



Bluff Elementary School

March Newsletter

2023-2024



Principal Silversmith

Information about Acadience Reading and Math. SJSD uses Acadience tool as a way to monitor progress of students in Reading and Math. We also use other measurements to measure growth.

What do the colors mean in Acadience?



Above: Above the grade level benchmark goal- In the Above Benchmark range, the overall likelihood of achieving subsequent early literacy and/or reading benchmarks is 90% to 99%.

On Grade: At the grade level benchmark goal- In the At Benchmark range, the overall likelihood of achieving subsequent early literacy and/or reading benchmarks is 70% to 85%. May require monitoring and/or strategic support.

Approaching: Below the grade level benchmark goal- For students with scores in this range, the overall likelihood of achieving subsequent early literacy and/or reading benchmarks is approximately 40% to 60%. Likely to need intensive support.

Well Below: Well below the grade level benchmark scores. For students who score below the cut point for risk, the overall likelihood of achieving subsequent early literacy and/or reading benchmarks is low, approximately 10% to 20%. Need intensive support

What are the State and San Juan School District READING and MATH goals for Acadience?

Math

State Growth Goal: By EOY, grades 1-3 will have **60%** or more students **at or above typical progress**.

District Growth Goal: By EOY, grades K-3 will have **65%** or more students **at or above typical progress**

Kindergarten District Goal: By May 24, 2024 SJSD will **increase** the percentage of kindergarten students **scoring at or above benchmark** on Acadience Math **composite score from BOY to EOY by 16%**

1st and 2nd Grade District Goal: By May 24, 2024 SJSD will **increase** the percentage of first and second grade students **scoring at or above benchmark** on Acadience Math **composite score from BOY to EOY by 28%**

3rd Grade District Goal: By May 24, 2024 SJSD will **increase** the percentage of third grade students **scoring at or above benchmark** on Acadience Math **composite score from BOY to EOY by 26%**

READING

state and District Goal: By EOY, grades K-3 will have **65%** or more students **at or above typical progress** in reading pathways to progress

Kindergarten District Goal: By May 24, 2024 San Juan School District will **increase** the percentage of kindergarten students who are **scoring at or above benchmark** on Acadience Reading Composite from **BOY to EOY by 40%**

1st Grade District Goal: By May 24, 2024, San Juan School District will **increase** the percentage of first grade students who are **scoring at or above benchmark** on Acadience Reading Composite from **BOY to EOY by 11%**

2nd Grade District Goal: By May 24, 2024, San Juan School District will **increase** the percentage of **second** grade students who are **scoring at or above benchmark** on Acadience Reading Composite from **BOY to EOY by 7%**

3rd Grade District Goal: By May 24, 2024, San Juan School District will **increase** the percentage of **third** grade students who are **scoring at or above benchmark** on Acadience Reading Composite from **BOY to EOY by 9%**

Food Support for Families

Serving San Juan County
and the Navajo Nation

Join us
Feb. 20, 2024
5-6:30pm

USU Blanding
Campus QUAD

Learn more about the
services they provide:

- How does it work?
- Who has access?
- Does it depend on how many people are in my family?
- Who do I talk to?

**COME ASK YOUR
QUESTIONS!**

Now Open!



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CONTACT:**

Sue Nakai
USU Tribal Liaison
(435)-678-8215
suzanna.clark@usu.edu



Front Office

Parent Information

- ⇒ Call the office at 435.678.1296 if or when your child is absent. Please provide medical note if applicable.
- ⇒ Call the office BEFORE 2:45pm if you want your child to stay off the bus for pick up.
- ⇒ Office hours are 7:45am—3:00pm.
- ⇒ Office CANNOT make bus arrangements, so please call the transportation department at 435.678.1305.

Ms. Fenesia will not be in the office after spring break (March 18th) so please do not send emails to her asking for your child to stay after school or for other school purposes. Please call or stop by the school and let Ms. Smith or Mrs. Silversmith know. Mrs. Silversmith phone number is 435.678.1298. Ms. Smith will be the sub secretary.

Important Dates

- March 6th—School Board Meeting @ DO and Virtual Repertory Dance Theatre Assembly 8-9am
- March 8th—End of 3rd Quarter
- March 11th—15th—NO SCHOOL (Spring Break!)
- March 18th—NO SCHOOL (Teacher Day)
- March 19th—4th Quarter Begins
- March 20th—IEC Meeting
- March 29th—NO SCHOOL (Good Friday)



*“Attendance is the
key to success”*



100% Attendance for February 2024

Bluff Elementary School
had 16 students with
100% attendance. These
students have not missed a
day of school for the
month of February. Wow!
Awesome job Bluff Eagles!

Laanah

Konoha



Kendrick

Taylor

Carver



Honor

Shizuku

Kaydon

Daysha

Shianaya

Leilani

Dyki

Lily



Kayson

Kaydence

Dallas



Hello I'm Matt,

I have recently been hired as a success coach here at Bluff Elementary- My job is to help your kids succeed! Please look at all of the services the ACE grant has for you and help your child sign up for any of the ones that you think might help them out.

<https://www.sjsd.org/o/ace/forms/3064>

Feel free to email me with any questions! mmcnaughtan@sjsd.org

For the rest of the year I will be working on getting the kids excited about reading at home.

Studies show reading with your kids improves language skills, sets them up for success in school, creates a special bond to parents, increases child's ability to stay focused, improves imagination and creativity, increases ability to remember, reason and learn words, best of all it can cultivate a lifelong love of reading.

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales."

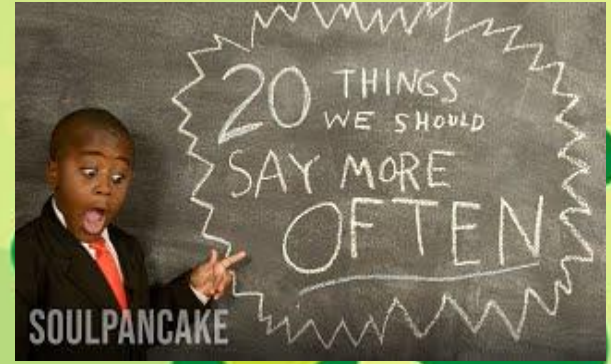
Albert Einstein



ReNee McDonald - 435-678-1804

rmcdonald@sjsd.org

Thank you for letting the Bluff teachers and me meet with your students. It creates a better school and community attachment. We love your students!



Building a positive community in a school, students and their families need to feel a sense of belonging and significance. That includes having a high level of pride, respect and interest in and for each other. To belong, students need to be seen, and to be significant, they need to feel like they are contributing to the school community. Our minds, bodies, emotions, and spirits are in all we do. These are all equally important parts of us as human beings, each providing ways of knowing and sources of both knowledge and wisdom.

No child can learn if they are hungry, tired, cold or sick. The quality of how we feel about ourselves and others affects learning. Research tells us that information with emotional content is more deeply etched in our memory than information without emotional content which simply put that "children don't care what you know until they know you care. We know that the absence of emotional and physical safety creates stressful feelings, such as fear and dread, which interrupts learning.

In creating healthy schools, we work to implement and engage the whole student. This month we have concentrated on kindness to ourselves and to each other. Kindness in our school and community builds a strong connection between and to each other. We committed to practicing kindness and each student wrote their personal goals or acts of kindness shared with them on a paper link that we fashioned into a chain that we hung up in our multipurpose room. We hope to remind the students that.....Everyone has a place in our school!

A background image of a sunset over a house silhouette. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey, with a dark silhouette of a house and trees in the foreground.

Carolyn Ballinger

The teachers are doing home visits this week. It is such an honor to be invited to visit your homes. As you see, we worked well into the evenings to complete as many visits as possible, and to try to accommodate the schedules of all the families as best we could. It has been a wonderful experience to see our children in their home settings. They have been so pleased to show us their pets and livestock, to see us visiting with their families, to know that we care for them and want to go to them wherever they are.

The beauty of the places where our families live is overwhelming! Everywhere I looked, I saw something I wished I could paint. As the evening progressed, the colors changed constantly, from one amazing color palette to another!

There is something about living in such beauty that affects the way our children here see the world and one another. They know how to be still, and to just drink in the beauty, even though at times not having the words to describe what they see. I have come to understand that it is not necessary to put everything into words. We can just be still, and enjoy being and becoming more and more a part of such beauty.

Hero of the Month

Hero of the month is Toni who wants to be a teacher when she grows up. Her heroes are her mother, sister, and grandma. These are some of

Toni's favorite things.

Animal: Horse

Food: Chicken Nuggets

Color: Pink

Things she likes to do at home are play with her toys, dress-up, and walk with her family.

Something you may not know about Toni is she loves her grandma's horses.

Toni is a kind student. She helps and plays well with her preschool friends. We enjoy having Toni in our class.

March

We Are Studying:

Theme: Spring, Seeds, Plants

Shapes: Heart, Star, Diamond,

Pentagon, Hexagon, Octagon

Colors: Grey, Yellow, Black,

Green, Red

Number: 9

Letters: Jj, Qq, Gg, Kk

PRESCHOOL!

Important Dates:

March 8th- End of 3rd Quarter

March 11th-15th Spring Break

No School

March 18th- No School

Teacher Day

March 19th - 4th Quarter Begins

March 29th- No School

Good Friday

Dear Preschool Families,
Thank you for coming to the Parent/teacher CCR day. We enjoyed visiting with you about your student's growth and successes.

Thank you all for supporting your little ones during the Valentine's Day party! We had a blast!

We enjoy our library time every Tuesday with Miss Judy. The students love her. Please read to your preschooler 20 minutes a day and ask them questions about the story. Who? Where? When? Why?

Have an enjoyable Spring Break.
Preschool Staff: Wanda, LaQueena and Carolyn



KINDERGARTEN



March Newsletter 2024

Dear Kinder Parents,

Thank you for coming to CCR day! I enjoyed talking to you about your student about all the progress they have made over the year. Let's keep up the good work!

Please read to with your student everyday for 20 minutes. Ask them questions about who are the characters in the story. Where the setting/settings is. What happened first, next, and last. Ask your students what we learned in class. We have finished the unit about weather and are moving onto the animal kingdom.

Thank you for all that you do!

-Ms. Ellisia



March 2nd - Dr. Seuss Birthday

March 7th - Imagine Math Party 9 a.m.

March 9th - End of Term 3

March 12-16th - Spring Break - No school

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day

March 18th - Teacher Work Day - No School

March 19th - 4th term begins - School resumes

March 29th - Good Friday - No School

Sight Words

it in go and to
am on like a see
we the can I you
do my little are
this be with he
was she that at have
or for of they



1st Grade March Newsletter 2024

Dear first grade families,

Just like that we are entering the month of March. I am so grateful to have been with your student up to this point. They are all making excellent growth each day they come to school. So, please be sure to send them to school daily

I also want to thank all of you for coming and meeting with me for CCR night. You got to see where your child was academically. They all are still working hard in growing.

Continue to have your students read, review zeno words, and math facts at home.

Thank you for all you do for.

-Ms. Begay

Important Dates

March 2nd - Dr. Seuss Birthday

March 7th - READ LOG PARTY

March 9th - End of Term 3

March 12-16th - Spring Break - No school

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day

March 19th - Teacher Work Day - NO School

March 20th - 4th term begins

March 29th - Good Friday - No School

March Birthdays

Kaleb 3/19



*Happy
St. Patrick's Day!*

2nd Grade March Newsletter 2024

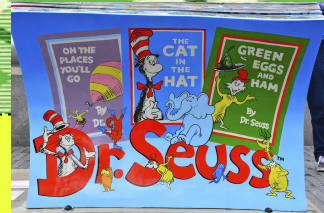
Dear Parents and 2nd graders,

First, I would like to thank you all for attending our Parent/Teacher CCR Day. It was so good to meet with you and discuss the amazing progress each student is making this year. I was able to meet with every family this year! So thank you!!

Please continue to encourage your students to read at home. This will help them reach their end of the year goals!!

Thanks again for your support in your child's education!

-Mrs. Brown



Important Dates

March 2nd - Dr. Seuss Birthday
March 7th - Imagine Math Party 9am
March 7th - Camp, Read, Smore Party
March 9th - End of Term 3
March 12-16th - **Spring Break - No school**
March 17th - St. Patrick's Day
March 18th - Teacher Work Day - **No School**
March 19th - 4th term begins - School resumes
March 29th - Good Friday - **No School**

March Birthdays

	4th	Carver
	25th	Zarena



 **Happy**
St. Patrick's Day!



3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades English Language Arts

Dear Students and Families,

It's hard to believe that third quarter is almost over and spring break is almost here. We have been working hard and making progress in reading and writing.

This month, in reading the fifth graders will be working on comparing and contrasting texts. The fourth graders will be working on finding causes and effects in texts, and the third graders will be working on finding the author's point of view in a text.

In writing all classes will be working on writing a report about an animal. They will be doing research to find information about the animal and then writing an essay about what they have found.

Thanks for all you do to help your child read at home!

- Mrs. Richmond

Happy Birthday!!

Kaydon

2nd

Maddox

27th

*Reading is the gateway, for
children, that makes all other
learning possible. - Barack
Obama*

3rd/4th/5th Grade Newsletter-Mrs. Wallis



Dear Parents,

Just a quick note to say how thankful I am to those of you who attended your student's CCR day with Mrs. Richmond and myself. It was a great time to celebrate your students success' and how we can work together to help them reach their full potential. I am so proud of the work they are doing and how they continue to rise to the challenge.

Thank you, Mrs. Wallis

Students,

The end of 3rd term is approaching quickly. We will be working to finish the last few chapters of our math book by April. Then, we will be reviewing the concepts we have learned all year to order to prepare for our end of year testing. It is so important to come to school each day to review and practice those or relearn those skills you have not mastered yet. Also, use small group time to really focus on those areas that need a little work. You can do it! -Mrs. Wallis



Reminder:

I hope you are all practicing your math facts and reading for 20 minutes at home each night. Read your favorite book to a family member or challenge an older sibling to a math facts contest.

Important Dates

March 7th - Imagine math party - Have you completed your 10 lessons so you can attend?

March 8th-End of Term 3

March 13th-18th - **Spring Break** - No school

March 17th-St. Patrick's Day

March 19th - **4th term starts**
school resumes

March 25th - 3rd grade field trip to Hovenweep

March 26th - Engineering extravaganza with USU.

March 29th - **Good Friday** -
No school

Activities in Heritage classroom:

- The students really enjoyed playing shoe in the hogan and string games. Unfortunately, the game had to stop too soon for us and now we are playing stick game. The students will make their own stick game sets, so have them bring 40 small pebbles.
- We are learning about traditional and modern clothing. Please continue to help your child learn the names of the clothing items.
- **WOW!** The third quarter is almost over and 4th quarter is coming soon.

Axhéhee! For attending CCR and meeting with me on your child's progress.

Important Dates

March 8th-End of Term 3

March 13th-18th - Spring Break - No school

March 29th - Good Friday - No school

Heritage Language

The baby eagles have grown big and noisy. It is because of their noise the month of March was named Wóózhch'íí'd.

There are also other baby animals being born at this time. It is lambing season for the Navajo sheep and other livestock.

Spring is evident by the blades of tender tumbleweed grass covering the ground like pieces of thin carpet. The weather is unpredictable. The wind is stronger than the month before. The day can start out sunny and calm and abruptly change to a snowstorm, and then back to cold wind.

March 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Reminder: ALL students can eat breakfast for FREE. Check with individual Schools for serving times. Served Daily: -Alternate Entrée: Assorted Cereal w/ 1 Slice of Toast Cinnamon Toast -Beverages: Chocolate Skim Milk 1% White Milk Juice Variety  <i>This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider</i> **MENUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE!
				1 Bagel Egg Patty Bananas	
4 Pancakes Yogurt Mandarin Oranges	5 Sausage, Egg & Cheese Croissant Hash Browns Grapes	6 Breakfast Pizza Boiled Egg Applesauce	7 French Toast Sausage Bananas	8 Breakfast Burrito Peaches String Cheese	
11 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	12 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	13 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	14 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	15 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	
18 TEACHER DAY NO SCHOOL	19 Cheese Omelet Yogurt Pineapple	20 Waffles Bananas Hash Browns	21 Biscuits & Gravy Pears Sausage	22 Pancake Sausage on a Stick Apples String Cheese	
25 French Toast Sausage Oranges	26 Breakfast Pizza Pineapple String Cheese	27 Scrambled Eggs Hash Brown Rounds Grapes	28 Sausage, Egg & Cheese Croissant Mandarin Oranges	29 GOOD FRIDAY NO SCHOOL	

SAN JUAN SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

March 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Parents who would like to eat school lunch need to call the school by 9:00am to reserve your meal for the day. Served Daily: Beverages: Chocolate Skim Milk 1% White Milk LUNCH REGULATIONS: Students must take a minimum of 3 items, including 1 fruit or vegetable, in order to have a federally reimbursable meal. Water and some desserts do not count as an item. Students who bring a home lunch can purchase milk for \$0.40. Parents can put money for this into a student's account to be charged as needed rather than sending money each time. Because milk is not reimbursable on its own, we are required to charge for it if the student does not take a school lunch. <i>This Institution Is An Equal Opportunity Provider</i> **MENUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE!
				1 Pigs in a Blanket Baked Beans Fresh Broccoli Pineapple	
4 Beef Nachos Refried Beans Corn Apples Brownies	5 Meatball Sub Green Beans Peaches Fresh Broccoli	6 Country Fried Steak Potatoes/Gravy Steamed Carrots Mandarin Oranges Roll	7 Corn Dog Tots Carrot Sticks Pears	8 Bean & Cheese Burrito Tots Pineapple Jell-O	
11 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	12 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	13 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	14 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	15 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	
18 TEACHER DAY NO SCHOOL	19 Toasted Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Green Beans Bananas/Rice Krispy	20 Pepperoni Pizza Green Salad Tots Pineapple	21 Chicken Nuggets Baked Beans Fries Peaches Cookie	22 Sloppy Joes Carrot Sticks Mandarin Oranges Steamed Broccoli	
25 Pulled Pork Burrito Rice Black Beans Applesauce	26 Frito Pie Pears Steamed Carrots Pudding	27 Roasted Turkey Potatoes/Gravy Green Beans Strawberry Shortcake Rolls	28 Hoagie Sandwich Chips Fruit Cocktail Carrot Sticks	29 GOOD FRIDAY NO SCHOOL	

SAN JUAN SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LUNCH

SCHOOL MENU

Breakfast Prices:

Adult Breakfast.....\$3.00
Non-Student Child.....\$2.00
Milk (Extra).....\$0.40

Call BEFORE 9:30am to order lunch. Cash or Check ONLY!

Lunch Prices:

Adult Lunch.....\$4.40
Adult Salad (Pre-Order Only).....\$3.00
Non-Student Child 0-12 yrs.....\$2.40
Non-Student Child 13-17 yrs.....\$2.70
Milk (Extra).....\$0.40