

Orca Newsletter-February

We Can Move Mountains

Orca News

With our Culminating Event date officially scheduled (March 3rd) and our students having finished their research and in the thick of the drafting process, we're getting more excited to showcase our hard work and learning with each passing day! As a reminder, students are required to bring in 3-5 props to accompany their presentations. This adds a visual component, making it more interactive and engaging. These props need to be 3D objects, purchased, made, or found, that connect to or represent their state. We are encouraging students to think creatively as we want to promote critical thinking while also cutting costs. Unfortunately, due to food allergies, we cannot bring in local foods from their state to share with others as a part of the presentation. Also, while not required, students are also able to wear an article of clothing and/or accessory (with uniform bottoms) that represents their state.



Outdoor Gear

As the weather is getting colder, students should be bringing a coat, hat, boots, snow pants, and gloves to school every 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.

SAVE THE DATE:

2/5-Party Decorating after school

2/6-Valentines Party

2/12-CSA Love Day

2/13-2/16
No School -Mid-Winter Break

2/20
Spirit Wear Day
(100th Day of School)

What's Happening in Orca

READING: Our readers will be exploring various informational text structures this month while also continuing to practice the RACE Strategy for structured, evidence-based written responses to text.

WRITING: Students will continue with their State Fair Reports through the drafting, revising, editing, and publishing processes

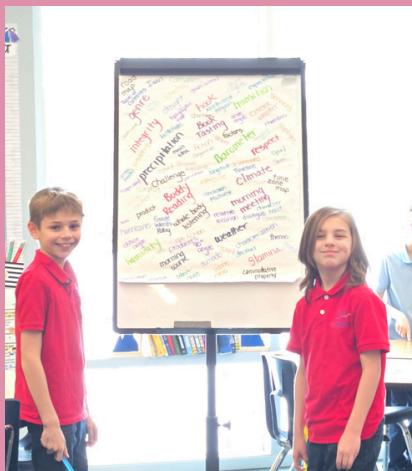
MATH: Early Mathematicians will apply place value concepts through various multi-digit addition and subtraction strategies while also determining the area and perimeter of polygons. Developing Mathematicians will continue building fluency in their long division strategies while also starting a unit on measurement and equivalence!

SCIENCE: We will continue our unit on Life Cycles and Traits by investigating how environmental factors contribute to the growth of various organisms!



Fact fluency February

We are celebrating fact fluency February! Help your child improve their math skills by increasing their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division fluency. Some easy ways to practice are using Reflex, flashcards, or playing card games! Watch your Tuesday folders for extra fluency practice packets.



Character Corner

In the Orca classroom, we work to meet our students' five basic needs on a regular basis. These needs are survival, power, freedom, fun, and love and belonging. In making sure that our students' five basic needs are met, we are working to foster a community of internally motivated students who not only want to learn, but also feel comfortable and confident in doing so.

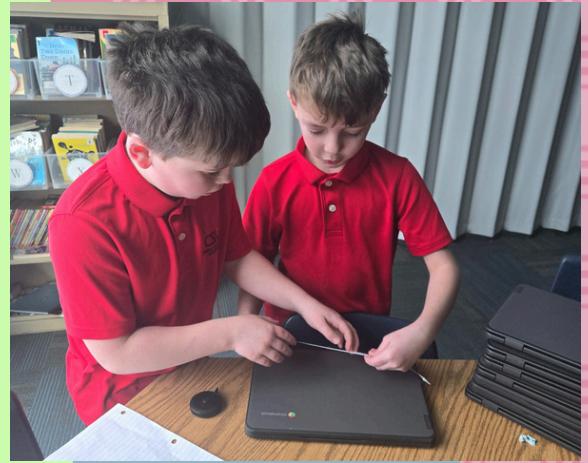
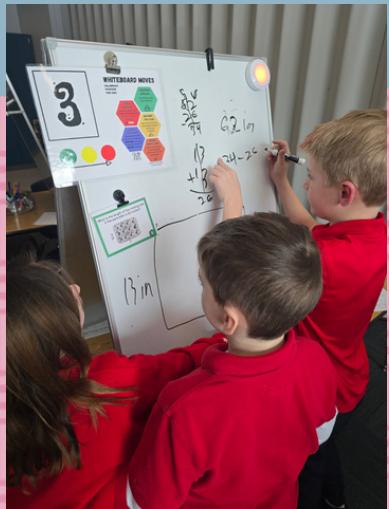
Sometimes, many of these needs are present in a particular lesson, while some activities work to foster some needs (like fun) more than others. It is important to us that our students' needs are always met.

We know that students whose needs are met will be more ready to learn than those who do not have their needs met regularly!

Developmental Approach

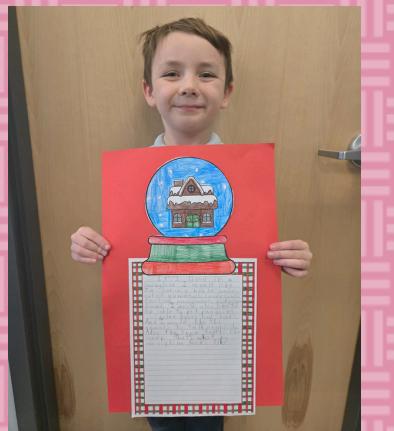
The front part of your child's brain - the frontal cortex - is one of the last parts of their brain to fully develop. This area of the brain controls executive functions such as

planning, prioritizing, and controlling impulses. When your learner is acting impulsively, this thought process is called hot cognition. Cold cognition means using the logical part of your brain, not being "cold." We can help redirect a young person from "hot" to "cold" cognition by responding with empathy, asking questions rather than lecturing, and holding them to high expectations!



Important Reminders!

Just a friendly reminder that it is very important to include BOTH classroom teachers on ALL incoming email. There are times when both teachers are not in the classroom/school and will not have access to email.



Kristine Parmen
kparman@csaschool.org

Maggie Russell
mrussell@csaschool.org



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/17a2XzAi4UaV8qeYVxoLXDoMy1XiAxSJA-vNaxdqdrBQ/>

