

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Dear Parents,

We are well into the school year, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank the staff, parents, and community for their support. We had a remarkable turnout of 50 parent volunteers, who are generously donating their time to assist teachers in a variety of capacities--making photocopies, laminating, working with students in literacy circles, and so much more. Partnering with parents, we are also establishing a Computer Coding Club after School in Grade 5. Our hope is to expand this on a rotating basis for other grade levels soon. This is a perfect example of how expertise from the community helps us provide 21st century skills for our students. This continues a major focus for our school.



Calendar Events

Oct. 3 Spirit Night at Margarita's restaurant

Oct. 8 Holiday/No School

Oct. 9 Teacher In-Service Day/No Students

Oct 10 PTO Meeting 6:30-7:30

Oct. 12 Picture Day

Oct 16 Bingo Night

Oct 18 Flu Shot Clinic 11 am-1pm

Oct. 31 Early Release 12:45

We wish to extend our thanks to the Asa C. Adams Parent-Teacher Organization. They sponsored a well-attended Pot Luck Supper in September. Many staff members joined us for the celebration and I had the opportunity to meet with families over a wonderful variety of food. Special thanks to all the parents who came out, and to the students who were treated to the Darling's ice cream truck.



Mrs. Metcalf's Kindergarten students are working with a program called 'Handwriting without Tears. This research-based program uses a multi-sensory approach with a variety of materials to make writing accessible and fun. It also uses different learning styles to engage young learners and ensure that they can connect with the content in a meaningful way.

Pre-K students in Mrs. Lynch's class use the arts to help express themselves and develop their fine motor skills. The range of hands-on activities is designed to help students develop a foundation for content-specific skills such as literacy and mathematics. As always, a major emphasis is on collaboration and respect.



















Every years Asa Adams 4th and 5th graders are invited to the Band Instrument Demonstration. The presenters serenaded students on flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet and trombone. Students listened to the ranges as well as the character of each instrument. With strings we also help students find the right instrument for them.



HABITS OF MIND

Our focus on Habits of Minds at Asa C. Adams underscores our commitment to providing students with the social-emotional learning competencies they need to navigate the 21st century. We use engaging, hands-on lessons to help students learn such skills as listening with empathy, managing impulsivity, perseverance, flexible thinking, and a wide range of other metacognitive skills. Research indicates that helping students build these ‘soft’ skills has a direct correlation to improved academic growth. The staff at Asa C. Adams School has dedicated much time and effort to creative approaches that reinforce these skills within content areas—also as celebrations of learning. Watch for more news about Habits of Mind and its evolution through the district pre-K 12 to help all students in RSU 26.

 <p>1. Persisting <i>Stick to it!</i> Persevering in task through to completion; remaining focused. Looking for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up.</p>	 <p>2. Managing Impulsivity <i>Take your time!</i> Thinking before acting; remaining calm, thoughtful and deliberative.</p>	 <p>3. Listening with understanding and empathy <i>Understand others!</i> Devoting mental energy to another person's thoughts and ideas; Make an effort to perceive another's point of view and emotions.</p>	 <p>4. Thinking flexibly <i>Look at it another way!</i> Being able to change perspectives, generate alternatives, consider options.</p>
 <p>5. Thinking about your thinking (Metacognition) <i>Know your knowing!</i> Being aware of your own thoughts, strategies, feelings and actions and their effects on others.</p>	 <p>6. Striving for accuracy <i>Check it again!</i> Always doing your best. Setting high standards. Checking and finding ways to improve constantly.</p>	 <p>7. Questioning and problem posing <i>How do you know?</i> Having a questioning attitude; knowing what data are needed & developing questioning strategies to produce those data. Finding problems to solve.</p>	 <p>8. Applying past knowledge to new situations <i>Use what you learn!</i> Accessing prior knowledge; transferring knowledge beyond the situation in which it was learned.</p>
 <p>9. Thinking & communicating with clarity and precision <i>Be clear!</i> Strive for accurate communication in both written and oral form; avoiding over-generalizations, distortions, deletions and exaggerations.</p>	 <p>10. Gather data through all senses <i>Use your natural pathways!</i> Pay attention to the world around you. Gather data through all the senses. taste, touch, smell, hearing and sight.</p>	 <p>11. Creating, imagining, and innovating <i>Try a different way!</i> Generating new and novel ideas, fluency, originality</p>	 <p>12. Responding with wonderment and awe <i>Have fun figuring it out!</i> Finding the world awesome, mysterious and being intrigued with phenomena and beauty.</p>
 <p>13. Taking responsible risks <i>Venture out!</i> Being adventuresome; living on the edge of one's competence. Try new things constantly.</p>	 <p>14. Finding humor <i>Laugh a little!</i> Finding the whimsical, incongruous and unexpected. Being able to laugh at one's self.</p>	 <p>15. Thinking interdependently <i>Work together!</i> Being able to work in and learn from others in reciprocal situations. Team work.</p>	 <p>16. Remaining open to continuous learning <i>Learn from experiences!</i> Having humility and pride when admitting we don't know; resisting complacency.</p>