in a culminating project. We'll also explore how growth mindset applies beyond academics, including relationships and social skills. Keep an eye out for more updates on our journey with growth mindset in future newsletters!

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." – Martin Luther King Jr.