

School News

Washington Elementary School



Washington School Starts at 8 a.m.

With only a 10 and a half weeks left of school, every day is important for your child's learning and development. School begins at 8 a.m. each day. Have your child here at that time. Breakfast time is also learning time.

Help your child build independence by allowing them to walk between the drop off zone and the school building on their own. Children should carry their own backpacks. Encourage independence with dressing.

Newsletter Survey Results

Thank you, parents, for letting us know your preference for reading the Washington monthly newsletter— online or in print. This information helps us determine how to best use our resources to communicate with parents. For those curious readers, the results show that 54% prefer to read the Newsletter in print while 46% will read it on a device. Children will continue to bring home a printed copy. The newsletter is posted at www.crookston.k12.mn.us/washington-elementary-school

I Love to Read Month

March will be an exciting month as Washington School celebrates "I Love to Read" Month with special activities and events. Our goal is to focus on the enjoyment of reading and the importance of becoming good readers by reading as often as possible.

The celebration began on Monday, March 3, with "Read Across America." Students and staff were invited to wear red, white, or stripes on that day. All the students gathered in the gym with a book. The month will hold some special reading themed days.

Information about I Love To Read Month was sent home last week and is also included on the March calendar. We are looking forward to a month of reading and hope you continue the excitement at home.

Early Childhood Screening will be Wednesday, March 5th & Thursday, March 6th. Call 281-2762 for more information or to schedule an appointment for your three, four or five year old child. The State of MN requires screening before entering K or pre-K.

REMINDER:
No School Readiness
Wednesday—Friday,
March 5—7, due to Early
Childhood Screening.

Daylight Savings begins
Sunday, March 9th,

Turn your clocks ahead one hour!

Upcoming Dates

<i>No School Readiness Early Childhood Screen-</i>	<i>Mar. 5 & 6</i>
<i>No School Readiness</i>	<i>Mar. 7</i>
<i>ECFE Parent Advisory Council Meeting</i>	<i>Mar. 11</i>
<i>No School—Staff Development</i>	<i>Mar. 17</i>
<i>ECFE March Musical Madness at HES</i>	<i>Mar. 24</i>
<i>End of 3rd Quarter &</i>	<i>Mar.</i>
<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>Apr. 18–21</i>
<i>Celebrate the Young Child</i>	<i>Apr. 22</i>
<i>WES PTO Family Picnic</i>	<i>May 12</i>
<i>Last Day of School Readiness</i>	<i>May 16</i>

Washington School
Community Education
Director
Matt Torgerson

Early Childhood
Coordinator
Gina Gunderson

Admin. Asst.
Brenda Crane
Washington School
281-2762

Transportation Director
Rick Niemela
281-5444

Students Feed the Bear for the United Way of Crookston

During January, students at Washington School collected pennies, quarters, dimes and nickels to "Feed the Bear" in support of The United Way of Crookston. Due to the high number of absences, the collection extended into February. The collection jar overflowed with coins totaling \$597.53. Additional coins were also presented to the United Way of Crookston, along with a check.

United Way Executive Director, Libby Boucher and a few United Way Board Members, visited Washington School to receive the donation from students as shown in the photo on the right. The United Way of Crookston is grateful for the students' contribution.



ECFE Parent Advisory Council

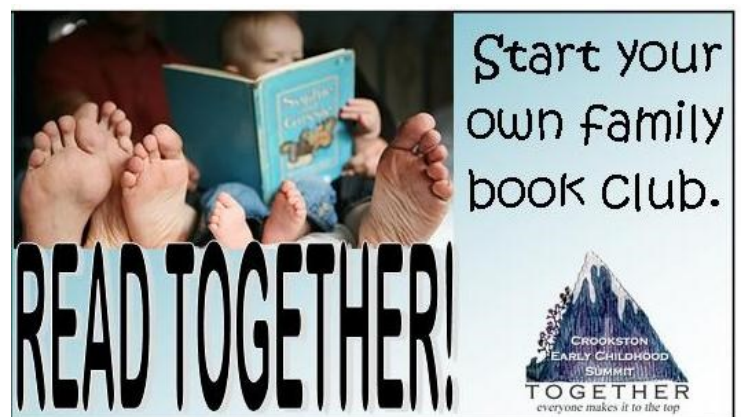
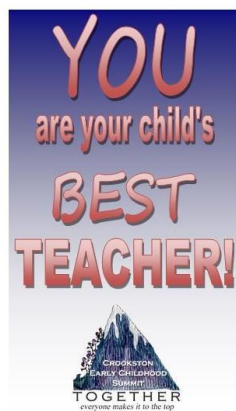
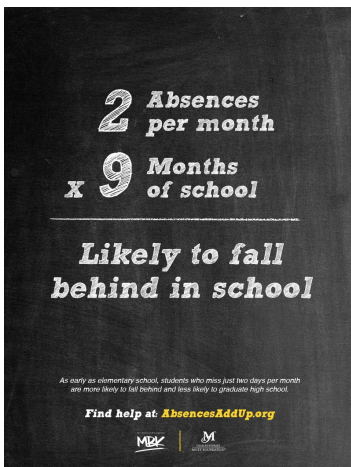
The PAC will be sponsoring the activities for I Love to Read Month in March. Each child will receive a book during the Fishing for Books event. The month-long reading celebration will focus on the joy of reading.

Two PAC meetings remain this year, Tuesday, March 11, 5-6 p.m. and Tuesday, May 13, from 5—6 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend. Please RSVP for childcare by noon the day before the meeting.



*Thank you, Parents,
for participating in
Parent/Teacher
Conferences.*

*The interest you show in your
child's education and connec-
tion with their teacher in-
creases your child's success at
school.*



After School Chats

“What’s in your backpack?”



Greet your child with this question, and you’ll discover a lot about what your child does in class.

- Set aside time each day to go through your child’s papers. Try to do it first thing after school when the day is fresh in their mind.
- Look over your youngster’s work together. Help them feel proud by making specific comments about something they have done. For instance, if your child shows you a picture they drew in art class, you might say, “The gray sky and big waves look just like our rainy day at the beach.”
- Have your child show you what they have learned.

Building Attention

Have you ever marveled at how a child can sit for long stretches of time mesmerized by a screen, yet often loses focus after a few minutes in a real conversation or working on a chore? The way we consume media has changed the way we pay attention. We are compelled to scroll and tap and consume an ever-broadening spectrum of content. We can always navigate elsewhere if something gets boring. Information is instantly available—a bit different from asking a parent, grandparent, or friend for help.

Screen time conditions your child to have unrealistic expectations for the real world—that every interaction will be interesting, instant and immediately rewarding. How can we counter this trend? Start by raising a reader. Reading is a foundation skill for all children, and it helps them develop focus by being engaged in a single thought process. While reading, children learn to stay with one topic and absorb something deeply.

Your child’s ability to pay attention and to demonstrate this critical social skill affects academics, family life, and relationships with friends.

Adapted from portions of Growing Up Social: Raising Relational Kids in a Screen-Driven World, by Dr. Gary Chapman and Arlene Pellicane.



**Celebrate the
Young Child
Family Festival
Tuesday, April 22
5:30—7 p.m.
Washington School**

A Scholastic Book Fair will be included. Watch for more information soon.

Indicators of Kindergarten Readiness

We believe that families, early childhood teachers, and caregivers all contribute to a child's readiness for a positive kindergarten experience. We understand the development of skills varies from child to child and it takes all of us working together to help children be successful in school. For children to have the best start in kindergarten, it would be beneficial for children to meet the following indicators when entering kindergarten:

- * **Recognize and write the letters in their name.**
- * **Name a minimum of 13 letters of the alphabet...uppercase and lowercase.**
- * **Recognize and name numbers 0-10.**
- * **Count objects 1-10.**
- * **Be able to listen to a story and turn the pages of a book one at a time.**
- * **Show independence with self-help skills such as toileting, washing hands, dressing self, and tying shoes.**
- * **Is able to get along with others and use words to express their feelings.**



Yellow Family Highlights

When February temperature prevented outdoor play, Ms. Carrie's class enjoyed indoor ice fishing.



Thank you to the Parent Advisory Council for providing hot chocolate after a windy time playing on the CHS Football Field.



cheers to hot chocolate!



Changing with the Weather

The very cold wind chills during a portion of the winter prevented children from playing outdoors. Then, in typical Minnesota fashion, the weather warmed quickly, melting the needed snow for Sledding Day. Washington School quickly adjusted plans and with the cooperation of Nate Lubarski, Crookston High School Activities Director and the Transportation Department, Sledding at Maplewood Park was changed to Play on the Turf at CHS.

Making the most of the situation, children enjoyed playing in the large space and running around the track. Our Little Pirates are training to be future Pirates!

Thank you to Mr. Lubarski for taking class photos.



ECFE Happenings



The Monday Full STEAM Ahead class created towers with Fruit Loops. Children practiced sorting, counting, eye-to-hand coordination and fine motor skills as they enjoyed the cereal's sweet aroma.

In February, ECFE visited the Crookston Pool. Exposure to water in a safe environment develops confidence.

Next month's event will be the March Musical Madness at Highland School on Monday, March 24th, 6—7 p.m.



Poison Prevention

Medicine can become harmful to young kids when taken without following the proper instructions or when ingested without supervision. Make sure to keep medicine tightly closed after each use, and out of reach and out of sight of children. Do not leave any medicine on counters, in backpacks or purses, or any other places children may have easy access to. When giving medicine, make sure to use the dosing device that it comes with. Do not use a kitchen spoon as the amount can be different from the dosing device.

For older students that may be taking medications on their own, make sure to teach them how to read the labels and assure they understand that medications may have different names, but the same active ingredient and should not be taken together.

If someone you know has ingested medicine without your supervision or has taken more than the required amount, please call the poison help number at 800.222.1222. We suggest adding this number to your phone to have in case of an emergency.

Electronic Scooters



A popular newer way to get around is with electronic scooters. These vehicles are fast and can be risky for kids to ride. In fact, our Grand Forks Bird Scooter fleet is restricted to riders over 18 only, while personally owned scooters are restricted to use by those over 10 years old. Additionally, many cities prohibit riding on sidewalks and kids under 18 must wear helmets. Here are some other things to keep in mind if you consider using these scooters:

1. Keep your eyes on the road.
2. Keep both hands on the handlebars.
3. Use a proper helmet—this should be a multisport helmet or DOT approved helmet as bike helmets won't offer appropriate protection.
4. Slow down before looking back or turning.
5. Inspect your scooter regularly.
6. Equip the scooter with proper lights.
7. Wear eye protection.



Altru Health System is proud to serve as the lead agency for Safe Kids Grand Forks. For more information on this and other childhood injury prevention topics, visit safekidsgf.com, call us at 701.780.1489 or email safekids@altru.org.



This information is brought to you by Safe Kids Grand Forks & our partners at Vision Zero



March Musical Madness

Children's Interactive Concert

Come and enjoy the wonderful sound of music!

Monday, March 24, 2025

6:00 -7:00 p.m.

Highland Elementary School Cafeteria

Come and enjoy an interactive concert specifically created for children (birth to 5 years). Experience the sights & sounds of orchestra instruments as well as participate in sing-a-longs, rhythm, and movement activities.

Enjoy the wonderful sound of Music!

***The event is sponsored by ECFE.**

**To register, please call 218-281-2762
or email brendacrane@isd593.org.**

