

Bobcat Bulletin

Volume IV, Issue 4

December 2023

Mark Your Calendar!



JANUARY '24						
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You're Gonna Miss This; We're Gonna Miss You Coach!



Coach Devin Lindsay was recognized at his last home game on December 1st with his family, friends, and many prior students in attendance. Coach is planning to retire at the end of this school year.

November Character Award Winners



Building Thinking Classrooms

By Mrs. Stephanie Parsons, 5th/6th Math Teacher

The goal of building thinking classrooms is not to find engaging tasks for students to think about, but rather to build engaged students that are willing to think about any task.

A building thinking classroom is a thinking classroom that is not only conducive to thinking but also occasions thinking, a space that is inhabited by thinking individuals as well as individuals thinking collectively, learning together, and constructing knowledge and understanding through activity and discussion.

A thinking classroom looks very different from a typical classroom. Students are working in groups rather than indi-

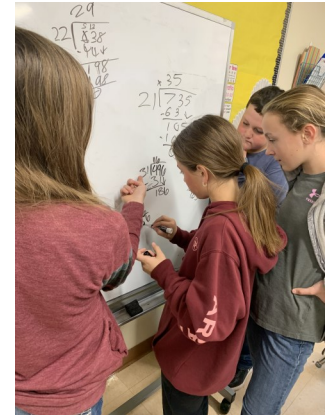
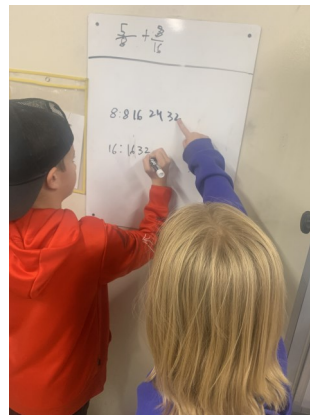
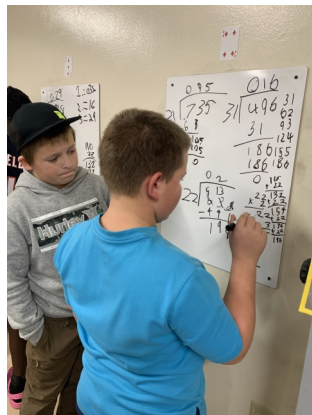
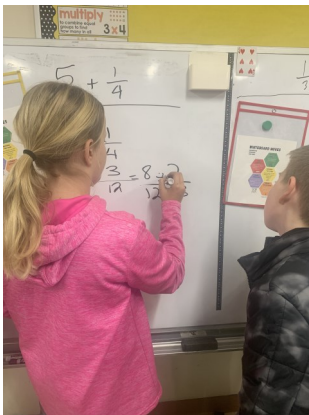
vidually, they are standing rather than sitting, and the furniture is arranged so as to face many different angles around the room.

Unlike in a more traditional classroom, where the lesson might start with direct instruction from the teacher, a typical day in a thinking classroom starts with the teacher assigning thinking tasks for students to work on in groups, and direct instruction is only given on an as-needed basis. Students come to the task with energy, enthusiasm, determination, and a greater sense of self-reliance.

The research into how best to do this revealed that when we find ways to

help students understand both where they are (what they know) and where they are going (what they have yet to learn), not only do they become more active in their learning and thinking, but their performance on unit tests increase.

The full benefits when all pieces of a thinking classroom are all running together is that there is greater student engagement, more active learning, greater student enjoyment, increased student responsibility, higher performances, easier and faster movement through content, greater satisfaction as a teacher, and just like that we get a whole new set of students to start with again!



What is Gifted?

By Mrs. Rana Hudson, Interventions and Gifted Instructor

Defining what gifted is can be difficult, because everyone is different. Some could be gifted in music, like Mozart, who could play the harpsichord at four and began composing his own music at the age of five. Some could be gifted in one topic or subject, like Einstein, who was a gifted mathematician, but failed chemistry, biology, and French. Some can be gifted at multiple topics or subjects, like Da Vinci, who excelled at art, science, and as an inventor. His inventions being years before his time. Some gifted may never know they have a gift(s), while others will exceed all expectations.

According to *The National Association for Gifted Children*, approximately six to ten percent of the population are gifted and about two percent of those are exceptionally gifted. So how do you know if your student or child could be gifted? Watch and listen to your student or child. Does your young child do activities like talking about the flow of lava and ask questions about volcanoes when they are eating a Hershey's kiss? Build inventions out of items in or around your house, or with a combination of different toys. Does your child have an exceptional vocabulary above their age or grade level? Does your child or student ask random questions

about topics above their age or grade level, like what is the fifth dimension? These could be indicators of a gifted child.

There is a misconception that all gifted students are high achievers, this is not always true. Some gifted students will not do the practice, because they do not believe they need to. Some will do their work, but not turn it in. Some are disorganized and can lose their papers and some may have such a narrow focus that they have problems focusing on other things.

If a student is recommended for the Dent-Phelps Gifted Program, they will be given an Intelligence Quotient (IQ) assessment. To qualify for the gifted program the student will need to have scores in excess of 118 in one or more of the sub scores of the overall IQ composite score.

While in the gifted program, we strive to encourage critical thinking through project-based activities that can include math, science, philosophy, and/or creativity. Since a student can be gifted in any subject, we try to incorporate diverse activities to meet student needs.

Common Gifted Traits

- Intellectual Curiosity
- Creative Thinking
- Learns Rapidly
- Challenges Authority
- Advanced Vocabulary
- The ability to focus on a subject intently for an extended period of time
- Difficulty making transitions
- Engages easily with adults
- Perfectionism
- A complex sense of humor
- A need to explore subjects in surprising depth
- Extreme Intensity
- Emotional Sensitivity
- High Energy Levels
- Advanced Empathy
- Nonconformity
- A Vivid Imagination
- The ability to think about problems in "out of the box" ways

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December Nurse's Nook



Did you know that cucumbers are 90% water, but can dissolve kidney and bladder stones, heal stomach ulcers, relieve headaches and promote healthy skin??????

Believe it or not, but your FEET have 500,000 sweat glands! WHHHHAAAAT??? No wonder they stink!

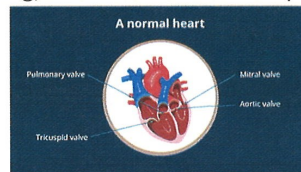


Did you know that you will have energy to walk three miles, by eating three carrots? I mile-1 carrot. Carrots were originally grown for medicine, not food. Who knew??

You know how I am always saying drink water, water, water???? Well, turns out, brain tissue is made up of approximately 80% water. You have to stay hydrated to keep it working effectively.

It also helps reduce headaches.

Here's an interesting fact! The typical sound of your heart beat is really not the sound of your heart beating or contracting, but the sound of two pairs of heart valves closing.



Did you know that garlic can help lower cholesterol and blood pressure, keep arteries flexible, and prevent blood clots? It might also help reduce the risk of stroke.

True or False? No matter how flexible you are, you cannot lick your elbow.

Did you know that putting your hands in ice water and flexing them can give you instant relief from a headache? I'm going to have to try this one!

And I know you know this fact! I love each and every one of you. Merry Christmas and I will see you when we return in January. Enjoy this time with your families and recoup for the 2nd half of this school year! PS WASH YOUR HANDS! Also, stop trying to lick your elbow.

Love your crazy school nurse,

Nurse Alicia

Busy December for First Grade

By Mrs. Elissa Schafer, 1st Grade Teacher

This month in phonics we have been focusing on reading long vowel words, words with consonant blends, and sight words that should be read automatically to improve reading fluency. Sight words are added to the classroom flash-cards, so students can work on spelling these words correctly in their writing.

In writing students have been working hard on an informative

reindeer piece, as well as their letters to Santa and a sequencing paper on how to build a snowman. Along with these writings students have been drawing or creating these characters. It has been exciting to see all their personalities shine through their work!

Our main focus in Math this month has been to learn addition and subtraction strategies with sums and differences within 20. Students are

continuously encouraged to use these strategies when problem solving.

Everyone has worked very hard all month and are all looking forward to a well-deserved break! Enjoy your time with your families and we will see you NEXT YEAR!



Happy Holidays from PTO

By Mrs. Julia Fishbaugher, PTO

It's December already, the last chapter of the year, and boy what a year it's been! This time of the year offers an opportunity for reflection and gratitude. It's a time to cherish the memories made and the lessons learned throughout the year. As we bid farewell to the year behind us, December brings much to look forward to.

Foremost among these is the holiday season. December arrives with the festivities of Christmas taking center stage. Streets strewn with twinkling lights, the aroma of freshly baked cookies, and the joy of exchanging gifts with loved ones all combine to create an atmosphere of happy togetherness.

The changing of the season brings the promise of snowfall, transforming our world into a winter wonderland. The fun of building snowmen

or if we're blessed with enough of it... sledding, make this time of year truly magical.

The holiday traditions, delights of winter activities, and time set aside for friends and family always make this time of year special. The chilly days and early sunsets offer opportunity for closeness with loved ones inside. Our family wards off cabin fever with lots of time spent snuggled on the couch reading books, playing card games at the kitchen table, and lots and lots of crafts with the kiddos.

We hope you and your kids enjoy the winter break to take a breather from schoolwork and rest up for the rush of the second half of the school year. Happy holidays from your R3 PTO! We sure hope Santa is good to you, and we'll see you all next year!



Merry
Christmas



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We Want Your Input...

We'd like to hear from you regarding our programs, schedules, yearly calendar, activities, etc. We value your opinion and want to make the best decisions possible in meeting the needs of our staff, students, and community.

Please email your comments and/or suggestions to:

admin@dentphelps.k12.mo.us

If you don't have access to a computer, feel free to drop us a note or give us a call.

If you would like to be placed on our newsletter mailing list, please call the office at 729-4680.

The Administration

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