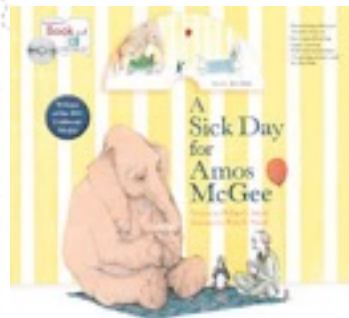
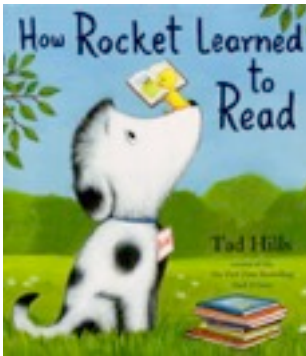


# Bluejay Buzz

## Plum Creek Author Visits



Seward Elementary is extremely fortunate to have two famous authors visit our school on September 28th, thanks to Concordia University's Plum Creek Literacy Festival. Our students will be listening to three authors this year: Philip Stead, Matthew Cordell, and Tad Hills! Each of these authors have written amazing children's books that are an absolute hit with our students. A HUGE thank you goes out to Concordia University for planning this special event for our students. We are so excited to meet these famous authors!

### ***Mission of Seward Public Schools***

The school district of Seward, in cooperation with parents and community, affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. The district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially and physically.

### Upcoming Dates:

September 4th:  
No School - Labor Day

September 6th-14th:  
2nd - 4th Grade NWEA  
Testing

September 12th:  
Kindergarten Parent  
Meeting

September 18th:  
Staff Development Day -  
No School

September 20th - 21st:  
Kindergarten Specials Field  
Trip to Concordia

September 26th:  
PTO Meeting @ 7:00 PM in  
Room 110

September 27th:  
Picture Retake Day

September 28th:  
Plum Creek Author Visits



# Principal's Message

What an amazing start to the school year! The past few weeks have been full of learning, making new friends, and getting back in the swing of the school routine. After a long summer in an empty building, I have realized that school is so much more enjoyable with students in the building! Walking around the classrooms in our school, it is easy to see how special our students are. I've been so fortunate to get to know our new Kindergarten students and can say they are a great addition to our school!

With the start of a new school year, comes getting back into routines. I know at our house, my husband and I have two very tired girls at the end of the day! Our girls, like all children, perform their best when they are well-rested. It seems like bedtime has gotten earlier and earlier since the end of summer vacation, but it has been so important for them.

Another routine that has started back up in my house is homework. At Seward Elementary, you can expect your child or children to have regular homework. We hope that all children read or are read to each night. Your child will also have math homework (Monday's, Tuesday's, and Thursday's) or spelling practice (grades 2-4) that reinforces what your child did at school during the day. Homework should never take more than 30 minutes or so (much less for younger students). If your child is taking longer than 30 minutes on homework, please make sure to contact his or her teacher. We want your children to enjoy their time after school with family, playing outside, and doing whatever they love!

Our school also has a new math program this year called Envisions. As you read in the letter that went out the first week of school, our new program is more challenging. It will take time for our students to get used to the new program and curriculum. As stated above, if your child is frustrated or the homework is too difficult for them, please contact your child's teacher so they can help make adjustments if needed. The adoption of a new program takes time. We will continue to build the foundational math knowledge students need in order to be successful in the years to come!

I can't say enough how excited I am for the 17-18 school year! Thank you for sending such amazing children to us every day! Our school is a better place thanks to all of you! As always, please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions, or you can reach me by email at [jessica.dominy@sewardschools.org](mailto:jessica.dominy@sewardschools.org).



## Title I Highly Qualified Substitute Statement

Seward Elementary will make every possible effort to hire highly qualified substitutes for long term subbing during the 17-18 school year.



DOES YOUR CHILD RIDE THE BUS? IF SO, PLEASE READ!!!

If your child is not riding the bus for any reason, it is the parent's responsibility to let both Seward Elementary know and let Transportation know. If we do not receive a note or phone call from a parent, students will be on the bus. Students coming to school saying they are not supposed to ride the bus is not enough. We must hear from parents to take students off the bus.

## SEWARD ELEMENTARY STRATEGIC PLAN

Seward Elementary has four goals that we will work on over the course of five years, beginning in the 14-15 school year. All certified staff members work towards these goals throughout the school year in an effort to make Seward Elementary the best it can be! Our progress towards meeting goals on our Strategic Plan throughout the year will be shared in the Bluejay Buzz. If you have any interest in serving on our School Improvement Team, please send an email to [jessica.dominy@sewardschools.org](mailto:jessica.dominy@sewardschools.org).

Strategy #1: We will develop and implement building wide plans to address behavior through the RTI process.

Strategy #2: We will develop and implement plans to improve writing instruction.

Strategy #3: We will develop and implement plans to promote and sustain a positive school climate for all students.

Strategy #4: We will develop and implement plans to differentiate instruction within the RTI process to meet individual needs in reading and math.



**A big thank you goes out to the Seward Elementary PTO for providing such an amazing Welcome Back Picnic for our families last week!!!**

# HOMECOMING WEEK: SEPTEMBER 11TH-15TH:

SEPTEMBER 11TH: CRAZY SOCK DAY

SEPTEMBER 12TH: 50'S DAY

SEPTEMBER 13TH: TIE DYE DAY

SEPTEMBER 14TH: 80'S DAY

SEPTEMBER 15TH: BLUE AND GOLD DAY

At Seward Elementary, we participate in the Homecoming Week festivities. Students are welcome to dress up on the above days and our week will culminate with the High School Parade coming by our school. This is a great opportunity to be a part of the Seward Public Schools community!