



LEAVENWORTH VIRTUAL SCHOOL VOICE

March 2nd is Read Across America Day, so declared because it is the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel, more commonly known as Dr. Seuss, the author of over 60 beloved children's books. His most popular children's stories include "The Cat in the Hat," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "Horton Hears a Who!" and "Green Eggs and Ham." His books have evolved into 11 television specials, four feature films, a Broadway musical and four television series.

Geisel was born on March 2, 1904 in Springfield, MA. His parents were Henrietta Seuss and Theodor Robert Geisel. His father managed the family brewery and later was appointed to supervise Springfield's public park system. Geisel's mother enjoyed reading to young Theodor and his sister and Geisel credits his mother with helping to develop his love of reading and words.

All of the Dr. Seuss books were also illustrated by the author. Geisel's father took his children to the zoo and young Theodor would take his sketchpad so he could draw the animals. In addition to writing and illustrating children's books, Geisel worked in advertising and was also a political cartoonist, magazine illustrator, poet, animator and an artist.

Dr. Seuss became Geisel's pen name while he was a college student at Dartmouth College

and a graduate student at the University of Oxford, from which he never graduated, choosing instead to pursue a career as an illustrator. The name, Seuss, actually pronounced "Soice" to rhyme with choice, was Geisel's middle name. The public pronounces his name to rhyme with "deuce." That is the pronunciation that has stuck over the years. In 1956, Dartmouth awarded Geisel with an honorary doctorate, finally justifying the "Dr." in his pen name.

It wasn't easy for Geisel to get his first children's story, "And to Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street" published. It was rejected by over two dozen publishers before making it into print in 1937. "The Cat in the Hat" came about after his publisher asked him to produce a book using 220 new-reader vocabulary words that could serve as an entertaining alternative to the school reading primers that children found boring. It was published in 1957.

Geisel received the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal from the professional children's librarians in 1980, recognizing his "substantial and lasting contributions to children's literature." He won a special Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for his contribution of over nearly half a century to the education and enjoyment of America's children and their parents.

and under and \$10.00 for seniors 62 and over, military and students with I.D.s

The Leavenworth Animal Welfare Society (LAWS) 8th Annual Spay-Ghetti Dinner is Sunday, March 4th, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Luigi's Italian Restaurant, 418 Cherokee St., Leavenworth. Advanced tickets are available at Kansas Country Store, \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children 12 and under. Enjoy great food, raffles and a silent auction.

Don't miss the 35th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 17th, beginning at noon, downtown Leavenworth. A good time is sure to be had by all!

The first ever First City Film Festival has 50 submissions and will be held on Thursday, March 22nd through Sunday, March 25th in historic downtown Leavenworth at the Home2 Suites by Hilton, Leavenworth. VIP Festival passes are available now for \$50.00 each.

Join the Leavenworth Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, March 24th, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., for their annual Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 12 and younger. There will be games, activities, a petting zoo, bounce house and food vendors at 10th Avenue Park for this event.

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At the age of 87, Geisel died of oral cancer on September 24, 1991 at his home in La Jolla, California. Dr. Seuss's posthumous honors include being inducted into the California Hall of Fame, two Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award and he also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Perhaps you can read a Dr. Seuss book to celebrate Read Across America Day and the birthday of this favorite American children's book author!

REMINDERS

Dr. Seuss will be the topic of our Fun Friday on March 2nd, 10:00 a.m., at Nettie Hartnett Education Center, 1000 3rd Avenue. In room 205, we will be making green eggs and ham and Dr. Seuss craft items in honor of his birthday. Come and help us celebrate!

Art Workshop will be on Thursday, March 8th, 10:00 a.m. at Nettie Hartnett Education Center, room 205. We will be making birdhouses out of wood for our fine, feathered friends. Be prepared to do some hammering and decorating.

The Prairie Fire Museum, 5801 West 135th Street, will be our field trip destination on Friday, March 16th. Our tour of the museum begins at 10:00 a.m. and will last approximately an hour. The next hour will be spent doing interactive activities. Dinosaurs, fossils and paleontology will be the focus of museum displays during the time we are there. Group rate tickets are \$5.00 per person. We have purchased 25 tickets to the Prairie Fire Museum at this \$5.00 group rate. Please R.S.V.P. to the Virtual School Office, 913-684-1540, by Wednesday, March 14th. You may also email Kay.Hunter@usd453.org.

March 19th through 23rd is Spring Break for the Leavenworth School District and the Virtual School Office will be closed. The office will re-open on March 26th. It will close again on Friday, March 30th. Enjoy Easter weekend with your family that Sunday, April 1st, and also April Fools' Day!

Kansas State Assessment Testing will begin March 13th for students in third through the eighth grades, and continue into April. Your program facilitator will be contacting you soon to schedule a time for your student to take these tests.

Sample the finest local foods and beverages at the Sixteenth Annual "A Taste of Leavenworth," which is a fundraiser for the C. W. Parker Carousel Museum, First City Museum and the Fred Harvey Home restoration. This event will be on Saturday, March 24th, 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the Eagles Lodge, 300 S. 20th Street, Leavenworth.

LOCAL EVENTS

"Finding Light" is the title of the art on display at the University of Saint Mary, Goppert Gallery, 4100 S. 4th Street, Leavenworth. Shelby Prindaville, University of Saint Mary Program Director, is the featured artist. The exhibit will run March 1st through 9th.

Enjoy a Fish Fry on Friday, March 2nd, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Fraternal Order of Eagles Leavenworth #55, 300 S. 20th Street, Leavenworth. A delicious dinner of catfish fillets, baked beans, coleslaw, roll and dessert will be prepared and served by the First City of Kansas Ritual Team. This event, which is open to the public, is a fundraiser for the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Join the Friends of the Frontier Army Museum for "A Night at the Frontier Army Museum," from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Frontier Army Museum is located at 100 Reynolds Ave., Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027.

"It Shoulda Been You" is the play being presented by the River City Community Players at the Performing Arts Center, 500 Delaware Street, Leavenworth, on March 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th and 11th. Friday and Saturday evening showtimes are from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The Sunday matinee is from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults, \$7.00 for children 12