

The SMART Academy



Owl

March 2021 Edition

Hello SMART Academy Family!!!

As the saying goes, in like a lion and out like a lamb. Welcome to the month of March and to another edition of the SMART Academy Owl. March can be a rather overlooked month. By the time most people get to March, they want winter to be over with and are simply looking ahead to April and spring. It seems as if March also has somewhat of an identity crisis. It isn't exactly sure whether it is a winter month or a spring month

Despite the inconsistency in the weather, and the desire to simply get to April showers and May flowers, March is a significant month for several reasons. March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, a commemoration of the patron saint of the country of Ireland. March 18th is the first day that we will have students back in the building at SMART Academy. And March 27th begins the week of Passover, an extremely important celebration for those of Jewish faith.

More universally applicable, however, is that March is Women's History Month, a month to recognize and celebrate the historical, cultural, and political achievements of women. The highlight of the month is March 8th, International Women's Day. It is a day to not only recognize and celebrate those achievements, but to also take action in supporting global causes that to fight gender inequality around the world.

Whether you are a woman or not, nearly everyone has had a woman in their life who has influenced them in a profound way. Women have such an impact on our families, our society, our country, and on our world. When speaking about the United States, Coretta Scott King addressed the women of the country and said, "Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe you must become its soul." She realized the power and influence of women in society.

So, as we journey through March, let us hold fast to what Michelle Obama wrote in a letter to actress Lily Collins. "Here's to strong women. May we know them, may we be them, may we raise them" (original source unknown)

IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES

Monday, March 8 – International Women's Day

Wednesday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 18 – K and 1 return to school

Friday, March 19 – Grades 2-4 return to school

Saturday, March 20 – Spring Equinox

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*School • Family • Community
Together We Build Futures*

SMART Teacher of the Month

Nisaa Tate

Mrs. Tate is in her first year teaching at SMART Academy. Family is very important to her. When she is not at school, she enjoys spending time with her husband, her dad, and her dog. Mrs. Tate also enjoys music. She sings in the choir at her church and plays the piano. In her spare time, she enjoys watching movies and playing video games. She loves all video games having to do with Mario and also plays Madden. She probably chooses the Browns as her team when she plays since she is a fan of all Cleveland sports teams.



Author of the Month

Jaqueline Woodson



Photo credit © Terry Umans

Author of 21 novels, 13 picture books, and one memoir

Has won numerous awards including several Newberry Awards, the Hans Christian Anderson Award, and the Children's Literature Legacy Award.

Has published a book nearly every single year for the past 30 years.

Best known for *Miracle's Boys*, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, *Feathers*, and *Show Way*



Joke of the Month

What do you call a snake
that builds things?
Answer on last page

Superintendent's Corner

Hello Families,

As March rounds the corner, we are preparing for our full reopening this month. Information was sent on February 25, 2021 about our reopening plan, which includes the rules and safety protocols that will be implemented. We will contact each individual family in the next week to discuss the plan and other important details, so please watch for a call from someone at SMART Academy.

March also means Spring is coming, and the weather should be changing soon. In the month of March, we celebrate National Reading Month. March 2 is National Read Across America Day, a day to celebrate our favorite activity, reading. The day was established by the National Education Association (NEA) in 1998 to help get kids excited about reading. On National Read Across America Day, students, teachers, parents, and community members around the nation come together to read books and celebrate the joy of reading.

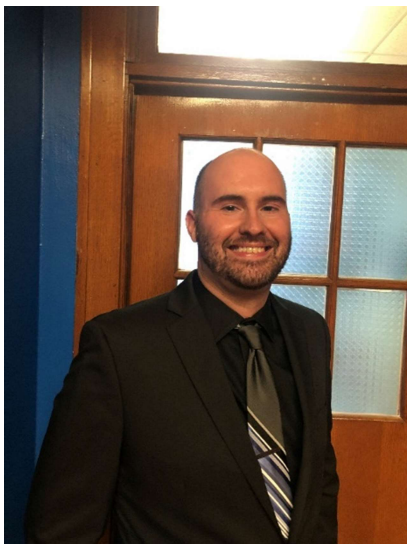
This day calls all children and youth in every community across the United States to celebrate reading. It encourages them to read wherever they are. Great ways to inspire reading in children include:

- Keep books everywhere you spend time. Put them in the car, in every room of the house, and tuck them in backpacks and purses. Make them easily accessible.
- Visit the library often. Knowing how to use the library and learning the benefits of a library fosters a love of reading as well as genuine respect for the services libraries provide.
- Read on your free time. Children imitate what they see the adults around them do. Whether they see you read a magazine, newspaper, or novel, let them know reading is the cool thing to do.
- Read to your children. No matter their age, reading aloud strengthens their vocabulary and language skills. It also opens opportunities for discussion.
- Have your children read to you! You never know what you might learn!

We are looking forward to having all students return to SMART Academy this month. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 216-714-3801 Ext. 0 with any questions. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Robert Aitken, Ph.D.
Superintendent
SMART Academy



Pit Viper Facts

Appearance – Because there are so many species of pit viper, they vary greatly in size, color, and markings. Some are brightly colored, and some are more subdued. Some have markings and some do not.

Diet – Pit vipers are carnivores, as are all snakes.

Name – The name “pit viper” refers to the loreal pit, also known as a fossa, with which these snakes detect their prey.

Size – The smallest pit viper is the hump-nosed viper at barely 12 in long. The largest is the bushmaster, which can grow to be nearly 12 ft long!

March Animal of the Month – Pit Viper

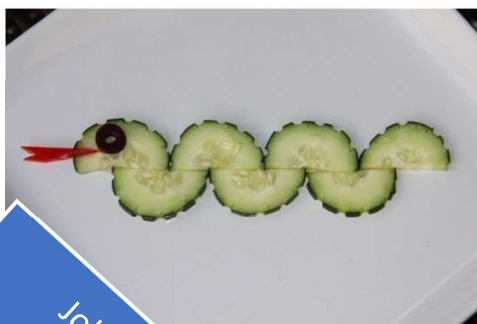


In honor of St. Patrick who, as legend has it, drove all venomous snakes out of Ireland, the animal of the month for March is the pit viper. Pit vipers are a sub-family of venomous viper that are native to both North and South America as well as much of Europe and Asia. Roughly 190 species of snakes fall into the category of pit viper, making it a very broad term. The distinct characteristic of a pit viper is a heat sensing organ between the eye and the nostril on both sides of its head. Because almost all pit vipers are nocturnal, this organ, called the loreal pit, is how it is able to sense its prey without actually seeing it.

SMART Snack of the Month – Cucumber Snake

Ingredients/Tools

1 Cucumber
Raisins
1 Red Pepper
Knife



Directions

1. Rinse the cucumber and red pepper in cold water.
2. Cut the cucumber horizontally into circles.
3. Cut the circles in half.
4. Arrange the cucumbers to create the snake body as seen in the picture.
5. Place one raisin at the snake's head for an eye.
6. Cut the red pepper into thin slices.
7. Place one slice at the head for the tongue.
8. Enjoy.

Joke Answer
A boa constructor!!!