



# Unatego Elementary School

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February 3, 2021

**Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you.**  
Maori Proverb

**There's one good thing about snow. It makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbor's.**  
Clyde Moore

**This is one time where television really fails to capture the true excitement of a large squirrel predicting the weather.**

Phil Connors (Bill Murray – Groundhog Day)

Dear Parent / Guardian:

It's the day after Groundhog Day, and Punxsutawney Phil says we will have six more weeks of winter weather. For some people that is a blessing; for others who aren't big fans of snow, it is a curse. All I know is that I heard the sounds of the wild snowmobile herds racing up and down the hills on Tuesday having the time of their lives in the fresh snow.

The big question is always: Is the Groundhog accurate?

Here's some information from LiveScience describing groundhog weather forecasting accuracy.

From the LiveScience website, regarding the accuracy of Punxsutawney Phil:

...how does [Punxsutawney Phil] stand up against human forecasters? "If Punxsutawney Phil is right 39% of the time, that's much, much worse than a climatological prediction," Roche said. "Even if you flip a coin, you'll still be right close to half of the time. That's a 50 percent accuracy rate. So, you'll be better off flipping a coin than going by the groundhog's predictions."

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Here is a list of important dates in February and early March at the elementary school.

- February 3 – 12      STAR 360 - English Language Arts and Mathematics – computer assessments  
These are our mid-year STAR assessments. We will do one more round of STAR assessments in May.
- February 11 – 12    Valentine's Day celebrations in the classrooms. School is in session on February 12.
- February 15 – 19    NO SCHOOL – February Break for students
- March 2 - 3          PTO Book Fair

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Please don't hesitate to call or email me if you have questions, concerns, or would just like to chat about education.

Sincerely,

Mike Snider

