

# Union East Elementary School

## January 2023

Dear Union East Warriors and Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable winter break. Winter is certainly upon us. We encourage all of our students to dress warmly with hats and gloves on a daily basis. If your child is in need of any of these items, please do not hesitate to reach out!



We are very excited for the new year and what it will bring. In late December, we received our custom book vending machine. Students will be working to earn tokens by making good choices and living their life the Warrior Way.

We are also very excited for our Curriculum Night which will be held on Wednesday, January 18th from 4:30-6:30. There will be sessions from the Botanical Gardens, Penn Dixie and the Buffalo Museum of Science. We will also have the Union East library open for some fun activities! We hope that everyone can join us!

Our students will be taking the mid year STAR assessment in late January. If you have not already done so, please be sure to sign up to receive a parent report to keep up to date on your child's progress in Reading and Math.

We welcome 2023 and know that it will be an amazing year at Union East!

Have a great month!

*Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Hamels & Mrs. Anderson*

A poster for Curriculum Night at Union East Elementary School. The background is dark blue. At the top, there are three science-themed illustrations: an atom, a magnifying glass, and a globe with orbits. The text "Union East Elementary School" is in white. Below it, "Curriculum Night" is written in large, colorful, stylized letters. To the left of "Night" is a molecular structure, and to the right is another atom. Below the title, the date and time are listed: "Wednesday, January 18, 2023" and "4:30-6:30 pm". At the bottom left is an illustration of a flask with purple liquid. At the bottom right is a colorful spiral. The text "JOIN US FOR:" is followed by two bullet points: "-FLASHLIGHT READING IN THE UNION EAST LIBRARY" and "-EXHIBITS FROM BOTANICAL GARDENS, PENN DIXIE, &amp; MORE".

### UNION EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3550 Union Road  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Phone: (716) 686-3620  
Fax: (716) 686-3666  
Nurse's Phone: (716) 686-3623

# Union East SCEP 2022-2023

## (School Comprehensive Education Plan)

In June 2022, a committee of Union East stakeholders gathered to develop the School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) for the 2022-2023 school year. Two commitments were agreed upon along with action steps for each.

The 2022-2023 plan was collaboratively developed by:

- Masuma Akther - Parent
- Stephanie Anderson - Assistant Principal
- Shai Arnold - Parent
- Julia Hamels - Assistant Principal
- Melissa Mitchell - Principal
- Melissa Rogers - Teacher
- Shannon Stroh - Teacher
- Sarah Swiatek - Parent

### Commitment 1

Union East Elementary School commits to ensuring that every child feels safe, respected, and represented in our school community and has intentional opportunities to practice and build social-emotional and cognitive skills.

Action Steps:

- Continue implementing Project Positive
  - Include parent representation on Project Positive Team
- Kindness Connection
  - Provide families with additional resources and workshop opportunities
- Mentoring Program
  - Continue mentoring partnership with the High School
  - Explore outside mentor partnerships
  - Increase the number of mentorships to meet the needs of UE students
- Attendance Program
  - Implement a tiered system to identify and support students and families
  - Recognize attendance on a regular basis

### Commitment 2

Union East Elementary School commits to ensure that every child has the opportunity and authority to drive and shape their own learning by engaging in meaningful learning that is relevant to them, whereby they can see themselves reflected in teachers, leaders and curriculum and learning material.

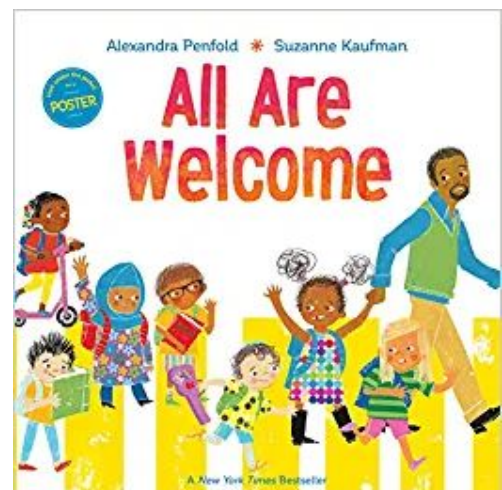
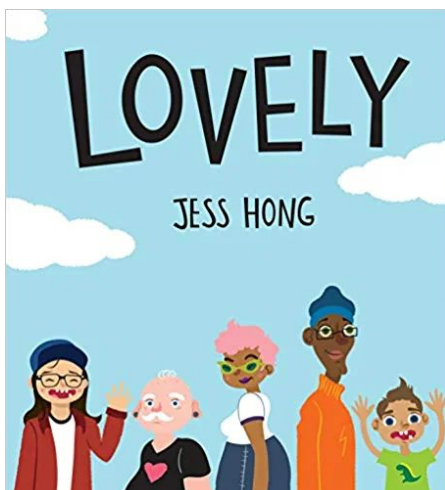
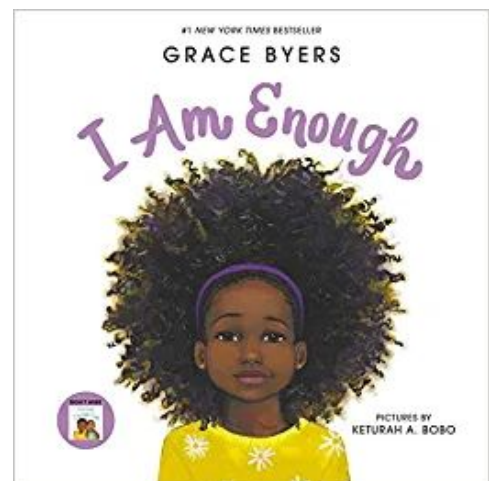
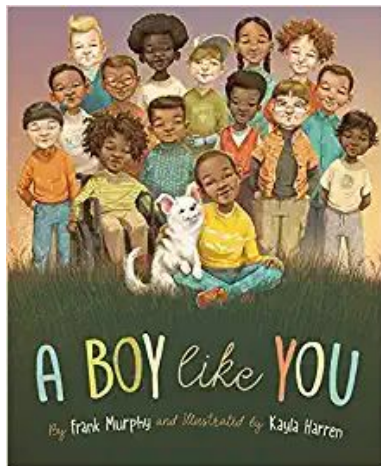
Action Steps:

- Continue use of Readers & Writers Workshop
  - Provide professional learning opportunities for staff focused on conferring
- Multicultural Classroom Libraries
  - Expand collection of decodable books and determine gaps within grade levels for classroom libraries
  - Highlight books to celebrate Heritage Months throughout the school year, informing parents each month of the books students can read to celebrate different cultures
- Small Group Instruction/Intervention
  - Continue to incorporate WIN time daily in ELA and Math
- Data Protocol
  - Administer STAR assessment 5 times
  - Utilize the data to guide instruction
- Community Based Learning Projects
  - Implement at least one community project based learning through innovation, entrepreneurship, and education of food access or nutrition at each grade level
- Display Authentic Student Work
  - Explore avenues to display authentic student work
- Book Vending Machine
  - Utilize a book vending machine to support our Project Positive campaign

# Union East Celebrates World Diversity

There are many great children's books that celebrate diversity. The following texts will be highlighted at Union East throughout the month of January:

A Boy Like You by Frank Murphy is a book that encourages every boy to embrace all things that make him unique. It also encourages all boys to tell their own story! Lovely is written by Jess Hong. This text celebrates the world of differences that what makes each person lovely! All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman follows a group of children throughout a day in school where everyone is welcomed with open arms. I Am Enough by Grace Byers is a story celebrating individual differences and reinforcing the need to respect others.



# Project Positive

## “Mini” Celebrations

We recognized our students Warriors of the Month for November during our December celebrations, as well as, staff members. Our

### **November Students of the Month are:**

- \*\*Samanta A. (UPK)
- \*\*Mahdi M. (K)
- \*\*Ayesha H. (1st)
- \*\*Aubree G. (2nd)
- \*\*Alyvia P. (3rd)
- \*\*Penny C. (3rd)
- \*\*Jocelyn B-C. (4th)

### **Our November Staff of the Month are:**

- \*\*Mrs. Platt (art)
- \*\*Mrs. Balistreri (aide)

Pictures will be posted on the UE Facebook page. Please take a look if you can!

## January Activities

During the month of January, we will continue to focus on the following behavioral expectation(s):

1. Being Kind

As a building/classroom incentive, our student warriors will be trying to earn points through ClassDojo for compliance with this expectation specifically. When each classroom gets 150 points they will earn a pajama day! When each classroom gets 250 they will earn an ice-cream treat during their scheduled lunch period!

## Cafe & Bus Incentives

1. Our winning classes that earned a reward for best cafeteria behavior are:  
Miss Mann  
Mr. Mendiola  
Mrs. Franusiak  
Mrs. Sosnowski  
Mrs. Stark  
Mr. Schwind  
Mr. Schnauffer
2. Our winning bus route group for the month of December is:

**Bus #1**







# Wellness Newsletter

## January Focus: Dental Health

### Weekly "I CAN..." Statements

- Week 1 - I CAN brush my teeth 2 times a day.
- Week 2 - I CAN brush my teeth for 2 minutes.
- Week 3 - I CAN floss my teeth before I go to bed.
- Week 4 - I CAN snack healthy to keep my teeth and gums healthy.

### Read-A-Loud Books

- ★ Sugarbug Doug by Dr. Ben Magleby
- ★ The Berenstain Bears Visit the Dentist by Jan & Stan Berenstain
- ★ Just Going to the Dentist by Mercer Mayer
- ★ Brush Your Teeth Please by Leslie Mcguire



### Did You Know...?

1. Early childhood tooth decay has become the most chronic childhood disease, impacting more children than asthma.
2. More than 40% of children have tooth decay by the time they reach Kindergarten.
3. Kids who suffer from poor oral health are 3x's more likely to miss school as a result of dental pain.
4. Eating and drinking foods that contain fluoride can be an efficient way to help prevent tooth decay.

### Video Links

\*[Why do we brush our teeth?](#) (video)

\*[What if we stop brushing our teeth?](#) (video)

\*[How to brush your teeth](#) (video)

\*[What causes cavities?](#) (video)

\*[A 2 minute song to brush your teeth to](#)

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

**When a student misses 2 days a month..**

They will miss 20 DAYS a year.

They will miss 30 HOURS of math over the school year.

They will miss 60 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over 1 YEAR of school by graduation.

**When a student misses 4 days a month..**

They will miss 40 DAYS a year.

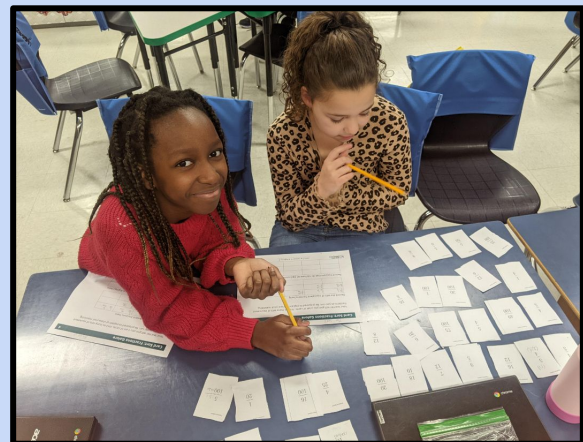
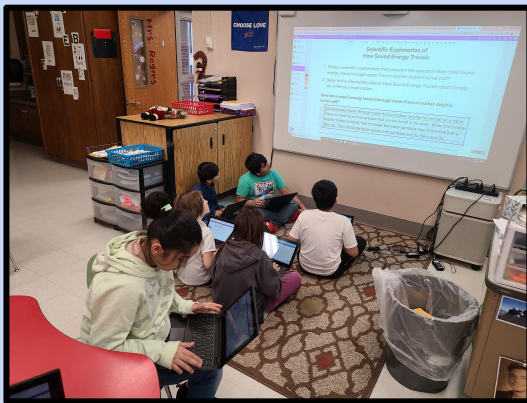
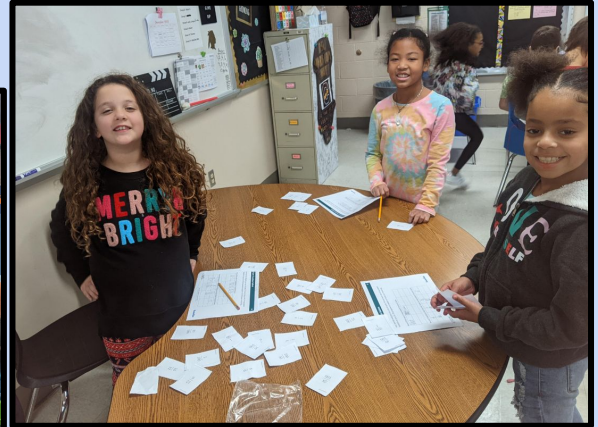
They will miss 60 HOURS of math over the school year.

They will miss 120 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over 2 YEARS of school by graduation.



# Grade 4 News

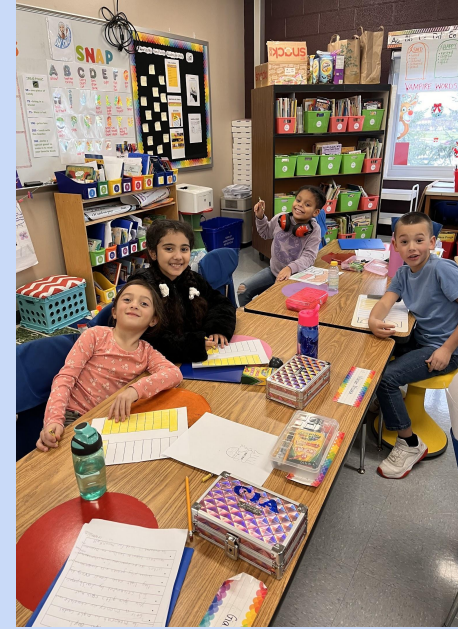
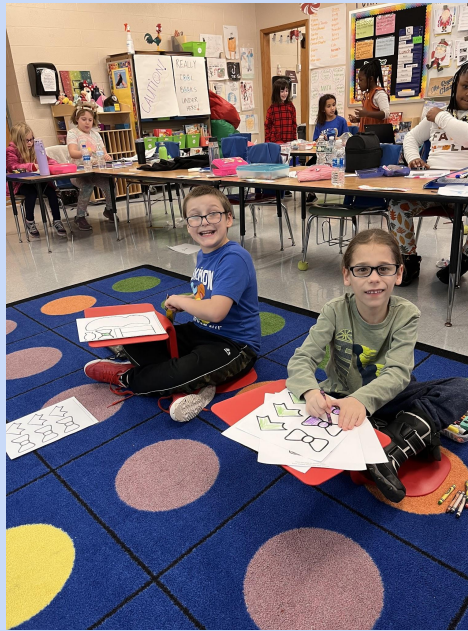
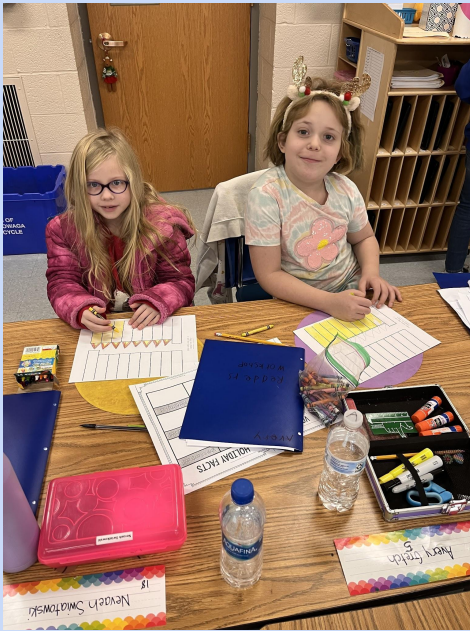


Happy holidays to  
our 4th grade  
families!



# Grade 3 News

3rd Grade has been learning about many holidays around the world! We have researched Diwali, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, St. Nicholas Day, and Hanukkah!



**STEM - Students in Ms. Stroud's and Mrs. Stark's classes are planning, revising, building and decorating gingerbread houses! The tallest one wins!!**





# Grade 2 News



## WHAT WE ARE LEARNING!

### Writing - Writing About Reading

- Creating writing pieces about books we love
- Writing letters about characters we love
- Editing and revising

### Reading - Tackling Longer Words and Longer Books:

- Building supportive partnerships
- Ask and answer why questions
- Self-monitoring comprehension
- Retelling longer stories

### Phonics - Word Builders:

- Being able to write and spell big words correctly and quickly
- Building bigger, longer, more complex words, syllable by syllable

### Math - Unit 3: Measuring Length

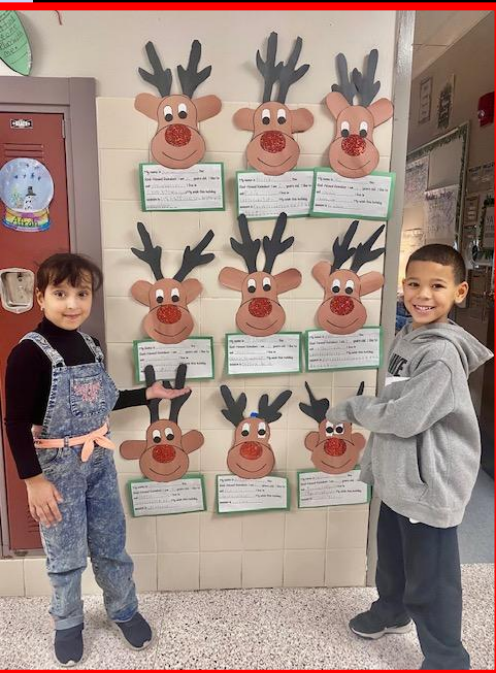
- Standard units of measure
- Measuring in centimeters, inches, meters
- Understanding story problems

**Happy Holidays to our  
Second Graders and their  
Families!**

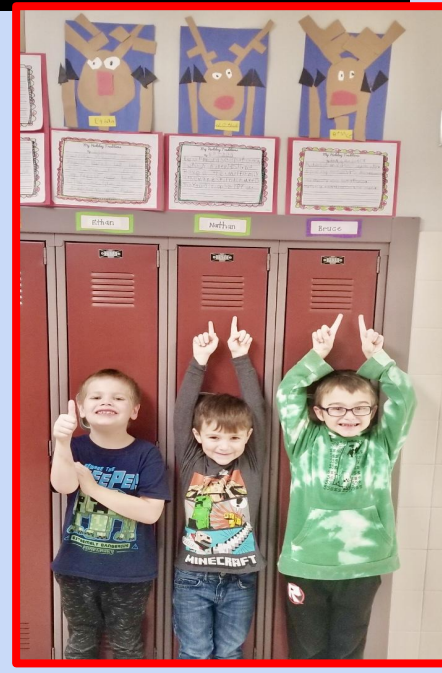




# Grade 1 News



First grade has been getting into the holiday spirit and filling our hallways with cheer! The kiddos have created reindeer writing pieces, family ornaments, kindness bulbs and snowglobe stories. We've loved listening and learning all about the holiday traditions that our families celebrate! We hope everyone has a festive holiday season!





# Kindergarten News



**Take a peek at  
our Kindergarten  
Warriors in  
action!**



**We are  
becoming  
readers!**



**Learning all  
about shapes  
in math!**

**We learned about BeeBots! The activities  
helped us practice counting, sequencing,  
problem solving, estimating, directionality,  
perseverance and teamwork!**

**Working hard during our  
phonics lessons!**



**Meeting our new librarian  
and touring the library!**





# UPK News



Students dressing up with Ms. Benjamin!

## Staying warm with pre-k play!!



Mrs. Argento's class reading in the library.



Mrs. McDonough's class celebrated many holidays this month, Once holiday is a Swedis holiday, St. Lucia. We made a headpieces out of candles and greens that is worn by a special someone in each family..



Ms. Limer's class building

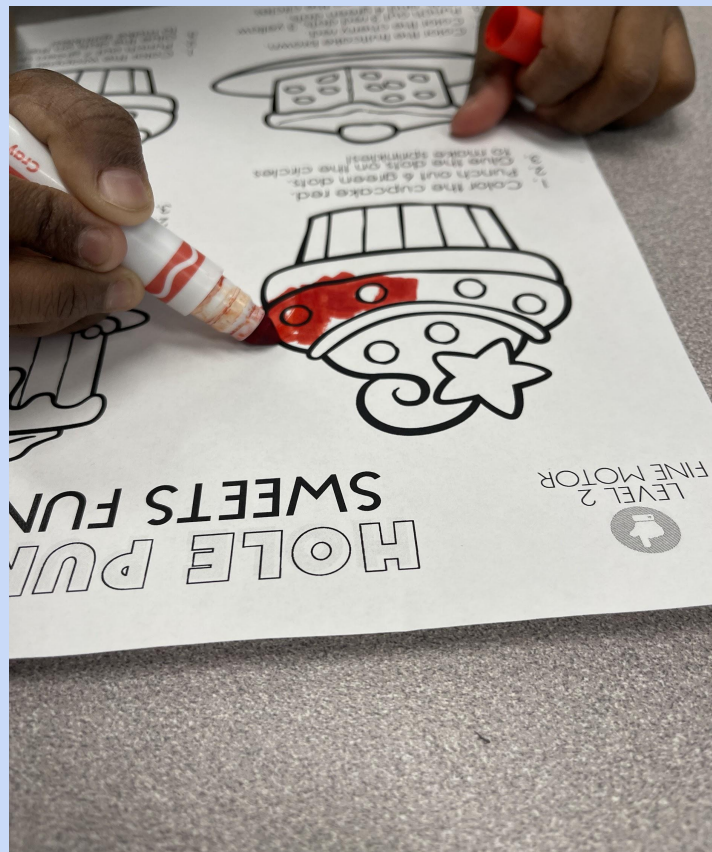


Miss Manna exploring trees.



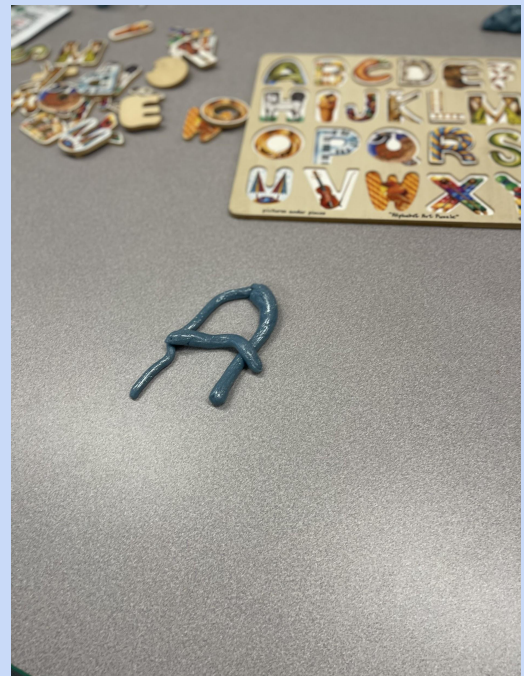
## Related Services News

# Happy Holidays from Union East Related Service team!



Occupational therapists are focused on supporting a child's overall ability to participate as successfully and fully as possible in the school environment. OT's focus often includes: fine motor functioning, sensory processing, visual motor and visual perceptual skills, self-care skills/activities of daily living, social skills, cognitive skills and executive functioning, and more!

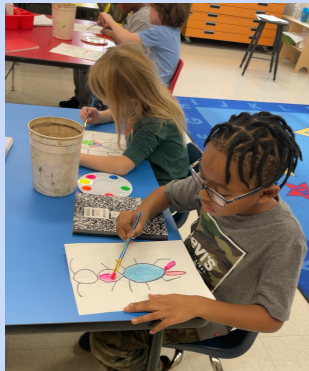
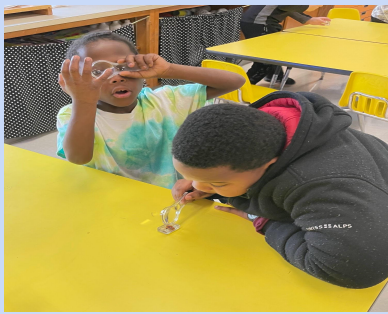
We are excited to welcome Mrs. Kruger to our OT team!



# Art, Music, Library & Physical Education



**These are just a few of the fun activities our students do in Physical Education class!!**



**2nd grade art students researched an insect that they later drew and painted this month. They will be on display at open house in March.**

**4th graders were bucket drumming!**



**The 2nd grade students learned a song and circle dance titled “Toembai” in Music!**



# Pupil Personnel Services News

This month the school social workers have been working on meeting the needs of our families and community. We have donated gift cards and hats, gloves and scarves to Toys for Tots for our families. We have helped out our families in our building with providing some extra help for the holidays. We have been working on feelings and talking about how to use our strategies to help ourselves problem solve and regulate ourselves. We continue to work with Feedmore of WNY to get out Backpack Program to our families in our building. We have been working with our community collaborations to help our families get through this holiday season with the basics of housing, clothing and food. We wish our families a Happy Holiday to appreciate what we have and to have grace with those who are not always understanding what we are going through.

Maria Kocialski , LMSW [mkocialski@ccsd-k12.net](mailto:mkocialski@ccsd-k12.net) 716-686-3671  
Bernie Huber, LCSW [bhuber@ccsd-k12.net](mailto:bhuber@ccsd-k12.net) 716-686-3679

This month, my lessons focused on Friendship: what a good friend does and is, how to be a good friend, how to make friends, and what a good friend does not. The students listen to stories about friends and then they participate in an extension activity to go along with our theme. Kindergarten “built” a snowman friend, First grade designed their own snowman friend, Second grade did a yarn activity where they all could see that it’s ok to be different, and still be connected as friends. Third grade students created their own puzzle piece with things that make them happy, and Fourth grade played a Friendship Bingo game. We all had a fun time learning about friendship, and the happiness that comes along with having friends. I hope that everyone has a Happy Holiday and I am looking forward to more social emotional learning with your child/children in 2023. It’s going to be a great year!

Kristin Dudas  
School Counselor [kdudas@ccsd-k12.net](mailto:kdudas@ccsd-k12.net)

# Academic Intervention Services News

Welcome to Math Win and a New Year!

1st - Addition within 20.

Making 10 and some more

$$8+6=10+4$$

2nd - Add and subtract within 100.

Understanding story problems.

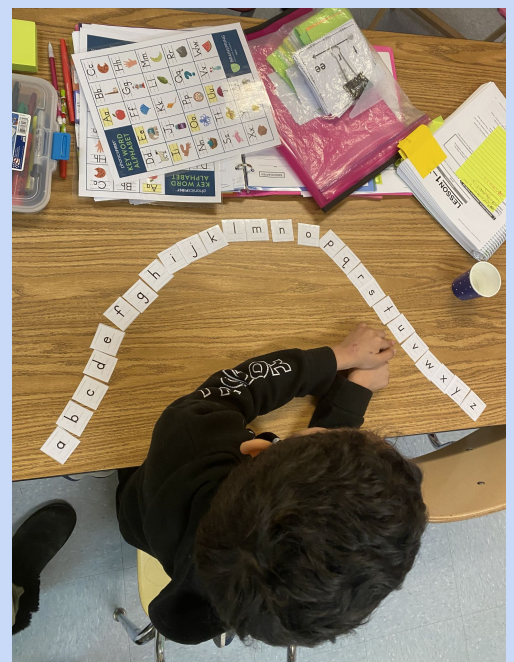
3rd - Finding the Area and

4th - Adding and subtracting fractions.



Reviewing short vowel words with a game of  
MEMORY!!

Alphabet Arcs are a fun way to  
review the order of letters in our  
alphabet!!

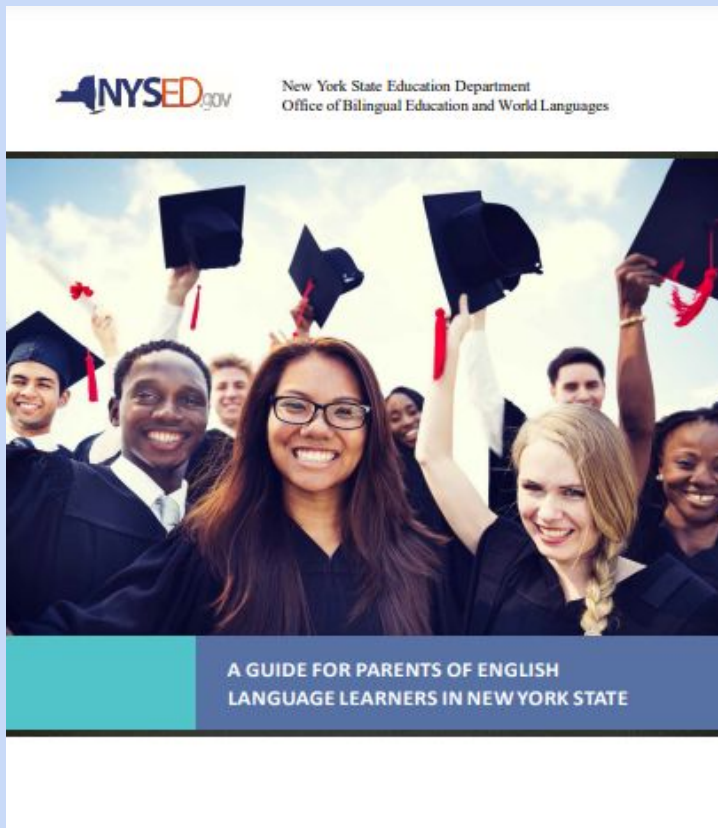




# English as a New Language News

## New York State Resources for Parents of English Language Learners.

Each guide is available in several languages, just click on the pictures to get the links.



**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT /  
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234**  
Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages

55 Hanson Place, Room 594 Brooklyn, New York 11217  
Tel: (718) 722-2445 / Fax: (718) 722-2459

89 Washington Avenue, Room 528B Albany, New York 12234  
(518) 474-8775 / Fax: (518) 474-7948

**PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS  
FOR NEW YORK STATE'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) Commissioner Regulations Part 154 provides you – the parents/guardians of English Language Learners (ELLs) – with:

1. The right for your children to receive a free public education in the school district where you live, regardless of your or your children's immigration status (e.g., whether your family members are citizens, immigrants, or undocumented) and the language that you or your children speak.
2. The right to enroll your children in school without being asked to provide information or paperwork which may reveal your or your children's immigration status. You cannot be asked to provide a social security card or number, an immigration visa or visa status, or citizenship documents or citizenship status.
3. The right under federal law to have a qualified interpreter/translator in your preferred language for critical interactions with the school district.
4. The right to have your children in a Bilingual Education (BE) program when there are 20 or more grade-level students that speak the same home/primary language.<sup>1</sup>
5. The right to written notice in English and your preferred language that your children have been identified as ELLs and will be placed in a Bilingual Education or English as a New Language (formerly called English as a Second Language) program.<sup>2</sup>
6. The right to a high quality orientation session, provided by your school district, that focuses on state standards, tests, and school expectations for ELLs, as well as the program goals and requirements for Bilingual Education and English as a New Language. This orientation must occur before final school program placement, and must be in your preferred language.
7. The right to receive information about your children's English language development, and also about their home language development if they are in a Bilingual Education program.
8. The right to meet with school staff at least once a year, in addition to other generally required meetings, to discuss your children's overall learning and language development progress.
9. The right for your children to be placed in a Bilingual Education or English as a New Language program within 10 days of enrollment, and the right to opt out of a Bilingual Education program. At a minimum, your children must receive English as a New Language instruction.
10. The right for your children to transfer to another school in your district that offers Bilingual Education in your language, if your children's original school does not offer such a program.
11. The right for your children to have equal access to all programming and services offered by the school district, appropriate to age and grade level including those required for graduation, and to all school programs available to other students.
12. The right for your children to receive all core content instruction, and to learn English and other subjects such as Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies at the same academic level as all other children. Being entitled to ELL services does not limit the ability to get core content instruction.
13. The right for your children to have full access to extracurricular activities (afterschool clubs, sports, etc.). Being entitled to ELL services does not limit the ability to take part in extracurricular activities.
14. The right for your children to get support services (e.g., Academic Intervention Services) aligned with any intervention plans that the school/district provides to all students.
15. The right to have your children tested yearly to determine their English language progress, and to obtain information about your children's performance on academic tests, including New York State tests.
16. The right to have your children continuously enrolled year to year in a Bilingual Education or English as a New Language program while they remain ELLs.
17. The right to contact the New York State Education Department's Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages if any of the above rights have been violated.

Please call the **ELL Parent Hotline** at 1-800-462-8224, or email: [nysparenthotline@nyu.edu](mailto:nysparenthotline@nyu.edu)  
For more information visit: [www.p12.nysed.gov/biling](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling) or write to:  
New York State Education Department  
Office of Bilingual Education & World Languages  
55 Hanson Place, Room 594  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

<sup>1</sup> In New York City, per the Aspira Consent Decree, a BE program is required in grades K-8 if 15 or more grade-level students speak the same language in two contiguous grades. If there is not a sufficient number of qualifying students in a school, but there are within its district, the district must provide a BE program.

<sup>2</sup> All ELLs develop their English skills through "English as a New Language" courses. In addition, those in a Bilingual Education program also take Home Language Arts, Core content

