

EYES ON EASTLAKE

Volume 22 Issue 1

October 14, 2016

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Once again, I would like to welcome all of our Eastlake families back to school. On September 21st we had a great showing of parents as our teachers provided a wonderful overview of the year ahead. Thank you to all who participated.

You may have noticed that your classroom teacher spent time talking about our reading program. We do not use the traditional "reader" that you may be used to seeing. Through our Reading Workshop model of instruction, your child's language arts program provides opportunities to participate in reading as "real readers" do. It also allows us the opportunity to tailor instruction more individually and appropriately for each student in the class. In this way, more time is available for children to read.

In the Readers Workshop program, students do much more than just read. It involves many elements of balanced literacy. During this time, our students will:

- Listen to and respond to literature
- Participate in individual and small group reading instruction.
- Read individually and/or with other children.
- Select material at the appropriate level
- Participate in lessons on using various reading strategies
- Focus on comprehension
- Integrate reading and writing activities.

The ultimate goal in reading is understanding, stamina and enjoyment. We do our best to help students display these characteristics on a daily basis. We want our students to be motivated to read and write and hope that you can partner with us at home. Please encourage your children to read 15-30 minutes each night. Allow them to choose enjoyable material that is appropriate for their ability. Thank you and we appreciate your continued involvement in your child's education.

Best Regards,

Bryan Hershkowitz
Principal

A Note From The Nurse Eastlake School Child Safe Program

To ensure your child's safe arrival to school each day we have initiated a "child safe" program. If your child is going to be absent from school on any given day or arrive late, please call the school at **973-428-7583 extension 1** and leave a message before 9am. This message should include your name, your child's name, the name of your child's teacher and the reason for the absence or tardiness.

Please call each day your child will be absent. Thank you for your cooperation.

DATES TO REMEMBER

10/19 – 4th & 5th Grade Anti-Bullying Program, PHS

10/20 – PTA MTG 7pm

10/21 – Fire Safety Trailer

10/25 – Book Fair Set-Up

10/26, 27, 28 – Book Fair

10/27 – Family Reading Night

10/31 – Halloween Parade & Parties 1:30 pm

11/1 – School Picture Retakes

**11/8 – School Closed – Students
Professional Development
Day – Teachers**

**11/10 & 11/11 – School Closed –
NJEA Convention**



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Looking Ahead

Pre-School: We are off to a great start in Miss Bruss' preschool making new friends, learning about our school and classroom! We are beginning to explore fall changes and have begun a study on clothing. We are excited to have music class on Wednesday's this year with Mrs. Hamell and are having a great time in gym on Friday's! Please remember that we take the children outside everyday as long as it isn't raining and the mornings can be chilly so please send your child with a jacket and sneakers daily. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year together!

We're off to a great start in Miss Fairweather's class! We spent the month of September learning our new friends' names and classroom routines, as well as exploring the different Interest Areas available. This month, we will be focusing on Trees. We will be learning about the parts of trees, the ways trees change through the seasons, food that grows on trees and animals that live in trees. Please remember to have your child wear sneakers everyday for safety on the playground and during our gross motor times.



We are loving being back in school in Ms. Gonzalez's class! We just started a multi-week fall theme. We began with leaves and will be looking at how squirrels get ready for the winter and what crops are harvested in the fall. We're also getting ready for the visit from the fire truck. We are so excited! As long as the weather is warm enough and not raining, we will be heading outside to spend time on the playground. Please make sure to dress your child for the day's weather. Layers are a good idea since it is usually a lot colder in the morning than it is in the afternoon right now.

Mrs. Safarik students just finished an amazing study "All About Me". We found out who had brothers, sisters and their family pets. We just started our clothing study which should take almost the whole month. We will celebrate at the end with our Halloween Parade. Please remember to keep our snacks delicious and full of nutrition. Friday is PE day so sneakers are the preferred footwear for us athletes. This school year should be full of lots of fun and learning.

Kindergarten: Welcome to Kindergarten! We have made it through the first month of school. Students are still becoming familiar with the routines of our day. Please remind your child to practice writing their first name. We've been learning to write our name starting with an uppercase letter and using lowercase letters for the rest. Our classes have been focusing on using letter sounds to write words. You can support this work at home by using the following interactive websites and apps:

- www.starfall.com
- Beginning Sounds Interactive Game by Lakeshore Learning
- Phonics Song by Preschool Prep (You Tube)

We're so happy to hear the students talk about reading books at home. Reading with your child is a great way to reinforce many of the skills they learn throughout the day. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

First Grade: First grade is in full swing. Students have been given spelling assignments and are handing in homework. Thank you! Reading bags will be going home shortly. Please make sure to return them the following day. We are almost done with our first unit in Readers Workshop - "Building Good Reading Habits". Students have reading buddies and are becoming comfortable with our routine. We are in the editing process in Writers Workshop. Students have been writing about small moments in class. We are now reviewing our work editing for punctuation and capitalization.

Second Grade: We're off to a great start in second grade! In Reading Workshop, we have been building our reading stamina by applying new reading strategies, like giving a book a sneak peek before we read, and deciding how to change our voice as we read. In Writer's Workshop, we discussed the differences between a watermelon (big topic) and seed (small moment) idea to help us in our personal narrative unit. In Spelling this year, we will learn how words are spelled by identifying their spelling patterns, or 'chunks'. In Math, we've written two- and three-digit numbers in standard, expanded, and picture forms. In Social Studies, we are identifying the differences between urban, suburban, and rural communities. In Science, we are using our inquiry skills to think like scientists! Make sure you are reading at least 20 minutes at home to continue growing those 'reading muscles'!

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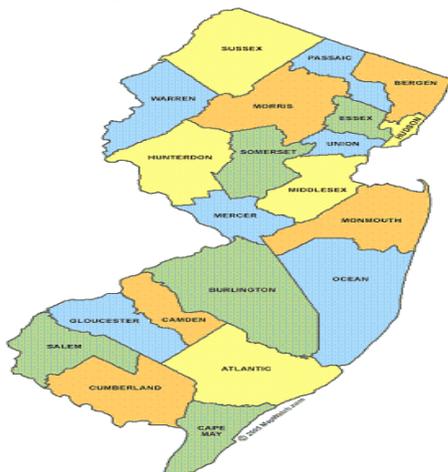
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Third Grade: Third graders are off to a fantastic start this year! We dove into both Reader's and Writer's Workshop like the pro's that we are. It was amazing to see how much third grade remembered about the set up and routines from last year. In Reader's Workshop, we are learning how to select within reach books so that we can read, read, read! We are also learning the importance of not just saying our words the right way, but now really focusing on building our comprehension. In Writer's Workshop, third graders are thinking deeply about how they can turn a small, precious moment into a stretched out true story. We are learning how to write as story tellers, not newscasters. This takes a lot of concentration and dedication, two things that third graders have a lot of!

In math class, we are almost through our first unit, having learned how to round, add and subtract large numbers. The rounding to the tens and hundreds place proved to be quite tricky, but as third graders we stuck with it and are finding success! During our science and health time we practice each day healthy habits to build strong relationships. During our recent STEAM project, we worked in groups using positive language even when we disagreed. This really helped us apply the scientific method in a respectful manner. We are also learning about some of the many tools that scientists use. We plan on using many of them in our future experiments.

Finally, in social studies, we have spent a lot of time learning about the different communities of New Jersey. We drew maps depicting the different communities and wrote about the features of each. It was a lot of fun to learn about communities that are unlike ours.

Well, this next month is going to be busy, busy, busy learning all kinds of new strategies, concepts, and lessons. We better get back to work!



Fourth Grade: The fourth grade has certainly been busy at the start of the school year! In reading, we are getting accustomed to Reader's Workshop and are enjoying how to pick our independent books. As a class, we are reading, "The Tiger Rising". The characters we've been introduced to are very interesting so far, and we can't wait to see what happens next! In math, we have finished reviewing place value and rounding. We're now moving on to estimating. The students know they should be continuing to practice their multiplication facts because you never know when a quiz may pop up! We've enjoyed learning about the wide variety of people who study science and are beginning to become scientists ourselves! Be on the lookout for some fun in-class experiments! Lastly, with the Presidential election coming up, we have been exploring the many jobs and responsibilities the president has. We have created a brainstorming list of what characteristics we think are important for the President to have. Hmmm, we wonder what would happen if a kid was president for a day?! We're looking forward to great and fun October!

Fifth Grade: Fifth grade has hit the ground running. We have been very busy learning all about the components of Reader's Workshop and finding our "just right book". We have introduced the children to book clubs where they will be broadening their understanding of annotation and discussion. In social studies, the children experienced what it was like for the colonists during the Colonial Era and how unfair it was to be taxed by the British without representation in Parliament. Be sure to ask your children all about our activity! What's the matter? Well, in science, we are learning all about the properties and changes of matter. The children will be tested on the first chapter in math. Please make some time over the weekend to log onto Think Central and review the material in chapter 1. Tests and quizzes are announced at least one week in advance. On Tuesday, there will be a test on Chapter 7 in social studies. A study guide was distributed and should be used as a tool to help the children be as successful as possible.



10 WAYS TO MAKE READING FUN FOR YOUR CHILD

1. Read aloud together.
Bring stories to life by using gestures and different voices for characters.
2. Create a comfortable reading spot that your child helps to arrange and decorate.
3. Make reading time special.
Turn off the TV and limit other distractions.
4. Provide reading-related surprises. Let your child stay up a little late to finish a chapter or a book, or turnout the lights and let your child read by flashlight.
5. Give books as gifts. Choose ones that you think your child will enjoy.
6. Start a home library. Devote all or part of a bookshelf as a place where your child can keep books.
7. Share some laughs. Take turns reading to each other from a book of jokes or a humorous story.
8. Encourage everyone to read while waiting for appointments or riding in the car, or at other “down” times.
9. If your child is interested in learning to do something new, have him/her find out more by reading about it.
10. Share your excitement about books and reading.
Talk about things you’ve read and why you enjoyed them.

REMEMBER: Positive reinforcement helps. Praise your child for every reading achievement.

