

Dusky February

NEWSLETTER



Navigator 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 for these children and developing life-long readers.



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.



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
- **3/10 - Dusky Culminating Event (2:00-3:00)**
- **3/13 - Spirit Wear Day - Dress as your favorite book character.**
- **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 , Charyl's short story ends**
- **3/30 - No school - SPRING BREAK!**
- **4/6 - School Resumes**

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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=IwAR07OYZrT23D0ZzQ2Ls9lOeduZlEjdCbuTrrehDEeGLZsqR1tizBNj_pZ58

We wish everyone a safe, healthy, and joyful break!



March READO Learning 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. :-)

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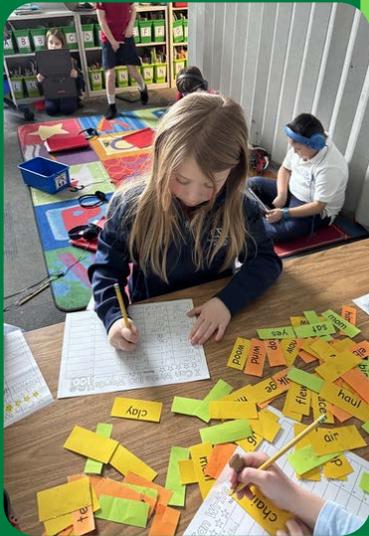
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Culminating Event

We are excited to invite our families in for our culminating event this month! We emailed a sign-up link so that families can choose a time slot to visit. Please plan to arrive at the start of your time slot and come on in! Some families may need more or less time to visit and see projects, but we hope this system allows you to spend time appreciating and celebrating your writer's hard work. Some families may need more or less time than the 20-minute slot and that's okay! We are using this method to try to stagger the number of guests in and out of our classroom at one time. We invite you to check out the work of their classmates as well! There will be sign-out sheets available in the room in the event you choose to make an afternoon of it and pick up your learner early.

On the sign up, only one "slot" is needed per family- not number of attendees. If possible, we ask that siblings not attend in order to help with capacity in the classroom and to keep the focus on student work. Thank you! Looking forward to seeing you there!



Beluga Ball

Thank you, a million times over, for all of the support to make our Beluga Ball such an amazing success! We are beyond grateful for all of the support for our classrooms, our teachers, our students, and our school! Thank you for all that you do.

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.

Please check back to the Tuesday Times and scroll down to see updates and link from the Beluga Ball Committee. They could use help with donations, gathering sponsors, and for several aspects of the event itself. Email belugaball@csaschool.org with any questions or to see how you can lend a hand in supporting one of our school's most important events!



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Character Corner

February was all about celebrating and fostering LOVE and BELONGING, from Valentine's parties to the holiday itself. Last month, Mrs. Mocerri shared a thoughtful piece in *Tuesday Times* about how we work to meet this essential need for our students. Love and belonging are fundamental, and when this need is fulfilled—along with three other key psychological needs—students can grow in remarkable ways.

So, what are these basic needs? They come from Dr. William Glasser's *Choice Theory*, which explains that all behavior is intentional. We direct our energy toward meeting different needs, and when those needs are met (or not met), our behavior shifts accordingly. Dr. Glasser identified five core needs that drive human motivation: survival, love and belonging, power, freedom, and fun. These needs are central to CSA's emphasis on fostering internal motivation as a character trait.

The Five Basic Needs:

1. **Survival** - Our most fundamental need, including food, shelter, and safety. It's wired into us to ensure not just our individual survival but also the survival of our species.
2. **Love & Belonging** - The first of our psychological needs, this includes the desire for connection, relationships, affection, and feeling part of a community.
3. **Power** - The need to feel capable, to be recognized for achievements, to have a voice, and to build a sense of self-worth.
4. **Freedom** - The need for autonomy, the ability to make choices, and a sense of control over one's life.
5. **Fun** - The need for joy, play, and laughter. Dr. Glasser even linked fun to learning, emphasizing that, just like animals learn through play, so do humans. "Play is a child's work."

Throughout the year, we intentionally weave opportunities to meet these needs into our daily routines. As we enter March, we shift our focus to POWER, FREEDOM, and FUN, recognizing their growing importance for students at this stage.

Power becomes especially important as students build confidence in themselves. We nurture this through goal-setting activities, self-portraits, and opportunities for students to recognize their own growth—whether through assessment feedback like DRAs and spelling tests or culminating projects that showcase their progress. Seeing their hard work pay off helps them develop a sense of control over their learning and future.

Freedom isn't about unlimited choices, which can be overwhelming, but rather about providing structured opportunities for independence. Simple choices—like how to present their work, selecting a research topic, or choosing from a set of learning centers—help meet this need. As March progresses, we often step back and allow students more responsibility, gradually reducing structured supports like timed rotations or assigned seats to foster independence.

Fun is often the easiest to recognize but can also be the first thing to slip away in the rush of daily responsibilities. It's easy to see fun as a luxury rather than a necessity, but it plays a crucial role in motivation and engagement. We make sure to build in joy—whether through movement breaks, art projects, or even spontaneous dance parties! March will bring creative experiences like building Leprechaun traps or hosting a March Madness-style book tournament.

At the heart of it all, learning and growth can't happen unless these core needs are met. As we revisit them in the classroom, consider which of these needs might need extra attention at home. You might be surprised at how small shifts in focus can positively impact behavior—not just in children, but in ourselves as well!

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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!



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Read-In/Pajama Day

Friday, March 27, is our "Read-in" and PAJAMA DAY! Students are invited to wear any pajamas or comfy clothing (i.e. sweatpants, t-shirt, yoga pants, sweatshirt) instead of their uniforms on that day. Slippers and robes may be brought to wear during reading, but shoes, of course, still need to be worn outside. We ask that there are NO tank tops, shorts, leggings, or nightgowns. Students may also bring ****ONE**** toy/stuffed animal to accompany them during our "read-in". They may also bring a blanket, but all items **MUST** fit together in their backpack. Labeling all items is a good idea to avoid any mix-ups. We also ask families to wash any items prior to sending them in and then you may want to wash as soon as they come home. Thanks for your support! We look forward to this exciting day!



Amazon Wishlist



Volunteer Info



Playdate Directory

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 this newsletter.

jswift@csaschool.org
mthrush@csaschool.org

