

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 20
VOL. 19

THE ACORN

No School, Friday, March 1—Women's Conference at Heritage
Spring Break is COMING!!! No school March 11-15



FROM THE DESK OF DR. NORWOOD:

We are officially on the downhill slope of the 2023-2024 school year and we have so many things to celebrate:

- Our enrollment has grown to 90 students
- Mid-year benchmark reading scores reflect remarkable progress across the school.
- Character traits like grit, attitude, compassion for others, generosity, resilience . . . are all seen in ever-increasing doses each day—if you would like to be encouraged by some really great stories, stop in any time!
- God has continued to provide in all areas with unexpected resources.

We are resolved in standing firm in our commitment to do what God has called us to do. When He is a part of a school setting and has the freedom to move and work in His way and in His plan transformation is guaranteed to follow, and we are seeing that happen every day!

DONUTS WITH DEPUTIES IS COMING FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Over the course of the last month we have invited the Brainerd Police Department, the State Patrol, and the Sheriff's Department to come speak with our students. Each department has given an overview of their role in our community and the students were given the opportunity

to ask questions. . . which they did. . . lots of them! To honor our law enforcement agencies we will be providing them with donuts, coffee, and live music from 7:30-8:30 a.m. on March 8. Please feel free to come and join us as we give back to the people who give so much to us.

ACADEMIC AWARDS



Last week we had our School-Wide 2nd Quarter Awards Ceremony. It is so encouraging to watch the students progress academically and then achieve the reward for hard work!

Top Picture: A Honor Roll
Isabella Olson—6th
Jenna Bogart—3rd
Sivelen Kokesh—5th
Gus Emerson—4th
Hunter Hulce—5th



Bottom: A/B Honor Roll
These students represent K-9th Grade! Way to go everyone. We are so proud of what you have accomplished.

WE SURVIVED SNOWBALL WEEK AT STÂRE ACADEMY!

February 5-9 we had a blast bringing some new dress codes and activities into our days to break up the monotony of a very weird winter:

- Monday: 'Merica Monday
- Tuesday: Dress to Unimpress
Movie Afternoon
- Wednesday: Sports Day
Cookie Decorating
- Thursday: Dress in Favorite Decade
Game Day
- Friday: Stâre Merch Day
Pep Rally

The highlight of the week was celebrating the students who asked Jesus into their hearts to be their Savior during devotional times in classrooms and during our Grove time over the previous week. What amazing stories of transformation!



NAME: Lee Knapp
GRADE: 8th
ONE THING I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT:
 Mountain Biking; Friends
IF I COULD GO ANYWHERE I WOULD GO:
 Whistler BC because it is beautiful and has great skiing and mountain biking trails
FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: The Wild
GOAL I AM WORKING TOWARD RIGHT NOW:
 Be a pilot
FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING AT STARE:
 I love that Stâre is less like a school and more like a family.

NAME: Bronson Harting
GRADE: 3rd
ONE THING I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT:
 Henry
IF I COULD GO ANYWHERE I WOULD GO:
 Mexico because that's where my people are
FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: Dolphins
GOAL I AM WORKING TOWARD RIGHT NOW:
 Learn more about multiplication and how to be a good dad.
FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING AT STARE:
 I love my school because I have a great principal and great friends.

BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER

It is time for Butter Braids! Our sale has officially started and students will be coming home with forms so please check backpacks if you don't see one. The sale will run until Friday, March 1. Expected delivery is March 19.

There will be one school-wide top seller award and an additional top seller award in each classroom.

Thank you for your help in raising funds for our school.

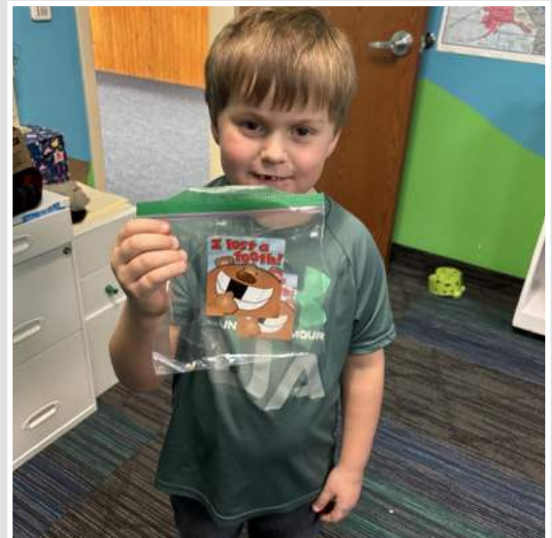


THE SCIENCE FAIR IS COMING

It is very possible that those words may inspire nightmares of last minute meltdowns and Google searches for a good science project—but help is here! Students have already started the process of topic picking and research.

The Science Fair is about far more than Science. Research shows that one of the more profound weaknesses of our current generations (Gen Z and Gen Alpha) is the inability to tackle and successfully complete a large project. They are big dreamers and have great ideas, but then struggle with how to systematically work towards a goal in order to successfully accomplish it. Part of the methodology behind our Science Fair is to help students learn to attack a big task with small bites through smaller projects and established deadlines. We want our students to cultivate the mindset that big things are achieved one small step at a time, making it all more doable and less scary. We need your help in this training. Students will be coming home with information and task deadlines so that you are aware of the milestone dates. Please continue to encourage your student to keep working—one little bite at a time.

Projects will be due at school the morning of Thursday, April 18th. Presentations and the viewing gallery will be done on Friday, April 19th.



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



One of our school growth commitments for the 2023-2024 school year was to intentionally engage with our community on a meaningful and consistent basis. To that end both Elementary and Middle School students plan and participate in quarterly events. To date, these activities have included regular visits by our Elementary students to the residents of Care Free Living, making blankets for Bridges of Hope, writing letters to the Brainerd Police Department and bringing them snacks, incorporating the first of what we hope to be many “Donuts with Deputies” days to honor all of our law enforcement community (March 8), and spending Art/PE time helping the Heritage staff clean the building. It is our goal to cultivate a habit of selfless service and generosity.

We have had so much fun with our projects and are continually brainstorming more opportunities. If you have a great idea for a community service project let us know!

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

- “Helpful teachers who are all really nice—especially Miss Lane.” - 2nd Grade Student
- “I am challenged academically.” - 7th Grade Student
- “The Grove” - 4th Grade Student
- “Math and Jesus.” - 3rd Grade Student
- “I can think of a trillion things. Everyone here for starters.” - 3rd Grade Student
- “Rafferty’s pizza” - 4th Grade Student
- “Gym, recess, and Rafferty’s Pizza” - 3rd Grade Student
- “The best teachers.” - 6th Grade Student
- “The gym and the food.” - 7th Grade Student

“The generosity everyone has for all of the students.”
6th Grade Student

SCENES FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL ENRICHMENT



It was a cold muddy mess and that only enhanced the fun!

Each month, our middle school students participate in enrichment classes that involve bringing in members of the community to share their skills. In the month of February, the boys participated in an outdoor military style obstacle course as well as learned to make campfires. The girls had a self-defense and Pilates class. The students had a blast and we are grateful to the community members who were willing to invest time into our students by sharing their skills!.



WE HAVE REACHED 100 DAYS!



I LOVE TO READ DAY—FEB. 15TH

We love to read! In the afternoon, we had a school-wide reading activity where older students (Mentor) partnered with their assigned younger student (Mentee) and read together under the tables.

WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH

There is always an enormous amount of energy, joy and activity around our school. As I look at the pictures and think of the story that each one of them tells, I continue to stand in awe at what God as done at our school in such a short amount of time.

There is no greater privilege than to have the opportunity to invest in the next generation, and to continue to accomplish what God has for us, we depend on the generosity of people like you who have contributed so wholeheartedly to our mission. The English language fails to express the gratitude we have for your continued support. On behalf of all of our staff and families, we thank you!



Embracing Truth | Cultivating Leaders