



WATERFRONT ELEMENTARY

January 2026



Happy New Year

We wish all our families a joyful and prosperous year ahead. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making our school community strong. We look forward to an amazing rest of the school year full of learning and growth together!



Upcoming

- Week of Jan. 5: Lockdown Drill
- Jan. 7: Wellness Meeting (7:45AM)
- Jan. 19: No school
- Jan. 20: SBMT (1:00 PM)
- Jan. 20: No ELT/Chuck E Cheese Fundraiser
- Jan. 23: Grades Close
- Feb. 10: Multicultural Night

Family Events

Please join us for our first ever Chuck E Cheese fundraising event. This will be held on January 20th at 2638 Delaware Avenue in Buffalo. There will be no after school programming on this day.



Additionally, mark your calendars for our first ever Multicultural Family Night on February 10th. You won't want to miss it! More information to come!

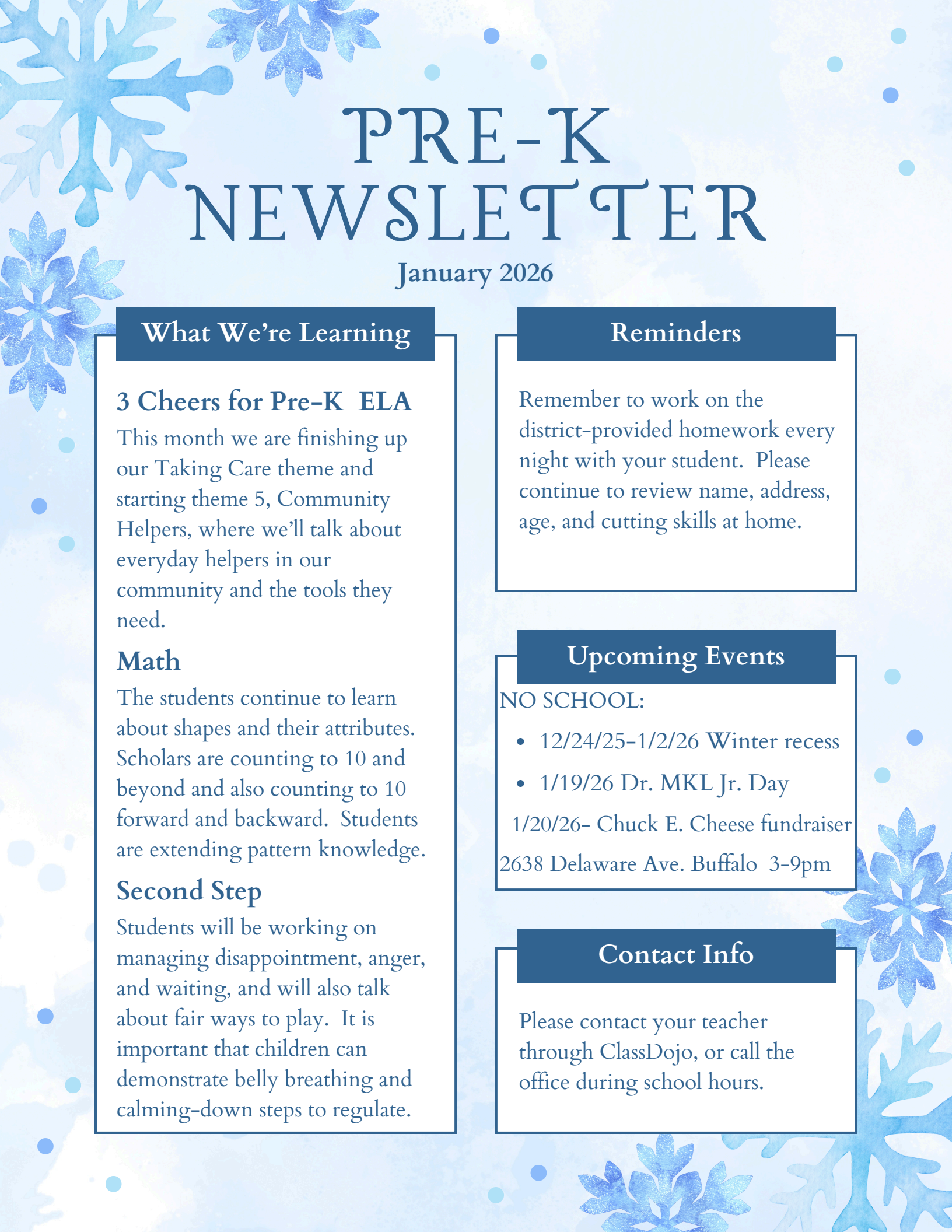
Updates and Reminders

Be sure to join our school's ClassDojo account for regular updates and announcements.

Welcome Mr. Izeal Bullock, our new Technology Teacher!

Please use the QR code below to come the Ed Climate survey for parents. More information on last page.





PRE-K NEWSLETTER

January 2026

What We're Learning

3 Cheers for Pre-K ELA

This month we are finishing up our Taking Care theme and starting theme 5, Community Helpers, where we'll talk about everyday helpers in our community and the tools they need.

Math

The students continue to learn about shapes and their attributes. Scholars are counting to 10 and beyond and also counting to 10 forward and backward. Students are extending pattern knowledge.

Second Step

Students will be working on managing disappointment, anger, and waiting, and will also talk about fair ways to play. It is important that children can demonstrate belly breathing and calming-down steps to regulate.

Reminders

Remember to work on the district-provided homework every night with your student. Please continue to review name, address, age, and cutting skills at home.

Upcoming Events

NO SCHOOL:

- 12/24/25-1/2/26 Winter recess
- 1/19/26 Dr. MKL Jr. Day

1/20/26- Chuck E. Cheese fundraiser
2638 Delaware Ave. Buffalo 3-9pm

Contact Info

Please contact your teacher through ClassDojo, or call the office during school hours.

KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

January 2026

What We Are Learning

ELA

We will be focusing on the letters p, u, and b this month as well as blending cvc words. We will continue learning and reviewing red words.

Math

We are working on simple addition and subtraction problems. Please review basic number recognition

Science

We just finished discussing solids, liquids, and gases. Our next unit will be on Sunlight and the Earth's surface.

Social Studies

We just finished a unit on Maps and Globes. Our next unit will be on how to measure time.

Reminders

Please check your child's folders daily and return to school empty. Please read with your child at least 20 minutes a day.

Upcoming Events

- No School on January 19th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- Fundraiser: January 20th at Chuck E Cheese

Kindergarten Teachers

Mr. Andolina

Mrs. Petko

Mr. Starzynski

Mrs. Watkins

FIRST GRADE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



What We Are Learning

ELA

We will be working on reading, writing, and spelling words with final blends (**melt**, **damp**) and y as a vowel (**sky**, **baby**) and reading more fluently. We will be sharpening up our writing skills to build better sentences.

Math

The new year starts out with geometry as we study 2D and 3D shapes. We then will head back into addition to solve more complex problems.

Science

We will be examining weather and seasons more closely in our next Science Unit.

Social Studies

We are finishing up our study of the geography of our state and next we will explore the symbols and traditions of the USA.

Reminders

We love to see your child wearing boots to school, but PLEASE send them with shoes or sneakers to change into during the day! Walking around in hot, heavy boots is not good for little feet. The Gym teachers have also requested NO BOOTS be worn in the Gym.

Dates to Remember

- No school January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Second marking period grades close January 23rd!
- After school program continues on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

First Grade Teachers

Mrs. Ashman
Mrs. Minotti (ENL)
Mrs. Snyder
Mrs. Wehrmeyer





January Newsletter

2nd Grade

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

Reading/ELA

- We are working on spelling words with Long I, endings with ed and ing, and using the Drop Rule to spell plural words.
- We are also focusing on reading independently and reading for comprehension. Please work with your child on reading directions on their homework, as well as, daily reading at home.

Math:

- We will continue to work on addition and subtraction of 2 and 3 digit numbers, as well as measurement.

Science:

- We will continue to look at our world and identify landforms and bodies of water. We will also learn about the different Earth Processes that cause our world's surface to change quickly and slowly. (Ex. Volcanoes, earthquakes, etc.)

Social Studies:

- We will be learning about our government and how it works to help its citizens.

REMINDERS:

- Homework packets come home every Monday and are due on Friday. Homework reinforces the skills we are working on in class, as well as comprehension reading for your child to complete.
- Please go over homework with your child, so that any concerns can be shared with their teacher.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- School Resumes- Monday, January 5, 2026
- Dr. MLK Jr. Day- No School- Monday, January 19, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Dojo your child's teacher
- School Phone Number:
816-3900



3RD GRADE

NEWSLETTER

Month

January

Upcoming Events

1/1 - 1/2 - Winter Recess (cont.)

1/8 - Kids Day at Canisius College

1/19 - Dr. MLK Jr. Day

1/20 - Fundraiser at Chuck E. Cheese

1/23 - 2nd Quarter grades close

Reminders

Math HW - Mon. & Wed.

ELA HW - Tues. & Thurs.

To-do

Make sure your child has
headphones!

What We're Learning

Math

Unit 7: Fractions

Reading

Continuing Unit 2: Interactions

We are focusing on nouns, adjectives and verbs.

Science

Unit 2: Earth and Space Science

Topic 4: Climate

Social Studies

Chapter 4: Government, Landmarks and Symbols

4TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

What We Are Learning

ELA:

We are beginning a non-fiction story, learning about different types of fiction and focusing on animal adaptations. We have started weekly MyOn projects! Students are also encouraged to use Lexia to work on reading skills, students win prizes for meeting goals.

Math:

We are starting Unit 6 and focusing on multiplication strategies to multiply Multi-digit numbers. We will be learning strategies such as the area model, partial products along with the standard algorithm. Remember, practice multiplication facts daily!

Science/Social Studies:

In social studies we will be learning about Europeans setting up colonies in New York.

In science we will be learning about Earth's features, weathering and the impact of erosion on the earth.

School Apps

Students can work on these apps at home to build on their skills. **Lexia** works on literacy skills at a personalized level. **MyOn** is a digital library, students can read/listen to assigned stories and books of their choice. **First In Math** works on math skills at their own pace, they earn digital stickers and have fun meeting goals. **Schoology** is used to submit assignments for Science and Social Studies, check to make sure you are not behind!

Important Days

- Jan 5th - Return to school
- Jan 19th - No School MLK Jr Day
- Jan 23rd - Botanical Garden Field Trip

Reminders

Each student should have headphones for school every day. Over the head style are preferred but any headphones will work.



5th Grade January 2026 Newsletter



Math -Ms. Cheek

We are beginning Unit 6 Multiplying Decimals. The students will apply their understanding of multiplying decimals to solve problems in real world contexts. Please continue with the fact fluency of basic facts.

ELA- Mr. Smith

ELA will be working on identifying problems and suggesting solutions. Also, we will be starting our next novel, Finding Langston. This novel will deal with the Great Migration and the idea of starting over.

Science / Social Studies

Mrs. Rizeq

This month the students will learn about Earth and Space Science. We will dive into the Solar System and Patterns in Space. Next time you are out on a starry night, ask your child what star patterns he or she can see.

Mrs. Karyczak ENL

In ENL class, we will continue working on the parts of a sentence to tell what is happening in a picture. We are also finishing up digraphs.

Mr. Kumiega 5-3 ICT

In RTI math class, we are beginning to discover the power of exponents while reviewing the products of decimals and place value. Within the AIS ELA class, the students are learning the components of a proper story and developing their own story telling.

Mrs. Werner's 5-4 Class

In January, we will begin a new unit in Math multiplying decimals. In ELA, we will dive into text structures. We will be studying human impact on the Earth for Science. We will be learning all about European Colonization in Social Studies. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Stay in Touch

Mrs. Rizeq 5-3 Science/Social Studies

jrizeq@buffaloschools.org

Mr. Smith 5-2 ELA mrsmith@buffaloschools.org

Ms. Cheek 5-1 Math cwcheek@buffaloschools.org

Mrs. Karyczak- ENL kkaryczak@buffaloschools.org

Mr. Kumiega 5-3 ICT mikumiega@buffaloschools.org

Mrs. Werner 5-4 hwerner@buffaloschools.org



*Scan the QR code to sign up for parent portal and keep updated on your child's grades.

*Please be sure to check Dojo messages and take-home folders daily.

Upcoming Events

December 23rd- Winter Recess begins

January 5th- Return from Break

January 8th- Kids Day at Canisius College

January 19th- MLK Day- no school

It's that sniffly time of year, our classrooms are in need of tissues.

Please consider donating.





HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 2026 6TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

Science & Social Studies

In Science we are starting our unit on the Earth's Systems, including the hydrosphere and the geosphere. In Social Studies we completed our project on Africa. We will wrap up our unit on Africa and start Southeast Asia.

Math

Happy New Year parents! We are currently rolling in our math program Volume 2 (algebra).

I just want to remind you that attendance is such an important part of the learning process. Our lessons build on the previous lessons learned, so please have your child in school every day!

ELA

We will continue reading "Percy Jackson - The Lightning Thief. It's a fictional story about Percy's journey of discovering his true identity as a demigod & accepting the unique qualities that come with it.

REMINDERS

- You can still send in \$35 for field trips.
- It's time to replenish school supplies such as pencils, tissues & headphones.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 5: School Resumes
- Jan. 19: No School

FÜNdraiser!

Our school will receive a **20% donation** from all generated sales



DATE:
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

TIME:
3-9 PM

ADDRESS:
2638 Delaware Ave
Buffalo, NY 14216

CONTACT INFO

Your 6th Grade Team is on Class Dojo

Mrs. O'Hara, Mrs. Anello,
Ms. Little, Mr. Stephens,
Mr. Imiola, Mrs. Pucillo &
Ms. Dubose

JANUARY 2026

WHAT'S UP WATERFRONT?



MRS. MCKEE: GRADE 7 & 8 UNITED STATES AND NEW YORK HISTORY

Social Studies: Mrs. McKee

Grade 7: We are learning about Native Americans and the roots of European exploration. Students will be able to explain the relationship between culture and geography and the impact of European exploration and colonization. Please make sure your child is studying their chapter vocabulary nightly and please check Parent Portal for up-to-date grades and assignments.

Grade 8: We are looking at Reconstruction, the aftermath of the Civil War, and the long-lasting effects. Students are gathering evidence to determine if Reconstruction was a success or failure. Please make sure your child is studying their chapter vocabulary nightly and please check Parent Portal for up-to-date grades and assignments.



8TH GRADE FRENCH WITH MADAME PASCUCCI:

This month, we are studying "Le Temps Libre." We will discuss common leisure activities in our community and in the Francophone world? How do leisure activities, sports, and music help define cultures? What is the impact of leisure activities on everyday life?

Important Dates

1/5-Return to School
1/19-Dr. MLK Jr. Day No School
1/23-2nd Marking Period Report Card Grades Close

HOME & CAREERS WITH MRS WANDERLICH:

Our 7th and 8th graders have *locked in* and set their goals for the year!

Up next, 7th grade will be exploring human/personal development and relationships, while 8th grade continues to plan ahead by exploring the exciting opportunities awaiting them at local high schools.

7th grade: CTE High School Expo field trip 12/17/25



www.buffaloschools.org



+716-816-3900



95 4th St., Buffalo, NY 14202

Math with Mrs. Gresham:
7th grade students will be working on percents while
8th Grade Accelerated Algebra students will be working on solving/writing equations,
inequalities, systems of equations, and systems of inequalities.



7th Grade Science

This month we are working our way through our cells unit. Currently your children are learning about cell transport with a focus on the cell membrane. We have been able to use microscopes to look at slides of both animal and plant cells. Everyone was very excited to see cells. After our cells topic we will be moving on to the cell cycle and photosynthesis. IF you ever have any questions or concerns you can always message me on dojo or send me an email.

Accelerated Biology

This month we will be focusing on ecology. We'll be looking at weather and climate first followed by biomes and aquatic ecosystems. Please remind your children to study more for quizzes and tests. Reviewing notes and using the review book on a nightly basis will ensure your child is successful. If you ever have any questions or concerns you can email me or message me on class dojo.

7th & 8th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Douglas

The students are continuing to work on Literary Elements and Techniques, simultaneously delving into increasing the required 50,000-word vocabulary exposure for grade and age level acquisition. Students are acquisitioning mood and tone, theme and characterization in any given literary piece.

Students are also being introduced to Modern Language Association style writing along with research and data. Students will begin to be introduced to Greek and Latin Roots, along with a wide-ranging focus on integrating grammar instruction into reading and writing, making lessons contextual, communicative, and engaging, and ensuring subject knowledge is strong. Students have also been provided with information on their TED Talks that are being presented on November 14, 2025, during class time.



JANUARY 2026



Waterfront Math newsletter

NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS

With the onset of the New Year comes the valuable practice of setting goals and declaring personal resolutions. Goal setting creates a clear sense of direction and purpose, focusing individuals on achieving specific outcomes or competencies. When students are given opportunities to set their educational goals, they are empowered to take ownership of their learning. Students reflect on their strengths, challenges, and areas of interest when they set goals. As students realize the progress they have made toward their goals, they experience a sense of accomplishment, boosting their confidence and motivation. A big focus from the school will be to improve math fluency. That could be addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, etc.

HELPING YOUR CHILD REACH THEIR MATH GOALS AT HOME

1. Understand the Goal

- Ask your child what their math goal is (e.g., mastering multiplication, improving problem-solving).
- Break it down into smaller steps so it feels achievable.

2. Create a Routine

- Set aside **10-15 minutes daily** for math practice.
- Use consistent times (after homework or before dinner) to build a habit.

3. Make Math Real

- Connect math to everyday life:
 - Cooking (measuring ingredients)
 - Shopping (estimating costs, calculating discounts)
 - Sports (tracking scores and averages)

4. Use Positive Reinforcement

- Praise effort, not just correct answers.
- Celebrate milestones with small rewards or recognition.

5. Provide Tools & Resources

- Free websites: Khan Academy, IXL, Prodigy
- Flashcards for quick practice
- Math games and puzzles for fun learning

6. Communicate with Teachers

- Ask for updates on progress.
- Request tips for supporting specific skills at home.

7. Encourage a Growth Mindset

- Remind your child: *"Mistakes help us learn."*
- Avoid saying "I'm bad at math"—model confidence.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- January 19 - No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
- February 10 - Waterfront's Multicultural Night

Contact Information:

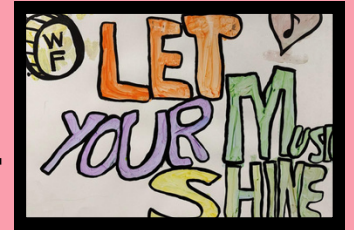
Andrea Hartz

Support Math Teacher

ahartz@buffaloschools.org

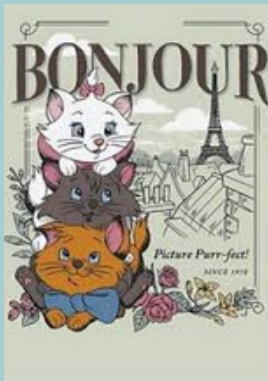
**From: Mrs. Whitefield, Mr. Yanoski
and Mrs. Mercuri**

**CONGRATULATIONS to all the students that
had performed on the December 18th
concert! You did a great job and you should
be very proud of yourself!
Let's prepare for the next concert!**



Musical Information:

"Aristocats Kids, the Musical" has been rehearsing since October. Our shows are next month in February! Show dates are: February 12th and 13th Students are asked to practice their parts at home and to make sure that they attend all the afterschool rehearsals. Every student matters!



Grades 1 and 2 Field Trip to see the Buffalo Philharmonic Perform

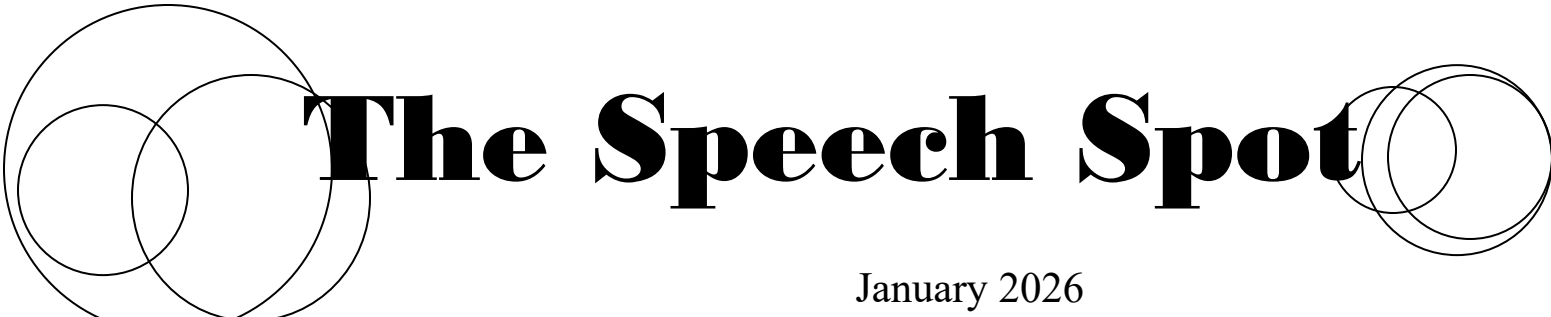
The District sponsored field trip to see the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra will be happening soon. Here are the dates:

Grade 2: 1/21/2026

Grade 1: 2/25/2026

Future Band Concerts:

The Beginning and Adv Bands will also have a Spring Concert on May 29, 2026. Concert Dress is all black,
T-shirts with Music logo are available.



The Speech Spot

January 2026

Parents and Guardians,

Each month we will have a topic of special interest. This month's topic is expressive language.

Expressive Language

Q: What is expressive language?

A: The ability to use words, gestures and writing to communicate thoughts, needs and emotions to others. It involves:

- Asking questions
- Describing events
- Forming sentences
- Label objects in environment
- Retell a story

Q: How does this affect my child's performance at school?

A: Students with expressive language deficits have difficulty verbally communicating.

Common behaviors include:

- Have difficulty naming objects
- Use sentences that are shorter or sound immature for their age
- Produce sentences with wrong word order
- Unable to retell a story
- Difficulty answering questions

Q: How do we develop expressive language skills in speech therapy?

A: Based on standardized testing, professional judgement and teacher/student collaboration we are to develop appropriate yearly goals. These skills help the students participate appropriately in the classroom and access curriculum successfully.

Please contact us via dojo, note, phone call with any questions or concerns.

Waterfront School
95 Fourth Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-816-3900

Rose Pannoizzo
Room 126
Grades K-3
Ext 1126

Natalie Ertel
Room 319
Grades 4-8
Ext 1319



JOIN US FOR OUR **FÜNdraising** EVENT at **CHUCK E. CHEESE®** Turning Fun into Funds™

**WE'LL GET
20%
BACK FROM ALL SALES**

generated from food & gameplay at our event!
This includes dine-in and carryout orders
when our organization is mentioned.

EVENT INFORMATION

LOCATION: **CHUCK E. CHEESE®**

TIME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

EVENT DATE: _____

EVENT ADDRESS: _____

To find out more, check out chuckecheese.com

CHUCK E. CHEESE®

FR Panel #8337

BUY 1, GET 1 FREE*
ADVENTURE ZONE ADMISSION

EXPIRES 12/31/26

*Coupon type 3B. May not be combined with Membership or Fun Pass redeemables or discounts. At participating Chuck E. Cheese locations. Redeemable on the night of hosted fundraiser event. Limit 1 per guest. Coupon must be surrendered at the time of redemption. Height restrictions apply. Subject to change. ©2025 CEC Entertainment Concepts, L.P. All rights reserved.

CHUCK E. CHEESE®

FR Panel #8166

120
PLAY POINTS | **for \$30**

EXPIRES 12/31/26

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CHUCK E. CHEESE®

FR Panel #5996

\$29⁹⁹ | **1 Large 1-Topping Pizza
& 4 Regular Fountain
Drinks**

EXPIRES 12/31/26

Coupon type 1B. Redeemable in-store only at your Chuck E. Cheese fundraiser event. Limit 1 per transaction. Valid at participating locations. Additional toppings are at cost. May not be combined with any other coupon, promotion or discount. May not be combined with Membership or Fun Pass redeemables or discounts. Restrictions may apply. ©2025 CEC Entertainment Concepts, L.P. All rights reserved.

*At participating locations only. Must book your fundraiser event at least 3 weeks in advance. Sales include all game play, food, drinks and merchandise purchased at the registers the night of your reserved fundraiser when your school or organization is mentioned upon ordering. Delivery & Carryout. Orders placed directly at chuckecheese.com also apply when you add the item "School or Organization Fundraiser" to your cart before check-out. ©2025 CEC Entertainment Concepts, L.P. All rights reserved. CEC-25-0248



Join Waterfront Elementary on ClassDojo



Scan to join our School

Buffalo Schools Ed School Climate Survey

What is the Ed School Climate Survey?

It is a tool designed to survey stakeholder groups (students, parents, instructional staff, and non-instructional staff, including building leaders) to provide a comprehensive picture of a school's climate by gaining useful information about their perceptions on student engagement, school environment, and school safety.

ESSA Alignment

NYSED's ESSA Plan recognizes the effect of school environment on student academic performance and supports efforts to improve the climate, including use of the U.S. Department of Education School Climate Surveys (EDSCLS).

Ed Climate Data Value



3 DOMAINS AND 13 SUBDOMAINS

Engagement

Cultural and Linguistic Competence

Relationships

School Participation

Safety

Emotional Safety

Physical Safety

Bullying

Substance Abuse

Emergency Readiness Management

Environment

Physical Environment

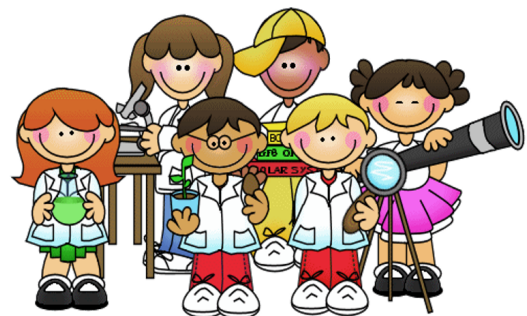
Instructional Environment

Physical Health

Mental Health

Discipline

Surveying Instructional and Non-Instructional Staff, Grades 1-12 Students, and Grades K-12 Parents



20-30 Minutes Survey Duration