

June, 2023
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Message from the Director

By Jim Kelly II

This has been an incredible year for our students in the Student Life Program. As I reflect back on the school year there have been so many activities – learning opportunities for our students. Each student has been involved in at least one after school activity (and some are involved in 2 or 3 activities) – EOS, VIP, Flying Hooves, Goalball and swimming club (lessons). It seems like every weekend there were special activities planned for your child: trips downtown, Dean’s Club dinner outs, game nights, Ice Breaker Fun Run, swimming in our pool, Halloween party, watching movies (on campus and at the theater), bowling, Griz game in Missoula, Holter Lake fishing trip, roller skating, 4-H Club, Cat-Griz party, Super Bowl party and on and on! It has been a pleasure to work with your children this school year.

Enjoy your summer and we'll see you on August 27th.

Senior Trip—Class of 2023





Cottage Graduation Party

This year we had a fun graduation party celebrating the two cottage students who graduated this year. Students made an entrance, read cards made by their cottage peers, gave speeches about what is next for them and had a great time socializing with the staff and students they have spent years with.



PROM 2023



STAFF BUZZ



A place where families and coworkers could brag about cottage staff to say, "Wow! They are good at their job!"?

I want to give a shout out to Erin Faulkner. Erin consistently shows how much she cares about our students in the activities she plans, skills she teaches, and whatever is necessary to ensure the success of our students. She is very dedicated and hardworking and always looks for ways to improve the services we provide for our students and community. We are so lucky to have you and thanks for all that you do! (Erin is a Counselor in the Cottage)

by a School Support Staff

FINDING FUN IN LEARNING: SEL

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

SEL addresses five broad and interrelated areas of competence:

Self-Awareness - abilities to understand one's own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior across contexts.

Self-Management - abilities to manage one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations and to achieve goals and aspirations.

Social Awareness - abilities to understand the perspectives of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds, cultures and contexts.

Relationship Skills - abilities to establish and maintain healthy and supportive relationships and to effectively navigate setting with diverse individuals and groups.

Responsible Decision-Making - abilities to make caring and constructive choices about personal behavior and social interaction across diverse situations.

In the 4th quarter, Cheri and Erin started teaching SEL to their students.

Cheri has reviewed recognizing emotions and calming strategies with the elementary students.

Erin has completed the following lessons. The area of competence addressed is also identified: Tools for calming (Self-Awareness and Self Management), Identifying Personal Attributes (Self-Awareness), Goal Setting (Self Management), and Perspective Taking (Social Awareness and Relationship Skills).

Student Council raises money all year from dues and fundraisers in order to pay for their annual trip. This year, the fun started on Saturday night with movies, popcorn and games. The next morning after a breakfast of cinnamon rolls, the crew took off for Holter Lake to spend some time in the sun and fishing on the dock. We had a wonderful time! Upon returning from the lake, students gathered for one of their favorite meals—PIZZA!



**Student
Council**

MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES



Outings/Activities

Weekly

- EOS (Mon/Wed)
- Swim Club (Mon/Tues)
- Goal Ball (Tues)
- SEL (Tues)
- 4-H (Tues)
- Student Council (Wed)
- VIP (Wed)
- School Store (Wed/Fri)
- Swimming (Wed/Sun)
- Workshops (Thurs)

Look what we did!

- Workshop:
- Prom (5/19)
- VI Games (5/20)
- Movie night (5/20)
- Holter Lake (5/21)
- Graduation Party (5/23)
- Graduation (5/26)
- Gym activities and Bowling (5/27)
- Swimming, water games, BBQ (5/28)
- The Little Mermaid and ice cream (5/29)
- Ryan Dam (5/30)

Coming Soon-

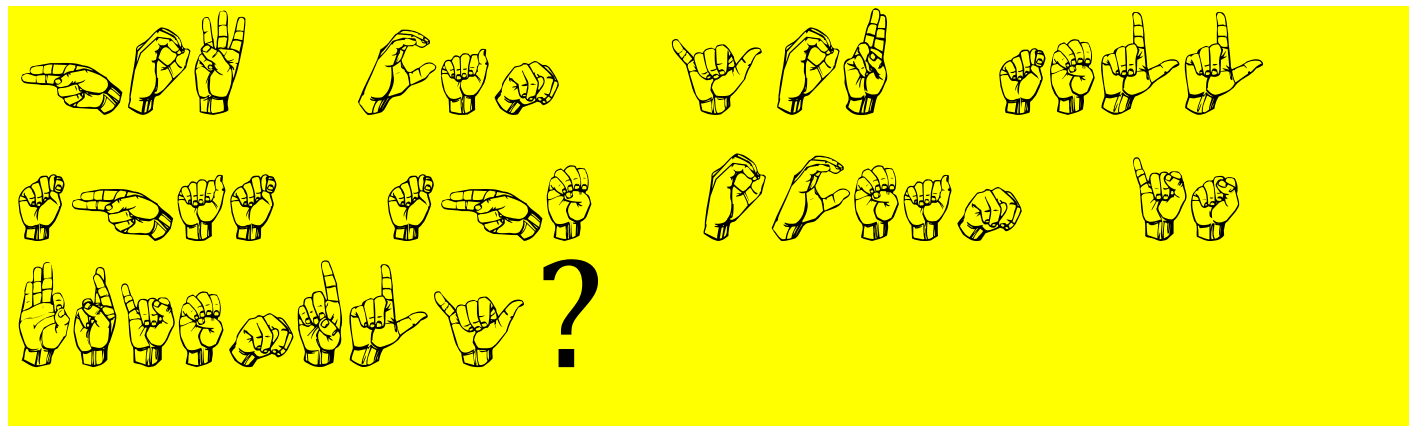
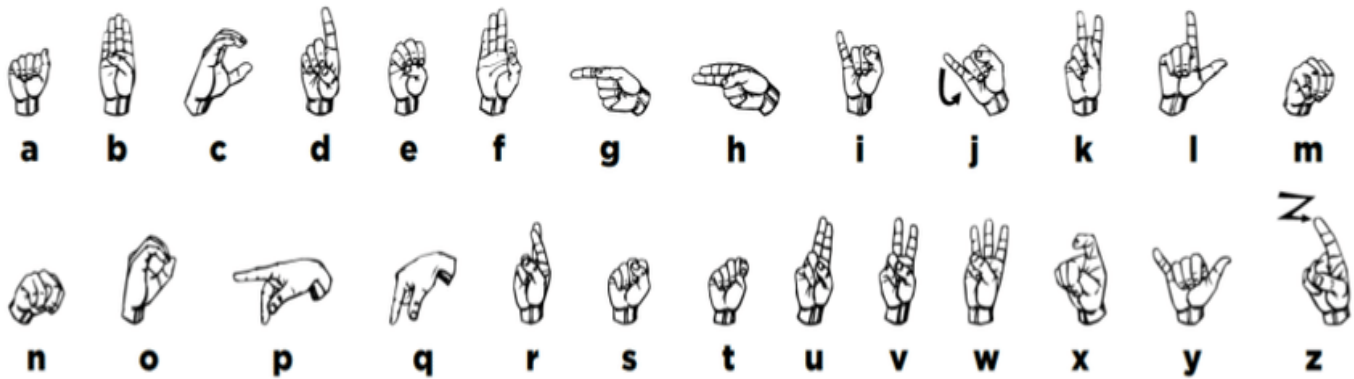
- Back to School (8/27)



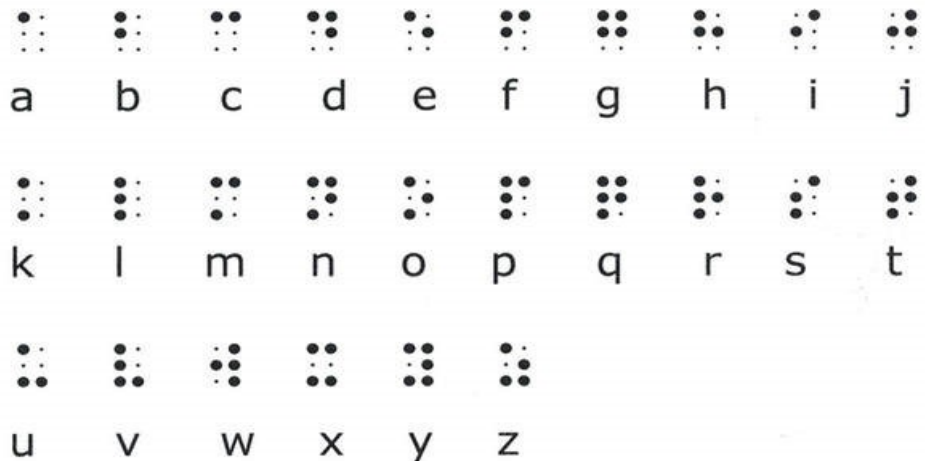
PUZZLE PAGE

Decode the phrases using ASL Fingerspelling and Braille!

Fingerspelling is the process of spelling out words by using hand shapes that correspond to the letters of the word. A set of hand shapes used to spell words is known as a "manual alphabet."



Braille is a system that enables blind and visually impaired people to read and write through touch. It was devised by Louis Braille in 1821 and consists of raised dots arranged in "cells." A cell is made up of six dots that fit under the fingertips, arranged in two columns of three dots each.



March 2023 Puzzler Answers:

Fingerspelling: What did the Easter egg ask for at the hair salon? Braille: A new dye job