

January 2024

*Dare to SOAR!*

# SUNSET NEWS



## A Note from the Principal

Sunset Families,

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful winter break and enjoyed quality time with your family.

It's hard to believe that the school year is already half over. One of the best things you can do at home to help your child is encourage them to read. And, continue asking lots of questions each day when your student comes home from school. Your interest in their day not only supports your child academically, socially, and emotionally, but helps strengthen the bridge between home and school.

Thank you for working with your child at home and supporting their education. We have a goal for every student to continue to focus on self-improvements and academic growth.

This month, we celebrate the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his important work in civil rights. His messages, which encourage social justice and human rights for all, continue to resonate with us today.

Please continue to motivate our future leaders of tomorrow to put their best foot forward each day with resiliency, optimism and grit. We want each Sunset student to continue to succeed and reach their full potential.

Best regards,

Mr. Brandon J. Cheeks

Principal

Sunset Elementary School

P:785-309-4520

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

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

# Muffins in the Morning

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024

Pre K - 5th grade 8:25 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Afternoon Pre K - 3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Bring your favorite morning beverage and join your student for a muffin at Sunset Elementary.



## Notes from the Nurse

**Dental** - We have a great dental opportunity coming up here in Salina, on January 12 and 13 with the KMOM Dental Clinic. Services include cleanings, fillings and extractions! Children can be scheduled ahead of time, please go to <https://KMOMKIDS.as.me/>

Please register soon as slots will fill up. Adults are first come and first serve. For more information, please see the flyer down below.

**Hearing** - CKCIE will be doing hearing screenings on January 9 and 10, 2024 at Sunset.

**Vision** - Kindergarten, 3rd and 4th grades will have their vision screened at school on January 9 and 10. Please have your child wear their glasses to school those days for accurate screening results.

## How Do I Help My Child With Reading?

You can best support your child's decoding skills by helping them focus on the letter-sounds and spelling patterns with the words. You'll probably notice that your child often makes the same types of errors, so you will be able to emphasize the particular decoding tips that best match their needs. Learning to read individual words accurately is one very important part of the reading process. Here are other important ways to support your child's reading development:



- Model reading out loud with expression and a smooth pace.
- Discuss the meaning of words and how they are used in context.
- Ask questions, summarize, and make connections after reading individual sentences, paragraphs, and pages.
- Make reading an enjoyable and routine part of each day!

## News from PTA

THANK YOU to all of the volunteers that have been showing up to volunteer at school events! We appreciate it!

No meeting in December.

Meeting will be on January 11.

We are moving the BINGO night from January 26 to February 2.



## Coats, Coats, Coats!

We still have a lot of coats that need to go home with their owner. Please stop in to see if your child's missing coat is at school.





# Spotlight on First Grade



Mrs. Hampton

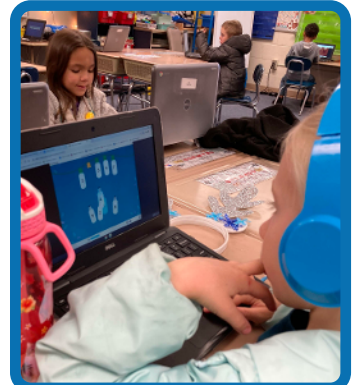
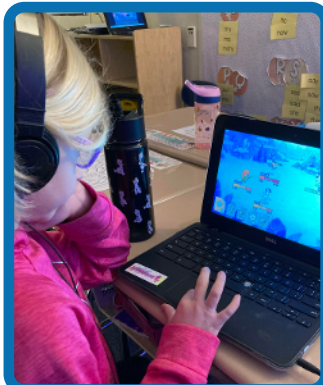
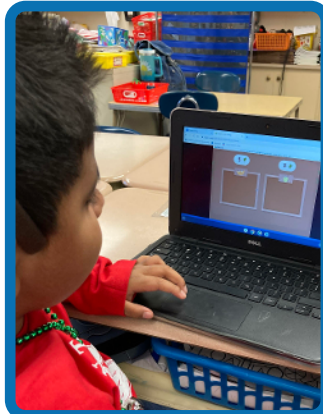
Mrs. Olson

Mrs. Chavez

First grade is working hard on learning how to subtract teen numbers, using word problems.

We've recently had Mr. Beach, Priscilla Howe, and Friends of the River perform for our classes. Students really enjoy these opportunities that are provided through the Arts Infusion program.

During the month of November, students worked on writing "I am thankful" notes to different staff in the building. They then practiced reading those notes to a friend and then presented them to the person they had written to.



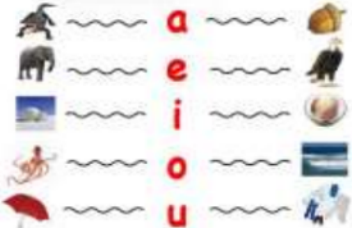





# How Do I Help My Child When They Get to a Word They Don't Know?

1. If your child reads a word incorrectly or skips a word say, **"Check it."**
2. Let your child try to figure it out. These are strategies:

## What is that word?

*You can problem solve!*

<p><b>Look at the word from left to right.</b></p>	
<p><b>Slide each sound.</b></p>	
<p><b>Try a different sound.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Flex" the vowel.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Break the word into parts.</b></p>	
<p><b>Check it!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does it make sense?</li> <li>• Does it sound right?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Reread</b></p>	

3. If he/she reads the word *correctly*, say:

**"Yes, that word is \_\_\_\_\_. What word?"**  
 (Child repeats the word.) Then say, **"Please reread the sentence."**

- If he/she still does not know the word, say:

**"That word is \_\_\_\_\_. What word?"**  
 (Child repeats the word.)  
 Then say, **"Please reread the sentence."**



# FREE DENTAL SERVICES!!



January  
12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

**Clinic Doors Open At 5:30 am**

**Tony's Pizza Events Center  
800 The Midway • Salina, Kansas**

**No Appointments • First Come, First Served  
Children and Adults**

## PATIENT INFORMATION

- Continue taking any prescription medications as directed and bring them along so a dose is not missed.
- Bring a list of current medications, allergies, and health conditions.
- No eligibility, income, or residency requirements needed.
- Services include cleanings, fillings and extractions....NO dentures.
- Hundreds of patients will be treated each day so be prepared to wait several hours.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided at no charge, but bring snacks and water (especially diabetics).

A project of



**Kansas Mission of Mercy**  
*Making a Difference*

For KMOM clinic updates during the event, go to the KMOM Facebook page.

# STAY WARM. STAY CONNECTED.



## Cold Weather Rule | November 1 – March 31

The **Cold Weather Rule** is designed to keep your utilities connected during the winter months, even when you're unable to pay your bill in full. Contact your utility company to see if you qualify to make payment arrangements under the Cold Weather Rule.

### How do I sign up?

If you can't pay your entire bill, call your utility company to make pay arrangements:

- Agree to pay 1/12 of the overdue amount of your bill, plus 1/12 of your current bill, all disconnection and connection fees plus any applicable deposit owed to the utility, and agree to pay the remainder in equal payments over the next 11 months; or
- Negotiate a payment plan to pay the overdue amount off quicker than 12 months.

Remember, you must also pay your full bills for any new service you use while paying off the overdue amount.

If you are behind in a previous payment plan and cannot catch up, you need to make a new payment agreement with the utility.

### What will the utility company do?

Utilities must inform you of the Cold Weather Rule payment plan as well as other available payment plans. Remember, under the Cold Weather Rule, you always have the option of spreading your payment over a total of 12 months.

Utilities must send written notice to customers 10 days before disconnection, plus attempt a phone call or personal contact the day before.

Utilities must tell customers about agencies that may have funds available to help pay utility bills.

### Can I be disconnected during the Cold Weather Rule?

A utility cannot disconnect you when the local National Weather Service forecasts that the temperature will be below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 48-hour period.

A utility may start the final notification and disconnection process if there is a 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees. If the 48-hour forecast changes before the period ends and there is a forecast of below 35 degrees, the utility cannot disconnect until there is another 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

To prevent disconnection when it is 35 degrees or above, or to be reconnected regardless of temperature, you must make pay arrangements with your utility.

### Please Note

The Cold Weather Rule applies only to residential customers of electric, natural gas, and water utility companies under the Kansas Corporation Commission's jurisdiction.



#### **For more information:**

Call your utility company or the Kansas Corporation Commission at (800) 662-0027.



## School Board Appreciation Month

January marks the start of a brand new, exciting year. It is also when we celebrate School Board Appreciation Month, a time to express our gratitude to the dedicated individuals who serve on our Board of Education (BOE).

In addition to welcoming our newest board member, January is also a time to look forward the coming year. Follow us on social media as we feature what our board members are looking forward to in 2024. Their excitement for our district demonstrates their ongoing commitment to provide the best possible education for our students and helps us get to know them a little better.

As we move into the new year, let us remember to celebrate the achievements of our district and to support our BOE in their ongoing efforts to provide a high-quality educational experience for our students. Together, we can finish out the school year strong!



## Building Resilient Schools and Homes

*Learn how to create safe, connected and problem-solving environments that allow adults and kids to function in their best brain state!*

Who Should Attend?  
Free and open to all adults

Through this social-emotional program, we will learn to discipline ourselves to help our children learn. Conscious Discipline provides an array of behavior management strategies that anyone can use to **turn everyday situations into learning opportunities.**

*Building Resilient Schools and Homes* is a 10-week E-Learning course from Conscious Discipline. Attendees will be provided with:

- **One graduate credit** from MidAmerica Nazarene University is available to certified staff. Information will be given at the first class.
- **FREE KDHE Hours** are also available for sessions attended in person.
- Material resources
- Individual registration for E-Learning course
- Free childcare for ages 2+, limited slots available
- Snacks

### Questions?

Contact Jody at [jody.craddockiselin@usd305.com](mailto:jody.craddockiselin@usd305.com)



Register by scanning the QR code. Registration will close one week before the first day of class.



# January 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			

1-3 - Winter Break

4 - Classes Resume

15 - No School

23 - Muffins in the Morning



## Contact Us

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

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

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[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.