



Zion Classical Academy

Monthly Newsletter

February 2025



February News

February is one of the most important months in the school year. By this time, teachers have taught expectations and routines. They have reviewed the necessary skills from previous learning. Now, it is time to learn a great many new and exciting things. For the important learning to happen in the most effective way, we need our students to be at school every day. They should have enough rest to use their energy during important learning. That is why it is crucial for kids to have enough sleep at night. This is where we ask parents to help us by making sure our students go to bed early and get at least 8-10 hours of sleep. We appreciate your help in this important matter.

During the winter season, children spend much time indoors because of the cold temperatures and shortened daytime. Many children's favorite activity may become screen time, but researchers have noticed that technology habits impact their ability to learn. Studies show that when children have screen time limited to less than 2 hours a day, they perform better on cognitive assessments. Here are some suggestions for a healthy screen diet for children from [Mindful Schools](#):

- Decide what you want to do before getting on technology
- Talk to children about the impact of technology use
- Create screen-free spaces and times
- Put your phone away while having a conversation with your child

The winter season tends to linger. When February in Nebraska provides warm sunny days, be sure to unplug and enjoy the gift; it's sure to get cold before long, and you won't want to miss them.

New Music Teachers

ZCA has hired two music teachers for the spring semester. Our new general music teacher is Carla Post. She has many years of experience, is an exceptional pianist/organist, and is an accompanist at Hastings Middle School. She will help students learn to be music literate and appreciate the audio arts.

Ray Kirkpatrick will be teaching our band classes. Mr. Kirkpatrick helped out last year while Mrs. Brown was away on leave. Welcome back to ZCA!



Chess Club

Our chess club will kick off on February 6th. Students in grades 3rd through 6th are welcome to play after school on Thursdays; all skill levels are welcome. Students can play matches from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. The ESU9 chess tournament is scheduled for April 1st. If you are curious about our chess club or are interested in helping, please contact Mr. Adams.

Spelling Bee

The annual Spelling Bee competition is on February 7th. Ms. Piel has been coaching after school with our participants to practice tricky words and commonly misspelled words. Our participants this year are Emery Allen (2nd), Max Scheil (2nd), Eden Fakkema (2nd alternate), Cate Peterson (3rd), Noah Siebert (3rd), Jack Fink (3rd alternate), Karsyn Piel (4th), Julia Jabs (4th), Luca Snider (4th alternate), Hannah Jabs (6th), Remington Novotne (6th), and Claire Peterson (6th alternate). Have fun, and best wishes to all of our participants!



Enrollment Opens

Returning families can enroll for the 2025-26 school year. To enroll, visit our website and click Admissions. Yearly tuition papers will be sent home with students in the first week of February.

Enrollment for new families will begin on February 18th.



World Fair, February 20th

Teachers have begun working on our World Fair evening, scheduled for February 20th. At this event, students study and share about cultures from around the world. Our younger students work on the project in collaboration with their teacher, while our older students work on individual projects.

The World Fair will be from 5:00-6:00 p.m in the gym.

Pre-Kindergarten Open House

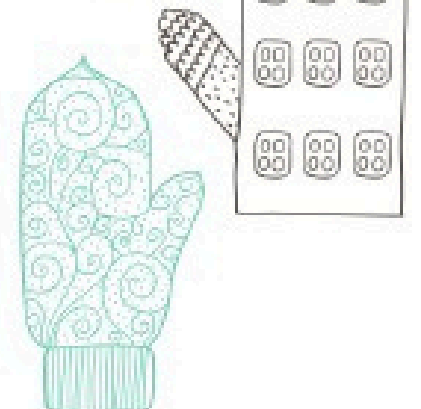
Our pre-kindergarten open house will be held on two evenings: February 6th and February 10th, both days from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. We have had a strong interest in our all-day program for next year's enrollment. If you know families that are interested, please have them contact the office soon.



The next PTU meeting is February 4th at 6:30pm in the East Fellowship Hall

Celebrating the Month in Stories: A February Reading Challenge for Kids

- For Black History Month, read a Coretta Scott King Award-winning book. (Named for Martin Luther King Jr.'s wife, this award is given to the most distinguished children's and teen's books about the African American experience. You can find a list of all the winners since 1970 at ala.org.)
- Find a book that rhymes and read it aloud. Using a silly voice is encouraged.
- Reread a favorite picture book and write or draw a valentine to one of its characters.
- Celebrate Presidents' Day (the third Monday of February each year) by reading a book about a U.S. president.
- Close your eyes and run your hands along a shelf in the library. Choose any book at random and read it.
- Read the first book in a series you've never tried.
- Ask a Librarian: What's a book you fell in love with as a kid (or a kids' book you've read lately) that you think I should read?
- Read a book with a delicious food in the title.
- Read a book about an athlete. (If you're really into winter sports, tack on a book about one of your favorites!)
- Read a book under the covers. Any time of day will do, but we recommend using a flashlight!



FEBRUARY

2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 CHILI DOGS FRENCH FRIES	4 SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS	5 MAC & CHEESE HAM	6 PANCAKES SAUSAGE	7 CHICKEN BOWL *POPCORN CHICKEN, MASHED POTATOES, CORN*
10 SWEET & SOUR CHICKEN RICE	11 BEEF TACOS BEANS	12 HOT DOGS	13 CHICKEN BACON RANCH WRAPS POTATO WEDGES	14 HAMBURGERS
17 CHICKEN NACHOS BEANS	18 LOADED POTATOES WITH BBQ BEEF	19 FRIED CHICKEN	20 TORTELLINI GREEN BEANS	21 PIZZA
24 CHICKEN BACON RANCH PASTA	25 BEEF TACOS BEANS	26 HAM SUB SANDWICH & CHIPS	27 BISCUITS & GRAVY	28 TATERTOT CASSEROLE

ZCA is an equal opportunity provider.
Fresh fruit and vegetables available daily.