

SOLWAY TIGER'S TOP NEWS



SOLWAY'S PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Tuesday, December 18 at 1:15 is the **Winter Holiday Music Concert**. We are excited for our students to entertain all of you with their musical talents.

Winter Break begins December 24, 2018 and school will resume on January 2, 2019.

We are expecting weather to start getting colder!! With the onset of this cold weather, I want to remind parents of the policy for outside wear. All students are expected to wear a winter coat, snow pants, boots, a hat, and gloves/mittens. Students are required to go outside for recess if the temperature and wind chill is -5 degrees or warmer. They could get cold very easily if they are not dressed properly. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately. Scholarships may be available if you cannot afford these items.

Winter weather also brings the possibility of **Emergency School Closings**. It is very important to have emergency plans for days when school is cancelled, has a late start, or is dismissed early.

Please listen to your local radio station or TV station if the weather conditions are questionable. Announcements are relayed to parents through these means. Discuss your emergency plans with your children so they know what to do when weather requires a change in the school schedule. Our phones get very busy during those times, so I encourage parents to make arrangements ahead of time. If your child attends Kids and Company, please be familiar with their policies on school closings. If school is let out early, Kids and Company is canceled. If evening activities only are canceled, Kids and Company closes at 4:00.



Vocabulary plays an important part in learning to read. Beginning readers must use the words they hear orally to make sense of the words they see in print. Kids who hear more words spoken at home learn more words and enter school with better vocabularies. This larger vocabulary pays off exponentially as a child progresses through school.

Consider, for example, what happens when a beginning reader comes to the word *dig* in a book. As she begins to figure out the sounds represented by the letters d, i, g, the reader recognizes that the sounds make up a very familiar word that she has heard and said many times. It is harder for a beginning reader to figure out words that are not already part of their speaking (oral) vocabulary.

Vocabulary also is very important to reading comprehension. Readers cannot understand what they are reading without knowing what most of the words mean. As children learn to read more

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advanced texts, they must learn the meaning of new words that are not part of their oral vocabulary.

I am attaching information about how parents and families can help students with vocabulary development.

Have a Wonderful Winter Holiday Season,

Tami Wesely



MRS. WRIGHT'S & MS. KELLERS'S KINDERGARTEN

Dear Parents,

Wow! November flew by us! This month we started out with Parent Teacher Conferences. We enjoyed spending time with caregivers and sharing all the progress and great things that the Kindergartners are doing in school. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to come and meet with us.

Thank you parents that are taking time to work with your students at home on letters, letter sounds, numbers, counting, sight words and beginning reading. Their progress shows.

In language arts we continue to work on letter recognition, letter sounds, segmenting letter sounds to make words, beginning sounds of words and our sight words.

In math we are working on number recognition, counting, adding and taking away numbers 1 to 10. We have been talking about being thankful and kind due to this month being Thanksgiving. I think that we agreed that we should always be thankful and kind, not just for Thanksgiving. We talked about turkeys and that they are birds that can live in the wild and on farms. We also made some cute turkey projects.

Our Peacemaker lessons have ended for the year, but will continue again starting in January. We have had ten lessons so far and will receive five more.

We have had some great family activities this month! We celebrated Veterans Day with a breakfast and short program, Family Night with Title One, and the Holiday Store and Winter Celebration with the PTO. All have been great and well attended. Hope that your families were able to attend some, or all of these events at the school. Please look regularly with your student in their backpacks for information, books and projects they are bringing home and for things that needed to be returned.

Please contact your child's Kindergarten teacher with any questions you might have.

Carisa Wright
Emily Keller



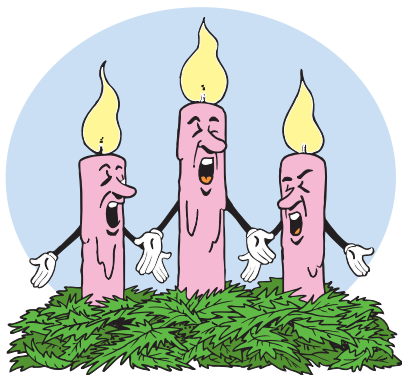
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MRS. SHERWOOD'S & MRS. JOHNSON'S FIRST GRADE

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had memorable time with family and friends over Thanksgiving. We are so thankful for our 1st graders. Now that the holiday season is upon us, we are aware of how busy things get! So, for the month of December there will not be any homework. I know everyone will be bummed, but do not worry because the homework packets will start again in January. :)

In reading we have been working hard on building our stamina and being able to sit and read a book/books for 15 minutes. We also have been doing Raz Kids on the computer where they can read books in their level. The kids love it! It is a program that they can do as well at home. The students can access it from the Solway school website. It would be a great way to mix things up a little when practicing reading at home. Also, they can also practice their spelling words on spellingcity.com which they know how to get to as well from the school web page.



In math we are continuing our basic facts. We are expanding that with recognizing the relationship between addition and subtraction with fact families. As well as missing partner. That is more difficult since they are used to finding the answer but not a missing addend.

We finished up our ten lessons from Peacemakers for the year. Miss Stacey will come again for five more lessons in January. The students are so good at using their breathing tools to calm down and using 'I statements' when they are feeling frustrated. Ask them about it!

Have a wonderful holiday season! Keep your eyes open for upcoming information about the holiday concert and our class holiday parties! Together we are better, so please contact us at any time you have questions or want more ways to help your child at home.

Mrs. Sherwood
Mrs. Johnson



MRS. BERG'S SECOND GRADE

Dear Families,

We have been so busy in the 2nd grade! Here's what we're working on...

*In math we're working on adding big numbers. This is an important life skill and I've really noticed an improvement with the kids who are practicing at home. Keep up the good work! We practice basic adding and subtracting facts every day. We're also going to start learning about money and subtracting those bigger numbers!

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*For science, we've been learning about the weather. Hopefully we don't get any of those blizzards that we've been learning about!

*It's important for all kids to work on good social skills. We've been reading books by Julia Cook that focus on how to be a good listener and how to get along with other people.

*We're going to be doing several fun projects in December. Please keep checking your child's backpack everyday so you know what we're up to for fun in our classroom!

Happy Holiday!

Mrs. Berg



sentence. lately we have taken a deeper look at what kinds of good testing strategies we can use to self-monitor ourselves and improve our scores. We have been focusing a lot on eliminating some choices and then going back in a story to find what the correct choice would be. Finally, we have started to do some goal setting for what we want to accomplish with our reading, we will track our progress throughout the quarter.

During our math time we have continued to pound away to get more fluent with our facts. The second graders have started to work with some adding and subtracting of money, while the third graders have been breaking down word problems that have several steps to them. We all have been working to progress in Khan Academy to push our independent progress to new levels.

We will be starting a new unit in science this month. Look out for students to talk about the different things they have learned to create and problems they've learned to solve.

I hope that everyone is looking forward to winter break in the coming weeks. I would like to wish everyone safe travels and encourage you to take advantage of the extra time with your wonderful kids!

Mr. Blumhagen

MR. BLUMHAGEN'S 2ND AND 3RD GRADE

Greetings families,

This month in reading and Language arts we have turned a lot of our focus on identifying different parts of speech. We are becoming more and more familiar with nouns and verbs and how we need to get more comfortable with them in third grade as things get harder. We also have started to take a look at pronouns and how to identify them in a



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MR. SLOUGHS 3RD GRADE

Welcome to December and another awesome holiday season!

As we look back at November, I wanted to thank all of you that were able to come in for your students conferences. They were excited to show you some of the writings and work.

I'm so proud of this class as they have already read over 1 million words for AR. We set that number as a goal to reach before Christmas break.

We will continue our reading journey with lots of fictional and non-fiction reading. We will be learning about topic sentences and writing paragraphs. Please continue the support from home to read something each night.

Math has brought us a range of topics from; subtraction, multiplication, fractions, and extended place value work.

This week we started a Science lesson on "What is Science?" They are excited to dive into their predictions, along with the asking of many questions.

In the next few weeks, I';; send something home about our classroom holiday celebration. Please don't hesitate if you have any questions. Thank you for again for your help and support!

Mr. Slough

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

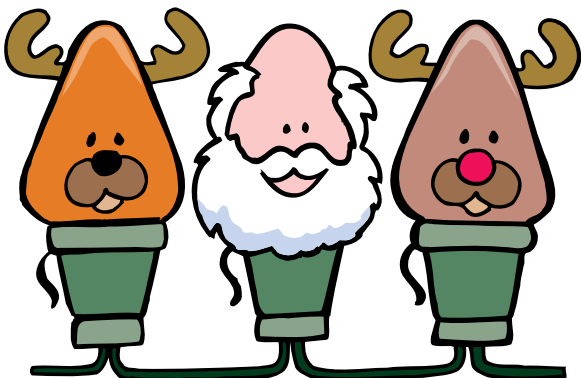
Happy December!

I hope everyone is enjoying the weather we are having. Not much snow yet, but I am sure it will be coming soon enough. I am looking forward to some snowmobiling and ice fishing over Christmas break if Mother Nature cooperates.

Your children have been very busy in Physical Education class. The students are working hard, making some very good progress and burning up lots of energy. We have been continuing to work on loco motor movements, hand-eye coordination activities, cooperative games and station work.

I hope you all have a wonderful December.

Rich Morehouse
Physical Education Teacher



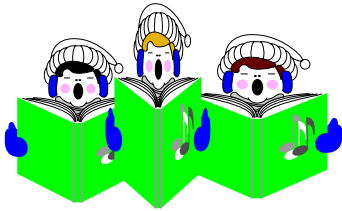
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MUSIC NEWS

Come to our holiday concert, Tuesday, December 18th at 1:15 in the Solway Elementary Gym.

All grades will perform a couple seasonal songs and sing along with the audience to "Jingle Bells" and "Deck the Halls."

All students have songsheets to practice their songs at home. Bring you jolly self and a camera to help the Solway Tigers celebrate the holiday season!



TITLE I NEWS

Balloon Towers, constructing bookmarks and cards, reading a book under the stars, finding a book at the book fair, playing math bingo, and making sight word bracelets were some of the activities over 150 parents, children, and staff participated in at Solway Title I Family Fun Night. What an amazing night it was! It was so wonderful meeting the parents of the children we work with everyday. Thank you for taking the time to come and enjoy it with us. We'd like to give a big thank you to the staff who volunteered to host math and literacy activities in their classrooms.

December is a wonderful month of holiday traditions. Having three grown children I realize how important traditions were (are) for them. Every December they counted on doing things that made them feel part of a family and made the holidays special. Do you have your own family traditions? If not, here are some fun ideas you can try:

1. Christmas tree picnic: Enjoy a picnic on the floor around the tree! If you are

daring, let your kids camp out one night around the tree!

2. Organize a cookie-baking party. Invite friends and family, or a group of your kids' friends. Ask everyone to bring their favorite holiday cookie recipe.
3. Christmas movie marathon.
4. Go for a car ride to look at Christmas lights.
5. Make homemade ornaments.
6. Our favorite: Take time to slow down and enjoy time with each other.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Solway Title I Staff
Mrs. Jennie Johnson and Mrs. Wentzel



LIBRARY/TECH NEWS

Free Resources Available to All Minnesotans via your online Public Library:

Go to Elm4you.org
Databases A-Z

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Choose Britannica Online School Edition:
Elementary School

There are so many other free resources available at this site!
Enjoy!

Great Books on CD resource: We have a 19 CD set of the Chronicles of Narnia series of seven books. Parents, you may visit the library and checkout the set and help your child listen to this wonderful series. We need a bit of parent supervision with this one.

Parents may come into the library and we will create a community member account for you. You may check out extra books for your child or yourself this way. We love to share our books and resources!



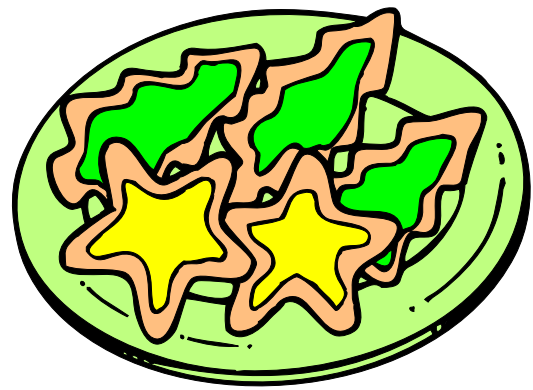
The Scholastic Wild West Book Fair:
"Saddle Up and Read!"

Thank you for making the bookfair such a success! We earned around \$1,500 as a library fundraiser!

Hour Of Code is coming to the Solway Technology Lab during Computer Science Education Week from December 3-7 and beyond. The annual global campaign is an effort to ensure all students are equipped with valuable

21st century critical thinking and problem solving skills. Our students will be participating in events during the school day to give everyone an exciting introduction to Computer Science.

We believe that learning computer programming gives kids important skills to navigate a future where many aspects of their lives will be influenced by technology. Giving them the confidence to understand how technology works and the ability to control it, is an increasingly important part of children's education today, and we are getting started with an Hour of Code.



Solway School wants all students to experience how easy and empowering it is to learn programming. The entire school will participate in an Hour of Code using a variety of fun and engaging activities from [Tynker](#), a company that allows students to create and share projects with code, while supporting Common Core and CSTA standards. Tynker's internationally recognized creative computing platform helps children of all ages develop computational thinking and programming skills as they snap together visual code blocks to create computer programs.

Younger students will focus on solving simple coding puzzles, and will use what they learn to create interactive holiday cards, cartoon comics, simple games and stories. Older students will be able to choose from a variety of coding projects from Tynker that will guide them through the creation of drawing tools, math art, and even multi-level and multi-player games that they can share and play with each other. All week long, students will engage in fun, collaborative activities and, best of all, they will learn key programming concepts that **Solway School** will build on in the future.

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More Computer Lab News:

We are using a new keyboarding site in grade 3 called **Typing Club**. Students may access this from school or home at this address:

<https://solway-elementary.typingclub.com/>

They sign in with their Accelerated Reader Username and Password.

What is TypingClub? TypingClub is an educational platform for keyboarding. It is web-based and fully customizable, so your students can practice in class, at home, or wherever an internet connection can be found. Students are already familiar with the layout of the program because the design is very similar to popular games. Each lesson provides instant, meaningful feedback that encourages students to continue practicing.



Why Teach Keyboarding? Typing faster is not the primary objective of keyboarding; rather it is a desired side effect. Once your students are able to type with all ten fingers without needing to look down at the keyboard, their overall productivity when using a computer will improve dramatically. When typing with two fingers, the visual and frontal cortices of the brain are forced to focus on where individual keys are located. Keyboarding removes this burden, enabling students to work on things like sentence structure and grammar while they type. To help students in the classroom, the best thing

you can do is to make sure students are not looking at the keyboard.

Do you have Internet access and a computer at home? If so, our school district has purchased software that our students can use at school *and at home*. We have purchased the World Book Online Encyclopedia! There are 3 different encyclopedias to use depending on the age of your child. The Kids Encyclopedia is for grades K-4, the Student Encyclopedia is for the upper elementary and middle school grades 5-9, and then the Advanced Encyclopedia for grades 9-12. You may access this encyclopedia by going to <http://www.worldbookonline.com>. The user name is **bemidji** and the password is **waterway**. This is a wonderful resource for our students and their families!

Tumble Books: eBooks for eKids!

This site is an online collection of animated, talking picture books which teach young children the joys of reading in a format they'll love. The site is available for school *and home use*. The address is: www.tumblebooks.com/library/asp/customer_login.asp. The username is: Solway31 The password is: books. Enjoy reading these ebooks together!



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Keep informed by using the Solway School Website: <http://solway.bemidji.k12.mn.us/> and the Bemidji Area Schools Website: <http://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/>

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

<u>Tuesdays:</u>	-	<u>Thursdays:</u>
Mr. Blumhagen		Mrs. Johnson
Mr. Slough		Mrs. Sherwood
Ms. Keller		Mrs. Berg
		Mrs. Wright

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



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".

We will add Accelerated Reader point levels to our catalog under each title as the year progresses. You may search for AR reading levels and point levels in the "Reading Program Search" area.

Parents may come into the library and we will create a community member account for you. You may check out extra books for your child or yourself this way. We love to share our books and resources!

Millionaire Club Party:

Students that read over a million words in the Accelerated Reading program by the end of May will be invited to join the Millionaire Club. They will pick a hardcover book of their choice and receive a certificate at the End of Year Award Ceremony. Thank you Solway PTO for sponsoring this award.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Simons: Media Specialist

Mrs.

Bolte: Media Assistant

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



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Solway Winter Holiday Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 18th at 1:30 in the Solway Elementary Gym.

Solway Community Christmas: Saturday, December 8, 2018; 5:00-8:00 pm Solway City Park

Free Food, Sleigh Rides, Live Music in the Church by Ken Dudley and his family! Kids Crafts, Reading of the Christmas Story and the lighting of the Solway Community Christmas Tree. Santa arrives with the Solway Fire Department at 6:30 pm. Lots more fun!

Please send hats, mittens, warm jackets, snow pants and boots with your children. They will be going out in the morning and at recess. We do not have extra clothes this year. Expectations are that all students will be outside during recess time.

We will have the following days off of school for winter break December 22 - January 2.

A big thank you to all parents for keep their students lunch account up to date.

Just a quick reminder to the parents of Solway Elementary students of our attendance policy. School Starts at 7:55 each morning. Students arriving to school between 7:55-8:25 are marked as tardy. Students arriving after 8:25 will be marked as absent for that morning, and students leaving before 2:00 pm will be marked absent for the afternoon. If your child is going to be gone for the day, PLEASE notify the school by calling in or sending a note. Any day absent without notification will be marked as unexcused. We want all students to be successful this year in school. You can help with this by ensuring that your child is in

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school on time each day. At Solway Elementary, we believe you need to "Be Here For Success"

Friday Night Live

January 25th
6:00-8:00

Kindergarten thru 3rd graders



PTO Meeting

January 10, 2019

6:00 pm

Solway Library

