

DODGELAND ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

December 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter the month of December, I find myself reflecting on the exciting journey we've taken together this school year. It has been a semester filled with learning, growth, and a sense of community that makes our school such a wonderful place to be.

It is a time to recognize the hard work our students have put into their learning and the kindness they have shown to one another. I encourage you to take the time to discuss with your child the various projects and activities they have participated in, as these experiences contribute significantly to their personal and academic growth.

We have several exciting events planned for December, including our Winter Concerts and Dress-Up Days. These events not only showcase our students' talents but also foster a sense of unity within our school community. I invite you to join us in celebrating these moments together.

As we approach the winter break, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your support and involvement in our school. Your partnership is invaluable in creating a nurturing environment for our children to thrive.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season filled with love, laughter, and precious moments with your families. Let's look forward to a new year of continued learning and growth.

Warm wishes,
Mrs. Huelsman
huelsman@dodgeland.k12.wi.us
920-386-4404 x 1013



DON'T MISS OUT:
**GET ALL THE LATEST UPDATES
AND ACCURATE INFORMATION**



VISIT THE DODGELAND EXCHANGE: [HTTPS://WWW.DODGELAND.K12.WI.US/DISTRICT/DODGELAND-EXCHANGE.CFM](https://www.dodgeland.k12.wi.us/district/dodgeland-exchange.cfm)

WINTER IS COMING

Winter will be here before we know it. To prepare for this, please make sure that your children have boots, snow pants, a warm coat, mittens/gloves and a hat for school. Our students go outside for recess twice a day as long as the temperature (including wind chill) is above 13 degrees. Recess is much more fun if they are warm and dry. If you need assistance with anything, please let us know.

Upcoming Events

Dec 9 WinterConcert for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd

Dec 10 Winter Concert for 3rd, 4th, 5th

Dec 15 2nd grade field trip - Milwaukee Museum

Dec 15 School Board Meeting

Dec 22-Jan 2 Winter Break

WINTER ALSO BRINGS THE COLD/FLU SEASON TOO!

We all know how important it is for students to be at school. Missing school affects their learning and can cause anxiety when they return in trying to get caught up. However, when students are ill they should be kept home. Sick children need quiet rest to recuperate. We are unable to provide the down time they need here at school. When they return to school they should be well enough to participate in normal school activities unless a written statement from the physician limits participation.

Below is from our Elementary Student/Parent Handbook for your reference:

Keep Your Child Home If He/She Has:

- Fever** – A temperature of 100 degrees or more.
- Diarrhea** – Increased number (3 or more) of abnormally loose stools in the last twenty-four hours. Abdominal cramping may accompany loose stool.
- Persistent or Uncontrolled Cough** – if your child is unable or unwilling to appropriately wipe their own noses or cover uncontrollable cough or sneezing, the child should be kept home to protect others from exposure.
- Vomiting** – If your child has vomited during the night or that morning.
- Eye/Nose Drainage** – yellow/green thick and draining.
- Sore Throat** – Especially when fever, redness, and/or swollen glands in the neck are present.
- Earaches** – Especially if history of ear infections exists. If a child has an elevated temperature, is tugging or digging in ear, and/or is sitting holding affected ear in hands.
- Appearance/Behavior** – child looks or is acting differently than usual, unusually tired, pale, lacking appetite, or is irritable, whiney.
- On antibiotics less than 24 hours.**

DODGELAND'S PROTOCOL WHEN YOUR CHID IS SICK

When children become ill at school they report to the nurse's office. If any of the above listed conditions are present, office personnel will contact parents, guardians or their designees if the child is too ill to remain at school. Ill children should be picked up **promptly** once the contact person has been notified. The school does not have the capability to keep ill children at school. If the parent/guardian is not available, the contact person listed as the Emergency Contact will be notified. At least one of the persons listed under Emergency Contacts should live within a 15-mile radius of the Dodgeland Schools and have transportation resources, in case they are called upon to pick up an ill child. Please keep the Emergency Contact information up to date!

Any student that is picked up early from school due to illness must stay home from school for 24 hours symptom free without medication the following school day unless it is a Friday. This day is medically excused by the school nurse. Any student absent from school may not participate in extracurricular activities that day or evening as well.

Parent Tips to Try to Keep your Child Healthy

- Maintain a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Ensure students eat a good breakfast every morning, or encourage them to eat breakfast at school.
- Stress hand washing, particularly before and after eating, and after using the bathroom.
- Reinforce the importance of avoiding close contact with individuals who are sick, and not sharing cups and/or utensils with others.
- Encourage them to eat healthy foods and drink plenty of water.

HELPING YOUR CHILD BECOME AN AVID READER

Learning to read takes practice, practice, practice. Plus, it can be a wonderful bonding experience for you and your child. The more enjoyable the practice is, the more they will want to do it. Here are some ways to help encourage reading practice in your home! Becoming a strong reader will have a positive lasting impact on their school career.

1. **Read together every day.** You can read the morning news at breakfast, share a story after supper, or cuddle up for a book at bedtime. A daily reading routine is something everyone can look forward to.
2. **Talk and build vocabulary.** Interesting conversations build vocabulary, language skills, and knowledge about the world. Talk is a child's best source of exposure to new words and ideas and is the foundation for reading.
3. **Model reading.** Kids want to do what the grownups do. Make sure your kids get to see you reading and hear you talk about it.
4. **Point out print.** Read and talk about the words you see in the world around you. There's lots to read—signs, recipes, cereal boxes, instruction manuals, bus schedules, news, maps, and menus.
5. **Visit the library.** Take advantage of all the books, materials, story times, programs, and resources your local library has to offer.
6. **Encourage your child's reading.** Praise the efforts of a soon-to-be or beginning reader. Make sure schedules of older readers include time for reading for pleasure.
7. **Ask questions when you read.** Ask your child to guess what comes next. Ask open-ended questions that help them relate to characters or events in the book. Let your child get involved and ask questions too—interruptions are okay!
8. **Encourage re-reading.** Repetition helps kids learn. Re-reading favorite books and poems helps kids make meaningful connections between themselves and books.
9. **Get help.** If you have concerns about your child's language development, hearing, or vision, see your child's pediatrician as soon as possible.
10. **Have fun.** Your idea of fun may differ from your child's, so appreciate your child's special joy for learning new things. Try different approaches, such as having them read to you or acting out a favorite story. Even something as simple as a story time outside can make reading together livelier and more memorable for you and your child.



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***The Dodgeland Den is closed during Winter Break.
It will re-open on Monday January 5, 2026.***



Black Clothing Drive – Seeking Gently Used Black Clothing & Shoes for Music Students

We are currently collecting gently used black clothing and black shoes for our music students to wear during performances. If you have any items you'd like to donate, please drop them off at the MS/HS office.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



A Message from our Special Ed Director –

The holidays can bring joy, but we also recognize they can bring extra stress for some. Please know that your well-being is important to us. If you find yourself in need of resources or assistance as we head into the holiday season, please reach out to Jen Johnson. We are dedicated to connecting you with the help available in our community.

Jen Johnson
920-386-8293
johnsonjen@dodgeland.k12.wi.us

THE 2026 YEARBOOK



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yearbook.

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Dodgeland Child Find

A typically developing 3 and 4 year-old can...

	Social/Cognitive	Speech/Language	Gross Motor	Fine Motor
3 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage in pretend play imitate basic actions follow a daily routine waits 1-3 minutes to get their needs met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starts to ask and answer basic questions name many pictures and items uses 3+ word sentences understood by family most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pedal a tricycle independently jumps forward, landing with both feet runs and stops with control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies a cross, circle, and simple letters manage clothing: pulls on shirt/pants with little help feed themselves with a fork/spoon
4 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> follow adult directions most of the time tells familiar stories identify basic colors and shapes take turns and enjoys playing with peers most of the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> asks and answers specific who, what, and where questions engages in short conversations speaks in sentences understood most of the time by strangers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> walk up and down stairs with alternating feet hop on one foot catch a ball with both hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> copies square and some capital letters dress and undress independently use a fork and spoon neatly



Dodgeland
S C H O O L S

The Road to a Better Tomorrow

December

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1	2 UGLY SWEATER DAY 	3 Workout Wednesday 	4	5 PURPLE PRIDE 
8 Packer Gear 	9 WINTER CONCERT: K, 1ST, AND 2ND	10 WINTER CONCERT: 3RD, 4TH, 5TH	11	12 PURPLE PRIDE 
15 MERRY MONDAY  2ND GRADE FIELD TRIP - MILWAUKEE MUSEUM	16 FEELING FROSTY: WEAR AS MUCH WHITE AS YOU CAN 	17 HOLIDAY CHARACTER DAY: DRESS AS A CHARACTER FROM A HOLIDAY STORY	18 POLAR EXPRESS: WEAR YOUR COZY CHRISTMAS JAMMIES 	19 FESTIVE FRIDAY: DRESS IN YOUR MOST FESTIVE HOLIDAY LOOK 
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31	1	2

Winter Break

Winter Break