



# Keeping you Informed

## ADAMS ELEMENTARY

### HOME OF THE ADAMS EAGLES

December 2017  
January 2018

#### Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ Message from the Principal
- ◆ Track Meet Dates
- ◆ Spirit Days
- ◆ New Staff—Special Education Teachers
- ◆ Visit Adams Website
- ◆ Supervision Hours
- ◆ Scholastic Book Fair
- ◆ Lego League Club
- ◆ Art in the Community
- ◆ After School Clubs



### MUSIC NEWS

BY MRS. HERZOG

*Please mark your calendars now for the Winter Musical Performances*



*Friday, December 15, 2017*

9:00 a.m.	5th Grade	12:30 p.m.	1st Grade
10:00 a.m.	4th Grade	1:30 p.m.	2nd & 3rd Grade
		2:30 p.m.	Kindergarten

### Important Dates

Friday, December 1	-	Spirit Day, Wear Red and White
Monday, December 4	-	NO SCHOOL, Staff Professional Development Day
Tuesday, December 5	-	School Store
Wednesday, December 6	-	School Store
Thursday, December 7	-	School Store
Friday, December 15	-	NO P4J/Planning Day
	-	Winter Sings
Thursday, December 21	-	PTA Papa Murphy's Night, 4:00-7:00 PM
Friday, December 22	-	Winter Break Begins



Wednesday, January 3	-	School Resumes
Friday, January 5	-	Spirit Day, Wear Red and White
Monday, January 8	-	PTA Meeting, 4:00 PM
Friday, January 19	-	No P4J/Planning Day
Thursday, January 25	-	PTA Potbelly Subs Night, 4:00-7:00 PM



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL BY DANA SIMMONS

Dear Adams Families,

The last few months have helped us all prepare for the end of the trimester. Our trimester may have ended, but the learning continues. In your child's report card you will find an outline of what they will learn over the year. It's amazing to see how far they grown since the start of the year! We look forward to many more.

Mrs. Herzog has also taken these last few months to get started with our Winter Programs. All of our programs will be held on Friday, December 15th—the students are very excited to perform!

Relationships are the foundation of learning. Thank you for taking the time to identify your child's strengths and needs during conferences. The feedback was appreciated as we learn and build relationships with each child. Thank you so much for all that you do and for being apart of the Adams Family.

Another, great way to support our school is by joining our PTA. Meetings are the second Monday of each month, at 4:00 p.m. in our auditorium. Please join us for our next PTA meeting on Jan. 8th. The PTA will be leading our school store. The students turn in DOJO points for Eagle Bucks, which the use to purchase different items. PTA also funds all of our assemblies like our most recent, ZooZort!

Please enjoy the rest of the newsletter, as we share what students have been working on after school!

Mrs. Dana Simmons

**PUT THIS  
on YOUR  
CALENDAR!**



### Track Meet Days:

- May 22:  
5th Grade in the AM
- May 23:  
4th in the AM
- May 24:  
Rain date

### Spirit Days:

- 12-1:  
Red and White Day
- 12-8:  
Turn the Clock Back Day
- 12-15:  
Dress Fancy Day
- 1-5:  
Red and White Day
- 1-12:  
Cartoon Character Day
- 1-19:  
Neon Day
- 1-26:  
Hawaiian Day



"ClassDojo makes it easy to keep my students alert and on-task."



# INTRODUCING OUR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Greetings! My name is Laurie Mills, a special education teacher here at Adams. I feel so honored to be a part of the Adams family! Over the past 20 years I held various positions in special education and I will say that I'm still loving it.

I grew up in Janesville, graduated from Parker High School, received my bachelor's degree from UW-Whitewater, and completed my master's degree in 2004.

In my free time I enjoy spending time with my husband and daughter. We like to take walks, go boating and fishing, have campfires and watch movies.

I look forward to getting to know more students and their families!



My name is Beth France. I'm a new special education teacher at Adams. I'm excited for this new opportunity to work with the staff, students and parents at Adams. I started my teaching career as a Head Start teacher and gained a wealth of knowledge in working with children and families from various social and economical groups. I graduated from UW-Whitewater and have licensures in regular education and special education. I have been working in special education for the past five years.

I have three children of my own, a grandson and granddaughter on the way. I like to do anything crafty. I love doing things outside: going for walks, swimming, growing flowers and vegetables. Overall, I love helping all things grow and look forward to working with the staff, students and families at Adams.

## Please Visit Adams Website

Please visit our Website at [adams.janesville.k12.wi.us](http://adams.janesville.k12.wi.us)

Click on:

\*Parent Resources for:

- ⇒ 2018-19 Open Enrollment
- ⇒ 2018-19 Kindergarten Enrollment
- ⇒ Request for Student Transfer
- ⇒ Moving Information
- ⇒ Child Find Notice
- ⇒ Child Development Days 2018



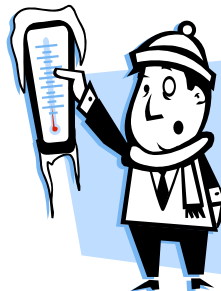
\*Calendar for updated events and days off

\*Newsletter for our newsletters

\*Also check out our Current Events

*Please dress your child for Wisconsin fall/winter weather.*

*Students go outside twice a day unless the temperature and/or wind chill is below 0° F.*



Laurie Mills



Beth France

*Thank you to all our families that donated to Bags of Hope!*

*What generous hearts you have!*



### Office Hours

Don't forget office hours are 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Don't hesitate to call if you need anything! 743-6300



### Supervision

Supervision begins at 8:00 a.m. outside before school starts. For the safety of everyone, please arrive after 8:00 a.m.



### ANIMALS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Janesville City ordinance forbids dogs, cats, horses, or other animals from being on playgrounds or school grounds.

You may only have your cat or dog on the city sidewalks due to safety reasons.

Please keep your pet at home or in the car when you drop off or pick up your child.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Dear Parents and Families:

Winter 2017

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:



- Set the example. Let children see you read.
- Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep up with changing tastes and reading skills.
- **Support our School's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.**

**\*Stop by and shop at the Book Fair throughout the day during the Winter Sings!**

### Book Fair Dates and Shopping Times:

December 11th and 13th: after school from 3:10-4:00 PM  
 December 15th: 8:00-3:30 PM

**Location:** Auditorium (right as you come in door #1)

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember all purchases benefit our school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Biege  
 Innovation Specialist  
 kbiege@janesville.k12.wi.us



## ADAMS EAGLE'S FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CLUB

Adams Eagle's First LEGO League Club has been meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:10-4:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons Space.

Fourteen 4th and 5th grade students have been actively engaged in building the Hydrodynamic LEGO board and working on programming the missions. Students have been very responsible for attending the club on the following dates: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers have made a positive difference in educating and supporting the students. Mr. Gary Shephard, who is a programmer by day and an avid "Techi" by night, helps out every Monday and has brought the level of computer science comprehension up a notch. Three Craig High School students, Justin, Ethan, and Nathan, volunteer every Monday and Wednesday and the elementary students have truly benefited from their passion for coding and building with Legos. Rounding out the group are Mr. Johnson, who is a 4th grade teacher at Adams and a self-professed tech geek and Mrs. Biege, the Innovation Specialist at Adams who is facilitating the club.

The First LEGO League has also had two visits from Mr. Bob Getka, who is Parker High School's Technology Teacher and First LEGO League Guru. His visits helped inspire and motivate the team to dig into programming the EV3 Robots.

The theme this year is Hydrodynamics and the students have also been learning about the importance of water. Mrs. Biege arranged for the Rock River Stormwater Group to speak to the 4th grade classes about the importance of clean stormwater and the effects of stormwater runoff. The UW-Whitewater group whom represents Project Wisconsin Waterways, educated students on the waterways affected, how everyone can help keep stormwater clean and a model demonstration on how stormwater is affected by pollutants was a great learning experience. You can visit [ProtectWIWaterways.org](http://ProtectWIWaterways.org) to find out more.





First LEGO League is more than just building with LEGOS, it supports team building with a focus on core values. The Core Values are as follows: 1. We are a team. 2. We do the work to find solutions with guidance from our coaches and mentors. 3. We know our coaches and mentors don't have all the answers; we learn together. 4. We honor the spirit of friendly competition. 5. What we discover is more important than what we win. 6. We share our experiences with others.

The First LEGO League at Adams is looking forward to the 2018 upcoming theme and will be working towards competing at regionals next year! The group also plans to present their missions at the next Adams School Family Event.



## ART IN THE COMMUNITY



This year, in addition to the regular happenings in the Art Room, I decided to incorporate two additional goals for my students. One is to have the kids work more collaboratively and the other is to foster more community involvement through student art. At first, these goals may seem to be very different from each other. Upon deeper reflection, one might notice that they do have something in common. Both are intended to build hope in our students. What? You may be thinking, 'Come on, Ms. Zdrale, that is a pretty big leap'. Perhaps. However, I am sure we have all had the feeling of belonging and also the satisfaction that accompanies success and accomplishment. When students work together, their work becomes more significant. Not only is there value in the individual piece, but then, a new value in knowing that the one small piece became an integral part of the whole. The eagle wings (#BeAnEagle) are a prime example of this.

Every student in the school started the year with a project that included the cut outs of their hands. In addition to teaching positive/negative space, patterns, lines, etc. those hands became a part of a bigger whole when they became the feathers of our eagle wings. Many of the hands were stunning on their own, but we could not have created the large wings, with the feeling of movement and texture, with only one pair of hands.

The students oooooed and ahhed when the wings were revealed but also continue to enjoy trying to find their own 'feathers'. The wings represent our school and our students on many levels.

Piggybacking on the idea of belonging and purpose, is the community connection goal. Elementary students may have a hard time seeing themselves as anything but a kid in a school. They learn about communities in Social Studies but do they really understand how they can impact their own community? Even while in elementary school? I have reached out to several businesses in Janesville and in the Adams neighborhood to see if they would like to feature student artwork by hanging it in their offices/stores/etc. So, far I have delivered six original works of art to Marling Lumber/Showroom! Marling is unique in that they provide a cabinet door that serves as the 'frame'. Students made art to be displayed on the cabinet in the showroom. At the end of the exhibit, students will keep the art and the frame. This may seem like a small gesture, but students feel pride and gain confidence knowing that the audience for their art has expanded to the whole community of Janesville. In addition, the residents of Janesville get to see the talent of the next generation. **A g a i n**, creating something small but having it be a part of something bigger. Future community venues include: Paull Chiropractic and City Hall. Stay tuned and if you know of a business that would like to feature elementary art, please let me know!

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS



The goal of most after school clubs is twofold: 1) to enrich/expand a student's learning experience 2) to build relationships.

In the case of Puzzle Club, we have the additional bonus of collaboration (see above :)

The idea for Puzzle Club started to form this past summer when I bought a 500 piece underwater puzzle that was made with black lines but was otherwise blank. In other words, each piece needed to be colored. I thought this would be a nice ice breaker activity to do on the first day of school; again, planting the idea that one small piece can seem insignificant until it is part of the whole. And it was! Kids liked the mystery of it and chose which media to use on their pieces. They all wanted to know how and when it would get put together. Knowing it would be harder than a regular puzzle, I surveyed 4th and 5th graders to see who likes puzzles and who might want to be a part of an after school club. I also knew that Mrs. Cass really likes puzzles, so we teamed up to start our club every Thursday after school. I think even the two of us underestimated the degree of difficulty this puzzle presented. Imagine not being able to use COLOR as a clue or a guide!

On the first day, we found the edge pieces and started sorting by pattern. I don't even think we got one match! This is definitely a lesson in stamina, patience, problem solving and perseverance. The concentration in the room is palpable. Everyone is so focused and we truly need everyone's best effort in order to make progress. Now that we have been at it for a month, we are making good progress. It is extremely rewarding to get a couple matches in one day but each time we meet, it gets easier. We'll see if we can get it done, glued and hung up before our next round of conferences. In the meantime, stay tuned on School Story through Dojo for our progress.