

Bluejay Buzz

Tweet Time 2017-2018



In October, we will have our first Tweet Time of the 2017-2018 school year. For those of you new to Tweet Time, it is a 30 minute time that students meet with their mixed-age Tweet Time groups. Each adult in the building has a Tweet Time group with students from Kindergarten through fourth grade. As students move on to the middle school, new students and kindergarten students fill in their spots.

During Tweet Time, we focus students on the 8 Keys of Excellence, which is our district character program. Our first Tweet Time meeting will be centered around teamwork and getting to know our group members. Tweet Time is a very special part of our school, and has helped students and staff members build stronger relationships with one another.

Mission of Seward Public Schools

The school district of Seward, in cooperation with parents and community, affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. The district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially and physically.

Upcoming Dates:

October 9th-13th:
College Week

October 10th: David
Shannon Author Visit

October 16th:
Elementary Plan Day -
No School

October 17th:
Parent Teacher
Conferences 4:00 - 8:00 PM

October 19th:
Parent Teacher
Conferences 4:00 - 8:00 PM

October 20th:
No School

October 23rd:
Staff Development Day -
No School

October 24th:
PTO Meeting in Room 110
@ 7:00 PM

October 31st:
Happy Halloween!!!

Principal's Message

September has come to an end, and October is just around the corner. It is hard to believe that time goes by so quickly! I don't know about you, but I am more than excited for the fall weather to lower those outside temperatures. In our school, teachers and students have been working hard to get back into school routines and practice expectations so our school is a calm and productive place for children to learn.

Classrooms are getting into the groove of their daily routine as well. With these routines, comes the opportunity for teachers to use guided reading and guided math with children. When teachers utilize guided reading and math, they are providing students with both whole group instruction, to introduce new skills and concepts, and also small group instruction, to meet the needs of each child. For example, a 1st grade teacher may introduce the concept of double's facts ($4+4=8$; $7+7=14$) during whole group time. They may model how to solve different double's facts problems and they will give students the opportunity to practice and talk about how they solve their own double's facts problems during whole group time. Then, teachers can work with small groups of children, reinforcing and practicing what was taught during whole group time, or maybe back up a bit and fill in gaps for children who are not quite ready to master their double's facts. They may go back to working on number sense and counting, which are both important skills to master before learning double's facts. For students who have already proven they understand double's facts, they may do some extension games or move on to more difficult concepts, like larger double's facts ($20+20=40$; $150+150=300$).

Small group instruction is particularly important with our new math program. When teachers work with small groups of students, they are able to make sure students understand missing skills so they are able to grasp the concepts being taught during whole group time. We are very proud of how hard our students are working on math and on all of their school work! We have a school full of mathematicians that are learning how to overcome challenges each day! Thank you, parents, for all you do to support your little mathematicians!

Positive Effort:

Growing up, we all had different subject areas that gave us difficulty in school. Whether that was reading, math, science, writing, or social studies, all of us probably struggled with something. You may be seeing this with your children as well. As parents, we can help our children by reinforcing effort in those difficult subject areas. We can praise our children for putting forth effort and celebrate with them, even when they meet the smallest achievements. For example, if your child really has trouble with spelling, encouraging them to practice all week, even though it is hard, will help. Then, on Friday, you can celebrate with them for each word they answered correctly! They may not get a 100%, but if they worked hard and stuck with it, their effort can be recognized! Focusing on effort more than percentage grades helps kids to stick with those difficult subject areas and develop a growth mindset for future challenges.

Seward Public Schools Meal Program and Meal Charges <https://www.sewardpublicschools.org/pages/policy/3012.pdf>

College Week: October 9th-13th

At Seward Elementary, we want children to learn about what education looks like from the elementary years, to middle school, then high school, and beyond. We feel it is important to share information about college and careers at a young age, so students can see what opportunities can be a possibility in their lives. The High School and Middle School are also celebrating college week this same week, so the whole district will be in on the action! Mr. Todd will focus on education and career possibilities during guidance, and we will also have college themed activities all week. Please watch for more information about college week coming soon. The following dress up days will be a part of the fun during our college week this year:

Monday, October 9th: College Color Day (students can wear colors of their favorite college)

Wednesday, October 11th: Career Day (students can dress up like a possible future career)

Friday, October 13th: Bulldog Day (students can either wear Concordia University clothing or wear navy blue)

The Specials Special

September 2017

Guidance with Mr. Todd

We are done with getting to school and home safely. Hopefully this has sparked a conversation or two at home with you as parents. When you come to parent/teacher conferences, you will see some examples of the hard work students have put into their knowledge and research.

Our curriculum has changed somewhat. Grades 2-4 will be working on friendship and conflict resolution skills next. But grades K-1 will be starting a brand new program called "Social Explorers: We Thinkers!" This program incorporates social stories with specific social skill goals and practices for each lesson. There are ten lessons all together. The greatest part of this process is that it is a team effort with our school psychologist, Mr. Stepp, and all classroom teachers. Mr. Stepp will do the reteaching of skills as needed in smaller groups. There will be a link on my teacher web page describing everything in detail and listing resources very soon. Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey into something new!

Library with Ms. Flemings

We've been so busy learning about Tad Hills, Philip Stead, and Matthew Cordell. Ask your kiddo with these questions to see how well they know them:

- What art supply does Tad use to create his artwork? (oil paint)
- What does Phillip Stead always include in his books? (a beginning, middle, end, AND a conflict!)
- What big city does Matthew Cordell live near? (Chicago)

We are so lucky that next month, on Tuesday, October 10th we get to have **ONE MORE** author visit! David Shannon, is coming to our school! This is **HUGE**. He is a super-duper-famous-well known author and illustrator! We are so excited to get to learn from him. October will be filled with seasonal read alouds as well as starting Digital Citizenship and Typing skills!

Music with Mr. Janda

Hello parents! This letter is coming from Brianna Bossle, I have been student teaching with Mr. Janda since August. I am excited to share with you all that we have accomplished in music class thus far!

Kindergarten:

Our kindergarten students have been learning about steady beat and rhythm. Alongside these two concepts, the kindergarteners have been playing music circle games and having a blast!

First:

The first grade students have been working on rhythm and pitch reading with a piece they created as a class. They are now working on this piece on xylophone. Also, the students have been working hard on breathing, posture, and good vocal sound while singing.

Second:

Our second grade students have been working on rhythm and pitch reading. These students created a piece as a class, and are now learning this piece on xylophone. The students have also been working hard on breathing, posture, and good vocal sound while singing.

Third:

Third grade has been moving swiftly through guitar. They now know the D and A chords, and are working on pieces for their concert. We have been working hard on creating good vocal sound while singing. **Remember, the third grade concert is Nov. 16th!**

Fourth:

Fourth grade has been working hard at guitar. They now know the D and E minor chords, and are working on switching from one chord to the next in the same song. They have also been working hard on breathing, posture, and good vocal sound while singing.

P.E. with Mr. Anderson

We finished up our softball/baseball unit and are moving to volleyball. We will work on the bump, set, and underhand/overhand serve. We will do lots of skill work and we will use our skills to play mini games and work towards 6 on 6 volleyball games.

Sportsmanship is always a huge focus in the gym. We are always working on following rules, being a good teammate, having fun, and giving our best effort. We end class each day by giving three people high fives or fist bumps and giving them a compliment.

Just a friendly reminder that each student needs to wear tennis shoes for PE. I encourage the kids that if they wear sandals to school, they put shoes in their bookbag so they can change and play in PE. I do not let students play in sandals or boots as it is a safety issue and can also damage the floor. Thanks for helping out and making sure your child wears shoes for PE.



Parent Login Information for enVisions Math

1. Go to the Seward Public Schools Website: www.sewardpublicschools.org.
2. Find the drop down tab towards the top of the page called, "for parents" and click on it.
3. Click on the "Powerschool" link. This will take you to a page that has information on how to log into Powerschool. Toward the bottom of this page, there is a link that you can click to get to the login page for Powerschool. Click that link.
4. You are now at the parent/student sign in page for Powerschool. To access the math program components, you need to log in as your child. Your child's username is their lunch number and their password is their first name, beginning with a capital letter. If you do not know your child's lunch number, you can ask your child if they are in grades 1-4, or call the school if they are in Kindergarten, as Kindergarten students have not yet memorized their numbers.
5. Once you are signed in to Powerschool, look on the left hand side under the "Navigation" bar. At the bottom of that bar, click on "Pearson Courses."
6. This will take you to a page, called "Classes and Products." Click on the arrow next to the math bar. You should now see "enVision Math 2.0, with your child's grade level. Click on that link.
7. You will now be on a page that says "Pearson Realize." You will see three colored circles. Under the green circle, called programs, click on the green box that says enVision math 2.0.
8. You should now be on the "Table of Contents" page, that gives you access to each topic, or chapter. Simply find the topic your child is on, click on it, and choose the lesson your child is working on.
9. Now you will see all of the information on that lesson. There are videos that you can view, you can see the student textbook, and you can even play games to reinforce the lesson with your child.
10. Hopefully this will help parents with ideas to support children at home. If you have any questions, or would like me to walk you through this process again, please contact the school at (402) 643-2968.

Homework Tips

Background Information:

Students at Seward Elementary will have homework throughout the school year. All students in grades K-4 will have math homework on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Students may also have spelling, reading, science, or social studies homework. Homework is meant to be practice from skills learned during the school day. Homework in all subject areas should not take more than 10 minutes for Kindergarten and 1st grade, 20 minutes for 2nd grade, 30 minutes for 3rd grade, and 40 minutes for 4th grade.

What are fun ways to study for tests that will engage my child?

Nearly every child that walks through our doors loves playing games! Turn your studying into a game by playing memory with vocabulary words, guess the word with spelling words, or have students play pictionary with science or social studies concepts. Write vocabulary words on sticky notes and play the headbands game with your child. For example, you could write the word, "precipitation" on the sticky note and stick it to your child's head, then you could use words to describe precipitation, like rain, snow, etc. until your child guesses the correct word. Then, it is their turn to choose a word for you to guess! You could also make studying math facts or doing a math paper into a friendly competition between you and your child. Race them with math facts, or see if they can solve a problem on their math paper in less than a minute. These are just a few ideas that will turn studying into fun!

What if homework is taking longer than it is supposed to?

It is perfectly okay to set a timer for your child and stick to it. Once the time is up, make a note for the teacher, and stop doing the homework. We understand that evenings can get really busy, so sticking to the above timelines will help get practice in, but also allow for other activities. Participating in athletics, music classes, dance, Scouts, 4-H, and other activities are also very important for young minds and bodies. We want you to have time to make these things a possibility for your child as well!

What if my child cannot read their homework or if they do not understand a problem?

If your child is struggling to read a problem, you may help by reading it to them. If a problem is too difficult, or hard to understand, please write a question mark under the problem and move on. Teachers will discuss problems with students the following day and will walk students through those tricky ones!

What if my child gets frustrated with homework?

At times, homework may be difficult, whether it be studying for a spelling test, a social studies test, or completing a math paper. It is normal and okay for children to experience a little frustration, or productively struggle with tasks. Overcoming challenges is an important part of school and growing up. We do not, however, want children to be completely overwhelmed with homework. If this is happening at your house, please stop the homework and contact your child's teacher.

3012

School Meal Program and Meal Charges

Meal Program. The school district will make a school meal program available to students. The cost of the program will be determined by the board of education so as to make the program as nearly self-supporting as possible. With board approval, the district may contract with a private company or corporation for the management and/or provision of the program.

The district will notify the families with children attending school of the current guidelines for free or reduced-price school meals. A copy of the complete regulations and procedures regarding reduced-price and free meals shall be available in the office of the superintendent.

Meal Charge Policy. The district will notify students and their families of the policy for Charged Meals, meaning meals received by a student when the student does not have money in hand or in his or her food account. This policy applies to students who receive meals at the free, reduced, or full rates.

Notice of this policy must be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households that transfer to the school during the school year. Notice may be provided through the student handbook, student registration materials, online portal used to access student accounts, direct mailing or e-mail, newsletter, the district website, and/or any other appropriate means. Notice of this policy will also be provided all school staff responsible for the enforcement of it, including food service professionals responsible for collecting payment for meals at the point of service, staff involved in notifying families of low or negative balances, and other staff involved in enforcing any aspect of this policy.

The district's policy on charged meals is: If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be permitted to charge up to \$20.00. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be provided and charged for a limited "courtesy meal" option, such as a plain sandwich. Students will not be allowed to purchase a la carte items if they have a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as

required by law.

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law. Collection efforts may continue into a new school year.

In the event that the Nebraska Department of Education develops a state-level meal charge policy, it shall supersede that portion of this policy.

Adopted on: June 14, 2010

Revised on: June 12, 2017

Reviewed on: _____

October 2017 – Elementary

Fruit and Vegetable Bar Served Daily

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Sloppy Joe on a Bun Oven Fries Pears Milk	3 Soft Shell Chicken Taco Fiesta Beans Peaches Milk	4 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Tossed Salad Applesauce Breadstick Milk	5 Mr. Ribb Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Milk	6 Cheese Stuffed Breadsticks w/ Marinara Sauce Steamed Carrots Mixed Fruit Ice Cream Cup Milk
9 Beef Fiestada Corn Peaches Milk	10 Shredded BBQ Pork Sandwich Oven Fries Pears Milk	11 Lasagna w/ Meat Sauce Tossed Salad Applesauce Garlic Bread Milk	12 Chicken Nuggets Nachos w/ Cheese Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Milk	13 Cheese Breadsticks w/ Marinara Sauce Steamed Carrots Mixed Fruit Sherbet Milk
16 <p style="text-align: center;">No School (Elementary Only)</p>	17 Meat Lovers Stromboli Corn Pears Milk	18 Orange Chicken over Brown Rice Green Beans Mixed Fruit Fortune Cookie Milk	19 Husker Dog Steamed Carrots Applesauce Jello Cup Milk	20 <p style="text-align: center;">No School</p>
23 <p style="text-align: center;">No School</p>	24 Hamburger on a Bun Oven Fries Pears Milk	25 Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Peaches Dinner Roll Milk	26 Mini Corn Dogs Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Milk	27 Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza Steamed Carrots Mixed Fruit Pudding Cup Milk
30 Chicken Patty on a Bun Corn Strawberry Cup Milk	31 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Peaches Dinner Roll Milk			

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October 2017 - Breakfast

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>2</p> <p>Breakfast Burrito</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>3</p> <p>French Toast Sticks Sausage</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Cheese Omelet Muffin</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Turkey Bacon Breakfast Toast</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Cold or Hot Cereal Crackers</p> <p>Fruit 100% Fruit Juice Milk</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Biscuits & Gravy</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pancakes & Sausage on a Stick</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Scrambled Eggs Toast</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Mini Bagels w/ Strawberry Cream cheese</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Cold or Hot Cereal Yogurt</p> <p>Fruit 100% Fruit Juice Milk</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Breakfast Pizza</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Waffle Sticks Sausage</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Cheese Omelet Muffin</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Biscuits & Gravy</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>20</p> <p>No School</p>
<p>23</p> <p>No School</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Donut Yogurt</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Scrambled Eggs Toast</p> <p>Fruit 100% Fruit Juice Milk</p>	<p>26</p> <p>French Toast Sticks Sausage</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Cold or Hot Cereal Cheese Stick</p> <p>Fruit 100% Juice Milk</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Mini Cinnis Yogurt</p> <p>Fruit 100% Fruit Juice Milk</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Breakfast Burrito</p> <p>Fruit 100% Fruit Juice Milk</p>			

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PTO

Next Meeting:

October 24 @ 7:00 p.m.
Room 110
Childcare Provided

Events:

Parent/Teacher Conf. Meals:
October 17 & 19

Get Connected with PTO



@sewardpt



@sewardpt



sewardelementarypto@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Spirit Wear

Shop Online or Instore:

<http://mytournamenttees.com/fresh/sewardelementary/>

For questions on shirts sizes, material contact

Sports Express

402-643-4488

244 N 5th ST. Seward, NE

Clothes Sales

— Close Sunday October 1st —

- Deliver/Pickup in store - October 13th -

~ IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS:

Turn In Envelopes, Order Form & Cash/Checks: **Tuesday, October 3rd**
(Make Checks Payable to: Seward Elementary School PTO)

Product Deliver Date: Tuesday, **November 14th 3:30 - 5:30**



AMERICA'S FUNDRAISING COMPANY



Don't forget to enter your child's winning prize on the order form!
Also please return the order form with both the yellow and white
copies. At Delivery Pickup, you will receive a copy back.

Concordia University Saturday School Information

Greetings,

The Methods of Art Education class in cooperation with the Art Department will once again be holding Saturday School morning sessions for elementary through middle school students to learn about and create art. The sessions, available to Pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students, are divided by age group. They will be taught by Concordia students enrolled in the Methods of Art Education course, and observed by art department faculty. As part of the course, students must create discipline-based art lesson plans, which address art history, aesthetics, constructive criticism, and art making, to teach to the elementary students.

All sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The classes will be held on Concordia University's campus in Brommer Art Center, room 123. A \$5.00 fee per student is required for registration and supplies. Each session has 25 seats available. Please notify me if your child has allergies and dress your child in clothes that can get messy.

SATURDAY SCHOOL DATES | SEMESTER 2017

Pre-Kindergarten	October 28 th
Kindergarten	November 4 th
1 st and 2 nd Grades	November 11 th
3 rd and 4 th Grades	December 2 nd
5 th , 6 th , 7 th & 8 th Grades	December 9 th

***Note:** Registration is online. To register your child/children please follow the link below :

<https://go.cune.edu/saturdayart>

