



December 2017



The DolphIN-

Volume 6 Issue 3
December 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Cheese Quesadilla
4 Whole Grain Cheese Pizza	5 Hot Dog	6 Mac & Cheese	7 Cheese Nachos	8 Sloppy Joe's
11 Whole Grain Cheese Pizza	12 Chicken Nuggets	13 Taco Salad	14 Turkey Wrap	15 1/2 Day: Dismissal @ 12:00
18 Whole Grain Cheese Pizza	19 Chili	20 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce	21 Stuffed Baked Potato	22 Cheese Quesadilla
25 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	26 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	27 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	28 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	29 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)

Reminders

- Please keep the office informed of **ANY** changes in your phone numbers or your address. Medication intake policy: *Parents must leave medication with the prescription in the office*
- School uniform is the polo and BLUE or BLACK pants/skirt: **NO JEANS, NO LEGGINGS, NO YOGAS**
- Hoodies must not have any logos except The Dearborn Academy
- Boots are NOT part of the uniform
- Safety is one of the most important issues for our children at The Dearborn Academy. Please

The Dearborn Academy Board Meeting

Thursday, December 21st @ 4:30 p.m. All are invited!

Mark Your Calendar

- December 5:** Fall Picture Make-ups (Uniforms)
- December 8:** EL Winter Dance
- December 11 – December 13:** Mobile Dentist
- December 12:** School Spirit Dress Down Day
- December 14:** Progress Reports sent home
- December 15:** 1/2 Day: Dismissal @ 12:00 p.m.
- December 25-January 5:** Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)
- January 8:** Back to School



Please collect and send in all box tops to your child's teacher.

Mission Statement

The Dearborn Academy is a unique charter school serving a multicultural community through individualized, focused instruction allowing each student to achieve academic excellence and exhibit social responsibility.

Vision

We are an Academy dedicated to academic excellence for our young learners. We are innovative, empowering, and absolutely committed to the continuous social development and academic growth of all students. We establish a school learning environment in which our academic goals are articulated with laser sharp clarity and are regularly monitored.

We provide an academic environment where quality learning is fun and enjoyable. We create an atmosphere of trust and support for all learners where diversity is celebrated and honored. We develop actively involved learners who are building self-confidence and a sense of responsibility to be engaged in the global community.

School Hours

7:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Buses, student arrival, and breakfast begin at 7:15 a.m. Students are sent to their classrooms at 7:55 a.m. (elementary) and 7:50 (middle school).

Children who are late to school (after 8:05) **MUST** report to the office before going to class. We urge you to make every effort to have your child at school ON TIME each day so that your child has a good beginning to their day. When students are late, it disrupts the class as well as causing the tardy student to miss specific directions for the day.

If you need to pick up your child early, we ask that you call the school office at 313-982-1300 a minimum of **ONE** hour prior to arriving.

Principal's Message

Thank you all for your participation in the November Parent/Teacher Conferences. We are so thankful to be in this partnership with you and look forward to a very successful year.

December is here! Chillier temperatures...less and less daylight. The weeks coming up can be rather overwhelming as we ready ourselves for family get-togethers, wonderful trips, and maybe some shopping? On behalf of the team at TDA, may I wish all of our families a very happy and peaceful holiday season. It is a special time of year to get together with friends and family to celebrate and be grateful for all the amazing people in our lives. Thank you all for being so supportive and committed to TDA—I really believe that our students continue to make a difference, not only in their own lives but to the lives of so many others.

PK News

As the winter months are approaching, please be mindful of the weather! In order to go outside your child will need a winter coat, hats, gloves, and boots if there is snow. If you need help finding any of these items, please come to us. We have a few extras laying around.

Every day at breakfast and lunch, your child/children serve themselves. You can help promote this at home by allowing them to scoop their own food and pour their own drinks at home!! They are also learning to clean up after themselves before moving to another work area. You can help them work on this skill by encouraging it at home.

We are 4 months into the school year now and each child has progressed so much in their own ways! We love being around your children and watching them grow and experiencing their different personalities. We have been working on using kind words, kind hands, words instead of hands during a conflict and manners. Every single child is grasping all of these in some form or another. If you would like to know how we are encouraging these things at school, please feel free to contact us or speak with us before or after school and we will give you some ideas!

Kindergarten News

Our Kindergarteners continue to work very hard to learn new things. They have begun to learn about syllables. Students will start taking spelling tests, with a spelling list appropriate to each child's learning level. A list will be given to each student and needs to be studied at home. The tests will be given every two weeks, on Fridays. The students have also started reading short stories, therefore they continue to work on letter sounds and recognition. We continue to improve writing skills and have started writing words. All of these things are first steps to learning how to write sentences.

In math, the students are working on ABB patterns, counting pennies, and learning how to solve story problems using math manipulatives. They continue to work on counting, number recognition, and number writing. December's social studies unit will be educating the students on the different types of holiday celebrations around the world. A letter will be sent home prior to the unit. It is very exciting to see the progress the students have made so far. We would like to continue to ask for home support with letter sound, letter recognition, writing, and reading. Support with number recognition, number writing and counting is always helpful too.

Since it is getting colder, please provide the proper outdoor clothing for your child. The children do go outside for recess and therefore need winter coats, hats, gloves, etc. Please feel free to reach out to us if these items are not easily accessible.

Reminders: Homework goes home every Monday and is to be turned in on Fridays. Spelling lists are to be studied daily.



1st Grade News

First grade has been working hard this year. We are learning a lot. We are finishing up our unit on where food comes from. Students should be able to explain where food comes from and how it gets from farm to table. In December we will be doing a mini-unit in physical science. We will be learning about light and sound waves. Students have been working hard in math on learning their math facts. We have practiced the doubles, +0, and +1 facts. Keep practicing those basic facts!

Please remember to wear coats, hats, and gloves as the weather gets colder. We will still be going outside for recess as long as weather permits!

3rd Grade News

Happy December! We enjoyed meeting with all of you during conferences. Thank you for taking the time to discuss your child's progress and goals with us. As the cold weather moves in, it is very important that your child is coming to school dressed for the weather. Students should be wearing a winter coat, hats, and gloves. Sweaters and hoodies are not considered winter coats. If they wear boots to school, they must have shoes to change into for the rest of the day. Hoodies and boots are not part of the TDA uniform policy.

In math, we are working on mastering our basic addition and subtraction facts to 12 before moving to multiplication and division. Please practice math facts at home with your child. Additionally, we encourage you to make sure your child is reading for at least 30 minutes every night. In science, we will be learning about interdependent relationships in ecosystems. In social studies, we will be focusing on the economy of Michigan. Please make sure you are continuing to check and sign your child's planner every night to ensure that they are completing their homework and studying for any tests. As always, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

4th Grade News

It was such a pleasure to meet all of you during our conferences!

In science we have finished our waves unit. The next unit we will be transitioning into will be Rocks and Minerals. Children will be learning about formations of rocks and minerals and how fossils are formed.

During math this quarter we will be learning how multiply two digits by one digit and two digits by two digits. This is a skill that children will use throughout their lives. Please make sure your child is practicing their basic multiplication facts at home. If you need flash cards, please be sure to ask your fourth grader's teacher right away.

In social studies, we have been analyzing government. Your child previously learned the three different types of government and what their roles were. Now we will be identifying the important people that are involved in these aspects of government. Be sure to ask your child questions about government!

This quarter in reading, your fourth grader will begin to read more informational books. These books include autobiographies, magazines, newspapers, and books about people or animals. We would like to encourage your child to be reading informational books at home. If you need help picking out an informational text for your child please let us know, we would love to help!

We are looking forward to a great quarter with your amazing fourth grader!

5th Grade News

Hard to believe we are already nearing the end of 2017. It seems like we were just celebrating the New Year! With winter break approaching I know that you and your children will be taking advantage of the time off to see family and friends and celebrate the holidays. Try not to let your student fall behind though!

Studies show that when students have long breaks from school that their learning can actually regress. In order to keep students sharp try the following activities at home over break.

1. Read for 25 minutes a day: This could be something that you and children do together! Check out the Dearborn Public Library for books. The more your child reads the better reader they will become.
2. Practice math facts: In class we have been working hard a multiplication and division facts. Help your child practice by making flash cards out of index cards. Practicing 10-15 minutes a day can help them retain the information for the New Year.
3. Practice spelling: Help your student practice spelling by reviewing their words in the practice book from previous tests. Get the whole family involved and have a "spelling bee," or play hangman.
4. Research someone famous: Many students love a certain band, singer, or actor; turn that interest into a research project. Have them look up information about their favorite celebrity online. They can then use the information to write a research paper.

Enjoy your break and we will see you back in 2018! Stay safe!

World Language News

Arabic Low Elementary: During the weeks of December, Students will complete different activities for shapes (riddle-songs-games) , they will play matching games to practice the alphabets. They will be introduced to the letters Sa-Sha- Saad and will learn words that starts with these letters.

Arabic High Intermediate and MS: During the weeks of December, 6A and 8B will learn some facts about the Arabic language. They will be introduced to greeting phrases, review/ learn the alphabets. They will be aware of the different shapes of the alphabets. Students will be able to practice the alphabets using computers once a week. High elementary will learn words related to family and greeting words. Students will practice connecting and disconnecting their weekly words. They will also complete activities associated to their weekly words.

KG: students will be introduced to more alphabets (Daal-Thal-Ra-Zain) with words that show how they shape at the beginning, middle and end. We will be also practicing the numbers from 10- 20 in addition to colors. We will also practice numbers and vocabulary and play games like, (Matching puzzles).

Spanish Low Elementary: Throughout the month of December we will study the colors, basic greetings, short conversations, and basic commands. Each student will be expected to know how to greet the teacher as she walks to the classroom and how to properly say good bye.

Spanish High Intermediate: Throughout the month of December the students will practice introducing themselves in Spanish. They will be expected to know basic greetings and conversation as well as distinguish feminine and masculine nouns in Spanish.

Spanish KG: Students will be introduced to the Spanish alphabet along with some basic vocabulary words. The "head, shoulder, knees, and toes" song, in Spanish will be introduced and different vocabulary words will be substituted. In addition, we will learn how to count from 1-10.

Middle School News

Math:

Ms. Splan: 6th grade will continue working with ratios in the real world as well as moving into unit rates and how they impact their daily lives. 8th grade will be moving into multi-step equations and how they can be used in the real world.

Mr. Drake: 7th and 8th grades will be learning the difference between expressions and equations. We will be using the order of the operations to simplify expressions and inverse operations to solve equations.

ELA:

Mrs. Finkbeiner: 7A, 7B, and 8A students will focus on analyzing argumentative writing and author's bias. They will also write their own argumentative pieces, where they will focus on supporting their opinions with facts and examples.

Mrs. Awada: The 6th graders will be implementing the different active reading strategies to explore informative texts. They will continue to build their academic vocabulary by completing synonyms and antonyms, word roots and affixes, and context clues activities. In writing, they will be writing expository essays focusing on sentence structure. The 8th graders will be reading a variety of informative texts and summarizing them. They will continue to work on synonyms and antonyms, word roots and affixes, and context clues to build their academic vocabulary. In writing, they will be writing expository and descriptive essays with more focus on organization, sentence structure and mechanics.

Science: In 8th grade, students will be completing their unit on forces, and starting a unit on Earth's systems. This includes learning about the water cycle, nitrogen cycle, and oxygen cycle, and rock cycle.

7th Graders will be completing their unit on chemical reactions, and starting a new unit on cells. They will learn parts of a cell and what happens when cells combined.

6th Grade students will be completing their unit on relationships in ecosystems, and will start a new unit on growth and development of organisms. DNA will be an important topic this unit!

Social Studies: It is always mixing the creativity of students to whatever subject they are studying. We have recently been testing in 8th Grades the star fort Ticonderoga and analyzing the American Revolution. But 8th graders are going to see how the Revolution could have been seen as a mistake because of the difficulties of creating a government. The 7th graders, on the other hand, have just read about the first empires and government in the middle east (Mesopotamia) and China. Humans have developed complex civilizations for sure but to come- Egypt and India. Egypt has always been seen as a mystery and an interest with vast knowledge if you look for it. Students will be mummifying chickens to even building their own Pyramid tombs. The 6th Graders have been doing their best as well in using all skills of geography in analyzing population. But it is the curious subject of culture that is by far the most interesting with such a strongly diverse group. Students will see how culture spreads, examples of the strengths of their own cultures and how influential they make us think. Social Studies has once again won the day as engaging because we are the bests subject!

Art News

The 7th graders have been learning how to look at and talk about artwork and even the world around them through an artist's eye! Grades 2 through 5 have recently finished creating classroom contracts that allow them to decide what art materials they use and projects they get to create! We have a wide variety of ideas, unique to each class, and are excited to start making meaningful art we are proud to show off!

The Kindergartners and 1st graders have been looking at Art themed children's books and making art inspired by the stories! We are looking at the Big Ideas and learning to make connections.