

December 2023

*Dare to SOAR!*

# SUNSET NEWS



## A Note from the Principal

Sunset Families,

I trust that this December newsletter finds you happy and enjoying this time of year. The Holiday Season is always a time for me to spend quality time with family. I hope that you are able to enjoy the winter break.

As we enter the last few days of the first semester, I encourage you to tell your children to finish strong. We always want students to give their best effort and strive for greatness. While winter break is a time to relax and enjoy family we have a few things that will be helpful. Remember to remind students to continue to read, write, and practice math facts over winter break. Reading and writing can be about topics they enjoy and share with parents and siblings. Reading is a powerful tool for building your child's mind. We want our families and community to help us achieve our high expectations for each student. Students can write letters to family members or resolutions to ring in 2024!

Remember that attendance is very important. Poor attendance can have a negative impact on students academic success. Being in school everyday means your child won't miss out on learning. Please try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. We want to help remove any barriers to school attendance. Please reach out if we can help with: transportation, mental health services, bus schedule, alarm clock, or housing status.

Our hope is that each one of you has a safe and joyful winter break and take time to enjoy your family! To all of our Sunset Eagle families, warmest holiday wishes and here's to a prosperous new year for all!

Best regards,

Mr. Brandon J. Cheeks

Principal

Sunset Elementary School

P: 785-309-4520

[Brandon.Cheeks@usd305.com](mailto:Brandon.Cheeks@usd305.com)



# PTA News - No meeting in December.

## Holiday Movie Night

Family Christmas Movie Night

“The Santa Clause 3:  
The Escape Clause”



Friday, December 1

5:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Movie entry is \$1.00.

Concessions will be available.

## The Holiday Shop

The Holiday Shop gives students the opportunity to purchase gifts for their family members at a low cost.

The shop will be open December 5, during Frosty Festival and December 6, during the school day.

Watch for more information to come home.



## Frosty Festival and The Holiday Shop

You are invited to join us for a frosty good time:

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

You and your child(ren) can start the evening watching staff members perform a Reader's Theatre in the multipurpose room.

After the performance there will be math and reading games and pictures in the small gym.

Students can shop for Christmas presents in the Art Room at the PTA Holiday Shop (previously known as the Elf Shelf).

There will be a book walk in the music room and cookies and cocoa in the multipurpose room. Someone special may be here handing out candy canes, wishing us a Merry Christmas.

Students may get cozy and wear their pajamas to this event.

We look forward to sharing this exciting frosty fun!



# Music Programs



Please join us for the first and second grade music programs!

## Let it Snow!

A music program performed by Sunset first graders.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

6:00 p.m. in the gym.

The Sunset second graders will be performing

## Presents on Parade!



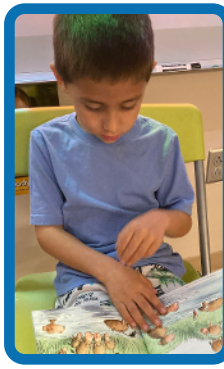
Tuesday, December 12, 2023

7:00 p.m. in the gym.

# Spotlight on Kindergarten

In kindergarten, we have been working very hard to learn all of our letters and sounds before Christmas. A lot of us are there, and many are close, so keep working hard at home! We appreciate your help!

Just a reminder to make sure you do your child's homework with them each night. The homework is reinforcing the skills they are working on in small group reading with us. Any extra practice is wonderful!



In Mrs. Coleman's room, the read aloud books in the classroom are about how we are thankful for our families, friends and each other. Her students disguised turkeys.



# Lost and Found



Look at all the winter wear that needs to go home with their owners. Please come in to school and see if we have the coat that your child is missing.





## DANGER!

### CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



**CAN'T BE  
SEEN**



**CAN'T BE  
SMELLED**



**CAN'T BE  
HEARD**



**CAN BE  
STOPPED**

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that kills without warning. It claims the lives of hundreds of people every year and makes thousands more ill. Many household items including gas- and oil-burning furnaces, portable generators, and charcoal grills produce this poison gas. Following these important steps can keep your family safe.

#### **CO DETECTORS**

- Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.

#### **OIL & GAS FURNACES**

- Have your furnace inspected every year.

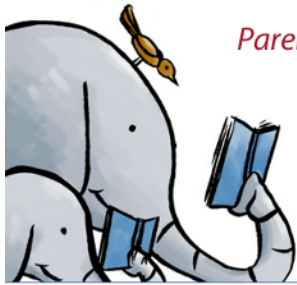
#### **PORTABLE GENERATORS**

- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.



**U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

## PROTECT YOUR FAMILY



*Parent tips for raising strong readers and writers*

# Growing readers!

*Brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado and LD OnLine*

## Creating Holiday Learning Traditions

This holiday season consider adding some new traditions for your family that will make meaningful memories and strengthen foundations for reading and learning success.

### Listen, laugh, learn

- Listen to audio books while you're traveling to visit family, wrapping gifts or cooking for the holidays.
- Lyrics to holiday songs are fun to read and sing together. It is also good fun and good collaborative writing practice to make up your own lyrics to familiar tunes.
- Start a story-telling tradition by revisiting holidays of the past. Old family photographs at holiday gatherings will help prompt stories about your own life and family traditions.

### Read, relax, respond

- Put reading and writing skills to practical use. Plan holiday meals by reading cookbooks together, writing the shopping lists and finding the needed items at the store by reading signs and labels. Read the recipe and cook together. During the simmering and baking, kids can write and decorate menus or place cards for special holiday meals.
- Set aside time just for reading. Curl up on the couch together and read aloud an old favorite or check out books about another culture's winter celebrations.
- Work on those letters. Improve writing skills with notes or letters to relatives and friends, thanking them for their holiday gifts.

Need some ideas for books to give as gifts this season? Browse our 2018 Gift Guide:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/buyingguide>

Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado, and LD OnLine are national education services of WETA, the flagship public broadcasting station in Washington, D.C.



# December Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



5 - Frosty Festival

5 and 6 - The Holiday Shop

12 - Music Programs

Dec. 20-Jan. 3 - Winter break

Jan. 4 - School Resumes

## Contact Us

Brandon Cheeks - Principal  
 Christal Lantz - Lead Teacher  
 Gena Koch - Secretary  
 Main Office Phone Number: 785-309-4520

**#SunsetGrowsGreatness**  
**#305GrowsGreatness**

 [Sunset Eagles 305](#)

 [@Sunset Eagles 305](#)

 [@SunsetEagles305](#)

 [School Website](#)

 [District Website](#)

Unified School District #305 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Any person having inquiries concerning Unified School District #305 compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, ADA, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact the Unified School District #305 Executive Director of Human Resources, P.O. Box 797, Salina, Kansas 67402, 785-309-4726.