

# HARBOUR ♥ herald

*-A Ship is Safe in Harbour-*

From Mr. Hyska and Ms. Denniston

March 3rd 2026



## Highlights

February was a month filled with so much LOVE and relationship building along with our usual learning which included our dive into non-fiction writing for our upcoming Culminating Event. Here are some highlights:

- Students shared their personal expertise and started working on animal research.
- We tackled addition and subtraction strategies with regrouping and some measurement.
- We had our last holiday party of the year celebrating Valentine's Day.
- Students had a day of fun on our fifth annual Love Day with pancakes, fort building and a movie.
- We started filming our 2025-2026 class video.
- We went to Impression 5 hands-on museum!
- We celebrated 100 days together!
- We celebrated Black History Month with a beautiful mural of learning and art in the hallway.

## Important Dates

- 3/2- Spirit Wear Day-Dr. Seuss inspired spirit wear, Charyl's Short Story Contest begins
- 3/6- Spirit Wear Day - Fox in Socks Day
- 3/12 - Harbour Culminating Event
- 3/13 - Spirit Wear Day -Fav Book Character Day
- 3/17- St. Patrick's Day spirit wear
- 3/20 - Spirit Wear Day - Readers are Leaders
- 3/21 - Beluga Ball
- 3/24 - Report Cards go home
- 3/27 - Spirit Wear - pajama day
- 3/30 - No school - SPRING BREAK!

## Nav News: March is Reading Month

We are so excited for "March is Reading Month"! Some of our favorite highlights for the month of March are having literacy-themed spirit days each week, giving the opportunity for student readers daily, participating in a "March Madness Book Bracket" and comparing our class favorites, putting together various browse bins to check out new stories, and having a Read-in/Pajama Day to wrap up our festivities on Friday, March 27. We will also share a "READO" board with lots of reading activities to do throughout the month at home. We look forward to our fun month of reading together and appreciate our teamwork with you in making reading come to life.

### See below for our exciting spirit wear days!

- 3/2- Spirit Wear Day-Dr. Seuss inspired
- 3/6- Spirit Wear Day - Wacky socks
- 3/13 - Spirit Wear Day -Fav Book Character Day
- 3/17- St. Patrick's Day spirit wear
- 3/20 - Spirit Wear Day - Dress as what you want to be when older
- 3/27 - Spirit Wear - Pajama day

Contact us – Mr. Hyska: [ghyska@csaschool.org](mailto:ghyska@csaschool.org) and Ms. Denniston [rdenniston@csaschool.org](mailto:rdenniston@csaschool.org)

## March READO Extension Choice Board

Coming soon in your student's Tuesday folder, you will see the March 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!

## March is Music Month

In addition to it being "March is Reading Month", March is also "Music in our Schools Month!" Mrs. Yamaguchi is offering opportunities during Music class for students to share a musical talent or interest. It could be singing a song, playing something on the piano in class, bringing in an instrument from home, doing a dance, sharing their favorite song, etc. This is a voluntary and informal (but prepared) in-class participation opportunity. If your student is hoping to bring something from home, especially an instrument, please chat with them and their classroom teachers to confirm their "performance" date so that they will be prepared and have what they need for Music class on the correct day. Mrs. Y will have a piano and microphone available for use, as well as the ability to play a song to sing/perform to. If sending a video from home is easier, that can be emailed to classroom teachers or to Mrs. Y directly. Performances will be limited to two minutes and sign up will take place in their regular classrooms. \*We have a couple students who signed up to sing or play piano starting next week. We'll do further sign-ups next week for the rest of the month. Feel free to check in with your learner on their ideas or whether they'd like to participate. :-)

## What We Are Working On

**Reading:** Readers have been reading non-fiction books about communities and the people in them. They have been making connections by asking questions like "What part of this book reminds you of something you've done?" or "When has something like this happened to you?". Next, our readers will be working on wondering, or asking questions, as they read. They will be using non-fiction text about animals and the changes they undergo as they grow into adults.

**Writing:** Our writers have been finishing up their non-fiction animal reports for our upcoming Culminating Event. Students have been creating their own text features to incorporate into their informational writing pieces. Next, we will be moving to letter writing. Students will be writing friendly letters to their classmates and other people in their lives. They will be learning that letters usually have the following five parts: date, greeting, body, closing, and signature.

**Math:** Mathematicians have been working hard on fact fluency, word problems, as well as addition and subtraction with regrouping. We have just begun moving into our measurement unit- always a class favorite! Students will be able to compare non-standard units of measurement to standard units in varying degrees depending on their math experience. Comparing lengths and choosing appropriate units of measurement will be a goal for all learners. Measuring in inches and centimeters will be a starting point and some students may work up to considering how to measure in miles. Soon we will be moving to data & graphing!



Contact us via phone at 810-632-2200 and ask for the Harbour classroom (ext. 147)

## Uniform Reminders

Please refer to the family handbook for a refresher on student dress code. We have been noticing a lot of shoes, pants, and sweaters that do not meet dress code guidelines. In addition, students should not be layering long sleeve shirts under a short sleeve polo. The dress code is also linked here. Please reach out to Mrs. Winters with any questions.

Here are some quick reminders:

**Shirts:** Solid colors in white, light blue, or red. Undershirts must be solid white and short-sleeve.

**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- no sweatshirts.

**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.

## Beluga Ball Reminder

The virtual event is Saturday, March 21 and we hope you'll join in and have fun bidding away! The Beluga Ball is CSA's largest fundraiser and brings in amazing support for our school. Comprised of a silent auction and live auction, there are truly some must-have items. "First in line at carpool", amazing themed baskets, teacher experiences, and so much more make this an event you don't want to miss.



## Spring Break

Spring break wraps up the end of a busy and fun March. We hope you all are able to take some time to connect, soak in moments of love and joy as a family, to rest, and to have fun! We highly, highly encourage time to unplug and unwind. Of course, we also encourage you to find ways to keep learning going to help your child continue to make progress with their academic skills. We hope learning opportunities come naturally and authentically, providing not just skill practice, but ways to connect as a family. Below are some ideas!

**Reading:** Make a set time each day to sit down and read together! It's so important for children to hear reading regularly. They can practice asking and answering questions as you read, work to retell parts of stories, point out sight words in context, and even read aloud and try to get faster each day as they reread the same book. Traveling? Check out a podcast to listen to stories for the drive!

**Writing:** Go outside and write sight words in the dirt! Go on a walk and write about observations. Write a letter to a family member or a note of thanks to community workers. Write a silly story as a family where everyone adds a new line.

**Math:** Graph minutes read each day! Log on to Reflex to get more green lights or even check out IXL for wider concept review! Grab a deck of cards and play an old favorite game, or check out a new one:  
[https://www.weareteachers.com/math-card-games/?fbclid=IwAR07OYZrT23D0ZzQ2Ls9l0eduZlejdBuTrrehDEeGLZsqR1tizBNj\\_pZ58](https://www.weareteachers.com/math-card-games/?fbclid=IwAR07OYZrT23D0ZzQ2Ls9l0eduZlejdBuTrrehDEeGLZsqR1tizBNj_pZ58)

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## 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.

In February, we took time to celebrate and grow LOVE and BELONGING between Valentine's parties and actual Valentine's Day. Mrs. Mocerri wrote a wonderful piece in last month's Tuesday Times on how we work to meet our students' basic NEED of this. This is a foundational need that when met along with 3 other crucial psychological needs propels students to grow in swift and impressive ways. What are the basic needs we focus on? They are based on Dr. William Glasser's Choice Theory.

According to Dr. Glasser, all behavior is purposeful. By putting energy and focus into different areas of need or by taking away the opportunity to meet a need, our behavior is impacted positively and negatively. Dr. Glasser identified the five basic needs as survival, love and belonging, power, freedom, and fun. These needs are the general motivation for everything we do and ties into CSA's focus on internal motivation as a character trait.

1. **Survival** - This need is a physiological need, which includes the need for food, shelter, and safety. Because we have genetic instructions to survive, not only as individuals but as a species, this is the need to sustain life.
2. **Love & Belonging** - This need and the following three needs are psychological needs. The need to love and belong includes the need for relationships, social connections, to give and receive affection, and to feel part of a group.
3. **Power** - To be powerful is to achieve, to be competent, to be skilled, to be recognized for our achievements and skill, to be listened to, and have a sense of self worth.
4. **Freedom** - The need to be free is the need for independence, autonomy, to have choices, and to be able to take control of the direction of one's life
5. **Fun** - The need for fun is the need to find pleasure, to play, and to laugh. Imagine a life without hope of any enjoyment, or no pleasure in hobbies. Glasser links the need for fun to learning, specifically in play. All of the higher animals (dogs, dolphins, primates, etc.) play. As they play, they learn important life skills. Human beings are no different. It is true that "play is a child's work."



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## Character Corner (Cont.)

Through the year, we purposefully work meeting these needs into the classroom routine. In March, we find it necessary to revisit our approaches to POWER, FREEDOM, and FUN with our students. As students have worked to find and understand themselves (and hopefully like themselves), we look to satisfy their need for POWER. We always work towards this through once-a-term activities like creating self-portraits and goal-setting. IF students believe in themselves, they feel the power to achieve those goals through their hard work. We set up opportunities for success through things like our non-fiction culminating event and by providing assessment feedback like DRAs, spelling tests, and math growth. Using tools like identifying quality work provides an opportunity to see their growth and motivate them to take even further control of their work and lives.

**FREEDOM** is often mistaken for a need of absolute choice in all aspects of life. This is not true. Unadulterated freedom would lead to chaos and be overwhelming for many. For students, we are reminded that giving even the smallest amount of choice in how they complete or present their work, or an opportunity to choose a topic to research, or a small set of centers focused on different areas - this need is met. In March and beyond, we often release more responsibility to students and remove some supports like timed rotations, specific must-dos, or assigned table or seat spots - giving them more freedom in their daily work.

**FUN** is the most obvious need for all, but often the first to be skipped or overlooked when we focus on the demands of everyday life. Fun can be mistakenly viewed as a luxury vs. a need and can take a backseat to deadlines and real or perceived responsibilities. In the classroom, we will continue to find ways to include fun from movement activities to art projects to spontaneous dance parties. Many classrooms will explore and create Leprechaun traps, or have a March Madness style battle of the books to see who reigns supreme!

Learning and growth CANNOT happen if the basic needs are not met. As we revisit these needs in the classroom, take time to reflect on what needs might NEED a little extra attention at home. You will be amazed how shifting time and energy into a specific need might alter behaviors in your children (and yourself)!



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