

Newsletter

February 8, 2024

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

- **Updates** - Student of the Month, PT Conferences, Valentine's Dances, Reading Month
- **Sign-ups** - Fire Explorers, Spring Sports, Lunch Volunteers, Winter Needs Drive
- **Profile of the Week** - Amy McGuire, Reading Intervention Specialist



CONFERENCES TODAY!

Thursday, February 8

8:30 am-6:30 pm

Elementary (K-5) families, if you have not signed up, please contact your teacher directly to arrange a time.

No appointment needed for secondary conferences. Just stop by.

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb - Black History Month

Feb 8 - PT Conferences (NO SCHOOL)

Feb 9 - NO SCHOOL

Feb 19 - President's Day (NO SCHOOL)

Feb 23 - Valentine's Dances

Mar 8 - Staff Dev (NO SCHOOL)

Mar 22-29 - Spring Break (NO SCHOOL)

Apr 13 - Annual Gala Event

May 17 - Spring Carnival

**K-8 FEBRUARY LUNCH
MENU**

**9-12 FEBRUARY LUNCH
MENU**



JANUARY - STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

*We want to congratulate our January winners who displayed **persistence!***

- K - Lily Vdovchenko, Maximus Xinastle
 1 - Arianna Tejada, Damajai Taylor
 2 - Ethan Hamp, Noelle Bedell
 3 - Mila Vdovchenko, Allie Bolling
 4 - Ayla Clark, Ruth Alcaide-Cuate
 5 - Emran Amir, Felicity Clark
 6 - Joel Wiens, Penelope Shagimagin
 7 - Titus Johnson
 8 - Marissa Rebney
 9 - Christian Givens Darst



I LOVE TO READ MONTH!

Welcome to a month of **Reading with my Gnomies** as we celebrate "I Love to Read" month for elementary (K-5).

K-5 DRESS-UP DAYS!

Feb 14 - We love to read! wear Valentine's colors and/or hearts

Feb 22 - Reading JOGS our mind! Wear your best jogging clothes.

Feb 29 - Dress like a book character!



FIRE EXPLORERS PROGRAM

If your 9-12th grader is interested in joining the Fire Explorer Program after the special event at school yesterday, please click the button below to find all the information.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRE EXPLORERS



PROFILE OF THE WEEK

Amy McGuire, Reading Intervention Specialist

February is "I love to Read Month," and we wanted to highlight the person who is coordinating all the fun activities! Ms. Amy McGuire is the Reading Intervention Specialist at FIT, and she has wanted to be a teacher since she was in 2nd grade! In high-school, she participated in a program where she helped at a local elementary school for half the day. "After that experience, I knew I wanted to be a teacher!"

"As my early adult life began unfolding, I chose to stay home with my two girls for about 12 years...and finally finished my bachelors degree in my late 30s. I was a freshman at Bemidji State while

my oldest was a freshman at Loyola University and my youngest was a freshman at Hastings High School!!"

Ms. McGuire is now in her 3rd year at FIT Academy and close to finishing her Masters in K-12 Literacy from Concordia University! A typical day for her is filled with helping small groups (K-5th) learn to be successful readers. "What brought me into the field of reading was my youngest daughter's struggle to read. Her sister read before kindergarten, and she was still struggling in 3rd grade. I had to basically teach myself the science behind learning to read in order to support my struggling reader."

Because of this experience, Ms. McGuire loves supporting parents. She says, "I remember the feeling of dread when the spelling tests and assessments came home. I knew that my daughter had put in the work. I put in the work with her! I know what it is like to worry about your child." So Ms. McGuire is personally and professionally equipped to come alongside parents who want to help their children.

"Another reason I absolutely love my job is because I am passionate about literacy being a social

justice issue. Every student should have the same opportunities to learn how to read. We can't declare that everyone has the same opportunities in life if only a percentage learn to read beyond a 4th grade level. We can do better!"

Ms. McGuire has 2 adult daughters who live in the area. They love to travel together; and in December of 2022, they were on a beach in Spain on Christmas morning. She loves to thrift, antique, and hike. She is also attempting to find 50 bookstores she has never been to. "We are on number 32. So, if you have a gem of a bookstore somewhere--sharing is caring! I love to read AND write!"

Thank you, Ms. McGuire, for your passionate dedication to our students' literacy.



YOUNG REMBRANDTS: ARTVentures CLUB

This winter, Young Rembrandts artists are in for a treat with a lineup of **ALL NEW** drawing lessons at **FIT Academy**. For questions, please email Mr. Vang, mvang@fitacademymn.org. Here are the details...

5 weeks of Classes from Feb 15-Mar 14

3:00-4:00 pm

K-5th Grade

Beginners are welcome

\$79

ART CLASS REGISTRATION



SPORTS SIGN-UP

The middle school spring sports registration form has been emailed out to parents and is available below. This is for



grades 5-8 for co-ed volleyball, co-ed golf and co-ed flag football. **Registrations and fees are due into the main office by Monday, February 12.** Coaches will contact athletes and parents about practice days and times. Schedules will not be available until the end of February.

The high school spring sports registration is still delayed due to ongoing discussion with the other schools.

MS SPRING SPORTS SIGN-UP



LUNCH VOLUNTEERS!

We would love for you to volunteer in our lunch room! It's a fun way to connect with your kids and other students. You will help students open milk and lunch items as well as clean the tables after each lunch period. Click to sign up!

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER](#)



HEALTH REMINDER

We want to remind parents to keep your children home from school when they are ill. As a refresher, **school policy requires students to stay at home if they have had a fever or vomitted in the last 24 hours.**



AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

We offer after-school care again this year from 2:45 pm to 5:00 pm. Open to students in grades K-5. You must enroll by Wednesday, if you plan to use after school care the following week. If you have questions, please email [Jen Iten at jiten@fitacademymn.org](mailto:jiten@fitacademymn.org).

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)



Would you considered leaving our school a review? Your perspective could be helpful in leading other families to our school. Just click above!



We want to invite everyone to join our 2 Facebook groups!

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[FIT Academy Families](#)

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