

NARWHAL NEWS

lchurchill@csaschool.org edostal@csaschool.org

Navigator News

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. [LINKED HERE](#) is an excerpt copied directly from the handbook for your convenience. There is also a copy at the end of this newsletter. 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.

Sweatshirts: Red crewneck sweatshirts are the only option for uniforms. All other sweatshirts are for CSA spirit days only.

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.



Above: Our Christmas concerts were another beautiful moment for our Narwhal learners and families. Students did such a wonderful job practicing and performing for the shows and we hope you delighted in this beautiful tribute to all of our amazing families!

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

January Birthdays:

Happy birthday month to Kinsley, Harbour, and Teddy! :-)



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!!! :-)

Learning Targets

January takes some time to get back in the swing of things, but then it's full steam ahead with new units! See what our learners are up to this month in our academic workshops:

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).

Outdoor Attire-REMINDER

Just your friendly monthly reminder to be sure your Narwhal has the right gear to go outside daily. We monitor weather throughout the day and will sometimes wait to make a determination until right before our recess time in the afternoon. Sometimes Mother Nature makes a shift in our favor for the later morning and we want to be ready to go out at any time.

Extra hats and gloves can remain in lockers just in case the day's weather calls for it. As boots start to become more usual morning dress, please be sure to send a change of shoes to wear during the school day-Gym shoes do not count :-). For girls wearing skirts, for example, on days when maybe snow pants aren't necessary but tights just don't cut it, feel free to send a pair of cover-up pants (whether leggings or sweatpants or something) so those poor bare legs are warm. Leggings are **NOT** part of uniform or dress code for the school day, but are permissible for outside. Likewise, boots are not within uniform guidelines and students should have an appropriate pair of shoes each day. Email with any questions!

Label, label, LABEL all outdoor gear as well. We get lots of gloves and hats that are very similar and get mixed up. We also HIGHLY recommend that students practice putting on their gear, especially as winter really approaches and snow gear becomes a regular necessity. Practice building speed and independence so precious recess minutes aren't lost to dressing for the weather. Thank you for your support!

Star 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 upcoming schedule. :-)

Week of 1/5: Narwhal of the Week resumes week of 1/12

Week of 1/12: Audrey and Charlie L.

Week of 1/19: Ava

Week of 1/26: Mary Alice and Xavier

Week of 2/2: Grant and Wesley O.

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!

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.

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!

Contact

Please be sure to include **both** teachers on email contacts. This helps ensure messages are received and responded to in a timely manner. Our emails are always listed on the front page of this newsletter, in addition to our school phone number and classroom extension.

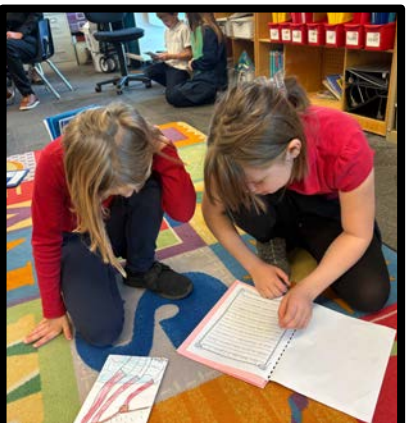
When we send emails out, we usually begin the title in the subject with "Narwhal Notes" so that it's easy to search. Check to be sure you received them! We sourced email addresses from PowerSchool. If you have an update to your information or wish to add to our personal email list, let us know!



Above: Charlie L. and Emilee work on reading together and making text connections on our "Comfy Clothes" spirit day. We worked on making reading partnerships and sharing thinking through meaningful discussions. Scroll on for more highlights from the class this month!

December Highlights!

For so many reasons and in so many ways, December is always a month to remember. By this point, we're really comfortable in our routines and while December invites a lot of flexibility and breaking from the norm, it's that comfortable and solid baseline that allows us to handle it all. Our Narwhals are simply the best and we're so proud of how much they've accomplished. We saw so much collaboration this month, supporting each other through changes and projects, and an overwhelming sense of love and care. As we tackled a lot of content both academic and non, our learners achieved so much together.

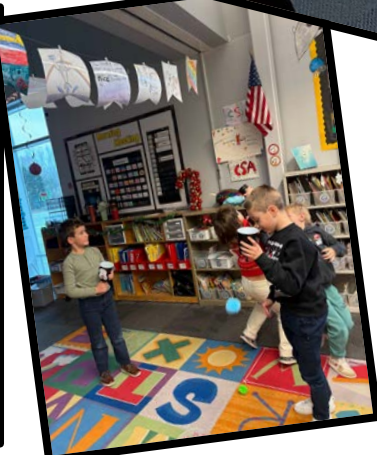


Christmas Party Fun!

We're not going to lie, we wondered whether our party was going to happen, but as we watched our weather apps the night before, hope grew and ultimately we won out with a super fun and festive kick start to break! We are so incredibly grateful for all of the donations to help contribute to another fabulous day in Narwhal. Thank you, thank you, thank you to our reps for planning and coordinating all of the activities and supply lists, and massive thanks for all of the time, effort, and donations toward making our day so special.

We also wanted to be sure to note our extra thanks for all of the thoughtful gifts we received! We are overwhelmed in the best way with humble gratitude and appreciation for being thought of during this busy season. You have continued to spoil us and we barely know what to say! So... thank you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts with utmost sincerity. <3





The following is an excerpt from the CSA Family Handbook

-Uniform Policy-

Shirts: Shirts will be the following solid colors: white, light blue, or red. Shirts must be tucked into pants at all times. Only solid white short-sleeve undershirts can be worn under uniform shirts. Types of shirts acceptable are from Risse Brothers or Lands' End:

- *Polos (**must** have a CSA logo on the upper left side)
- *Oxfords, long or short sleeve (only available in white or light blue)
- *Turtlenecks
- *Peter-pan blouse (only available in white or light blue)

Sweaters/Cardigans/Vests: Sweaters/Cardigans/Vests are solid navy blue and are intended to go over the uniform shirt. They must be neat, appropriately sized. They *may* have the CSA logo on the upper left side. Types acceptable are from Risse Brothers and Lands' End:

Sweaters/Cardigan: long sleeved, solid navy crew or v-neck pullover or cardigan

Vests: the solid navy v-neck sweater vest or the solid navy fleece vest

CSA Crewneck Sweatshirt: Red crewneck sweatshirts with a CSA logo are available for purchase at the Admissions Office. This is the only uniform sweatshirt option.

Pants: Classic-style navy pants that are neat and appropriately sized must be worn. Pants must fit at the waist and be properly hemmed or cuffed. No undergarments of any kind should be visible. No cargo, zipper or cell phone pockets. Types acceptable are from Risse Brothers, Lands' End and the Dickies flat front, pleated front or flex waist pant, Dickies girl's flare pant and Dickies girls capri pant.

Belts: A solid black or brown belt must be worn at all times if belt loops are present (with the exception of Kindergarten students). Belts must contain a belt buckle that is gold or silver. Designs or decorations on the belt or belt buckle are not allowed.

Shorts: Students may wear classic style Navy shorts. The shorts should come no more than three inches above the knee. No undergarments of any kind should be visible. Shorts must fit at the waist and be properly hemmed or cuffed. No cargo, zippered or cell phone pockets. Types acceptable are from Risse Brothers, Lands' End and the Dickies Classic-style shorts.

Skirts/Skorts/Jumpers: Skirts, skorts, and jumpers are navy in color and need to be neat and appropriately sized. They must come no more than three inches above the knee. If belt loops are present, a belt must be worn. All jumpers require a uniform shirt under them. Types acceptable are from Risse Brothers, Lands' End and the Dickies girl A-line skirt, pleated jumper or skort.

Shoes: Students may wear dress shoes or tennis shoes that meet the following descriptions only. Dress shoes: allowed in the following solid colors only; black, brown, or navy. They can be slip-on, tied, buckle, or velcro, but must cover the heel and toe. Shoes may have up to a 1 ½ inch heel. Tennis shoes must be solid in color and are allowed in the following colors only; black, white, navy, and grey. Tennis shoes may have a modest logo, but the logo needs to be small and one of the colors listed. Shoe laces must match the main color of the shoes.

Socks/Tights: Socks or tights must be worn with shoes. They must be solid white or solid navy (no designs or patterns). Socks need to be crew or knee high. Leggings or footless tights are not permitted.

Uniform Guidelines for All Students

Gym Shoes

All elementary students are required to have a pair of “non-marking” gym shoes, which will remain in the student’s locker for the duration of the school year. Gym shoes must not have been previously worn outside. Light colored soles are preferred. Shoe laces must match the main color of the shoe.

Clothing and Accessories

- All clothes should be neat, clean and have no visible holes, patches and frayed edges. The general expectation is that all clothing and accessories are school and age appropriate. The following is a list of clarifications as well as items of clothing and accessories that are not permissible during the school day:
- Short sleeved plain white t-shirts may be worn as an undergarment, but must not be visible at the sleeve or have any writing or graphics.
- Students may not wear or bring to school any items that contain violent or non-school appropriate pictures. Examples include but are not limited to; backpacks, coats, folders, etc.
- No rolling backpacks are permitted.
- Uniform shirts must remain buttoned up to an appropriate level.
- Navy is not a uniform shirt color option, only a sweater/vest color option.
- When wearing a navy sweater or vest, it is expected that a uniform shirt will be under it.
- Navy dresses are not allowed, only jumpers.
- Jumpers and skirts must be worn with navy or white socks or tights; leggings or footless tights are not permitted.
- There is no layering of shirt over shirt. (This applies to layering of uniform tops as well.)
- Hats, hoods, scarves and bandanas are not to be worn in the building (unless it is for religious reasons and approved by the administration or expressly allowed for a special event or Spirit Day). Please note that all acceptable solid navy sweaters listed at Risse Brothers and Lands’ End do not have a hood.
- Flip-flops, sandals, hunting boots, steel-toed boots, hiking boots, shoes/boots with roller wheels, boots above the ankle, or other foot-wear not expressly described in the dress code/uniform policy are not permitted.
- Clothing or belts must not have attached studs, chains, designs, etc.
- Hair that is bizarre or unnatural in color is not allowed. Extreme haircuts (i.e., Mohawks, spikes, asymmetrical) are not allowed. For boys, hair length must be no longer than a standard shirt collar. No students’ hair will come below the eyebrows or hang in their face.
- Hair accessories need to be modest in size and one the following colors only; red, light blue, Navy blue, white, brown, black.
- No tattoos may be visible. Writing on self or clothing is not permissible.
- Body piercing of any kind is discouraged. Jewelry worn in body piercings is not permitted, with the exception of girls wearing earrings in their ears. (Up to 2 piercings in each ear is allowed.) Boys may not wear earrings or nail polish.
- No excessive jewelry or make up is permitted.
- If your child has special dress code needs, please meet with a member of the Leadership team.