

# Orca NEWSLETTER

March 2026



## Teacher Message

Wow! Our students have put in tremendous effort to create a spectacular culminating event, and they truly exceeded expectations! We appreciate your support and partnership in this journey. March is a month full of excitement—it's March Is Reading Month, our Cranbrook in-house field trip, Read-In Day, and Spring Break. Keep an eye out for Read-O activities that will be sent home soon to help support our students during this enjoyable reading-focused month!

## March is Reading Month

March is Reading Month, and we're excited to celebrate the joy of reading all month long! Students will participate in fun activities like themed spirit days, classroom reading challenges, buddy reading, and special read-alouds. Our goal is to build a love of books while strengthening reading skills and stamina. Families can join the fun by encouraging daily reading at home, talking about books together, and helping students meet their reading goals. Let's work together to make March a month full of stories, imagination, and learning!

## Friendly Reminder

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.

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## Love Day Highlights

The Orca students had a fantastic day filled with love, kindness, and fun! Throughout the day, students explored different learning styles, enjoyed stop-and-dance brain breaks, and even had a paper snowball fight that brought lots of laughter. One special highlight was creating our Orca Love Chain, made up of all the things we love about our class, our friends, and our teachers. It was truly a day to remember!



# What's Happening in Orca

## Reading:

March is Reading Month! This month, students are using writing to share their thinking about what they read. They are practicing using details and evidence from texts to support their ideas and clearly communicate their understanding. We are also excited to welcome guest readers who will join us to share stories and celebrate a love of reading.

## Writing:

Students will be introduced to persuasive writing. By the end of the unit, they will compose letters to a local business, persuading them to donate popsicles to the Orca class – a fun way to practice real-world writing skills!

## Early Math:

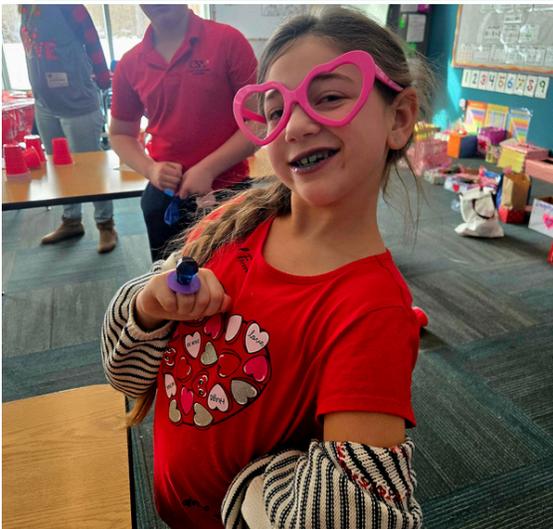
Students will begin working on multi-digit addition and subtraction, as well as exploring factor pairs and prime and composite numbers. Later this month, we will focus on telling time to the nearest minute.

## Developing Math:

Students will study units of measurement, including converting between larger and smaller customary and metric units. Factoring, along with prime and composite numbers, will also be an area of focus.

## Social Studies:

We will explore the United States government, including the branches of government, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution.



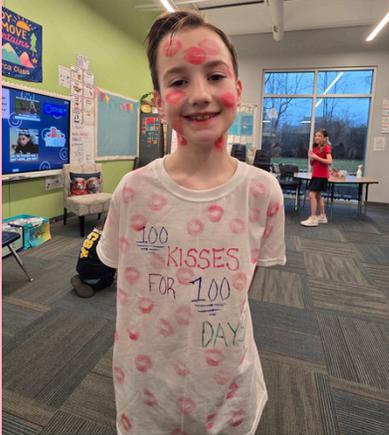
# Character Corner

**Persistence means to keep going, doing, or working to achieve a goal and is an important Habit of Mind we develop in Voyager. In our classroom, we talk about persistence with work ethic in order to produce quality work. During our State Fair work, we have focused on persistence in brainstorming, revising/editing, and sometimes changing course in order to produce quality work. We talk about the difficulty of persistence, but also the internal reward of a job well done. Persistence is a skill that must be continuously practiced and at this age, encouraged and discussed. Share with your children a time when persistence helped you succeed or grow. Also, reflect on a time where persistence would have been helpful.**

## Impulsivity

**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!**





## Save the Date

**Monday, March 2** Orca State Fair Culminating Event 5-6 PM

Charyl's Extraordinary Tales Contest Begins

**March, 10/11** In-House Field Trip/Cranbrook Institute of Arts

**Friday, March 20** Last Day of Term 2

**Saturday, March 21** Beluga Ball

**Tuesday, March 24** Report Cards Go Home

**Friday, March 27** Read-In Day (Orca students may wear pajamas and bring blankets and pillows to class with them)

Charyl's Extraordinary Tales Contest Ends

**March 30 - April 3** Spring Break

Amazon Wishlist-Orca



Reflex



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