

# Castlewood Elementary Connection

February 2016



From the Desk of:  
Ms. Eide

## Use ThinkCentral for Help with Math

Are you struggling to help your child with Math? Remember there are videos out there that can help you! Log in to your child's ThinkCentral account at:

<https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com>.

If you need your child's username and password contact the classroom teacher.

The instruction video that is utilized in class is located by clicking on the "Math on the Spot" icon. At the bottom of the homework page it will say what chapter the homework is from and at the top is the lesson number. Find the corresponding video and see what your child learned during the school day.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER:

### OPEN GYM RULES

Students who are in 3rd grade or younger must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Older students can attend alone, but please take into consideration the amount of time your child will actually be using the gym for sports or fitness activities and not just using it as a place to hang out or goof off. Ask yourself - Is it really feasible for a 4th, 5th, 6th grader to practice shooting hoops for 3 hours? We want to make this a beneficial and enjoyable time for everyone involved, including the supervisor. We expect all attending students to be exhibiting appropriate behavior. A child may be asked to leave and/or not attend further sessions without a parent if misbehavior occurs.

### Artist in Residence

Our Artist in Residence this year is Duane Reichert. He will be here the week of February 8 - 12. On Thursday, February 11th at 2:00 there will be a performance in the south gym that parents are invited to attend. The students will perform to share what they have learned. The performance will last approximately an hour.

Duane Reichert presents a performance genre unique to the culture of the American West—the rodeo clown. Reichert opens a dramatic, colorful world to students with the use of stylized make-up, traditional clown garb, comedy skits and animals. He will work with students to create their own interpretation of slapstick comedy skits for a school or community showcase. Reichert has performed for over six million rodeo fans throughout North America in over 40 years of experience as a rodeo clown. In 1996 and 1997, Reichert was chosen as the Barrelman Specialty Act at the First Frontier Circuit Finals Rodeo. In 2001 and again in 2002, he was an opening act at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. He is a 2002 honoree of the Casey Tibbs Foundation, and was a barrelman and specialty act at the 2005 Badlands Circuit Finals Rodeo.

## School Hours:

8:10 - 3:30

Preschool

8:10 - 11:45

## Special Dates:

- Thursday, February 4  
Tdap Clinic @ 9:30 (ages 10-14)
- Friday, February 5  
Jump Rope for Heart Kickoff
- Saturday & Sunday Feb. 6 & 7  
No Open Gym
- Monday, Feb. 8 - Friday, Feb. 12  
Artist in Residence - (see note)
- Monday, February 8  
6:00 PTO Meeting in library  
7:00 School Board Meeting
- Thursday, February 11  
2:00 Artist in Residence Performance - parents invited
- Saturday, February 13  
1:00 - 4:00 Open Gym
- Sunday, February 14  
No Open Gym  
3:30 Jacob Dahl Scholarship fundraiser event - north gym
- Monday, February 15  
No School - Presidents' Day
- Friday, February 19  
3rd Quarter Midterm  
Jump Rope for Heart Event
- Saturday, February 20  
No Open Gym
- Sunday, February 21  
1:00 - 4:00 & 7:00-9:00 Open Gym
- Saturday, February 27  
1:00 - 4:00 Open Gym
- Sunday, February 28  
1:00 - 4:00 & 7:00 - 9:00 Open Gym (Last Session for the season)

# Spelling Bee

Earlier this fall, we hosted a 5th - 8th grade spelling bee. All interested students in 5th-8th grade were invited to participate. From the local spelling bee, the top three students were determined. The three Castlewood students who have qualified to participate in the Regional Spelling Bee in Watertown this year are 6th graders Addyson Wittnebel, school champion, Grace Cordell, and Kennedy Gallisath.

This year we are participating in the Northeast South Dakota Regional Spelling Bee. The Northeast Area Spelling Bee will be sponsored by the Rotary Club and held in Watertown on February 27th.

The top 3 winners from each Regional Bee will advance to the Final Bee at USD to be held on March 19th at 10:00 am. The top winner from the USD Scripps Spelling Bee will receive an all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C to compete at the National Bee.

## Congratulations Addyson, Grace & Kennedy



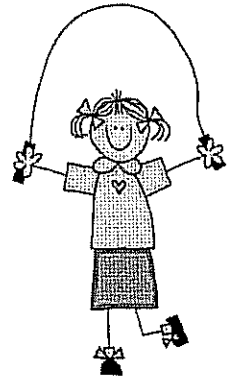
### Jump Rope for Heart

We are thrilled to be supporting the American Heart Association to help teach our students and families how to take care of their hearts through the *Jump Rope For Heart* program.

The kick off will be on February 5th. The students will then work to raise money. Funds raised support the heart association's research and education initiatives that *save lives in our community*.

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of all Americans and more people die of heart disease than all forms of cancer combined. The American Heart Association is second only to the U.S. government in funding research in heart disease and stroke. Additionally, the school earns money for PE equipment so we can keep our kids MOVING!

On Friday, February 19th, all students will participate in the Jump Rope for Heart event. Each classroom will have a time slot in which they go to the gym and do the actual jumping. All students will be awarded for participation.



## Home Game Policies

Now that basketball is in full swing, I think it is important to review the expectations for students who attend home games. This information can also be found on page 8 of the PK - 12th Grade handbook.

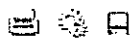
1. If you are absent during the day due to illness, do not attend after school activities.
2. Grades PK - 4 are expected to sit with an adult/guardian in the adult section of the bleachers.
3. Grades 5 & 6 may sit in the student section, but it is important they are watching the game and showing their support - not running around.
4. For safety reasons, students are asked to only leave the gym during breaks, unless they are with an adult.
5. Stay in the game area - not in the hallways, commons, other gym, or outside.
6. Please go home between school and the start of the game, especially if the game is at 4:30 or later! This is way too long of a period of time to be hanging around unsupervised, and we are not responsible for, nor do we provide supervision prior to the game.

## 3 to 5 year Old Screening

With our one year of preschool policy, current preschoolers will not need to be screened as they are all going on to kindergarten in the fall. The kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Borer, does assess the students in the fall to find out areas of strengths and needs. If you currently have a preschooler and have concerns about this, please call Ms. Eide at 793-2351.

3 to 4 year old children will be screened on Friday, April 1st. Parents will be assigned a scheduled appointment. If you have an incoming preschooler, you will receive a letter in the mail with information. If you do not receive a letter by March 18th, please call the school.

3 year olds are screened to identify if there are any needs that should be addressed prior to starting preschool the following year. Any child who will be 4 by September 1st will be screened for preschool.



## Castlewood School District - Master Calendar



February 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>GBB vs Wilmot (H) - JV at 6:30 (No JH)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>BBB vs Milbank (H) - C game at 5:15, JV at 6:30 (No JH)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CEO meets at 3:35</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bookmobile 9:00-1:30</p> <p>Night of the Arts - 7:00 p.m. (includes Oral Interp, One-Act Play, Musical selections, Art displays)</p> <p>T-dap clinic at 9:30 for children ages 10-14</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Jump Rope for Heart Kick Off (gr. K-6) at 3:00</p>	<p>6</p> <p>BBB/GBB vs Clark/W. Lake (H) - JV G at 4:00, JV B, Var Girls, Var Boys</p> <p>NO OPEN GYM</p>
<p>7</p> <p>NO OPEN GYM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Artist in Residence Feb. 8-12 for gr. K-6</p> <p>BBB at DeSmet - 7th at 4:00, then 8th, C game, JV at 6:30</p> <p>Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>PTO Meeting at 6:00</p>	<p>9</p> <p>GBB vs Colman/Egan at Colman - 1 JH game at 5:00, JV at 6:15</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Staff Meetings at 7:50 &amp; 8:30</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Artist in Residence Program at 2:00 (Parents are invited)</p> <p>BBB at Arlington - 7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00, JV at 6:30</p>	<p>12</p> <p>GBB vs Waverly/S. Shore at Waverly - 1 JH game at 5:00, JV at 6:15</p> <p>No NTHS</p> <p>Special Olympics NE Area BB at Redfield</p>	<p>13</p> <p>GBB at Arlington - 7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00, JV at 6:30</p> <p>Open Gym 1:00-4:00</p> <p>Special Olympics Polar Plunge at Watertown - 2:00 p.m.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Jacob Dahl Scholarship Fundraiser - U of Jamestown Mens JV vs DWU Mens JV at 3:30</p> <p>NO OPEN GYM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>JH GBB/BBB vs Sioux Valley (H) 7th B &amp; G at 4:00, 8th B &amp; G at 5:00 (boys - south, girls - north)</p> <p>No School / No NTHS - Presidents Day</p>	<p>16</p> <p>BBB/GBB vs Sioux Valley (H) - JV G at 4:00, JV B, V Girls, V Boys (mini cheerleaders will perform)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>GBB vs Estelline (H) - 1 JH game at 5:00, JV at 6:30 (Parents Night)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>3rd quarter mid-term</p> <p>BBB at Estelline - 1 JH game at 4:45, JV at 6:00</p> <p>Jump Rope for Heart Event (gr. K-6)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>BBB vs Wilmot (H) - 1 JH game at 4, C game at 5:00, JV at 6:30 (Parents Night)</p> <p>NO OPEN GYM</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Open Gym 1:00-4:00 &amp; 7:00-9:00</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Elementary Staff Meeting at 3:35</p> <p>Musicians Showcase at 7:00</p> <p>Seniors/Parents Financial Aid Meeting at 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>GBB Districts at highest seed</p>	<p>24</p> <p>JETS Team to Brookings</p> <p>Small Group Music Contest at Watertown</p>	<p>25</p> <p>GBB Districts at highest seed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>GBB District Championship at Madison</p> <p>Open Gym 1:00-4:00</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Open Gym 1:00-4:00 &amp; 7:00-9:00 (Last session for the season)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>BBB Districts - at highest seed</p>					



## Castlewood School District - Lunch Menu



February 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Breakfast - Pancakes and sausage links  Lunch - Chicken fajitas, black beans, mixed vegetables, lettuce, bananas, pineapple	2 Breakfast - Breakfast pizza  Lunch - Hamburger on WG bun, potato wedges, lettuce, peaches, apple	3 Breakfast - Scrambled eggs and ham  Lunch - Mini corn dogs, baked beans, salad mix, applesauce, oranges	4 Breakfast - Burritos  Lunch - Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, apples	5 Breakfast - Coffee cake  Lunch - Pizza wheels, tator sticks, lettuce, mandarin oranges, apples	6
7	8 Breakfast - Scrambled eggs and sausage pattle  Lunch - Glazed chicken, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, bread, pineapple, bananas	9 Breakfast - Biscuits and gravy  Lunch - Super nachos, refried beans, lettuce, corn, pears, apples	10 Breakfast - French toast sticks  Lunch - Tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwich, mandarin oranges, apples	11 Breakfast - Waffles and sausage links  Lunch - Ham patties on WG bun, cheese sauce, sweet potato nuggets, peaches, apples	12 Breakfast - Egg and cheese mcmuffin  Lunch - Fish sticks, mashed potatoes, steamed carrots, bread, salad mix, applesauce, oranges	13
14	15 No School	16 Breakfast - Breakfast bar  Lunch - Chicken noodle soup, crackers, cheese bread, mixed fruit, bananas	17 Breakfast - Egg and cheese biscuit  Lunch - Taco burgers, lettuce, black bean salad, refried beans, applesauce, oranges	18 Breakfast - Cheese omelet  Lunch - Pork chops, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, peaches, apples	19 Breakfast - Cinnamon rolls  Lunch - Tuna wiggle, crackers, peanut butter bread, corn, mandarin oranges, apples	20
21	22 Breakfast - Pancakes and sausage links  Lunch - Chicken wraps, lettuce, black beans, peaches, oranges	23 Breakfast - Breakfast pizza  Lunch - Spaghetti, bread sticks, green beans, pears, apples, fresh veggies and Ranch	24 Breakfast - Scrambled eggs and ham  Lunch - Cubed chicken and gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, mixed fruit, oranges	25 Breakfast - Breakfast burrito  Lunch - Rib sandwich, potato wedges, carrots, and applesauce	26 Breakfast - Coffee cake  Lunch - Cheese pizza, lettuce, mandarin oranges, apples, chocolate chip cookie	27
28	29 Breakfast - Scrambled eggs and sausage pattle  Lunch - Beef tacos, refried beans, lettuce, pears, bananas, fresh veggies and Ranch					

# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

February 2016



Castlewood Elementary School  
Ms. Heather Eide

## SHORT NOTES

### Groundhog Day

When was the first Groundhog Day? How often is the groundhog right about the weather? Encourage your child to find the answers to these questions and more by researching Groundhog Day in library books or online. Then, she can make her own predictions about when spring weather will arrive—and see if she and the groundhog agree!

### Illustrate a feeling

Drawing or painting a picture is often an easier way for youngsters to express difficult feelings. If you sense that your child feels nervous, sad, or afraid, try getting out art supplies. He might sketch a portrait of himself with butterflies across his stomach if he's nervous or a scary monster if he's afraid.

### Family workouts

On cold winter days, your youngster can still get the 60 minutes of recommended daily physical activity—while enjoying family time. Play “baseball” with snowballs, scoring one run for each ball you hit. Build an indoor or outdoor obstacle course. Or hold “yoga class” by following a video.

### Worth quoting

“You can't stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.” A. A. Milne

## JUST FOR FUN

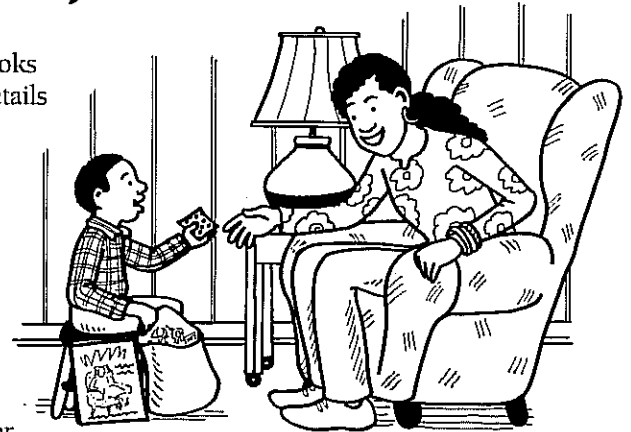
**Q:** What musical instrument can you hear but not see or touch?

**A:** Your voice!



## Read, create, and retell

In school, your child will be asked to think deeply about books and to pay close attention to details as he reads. That means doing activities like analyzing characters, visualizing book settings, and retelling stories. Let him practice at home with these fun projects.



### Character cereal

Have your youngster cover an empty cereal box with paper and decorate it based on his favorite storybook character. For example, *The Rainbow Fish* (Marcus Pfister) learns to be a good friend, so your youngster could name his cereal “Friendly Flakes.” Encourage him to draw the character on his box and describe the cereal (“Sparkly and colorful”). He could add an activity on the back, such as a quiz. (“Why did the other fish ignore him at first?”)

use a circle to represent Camp Green Lake, where the prisoners dig holes. He can add an onion for the field where onions grow and are used as medicine.

### Plot bag

Let your youngster fill a paper bag with items related to a story and use them to retell the tale aloud. After he reads *A Chair for My Mother* (Vera B. Williams), he might put a fabric swatch and coins in a bag. He can pull out each piece and explain its significance as he retells. (“I added coins because the kids saved money to buy their mom a chair. She worked hard and needed a place to relax.”)♥

### Setting map

Suggest that your child draw a map of a book's setting. He'll imagine what the setting might look like and think about how each part is important to the story. If he's mapping *Holes* (Louis Sachar), he could

## School pride

If your youngster takes pride in her school, she's likely to feel more connected to it—and more motivated to learn. Help her develop strong school ties with these tips:

- Make school events into family events by attending as many as you can. Your child will feel proud to show off her school to you.
- Post school news and announcements on the refrigerator. Providing a place of honor for these items reminds her that school is an important part of your family's life.
- Encourage your youngster to get involved in a school activity. Being a member of the chess club or safety patrol squad will give her a sense of pride—and of belonging.♥



# A respectful student

School is more pleasant for both students and teachers when children behave respectfully. Share this advice with your youngster so she can do her part in creating a respectful place to learn.

**Respect for all.** Point out that everyone—from the principal to the custodian, and from the popular kid to the unpopular one—deserves to be treated with respect. Encourage your child to smile or wave at school staff members and fellow students. You can set an example by letting her see you give everyone (receptionists and doctors, cashiers and store managers) the same respect.



**Respect for property.** In school, students share library books, playground space, restrooms, and more. And these things will be nicer to use when youngsters take care of them.

Suggest that your child do simple acts that show respect for school property. *Examples:* Returning library books so others can read them, putting trash in wastebaskets so the playground and restrooms look nice and stay clean.♥



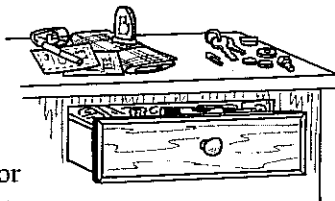
## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Junk-drawer creativity

Look no further than your kitchen junk drawer to give your youngster's creative thinking a boost. Try these ideas.

#### Reuse

Suggest that your child come up with different uses for objects in the drawer. He could use rubber bands to make a ball or turn a cork into a pincushion, for example. Take turns thinking of ways to reuse a bottle cap, a handheld mirror, and other junk-drawer items.



#### Sort

Let your youngster sort items according to a secret criterion, and you try to figure out his rule. Say he puts a paper clip and a key in one group, and a coupon and a gift bag in another. You might guess that he's sorting by materials (metal, paper). Next, you sort objects into piles, and have him determine your rule.♥

## Q & A

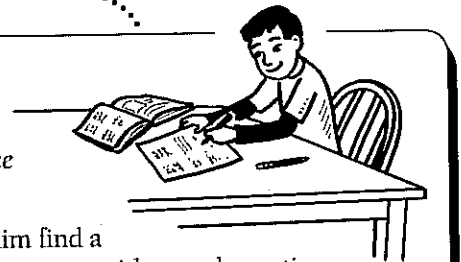
### Strong study habits

**Q:** My third grader has to spend more time studying this year. How can I make sure he studies effectively?

**A:** Set your son up for success by helping him find a distraction-free study spot. Also, have him come up with a study routine. For instance, he could reserve time each evening to review his textbook and notes in the days leading up to a test or quiz.

Then, many students find it helpful to jot down a purpose each time they study at home. Your child might write: "I will learn the definitions of all the bold-faced words in chapter 7, section 1."

Finally, encourage him to experiment with study strategies to find what works best for him. He could close his eyes and imagine how a word is spelled or draw a grid with 9 squares to solve 3 x 3. Or he might find it easier to spell or recite math facts aloud in rhythm or to a familiar tune.♥



## PARENT TO PARENT

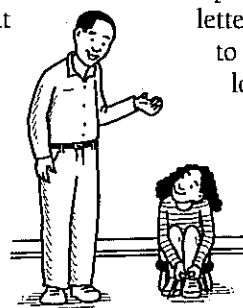
### Perfect...or close enough

My daughter Sasha gets upset if her handwriting isn't "perfect" or if her shoes aren't tied a certain way. My mother pointed out that I'm kind of a perfectionist, too. While it helped me work hard in school and now at my job, she said it often led to frustration when I was Sasha's age.

She suggested that I try what worked with me: Have Sasha think about what might happen if something isn't perfect. So the next time I found my daughter retying her laces over and

over, I asked, "What's the worst that could happen if the knot is a little off-center?" At first she said she would trip and fall, but then she smiled and said, "I guess nothing." Another day, she wanted to rip up her homework because every letter wasn't perfect. I encouraged her to do a different assignment and look at the first one again later—she did, and she decided she could live with it after all.

Sasha may always be a perfectionist, but I hope she's learning to tell the difference between what really matters and what she can let go.♥



### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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