

SOLWAY TIGER'S TOP NEWS



SOLWAY'S PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

There is **NO SCHOOL** on January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

January 25 is the next **Early Release Day**. Student will be dismissed 2 hours early at 12:50.

With the New Year upon us, we are gearing up for many significant educational challenges in preparing students for the Spring testing season. In February, students will have the opportunity to take the OLPA (Optional Local Purpose Assessment). OLPA is available in mathematics and reading for students in grades 3-8. It provides a risk-free environment for students to familiarize themselves with online testing and provides teachers with information to target instruction before the spring tests used for accountability. Online samplers in math, reading, and science are also available to help students prepare for the MCA's (Minnesota Comprehension Assessment) given this spring. This is a very important time of the year for students to focus on academic achievement. As always, our staff is very dedicated to encouraging students to do their very best. Our school is fortunate to have

parents and families who also support our efforts in high achievement.

Be sure check out the Responsive Classroom Corner of our newsletter. Each month we will be providing information about what we are doing in our classroom to support the Responsive Classroom model. This month we are focusing on **FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS**. We are attaching information about how you can support this topic at home.

Following our recent "late start" to our school day, we were notified that some parents did not receive notification. Most often this was due to a change in a phone number or disconnection of a phone. These notifications are sent to the phone number listed on the family access. If your number has changed, please be sure to let Jill know and she will get the changes made so that you will receive the Skylert messages.

Keep Warm.

Tami



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MRS. SHERWOOD'S FIRST GRADE

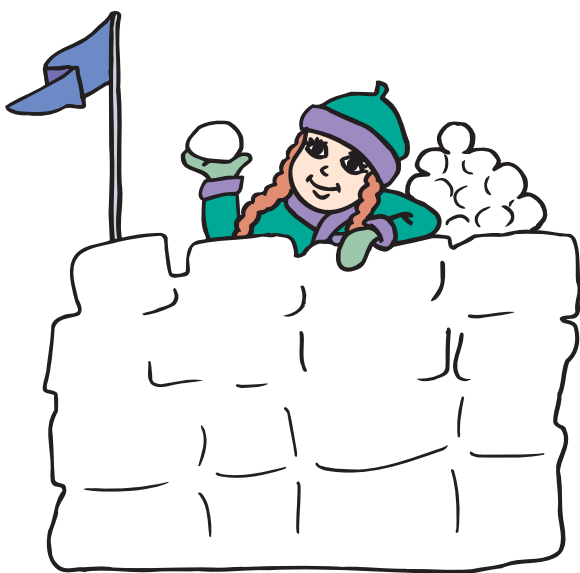
Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is staying warm and had a wonderful Christmas. This month we are focusing on the different reading and math areas for AIMSweb. The students will be assessed again to see their winter scores.

We are starting Unit 3 for math and we will also be working on money. Anytime you can have students practice with real change at home that would be very helpful. Teaching money is a very hard concept in first grade. We will continue the topic off and on through out the school year.

In reading we are continuing with our sight words, learning eight new ones each week. They are the *words to know* on my newsletter. It is really important that students are reading for 15-20 minutes at home each night as well as in school.

Amanda Sherwood
Solway School
1st Grade teacher
467-3232



MR. SLOUGH'S SECOND GRADE

Dear Parents,

2017 is here and we are excited to be back to school!! Mr. Slough's 2nd graders were greeted back with the addition of two awesome new students; Hailey and Matthew. We now have 21 in our class.

In Reading we will:

- work on drawing conclusions
- practice predicting
- study story structure/questioning

It continues to be so important to read as much as possible.

In Math we will:

- work on addition of two digit numbers
- focus on mastering addition and subtraction facts.
- continue to work on challenging our skills using Xtra Math and Prodigy

Each day we discuss local weather, current events and conflict resolution. These cold days with watches, warnings and advisories have been fun.

Please continue to talk with me as needed. Also the REMIND app seems to be doing great. The door is always open if you would like to come in.

Thank you,

Mr. Slough



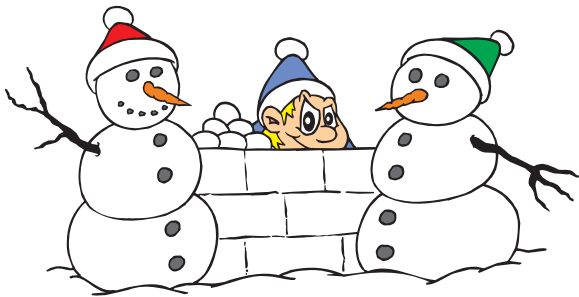
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MRS. BERG'S SECOND GRADE

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season! It's very nice to be back in the swing of things here at school. The kids have really been working hard on their stuff!

In math, the 2nd graders will be learning how to add and subtract larger numbers. Each child is working on learning the math facts. This includes addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Doing flashcards or verbally quizzing them on the facts will really help them. If they automatically know the answers, it will be much easier for your child to figure out more difficult equations.



Another bright spot in our room is Accelerated Reader. The kids in this class have read and passed the test on 2,191 books so far this year and are averaging 90%! The only way to become a better reader is to practice. Our library day is Thursday, so please be sure your child has their library book that day. The children may also check out books any time they need to. Along with the regular reading lesson, we're also doing guided reading groups and AR. You can help your child by making sure you also read with them EVERY day.

The kids are also learning about different types of writing. We've been working on writing to persuade and will be working on writing to inform. We also spend time reading different genres everyday and learning what genre a story belongs to.

Thank you so much for all the work you do at home with you kids! This class is just awesome at

learning new things, being kind to each other, and fun to be around!

Mrs. Berg



THIRD GRADE NEWS

Happy New Year, Solway families,

I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday break, and got to spend some extra time with your awesome kids!

This month in Language Arts we will be having some fun with different types phrases that people use. We will learn about idioms and metaphors, and what they really mean. In reading our we were able to reach our class goal of 80 points worth of AR tests on one of the last days before break. We will be celebrating our goal sometime this month.

In math we continue to work on our math facts everyday both in class as well as some extended computer lab time. This month we will move forward with what we have learned and turn some of our attention to learning our place values in the thousands, measuring volume and length, and learning how to use charts and graphs.

In social studies we are getting much better at

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the names of states and what regions they belong to. We have also had a couple exciting smartboard races that has tested our memory and smartboard skills!

One other quick reminder for families, as the weather continues to be exceedingly cold, please send appropriate clothing to school with your child for outside recess and separate shoes for gym.

Mr. Blumhagen



MRS. JOHNSON'S 4th & 5th GRADE

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I wish you and your family a happy, healthy new year.

In social studies the fourth graders are continuing to work on their state projects. They will be starting to work on their map of their state, locating the capital, cities, highways and railroads within their state. Upon completion of their map they will do string-art of the outline of their individual state.

The fifth graders will be making a diorama of their Native American Indian tribe. They will use the information they gather to put together their diorama.

In math the fourth graders are learning about fractions. The fifth graders continue to work on division, with and without remainders.

Please encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes or more every night.

Please continue encouraging your child to study their spelling words during the week.

Reminder: Library for 4th/5th grade is on Tuesday's. Please remind your child to bring back their library books so they can check out new books for the following week.

With the January winds/cold upon us, please remind your child to wear their winter coat, snow pants, cap, mittens, and boots. Your child is on the playground in the morning and again in the afternoon. If they're not dressed appropriately they are really cold when they come back into the school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by or call me at school at 218-467-3232.

Mrs. Becky Johnson
4th/5th Grade



FOURTH GRADE NEWS

When we teach reading, we are teaching a skill – like playing the piano or swimming. And when we teach skills, the student needs to be doing the thing. That is, there is very little I can do from the front of my classroom that will make you good at playing the piano or swimming. Students need to be playing

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the piano or swimming. And in a similar way, my students need to be reading – practice makes better.

Although it is common sense that students need to read a lot to learn to read well, this is also the one single conclusion that is most supported by reading research. Krashen (2004) showed that 93% of the tests on reading comprehension that collect data on volume of reading show that kids who are given more time to read do better. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) shows that at every grade, reading more pages at home and at school was associated with higher reading scores (U.S. Department of Education, 1999).

Students in my classroom are provided a minimum of 30 minutes of independent reading each day. In addition, I require students to read at least 15 minutes as part of their daily homework. I provide students a reading log to record their reading in school and at home along with a parent sign-off sheet to confirm the reading and other homework has been completed. I appreciate the time and effort parents commit to helping their children complete their reading practice. The more children read, the better readers they become.

Dr. Roben Beyer



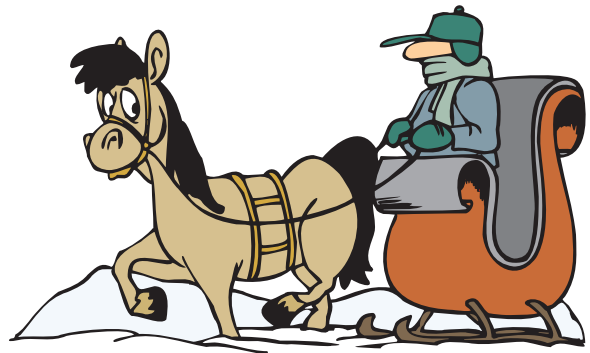
FIFTH GRADE NEWS

Happy New Year! It's great to be back in school after our refreshing winter break! We are learning about Dr. Martin Luther King and will be studying Dr. King's big words - words like hope, civil rights, and equality.

In science, we just finished a unit on human body systems and then are moving to plants, animals, and ecosystems next.

In math, we are working on multiplication with decimals. Each day brings new experiences and knowledge. Please continue encouraging your child to read daily and be ready to learn!

Mrs. Dahlby



PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great winter break and you were able to get out and enjoy some winter activities.

Your children will continue to stay active in Physical Education class. The students have been working hard, making some very good progress and burning up lots of energy!!

In the 1st and 2nd grades we will be working on cooperative games as well as a variety of station activities.

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In grades 3rd, 4th and 5th we will be playing floor hockey, basketball and jump rope activities in the coming weeks.

I hope you all have a wonderful month of January.

Rich Morehouse
Physical Education Teacher



MUSIC NEWS

Happy New Year, everyone! Sing and play and all have fun!

This month we are exploring pitch and melody. We are using “Do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti do” and “c, d, e, f, g, a, b, c” to help us create melodies to sing and play. We will soon play xylophones in all classes!

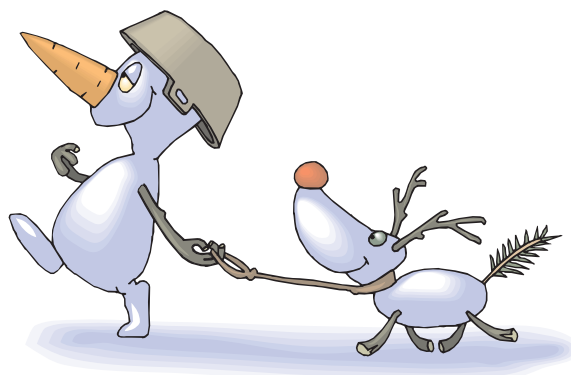


Mrs. Larson

Responsive Classroom Corner

This month all of the classroom teachers are putting an extra focus on following directions. Each week we will put some tips on how you can practice with your child at home to become better direction followers.

If the child is not following daily sequencing routines or directions, help create a visual routine (i.e. job chart, sticker chart) focusing in on a specific item and keeping that routine in the same order of first, second, third, last, etc. This child may have trouble with a general direction such as clean up. The directive may need to be broken down into smaller and more direct instructions such as *put your toys in the box and your books on the shelf* rather than *clean your room*.



LIBRARY/TECH NEWS

Dear Solway Families:

Happy New Year! We wish you a wonderful 2017.

The Scholastic Pirate Book Fair:
“**Bookaneer... Where Books Are The Treasure!**”
Thank you for making the bookfair such a success!
We earned over \$2,000 as a library fundraiser.

Families, schools, and communities: All three

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play an important role in children's school success.

The University of Minnesota Extension's new [School Success website](http://www.extension.umn.edu/family/school-success/) offers the latest research and easy-to-use tools to support children's learning for families and professionals. Families can find support in many areas. Web address: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/family/school-success/>



Renaissance Home Connect:

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child is using a computer software program called Renaissance Place at school. This program has a special feature called Renaissance Home Connect. Renaissance Home Connect is a fun, easy-to-use, easy-to-understand web-based interface that allows your student, you, and the teacher to share in the educational experience by viewing progress in certain Renaissance Place programs while outside of school. Students can practice Math Facts in a Flash at home and view a history of the AR books they have read here, too.

You can view Renaissance Home Connect from any computer with an Internet connection using these browsers:

- Internet Explorer® 6.02 or later
- Firefox® 1.5 or later
- Safari™ 2.0.3 or later

Students will need to enter their User Name & Password. Call the school if they don't have it memorized and we will give you the info.

To log in to Renaissance Home Connect

Website:

<http://reader.bemidji.k12.mn.us/RenaissanceServer/HomeConnect/Login.aspx>

In Renaissance Home Connect you can also: • Click **Email Setup** to sign up to receive emails showing your student's quiz or test results • Click **Help** to get answers to your questions about Renaissance Home Connect

Thank you for your interest.

Mackin Via is our new ebooks website available for your reading pleasure! To get to it log into the Solway website at: <http://solway.bemidji.k12.mn.us> Now go to Student and click on the Mackin Via icon.

School: SOLWAY ELEMENTARY, BEMIDJI, MN

User ID: solway

Password: ebooks

Enjoy reading our 38 ebooks from any internet connected computer.

Thanks for helping your Tiger have fun checking out books and returning them at our Solway Media Center! Your help is needed and appreciated... It's important that your child is able to check out books since we have daily silent and Accelerated Reading times. Thanks for taking the time to read to/with your child and help with book care. We're listing **class checkout days** for your convenience:

Students must bring all books back to renew or return on the following days:

Tuesdays:

Dr. Beyer
Mrs. Sherwood
Mr. Blumhagen
Mrs. Johnson
Mr. Slough

Wednesdays:

Mrs. Dahlby

Thursdays:

Mrs. Berg

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Remember: Students are welcome to check out books during library hours any day of the week!

Millionaire Club Party:

Students that read over a million words in the Accelerated Reading program by the end of May will be invited to attend the Millionaire Club Party. This pizza party will be sponsored by 2 West Express... thanks, John!

Congratulations to our current Millionaires:
Brennan E.



Maud Hart Lovelace Contest:

3rd-5th grade students who read/listen to and Accelerated Reader test on 10 or more titles from the Maud Hart Lovelace books list will be invited to attend our End of the Year Reading Party in May with our Millionaires. The MHL books as they are known are on a special shelf in our library. These books are hand-picked by Minnesota Media

Specialists to be the best of the best books from the Minnesota Youth Reading Awards. If students read and test on 3 or more of the books by April, they will get to vote on their favorite MHL book. We will tally favorite books by grade level and school. We will send our count into the state and find out the favorite state book at the end of April.

We are excited to share our online library catalog called Destiny. You can access the catalog from any web-based computer.

Log in to Solway's website at:
<http://solway.bemidji.k12.mn.us>

Click on the left side of the website under "Browse Library".

February is I Love to Read Month... It's hard to believe it's almost here! Watch the weekly news for more fun activities we will be holding at Solway School.

Thanks for continuing to help your students read at home. This will help them improve and strengthen those reading skills!

Remember: We succeed When Our Tigers Read!

Mrs. Simons, Media Specialist & Mrs. Bolte, Media Assistant

We collect used laser and ink jet cartridges as a recycling fundraiser for our school library. The collection box is located in the front entrance.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE LUNCH LADIES

Thank you for keeping tabs on your child's lunch account. We appreciate it.

Due to the fact, we do not have money on hand; parent/visitors must bring the correct change if you are going to eat lunch. An adult lunch is \$3.50.

Beach Day
Friday, January 27th

**Wear your favorite shorts,
t-shirts, sandals, and sunglasses.**

NO SCHOOL
MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

EARLY RELEASE DAY
Wednesday, January 25th

Students will be released at 12:50

It's Time Again for
Solway Science Club!
Grades 3, 4, & 5

The next meeting of the Science Club will be held on Thursday, January 12th, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at school.

Please mark your calendars for the next Science Club date: Thursday, January 26th.

The Tiger Cubs Cloverbuds Meeting (Grades 1-3) is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th, from 3:00 to 4:30. Parent Volunteers are always needed and welcomed! We have such fun at Cloverbuds!

**PTO Candy Bar Fundraiser for 5th
Grade Class Trip**

Candy Bars in 5 flavors – milk chocolate, crisp, caramel, almond, and dark chocolate are available for \$1.00 each. Please see or contact Mrs. Dahlby or Mrs. Johnson to purchase bars. They will be sold individually or in prepaid bags of \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$20.00.

Email: mdahlby@bemidji.k12.mn.us
Call 467-3232 or just stop by our rooms!
Thank you for supporting our class!

Mrs. Dahlby & Mrs. Johnson

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Friday Night Live

Friday, January 13, 2017

6:00-8:00 pm

3rd thru 5th graders



PTO Meeting

Tuesday, February 7th

3:00 pm

Solway Library

