



Sisters Elementary School
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Principal's Message

Happy March. I hope you are enjoying the additional daylight as you partake of all that Sisters Country has to offer! February was a busy month and we are excited about the many opportunities for our students in March. Thank you to all of our amazing parents and community members who volunteered your time to share your careers at our first annual Career Day. Our students learned so much from you! Thank you to all of our students and families for participating in Screen Free week last week. It is great to have the time to evaluate how we spend our precious time- with screens, or with other people in activities that encourage interaction and connections. There is a lot of research about the value of limited screen time at home for younger children.



We will have targeted parent teacher conferences on March 12 and 13. There is not enough time in this round of conferences for every student to have a conference. These are reserved for teachers and parents to talk if there are concerns academically or behaviorally. If you would like a conference to address your concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher.

The safety of our students continues to be a priority for us as a school and district. As a staff, we work intentionally with students to teach them the skills for getting along with one another in an effort to prevent bullying. Over the next few months, we will be exploring Habits 4-6, think win-win, seek first to understand, then to be understood, and synergize. Also, as a part of safety we practice a variety of drills so that staff and students are prepared in case of a real emergency, that will hopefully never happen. These include monthly fire drills, as well as earthquake, Lock In and Lock Down drills. Lock In drills mean that we lock our doors and continue working. Lock Down drills are coordinated with our School Resource Officer and involve locked doors, and students moving with their teacher to a quiet place not visible to an intruder. With all of our drills, we make sure that we are keeping it positive by teaching procedures without a lot of elaboration.

I appreciate the input that I have received from many of you via the Coffee with the Principal, SPTC meetings, Back to School Night and Latino Family Nights about your priorities for your students. One of the themes this year has been the need for a publicly funded pre-kindergarten for our Sisters families. SES is in the process of applying to the state of Oregon to participate in the Preschool Promise grant funded program. It is our hope that we will be able to offer one pre-kindergarten class here at SES next year for families at 200% of FPL (Federal Poverty Level); we will find out in May if this will be a reality. We appreciate SPRD as our partner, and will continue to collaborate with their preschool program in the coming years, as well as working

Reminders from the Front Office

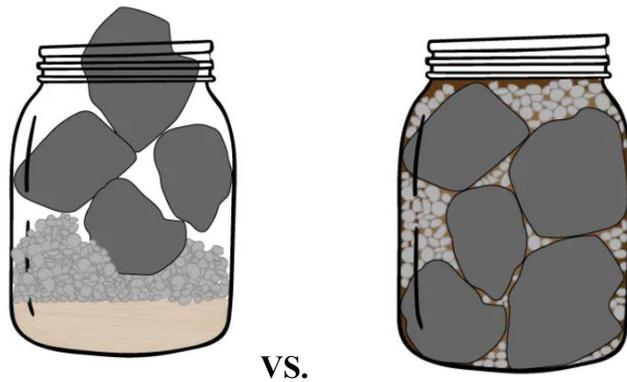
Please do not park in the bus loading zone, in front of the school, between the hours of 7:30 am- 3:30 pm, Monday-Friday. We have buses in and out of this area throughout the school day.



Counselor News

We had a wonderful turn out for Career Day! Thank you to our volunteers for inspiring our students to dream about their futures! This event was a great connection to Habit #2- Begin with the End in Mind.

In the classrooms, I have moved into Habit #3: Put First Things First. This is about having priorities. In many classrooms we did an activity to help us identify our “big rocks”. “Big rocks” are the most important things in our life. We also have “small rocks”. These may be things that we enjoy doing, but shouldn’t be our priorities. We talked about if we fill our jars (life) with the small rocks first, it means that we aren’t able to make time for the big rocks. If we fill our jars with the big rocks first, then we can still have room for some of the small ones.



Kate Kuitert
School Counselor

SEL (Social Emotional Learning)

As a school we have moved into learning about Habit #3: Put First Things First.

Habit #3 focuses on work first, then play.

★ I spend my time on things that are most important

- ★ This means I say no to things I know I should not do
- ★ I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan
- ★ I am disciplined and organized

Some things to try at home:

- ★ Use a family calendar of events happening during the week to help children see the importance of a schedule and being organized.
- ★ Sit down and write a list of all the must do's (priorities). Talk about how these things need to be done first and discuss what the options are for when they are complete.
- ★ Share about times that you didn't put first things first and what the consequences were. Our kids will also experience these moments! Use these as opportunities to help them learn!



Chinese

Ni hao! (Hello !) Everyone!

Here are the updates for Chinese classes this month:



中文

Content:

In grades 4, 3 and 2

This month we are going to learn Easy Steps to Chinese for Kids Book 2a Lesson 5: I love reading. This unit will allow students to say their hobbies, such as “I like reading;” “ I love writing;” “ I like drawing;” “ I play games every day.” By the end of this lesson, students will be able to say full sentences or make a simple conversation about their hobbies.

This month we plan to teach students how to write Chinese characters correctly.

From studying the basic strokes and students can write some simple Chinese characters.

In grades 1 and Kindergarten

Learn the basic words in daily life, such as “Thank You;” “ Sorry;” “ What’s your name;” “How old I am.”

Culture:

Learn Chinese Poetry and Chinese Songs

In grade 4

Poem: 静夜思 Quiet Night Thoughts, by Li Bai (Táng) .

In grade 3

Poem: 悯农 Sympathy for Peasants, by Lǐshēn (Táng).

In grade 2

Poem: 春晓 Spring Dawn, by MèngHàoRán (Táng) .

In grade 1

Poem: 咏鹅 Ode to The Goose, by luòbīnwáng(Táng)at the age of 7!

In kindergarten

Song: 找朋友 Find friends

Learn Chinese Martial Arts

Best wishes,

Dan Dan, Chinese Teacher & Shang Li, Chinese Intern Teacher

Physical Education

Students have been having fun playing badminton in Physical Education. Students of all grades have been introduced to badminton, playing individually as well as in partners.



We will be starting a jump rope unit in March in physical Education. Please make sure your child comes to school with athletic shoes that they can run and jump in!

Mrs. Thomas

MUSIC NOTES:

Kindergarten - We are READY for our *PAJAMA PARTY!* We will perform for our parents AND fellow students on Thursday, March 5th at 2:00pm in the SES GYM. To celebrate, we invite our ENTIRE STUDENT POPULATION to wear Pajamas that day - and parents, come join us for a celebration of all things cozy.



3rd and 4th Grade - Recorders have begun! If you are a new student to our school this year, I will be providing you with a recorder to LIVE in the music room so it's always available for our classes. We have all students use the SAME recorder in order to eliminate conflict and jealousy. Thank you for understanding! If you haven't already filled out your slip for the recorder (letting me know if you're sending in \$5 to help cover the cost OR if you need a scholarship), please send that in ASAP. You can find a copy of the form here: <https://tinyurl.com/tbu9gvg>

4th Grade - If your student has a speaking part in *The Adventures of Lewis and Clark*, they will need to have ALL of their lines memorized no later than April 6. This is very important! Remind students that in order to be an effective actor, they'll need to memorize not only their part, but the lines of the person who comes right before theirs. Thank you for your amazing support in this!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING SHOWS:

Pajama Party - Kindergarten - Thursday, March 5 @ 2:00pm

The Adventures of Lewis & Clark - 4th Grade - Tuesday, April 28 @ 5:00pm

Swamped! & Go Fish! - 1st & 2nd Grade - Tuesday, May 19 @ 5:00pm

ALL GRADES Musical Celebration "We're Making Music" - Thursday, June 11 @ 2:00pm

Art

Artists have been very creative this last month using the printmaking centers, 1st and 2nd grades created collographs and did 5-8 prints. They created ghost prints two different ways and then we talked about how a print and a ghost print are like a homophone. Each print is created from the same plate (it's the same, like the sound of the word) but when you look at the print it is different, like the spelling.



3rd and 4th graders have been creating masterpieces using emotion as the theme. The essential question was, "how does an artist create emotion in their work?" They have come up with some very expressive work! They learned a new painting technique, dry brush and scumbling and have been using it very well. Many of them have made chalk drawings that have many layers of color to express their emotion. Some have been very successful using the gel printing technique too!

Kinders have also been using the printmaking center. They explored texture and prints with rollers, bubble wrap, stamps and other things. They used these papers to create sculptures, and collages.

All classes will begin to work on their art for the MOTH parade in May. At the end of the month we will be evaluating our portfolios to find our best work and present it for a special display. All this is in preparation for our big art show the last week in April this year!

One last note.....second graders entered a drawing to an art contest, the Oregon Agriculture Calendar Art Contest! Each year the AITC puts together a calendar of student artwork from Oregon schools, grades K-6. When art is selected, the artist receives a \$50 gift! The artists winning piece is also placed in the AITC calendar! I would not want to be one of the judges because as far as this art teacher is concerned they all should win!!!! Good luck.

English Language Development

We will be embarking on our yearly summative English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) during this month. There are many things parents can do at home to help their child during spring testing season and throughout the year. Make sure your child gets enough sleep, get them to school on time, and read at home every day! Many thanks to our families for their ongoing support with this throughout the year!



For further tips, check out this link!

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/parent-tips-help-your-child-have-good-school-year>

Don't forget to visit your local Sisters Public Library! There are many and varied reading materials and resources in Spanish. Contact Carly Garzón Vargas at the Deschutes Public Library (541) 312-1073.

<http://www.deschuteslibrary.org>

Services for English language learners continue throughout the year. If you have any questions about services, please call Dawna Spencer at 541-549-2099 ext. 5540 or email dawna.spencer@ssd6.org. It is a pleasure to work with such amazing students!

Happenings at SPRD

Spring Break with SPRD

Spring break is just around the corner and SPRD has just what you need to keep your kids active and engaged over our extra-long break. For parents who need full-day care, SPRD Spring Break Camp is the best option with care from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Parents who only need part of the day covered or just want something to keep kiddos entertained, check out our Starshine Theater Camp or our new Sylvan STEM Bonanza Camp! For more details including pricing, scholarship information or to get registered visit sistersrecreation.com!



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