



Seneca Elementary School | Where Your Future Begins!

Mrs. Durych's | Grades K-2

Week of September 09, 2024 | Vol. 1/Issue 1

Welcome to Mrs. Durych's Classroom!

Hello, Seneca families!

I am thrilled to introduce myself as your child's Kindergarten through Second Grade teacher this year. My name is Mrs. Durych, and I look forward to an exciting and productive year ahead with your children.

About Mrs. Durych's Family

I am married to Jay, a retired administrative law judge, and we have three wonderful children. Our oldest is a 33-year-old son who works as an electrical engineer in Anchorage, Alaska. Hunter, our second oldest son, is 18 and currently working in the family's tax and bookkeeping business. Lily, our youngest (daughter), is 17 and a junior at Grant Union High School. Our family also includes three dogs—Zeke, E.B., and Keanu—and five cats named Jimmy, Jack, Belle, Ponyboy, and Sodapop. We moved from Anchorage, Alaska, to John Day, Oregon, four years ago, and we are loving our life in this beautiful area.

About Mrs. Durych

I was born in Minnesota and moved with my family to Alaska when I was 15. I graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage with a Bachelor of Administration in Accounting. Later, I pursued my passion for education by taking master's classes, specializing in Waldorf Education. Four years ago, I moved to John Day, Oregon, where I previously taught Career Tech Education, Business, and Computers at the high school level and served as the FBLA advisor. I am beyond excited to now be a K-2 teacher at Seneca Elementary School and look forward to a wonderful year with your children.

Interests and Hobbies

In my free time, I love to cook, bake, and entertain friends and family. Being out in nature is another passion of mine. My family has fish camps in Soldotna, Alaska, where we enjoy fishing and spending time together. I also love riding my fat tire bike and reading a good book.

Important Dates to Remember

- Monday, September 2: Labor Day Holiday (No School)
- Tuesday, September 3: Picture Day – Please make sure your child comes dressed for photos, with their hair combed, and **remember to bring the picture packet!**
- Class Meeting for Parents: Date TBD - Please stay tuned for more information.

What We Did in Class This Week

This week has been full of fun and learning! Here's a glimpse of what we've been up to:

- **Bread Baking:** The students had the chance to make and bake bread rolls. We enjoyed sharing them with everyone!

- **Nature Walk:** We went on a nature walk to observe the signs of fall. The students collected various natural items, which we are using to create a beautiful nature table in our classroom.

- **Art:** We've been exploring the joy (and challenge) of finger knitting, and the students are eagerly learning this new skill.

- **Math:** We are reviewing counting from 1 to 20 and exploring simple addition using number lines, stumping, ball passing, and manipulatives. These activities are helping us understand basic addition. We are also learning to solve simple addition using story problems.

- **Language Arts:** We are reviewing and practicing our Upper Case letters, discussing words that start with each letter as we are working on it, and writing simple sentences (ie. I love bread!).

Verses We Are Learning

- **Verse 1:** "The Earth is firm beneath my feet. The sun shines bright above. And here I stand so straight and strong, all things to know and love."

- **Verse 2:** "Whether the weather be fine or whether the weather be not, we'll weather the weather, no matter the weather, whether we like it or not."

Things to Remember

- What to Bring to School

- Water bottle
- Gym shoes
- Snack
- Appropriate outdoor gear (hats, mittens, boots, coats, etc.)

- For Students:

- Get a good night's sleep
- Eat a good breakfast
- Have fun at school!

Outdoor Activities

Please note that we will be spending as much time outdoors as possible, so it's important to dress your child in appropriate clothing for the weather, whether it be hats, mittens, rubber boots, winter boots, coats, or raincoats.

Thank you for being a part of our classroom community. I'm looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Durych

Kindergarten through Second Grade Teacher
Seneca Elementary School

