



Diverse Learner Department Monthly Newsletter

Hello Parents! Welcome back to the new year! The Diverse Learner Department has been working diligently to make sure that our students experience a great education, and you stay informed as well. These monthly newsletters will have comments from each teacher of what the students have worked on throughout the week. Please read this and ask your students questions about what they have learned.



Math

Ms. Wengerski - 1st & 3rd Period,
Ms. Rego- 5th Period

Students in 1st, 3rd, and 5th period math have been diligently working on Next Dollar Up for several weeks now. They are able to determine how much money they should give a cashier to cover the total cost of their items. We have even been able to practice these skills in real life by participating in Community-Based Instruction trips to local stores (One Stop Grocery, Family Dollar, Walmart, etc.).

Select **3rd** period students have begun working on Pre-Algebra skills. Currently they are practicing simplifying expressions using the Order of Operations. Soon we will transition into solving simple one-step equations.

Every Thursday **5th** Period Math students are cooking. Students purchase the ingredients needed while out on community based instruction. So far students have made grilled cheese sandwiches, pizza, turkey and cheese sandwiches and blueberry muffins.



English -

Ms. Rego - 1st Period,
Mr. Jedovnický - 1st & 5th Period

The Diverse Learner Department continues to use the Unique Learning System in conjunction with News 2 You. Unique learning system is an online interactive standards-based curriculum specifically designed for students with special needs. As students experience new ideas through the content in News-2-You, they not only build comprehension and context relative to their community and world, they also develop new critical-thinking and communication skills, forming and expressing opinions about what they're learning. They're preparing to become productive citizens in life beyond the classroom. Students continue to learn ways to communicate their understanding of new words, phrases, and sentence types, everyday. Students have gotten the hang of using K-W-L chart to express what they know, what they want to know and what they have learned. Vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading comprehension continue to be the focus areas of learning. Each week, students learn and practice language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) differentiated to meet the unique abilities of each student.

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History - Mr. Jedovnický - 2nd & 8th Period

Students continue to work on learning about the past, current and future trends that have shaped America and the world. Students are learning that the past, present and future are all interconnected and build upon each other to create a world in which they live. Students will study from when the colonists first arrived in America to the present day.



ESL- Mrs. Reed-Davis

During the month of January, students applied verbal and non-verbal language skills to study the life and dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In addition, based on their individual stage of language acquisition, students further developed decoding, comprehension, word, color, and number identification, and math skills, such as perimeter and area.



Science- Ms. Wengerski



Students in **5th** and **7th** period have been learning all about the elements of the periodic table. Last week we investigated the physical properties of aluminum, carbon, helium, and copper and got to handle and



touch some samples while we recorded our observations. Next we will begin making combinations so we can learn about physical and chemical reactions.

In **8th** period, we began our unit about Extreme Weather. The first type of weather we studied was the Winter Storm (although we haven't seen a big one yet this year!), and next we are moving on to the Tornado. We will begin this topic by watching the 1996 movie *Twister*.



Spanish- Ms. Rego - 6th & 8th Period

Our **6th** period class has been learning about the different cultures around the world that speak Spanish. We are focusing specifically on Puerto Rico and Mexico as they are close to the United States and many people from there are living here in Chicago. We will be learning about different cuisines that they make during the holiday season and will pick something that is specific to Puerto Rico and Mexico to make. Students also are still continuing to learn Spanish speaking basics such as commonly used phrases, words and sounds.

Community Based Instruction- Ms. Rego, Ms. Wengerski & Mr. Jedovnický

Since coming back to school from Winter Break, we have been making regular Community-Based Instruction trips to local stores. On Tuesdays we all walk to a local store during the school day and practice making purchases. Please check your child's backpack regularly to stay updated on where we will be heading each week.

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Case Manager Corner- Ms Seaton

Best Buddies and **Special Olympics** are hosting a Shoe Drive ending on **February 13**. We are collecting shoes for our fundraiser. If we collect **2500** pairs of shoes, we will receive a check for **\$1000**. This money will be used for Best Buddies activities and Special Olympics uniforms. Please clear out your closets and donate new or gently used shoes to our cause. Shoe drop off boxes are in **Room 118, 239, and 339**.

On Friday, January 17, some of our students attended the Special Olympics Basketball Skills event. Five students received gold medals. Congratulations to Antaneha, Gustavo, Mandell, Lorenzo, and Christian!



Upcoming Special Olympics trips will be for soccer and the Spring events.

January Best Buddies Event

