

GREENVALE PARK ELEMENTARY

February 2018 Gazette

Sam Richardson,
Principal
507.645.3500

Attendance Line
507.645.3506

February Calendar:

All month—I Love to Read!
26—2018.2019 Kindergarten
Information Night

March Calendar:

All month—Math Madness!
2—Deadline to order Yearbook
online
6,8,12—Parent/Teacher Confer-
ences
6-12 Scholastic Book Fair
23—End of 3rd quarter
26-Apr 2—Spring Break/No
School

Greetings Families!

The month of February is a pivotal month. As we slowly move from the bitter cold of winter to longer days and warmer temperatures, the activities move quickly in the elementary school. There were many highlights as we moved past the 100th day of school this past week. Students are working hard and teachers are continuing to provide new learning activities to help students grow.

The I Love to Read month challenges for students to read for the "gold medal" continue. Students in their classes have taken part in a Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) time. They are also learning about the Olympics from guest author and Northfield resident, Packy Mader. Students connected with role models from the high school when the Northfield basketball teams visited classrooms. Power Down tickets are being turned in as students turn from television and devices to books and off-line games. There are many other activities taking place, and we are thankful to Mrs. Torbenson, Ms. Heinritz and Ms. Kurtz for planning these events.

The Community School programming continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the evening. There are many terrific offerings and classes that students and their families can attend to learn a new skill or meet new friends. We are very proud of our Community School offerings and the connections with our colleges and the community.

Moving into March, we look forward to meeting with families during our Parent-Teacher conferences on March 6th, 8th and 12th. This is an important time to connect and plan for an excellent finish to the school year. Also, the Scholastic Book Fair will be open for families to find new high-interest books to take home.

Greenvale Park Geckos will be attending an exciting assembly on engineering put on by the Science Museum of Minnesota on March 14th. The Science Museum is offering this educational assembly to all students with separate presentations for the K-2 and 3-5 grade levels. This will be a great way to teach students about the science and engineering components of STEM learning.

I continue to be impressed with the family support for the school. When parents attend music performances, PTO meetings, Culvers Nights or a field trip, they are sending a message to their student that school is important. Thank you to the Gecko parents for supporting our school and our staff!

I look forward to seeing you at conferences.



El mes de febrero es un mes fundamental. A medida que pasamos lentamente del frío glacial del invierno a días más largos y temperaturas más cálidas, las actividades avanzan rápidamente en la escuela primaria. Hubo muchos momentos memorables cuando pasamos del 100 degrees día de clases la semana pasada. Los estudiantes están trabajando duro y los maestros continúan brindando nuevas actividades de aprendizaje para ayudar a los estudiantes a crecer.

Los desafíos del mes "Me encanta leer" (I Love to Read) para que los/las estudiantes lean para obtener la "medalla de oro" continúan. Los/las estudiantes en sus clases han participado en momentos de dejarlo todo y leer. También están aprendiendo sobre los Juegos Olímpicos con el autor invitado y residente de Northfield, Packy Mader. Los estudiantes conectaron con modelos a seguir de la escuela secundaria cuando los equipos de baloncesto de Northfield visitaron las



*Gecko
Illustration
2018*

(Mr. Richardson's letter continued from page 1)

aulas. Los boletos de apagar todo lo electrónico se están entregando a medida que los estudiantes cambian de la televisión y los dispositivos electrónicos a libros y juegos que no estén en internet. Se están llevando a cabo muchas otras actividades y agradecemos a la Sra. Torbenson, a la Sra. Heinritz y a la Sra. Kurtz por planificar estos eventos.

La programación de la Escuela Comunitaria continúa los martes y jueves por la tarde. Hay muchas ofertas y clases excelentes a las que los estudiantes pueden asistir para aprender nuevas habilidades o conocer nuevos amigos. Estamos muy orgullosos de nuestras ofertas de la escuela comunitaria (Community School) y las conexiones con nuestras universidades y la comunidad.

Pasando a marzo, esperamos reunirnos con las familias durante nuestras conferencias de padres y maestros el 6, 8 y 12 de marzo. Este es un momento importante para conectarse y planificar un excelente final del año escolar. Además, la Feria del Libro de Scholastic estará abierta para que las familias encuentren nuevos libros de alto interés para llevar a casa.

Los Geckos de Greenvale Park asistirán a una emocionante asamblea de ingeniería organizada por el Science Museum de Minnesota el 14 de marzo. El Museo de Ciencias está ofreciendo esta asamblea educativa a todos los estudiantes con presentaciones por separado para los grados K-2 y 3-5. Esta será una gran manera de enseñar a los estudiantes sobre los componentes de la ciencia e ingeniería en las áreas de aprendizaje de STEM (Siglas en inglés para Ciencia, Tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas).

Continúo impresionado con el apoyo familiar para la escuela. Cuando los padres, madres y tutores asisten a presentaciones musicales, reuniones de PTO, Culvers Nights o una excursión, envían un mensaje a sus hijos e hijas de que la escuela es importante. ¡Gracias a los padres, madres y tutores de Gecko por apoyar a nuestra escuela y a nuestro personal!

Espero verlos en las reuniones con las maestras y maestros,

MUSIC CLASS PROGRAMS

Please join us as we present our annual Music Programs!

Second Grade

<i>Larson</i>	<i>Wednesday, February 28th</i>	<i>11:05 am</i>
<i>Amundson</i>	<i>Thursday, March 1st</i>	<i>11:30 am</i>
<i>Johnson/McLaughlin</i>	<i>Friday, March 9th</i>	<i>11:05 am</i>
<i>Bulfer</i>	<i>Friday, March 9th</i>	<i>11:30 am</i>

Third Grade

<i>Timerson</i>	<i>Thursday, March 1st</i>	<i>2:10 pm</i>
<i>Youngblut</i>	<i>Thursday, March 1st</i>	<i>2:35 pm</i>
<i>Conway</i>	<i>Thursday, March 8th</i>	<i>2:10 pm</i>
<i>Alvarez</i>	<i>Thursday, March 8th</i>	<i>2:35 pm</i>

Fourth Grade

<i>Clarey</i>	<i>Tuesday, March 13th</i>	<i>10:15 am</i>
<i>Garcia</i>	<i>Wednesday, March 14th</i>	<i>10:15 am</i>
<i>Hetzel</i>	<i>Wednesday, March 21st</i>	<i>10:15 am</i>
<i>Dimick</i>	<i>Thursday, March 22nd</i>	<i>10:15 am</i>

Fifth Grade

<i>All classes</i>	<i>Friday, March 16th</i>	<i>Gym, 8:30 am</i>
--------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------

****All programs will be held in the music room unless otherwise noted****

News from Media Classes...Amanda Heinritz

Hour of Code

During the month of December students in all grade levels participated in the Hour of Code. The goal of the Hour of Code is to introduce students to computer programming for at least one hour. Students around the world participated in the Hour of Code including our very own geckos! Kindergarteners became human computers! Later they worked on programming a fuzz bug through a maze on an app called Kodable. First graders advanced to more challenging levels of programming in the Kodable app. Second and third students used the Code.org website to program an Angry Bird. Fourth grade students learned about debugging and loops using the Lightbot app. Finally fifth graders worked on creating their own Google doodle using the Scratch website. Students were engaged and taking on challenges they had never experienced before!

Here are some free coding resources to continue using at home:

Apps: Kodable Coding for Kids, Scratch Jr, Hopscotch, Cargo-Bot, Tynker

Websites: Kodable.com, Code.org, Scratch.mit.edu, Codemoji.com

3D Printing

Do you have any idea what's in this photo? It is a 3D printer! The GVP 3D printer! Students have been making good use of it! All fifth grade students have completed a design and have had their project printed. Students in fourth grade have started a project and will have them printed in January. Students are learning the basic concepts of working in a 3D space using a website called Tinkercad.



Student Council News...Carrie Rice & Ryan Driscoll, Advisors

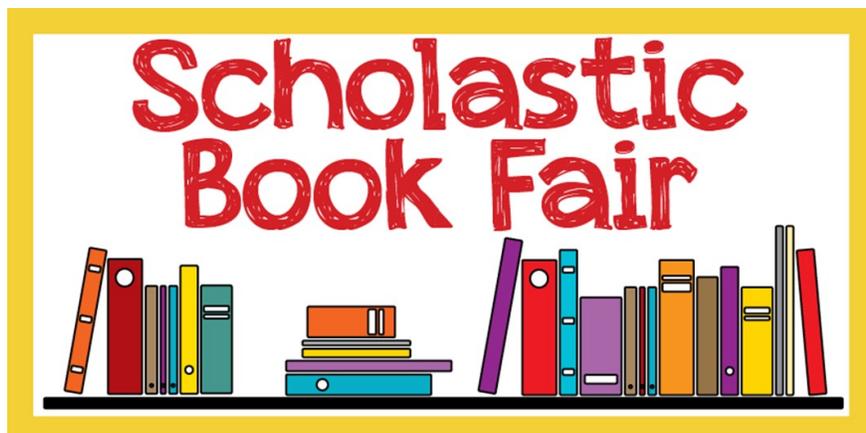
We thank all students and staff who made Valentine's cards for the "Hugs for Soldiers" campaign. Greenvale Park sent 276 cards to soldiers.

A reminder that the school store is open Friday from 2:35-3:00. Student Council members continue to manage the buying and selling for the School Store.

Our next February meeting is February 16 at 7:50 in the Media Center.

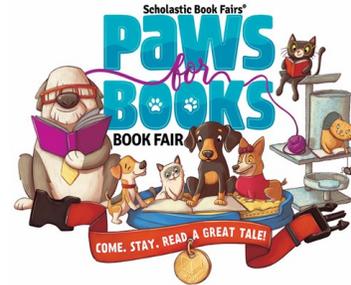
Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers Needed

The book fair is March 6-12. It will be set up in the media center during conferences. We are in need of some volunteers, and appreciate your time and support. Go to the Scholastic Volunteer Page to sign up. <https://goo.gl/coL6sz>
If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Heinritz ahleinritz@northfieldschools.org



Book Fair March 6-12

March 6	3:00 – 7:00
March 7	1:00 – 3:30
March 8	8:30 - 7:00
March 9	8:30 – 10:30
March 10	1:00 – 3:30
March 12	8:30 – 10:30
March 12	3:00– 7:00



News from our Nurse...Julie Ochs

Thank you for the donations and gifts to the health office. We have generous parents and community members that support Greenvale Park and it does not go unnoticed.

As you may be aware there have been strep, influenza like symptoms, influenza, fevers and other viral illnesses going through your children's classrooms. Please keep your children home for the recommended amount of time to insure their recovery. Coming back too soon does not allow them to fully participate in school without feeling sick. Please call with any questions at 507.645.3504. If you take your child in to the clinic, please get a doctor's note. Spring will hopefully be here soon! Remember hand washing, sleep and drinking water are the best things that can help.

Dressing for the weather is also very important. With sub-zero temps, frost bite can set in quickly. On page 5, please find information on cold, ice and snow safety.

February is dental health month. Dr. Kraby from Professional Drive Dentistry has graciously offered his time to come and talk with the kindergarten, first and second graders. Remember brushing twice daily, flossing routinely, eating healthy foods, and getting routine dental check ups is the best way to keep teeth from decaying and in smiling condition :-)



Emergency Closing Procedures

The following provides information that families need to be aware of regarding school closings.

1. In the event that school is closed for the day, or a two-hour late start is warranted, the following radio/television stations will broadcast this information:

KYMN-1080 AM WCCO-830 AM KARE-TV 11
KDHL-Power 96 KMSP-TV 9 KSTP-TV 5 WCCO-TV 4

2. If a two-hour late start is implemented (school begins two hours later than usual), bus pick-up will be approximately two hours later than the normal time.

3. All elementary school activities will be postponed or cancelled if no school occurs or if school is dismissed early.
4. All Community Services events, classes, and open gym activities are cancelled if no school occurs or if school is dismissed early. If school begins two hours late, all morning Community Education classes are cancelled.

Note to parents: Web sites containing “up to the minute” emergency school closing information: WCCO.com, KARE11.com, WCCORadio.com.



Overflowing Lost and Found

The lost and found area is overflowing at Greenvale Park! Please be sure to check for your child's lost items during music programs, Parent/Teacher Conferences in March, or any time before that when you are in the building. After conferences, any unclaimed items will be donated to a good cause.

Cold, Ice and Snow Safety

Love Those Layers

Dressing in layers is the best way to stay warm and toasty in the cold, because you can start out with lots of clothes to keep you warm and then peel them off once you start to heat up. Depending on where you live and how cold it is, some kids may need more layers, some less. But if you're in doubt, go for more layers to start — they can always come off later. (Whatever you do, always leave your coat on — that's one layer that should stay!) For your top half, start by putting on a long-sleeved undershirt (thermal or woolen). Then put on a turtleneck, one or two shirts, a sweater, and a coat. If you can, pick out clothes that are made of fabrics other than cotton, because cotton doesn't keep you very warm. For your bottom half, put on long underwear first (thermal or woolen), then pull on a pair of heavy pants. Try to avoid jeans or light cotton pants (like khakis), because they won't keep you very warm. They will actually make your legs and behind colder if you fall down and get wet. Waterproof pants (like ski pants) are best. Finish up with heavy socks and waterproof boots. If you're going to be doing a lot of trekking around, you'll want to wear boots that have good treads for keeping you steady on snowy and icy areas.



Grab That Hat

You're all bundled up and ready to go, but are you forgetting something? Pull a hat onto your head! You'll stay much warmer with a hat than without one — tons of body heat escapes right from your head. Scarves, facemasks, and earmuffs are also great at covering you up so you'll stay comfortable longer. And don't forget mittens or gloves — the waterproof kind are best if you know you'll be playing around a lot in the snow. Keeping your hands warm and dry is important because fingers are very sensitive to the cold.

Drink Up!

Sounds like advice for hot weather, not cold weather, right? Well, the truth is that it's good advice for **both** kinds of weather. When you're outside in the cold and breathing hard, you lose a lot of your body's [water](#) through your breath. And the best way to get that water back is to drink up! Warm drinks and soups keep you hydrated **and** heat up your insides when it's cold outside. Plus, stopping to have something warm to drink has two other bonuses: first, it makes you go inside and get warm for a few minutes while you're drinking; and second, it makes you go inside and get warm for a few minutes while you're using the bathroom later!

Fight the Bite

If you're outside on a very cold day and you're not wearing enough protective clothing, you could be in danger of getting **frostbite**. Frostbite is when the body's tissues freeze, and it usually happens to skin that is exposed (like your face or your ears) or to parts of the body like your fingers or toes. If you're playing it safe in the cold — by wearing heavy clothes, socks, and mittens, and by taking breaks inside when you think you need them — you probably won't have any problem with frostbite. But if you're ever outside and you can't feel your fingers, toes, cheeks, ears, or nose, it may be a sign of frostbite. (Even if it's not frostbite, it's a sign that you should head inside anyway.) Sometimes frostbite can make these body parts hurt or feel hard when you touch them; it can also make the skin on these parts look glossy (shiny) or pale. If you think even for a second that you might have frostbite, go indoors and **tell an adult right away**. Once you're inside, an adult should call your doctor. In the meantime, wiggle the part as much as you can — this will make more blood go to the area. If it's possible, hold the part against another area of your body that's warm — like holding your fingers on your stomach, for example. Finally, if you ever think you have frostbite, **never** stick the frostbitten part in hot water or hold something hot against it. Putting the part in **warm water** is OK — just be sure you have an adult check the temperature first. Keeping safe in the winter is easy to do, once you know how. You want your snow day and other cold days to be the most fun they can be, so put on those layers, wear your hat and gloves, have something warm to drink, and head out for the biggest snowball championship ever!

Take It Easy

Sometimes if you're out having fun, it's easy to forget to pay attention to your body. But if your body temperature drops even 4 or 5 degrees while you're outside, it can make you feel crummy. That's why you need to be alert to your body's signals. If you're starting to shiver or your teeth are chattering, it's a message from your body that you need to head inside. And if you ever feel dizzy or weak, those are sure signs that you have to take it easy indoors for a while. Keeping an eye on other kids can help make things safe. If it looks like a friend is shivering and really cold, suggest that you take a break inside together. You can both warm up while playing a game or watching TV and then head back outside for more fun.

News from Physical Education...Mary Wojick & Ryan Driscoll



We were lucky enough in December to have Joel Myers come and teach two days of cup stacking. He is from Minnesota and a champion of cup stacking and every one had a great time! He provided games, hints on "speeding up" and enough cups for all students in two classes to work at the same time! What fun!

January flew by as PE classes jumped rope, played large group games, ran the PACER and generally had fun. Our voluntary fund raiser (Jump Rope for Heart) raised over \$1300 for the American Heart Association, Minnesota division! Thanks to all who participated in this!

I Stack.

February is time for the winter Olympics!! 4/5th grade classes will spend time outside with snow shoes, boot and ice skating, along with tube and saucer fun. Other inside events include: Skeleton, Luge, Bobsled, Curling, Biathlon, X-C skiing, Alpine ski, Hockey and more! Students are learning facts about these sports along with watching clips of past winter olympis! It's active and fun in Greenvale Park PE!

PTO Spring Photo Day

Thursday, Feb. 15th LifeTouch was here for spring photo day. Spring photos are a PTO fundraiser and Life-Touch pays the PTO a small donation to have volunteers coordinate and assist on photo day. The PTO offers this because it is a great opportunity to get sibling photos and even family photos. You are under no obligation to purchase any of the photos. But at the March conferences, the Lifetouch representative will have a table so you can look at the photos and decide whether or not you would like to purchase any if you wish.



Mark Your Calendars Spring Conferences are Coming!!

Tuesday, March 6 – 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 8 – 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 12 – 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Conference reminder forms will be sent home with students soon. School will be in session on conference days. We are pleased that we are again able to offer FREE child care during all three evenings of conferences, from 3:45-7:00 p.m. All you need to do to take advantage of this free service is to sign your child(ren) in at the table with the supervising staff member in the front hall when you arrive and sign them out after your conferences are done. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be held during conference hours. Please also check out the Lost and Found for any of your child's missing items.

From our PTO...Heidi McCormick, Treasurer

Many thanks to all the families for bringing your Trash for Cash Collections to school!

Box Tops—Milk Moola —Econo Receipts. We have collected \$132,165.54, so we only have \$17,834.46 to go to receive \$1,000 from Econo.

Please keep saving all these simple items to help your PTO receive money to help our Greenvale Park Elementary Staff and school going forward.

We always encourage shopping locally because of the support the local businesses provide our community. However if you are placing an order on Amazon, please use AmazonSmile and select *Greenvale Park Elementary Pto* as the organization you support; Amazon will donate .05% of orders placed through the Amazon Smile website, which is different than the standard Amazon website.

<https://smile.amazon.com> Make sure you select "Greenvale Park Elementary Pto" as your charity.

You're invited to "Power Down" during "I Love to Read" month! February 2018

WHO

GVP students and families

WHAT

Power down and turn off all screens (TVs, computers, phones, iPads, video games, etc.) for one hour a day and spend time as a family doing things you like to do together. You might decide to read, play a game, go for a walk, play in the snow, cook a meal or just sit around and talk. The sky's the limit!

WHEN

The whole month of February ----->

WHY

While technology has become an important part of our daily lives, there *is such a thing as too much screen time!* We hope powering down for one hour a day will have a positive impact on students and families.

HOW

Each day you power down for one hour at home, record what you did on a Power Down Ticket (one per day). Blank Power Down Tickets are attached and are also available in each GVP classroom.

Bring your Power Down Ticket to school and enter it in the raffle box.

Two Power Down Tickets will be selected from the raffle box each Friday during the month of February. There will be prizes for these two winners per week! The more hours you power down, the more chances you will have to win!

Some of these tickets will be read over the announcements and displayed on our *I Love to Read bulletin board* in the school *entrance!* We want to celebrate the fun family events!!

Please consider participating in this event as part of our celebration of "I Love to Read" month! We'd love to have you join us!

Two winners will be selected from the raffle bags each Friday during the month of February

We are celebrating **I Love to Read Month** at Greenvale Park this year with an Olympic theme due to the Winter Olympics taking place in February. We are encouraging all students to **GO FOR THE GOLD** as they build stamina as readers.

Here is a summary of our special events:

Feb. 1-25: Going for the Gold reading challenge who met or exceeded the grade level goal should **RETURN their CALENDAR to GVP on Feb. 26th** to be recognized at the March 2nd BWM.

Feb. 1-22: Power Down by turning off electronics and doing an alternative activity. A winner is selected from each grade on three Fridays during the month - Feb. 9, 16 and 23. Winners are given a certificate, pen, bookmark, toy (fidget spinner, invisible ink pen, game, etc.) and a new book.

Feb. 23: Grade 3 takes a field trip to Northfield Public Library.

Feb. 25: Olympic Closing Ceremonies today and last day for Going for the Gold Reading Challenge

Feb. 26: Turn in Going for the Gold Reading Calendar to teachers today.

Feb. 27: Grades K, 1 and 2 have author visit from Katrina Morse, *At Home with Books* author (K @ 1:45, Grades 1 and 2 @ 2:15)

March 2: Building Wide Meeting @ 2:15 -- Students who met the Going For the Gold Reading Challenge will be recognized during the meeting. Also, Read Across America Day!

If you are in the building, be sure to stop by the media center as Mrs. Heinritz has hung streamers of flags from each country, and she has several books on display that students deemed, **Gold Medal Books**. We have an Olympic flag, torch and oversized Gold Medal on display as well!

Thank you so much for your support during this fun and busy month!

Diane Torbenson, Literacy Coach



This week in Art with Ms. Kurtz:

5th grade buddies came to help kindergarten fold origami birds to use during their music concerts in the coming weeks. Thanks 5th grade!



3rd graders are in the midst of creating papier mache hot air balloons. We are learning some science about how well latex holds air over multiple weeks!

4th graders are creating collaborative tessellations to hang during our Math Madness art show in March. See if you can spot some multiplication equations!

2nd graders are exploring tissue paper collage and radial symmetry with snowflake designs. Check out the picture book *Snowflake Bentley*.

1st graders experimented with texture rubbings and addition facts, also for our upcoming Math Madness art show.

5th graders are excited to be using all of the fun "stuff" you've donated to our art room (tubes, egg cartons, bubblewrap, etc) to create sea creature sculptures! This is a "discovery" style lesson, in which students design and engineer in their sketchbooks and create on their own with little guidance. They then problem solve when they run into construction issues. These sculptures will contribute greatly to the undersea art installation planned for Evening of the Arts.

The PTO announced yearbook cover winners, which will be displayed in the entryway display case. Please stop by to check out all the great honorable mentions as well!

Walk through the halls of GVP anytime to see what else we've worked hard on creating!

DEAR time on February 6th at Greenvale Park

Kindergarten read about South Korea on a book in Epic

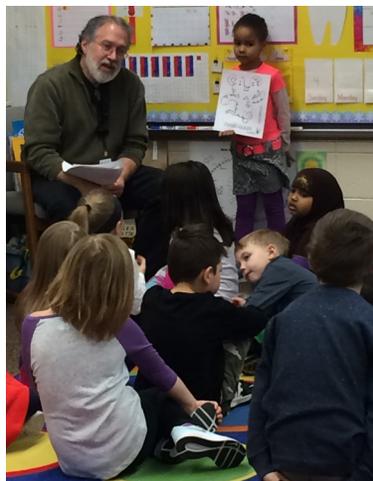
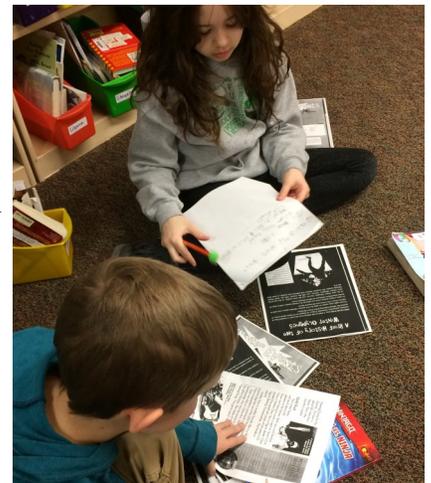
First grade read about the Olympic mascot from a web article.

Second grade read about the Olympic Rings and Torch from a Winter Olympics book.

Third grade read about the history of the Olympics and some winter Olympic sports from the same book as second grade.

Fourth grade read about a variety of topics on a book in Epic called G is for Gold.

Fifth grade also read a book in Epic called Incredible Olympic Records.



Community Services

Northfield Public Schools Community Services winter/spring 2015 brochure is out and below are some exciting class offerings taking place in February and early March. For more information or to register for these great programs visit us online at www.nfld.k12.mn.us (follow the Community Services link), call 507-664-3649, or visit our office on the first floor of the Northfield Community Resource Center at 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield. **Scholarships are available for all programs.**

Northfield Public Schools Community Services would like to invite you to our **Hand in Hand Preschool and EarlyVentures Child Care 2018 Open House** on March 1, 2018 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Longfellow School. We will have open registration for Hand in Hand Preschool for the 2018-19 school year and EarlyVentures summer 2018 and 2018-19 school year. For more information, please call us at 507-664-3750.

Lightsaber Dueling Episode II Class #: 1282-W18A
ages 8+ \$18 F, March 2 6:30-8 p.m. Longfellow Gym

Girls on the Run Class #: 1211-W18G
girls grades 3 –5 \$150 (includes cost of 5K)
Tu & Th, March 20-June 2 3:15-4:45 p.m. Greenvale Park Music Room
5K– First weekend in June. Site TBA.
Register through Girls on the Run beginning Feb. 1 at www.GOTRtwincities.org



Adventure Mania—Ice Climbing Class #: 1112-W18Y
ages 8+ \$94 Sa, Feb. 24 1-6 p.m. Hard Water Sports

Horseback Riding Group Lessons—Ride with Confidence!
grades k-12 \$180 Cornerstone on the Vermillion
M, March 5-26 7-8 p.m. Class #: 1257-W18BYouth
M, April 2-23 7-8 p.m. Class #: 1257-W18CYouth

Hello Cupcake! Spring Edition Class #: 4331-W18A
grades 1-6 \$33 Th, March 8 3:30—5 p.m. Sibley Art Room

Home Alone Safety Workshop for Children Class #: 4354-W18
Grades 3—7 \$34 12:30—2:30 p.m. Sa, April 7 NCRC 225

Watch Me Draw: Create Like a Pro—Make it Pop! Class #: 4395-W18G
grades k-5 \$75 M, March 19-April 30 (no class March 26 & April 2) 3:25-4:25 p.m.
Greenvale Park Art Room

Yearbook Sale



Greenvale Park Elementary PTO is once again offering yearbooks for sale. To order your 2017-18 copy of the Greenvale Park Yearbook go online to ybpay.lifetouch.com. Enter yearbook code: 10524218. Soft cover yearbooks are \$15 each and upgrades are available. The deadline to order is March 2, 2018.

Spring Break

Monday, March 26 through Friday, March 30
Monday, April 2, no school, Teacher Work Day