

EYES ON EASTLAKE

Volume 22 Issue 3

December 14, 2016

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

The 2016-2017 reading challenge has been kicked off. This year the reading challenge is called, “**The S’more You Read Challenge**”. Students have been challenged to read at least 20 minutes each night. Students can then color in one S’more on their reading log for every 20 minutes that they read. Parents should initial under each S’more after it has been colored in. Students can obtain a reading log from their teacher and get a new one each time it is completed. If Eastlake students read a combined 300,000 minutes, then SPLAT...I will get S’mored. What does that mean? Keep reading for at least 20 minutes per day and you will find out!

Here are a few of the ways reading with your child for 20 (or more) minutes a day benefits him or her.

Reading is “brain food”

Our brains develop as we “feed” them with experiences. The experience of reading (whether you’re the reader or the one being read to) activates and “exercises” many of the areas of the brain.

Reading improves listening skills

The experience of being read to helps children develop good listening skills by keying them into the components of language.

Reading builds early literacy skills

When you read with your child he/she learns that print is a representation of the words you say aloud. Repeated experiences with reading allow this understanding to grow. The single greatest factor in a child’s ability to read is early experiences being read aloud to.

Practice makes perfect

Generally, the more time you are exposed to something and the more time you spend practicing it, the better you’ll become at performing it. This is absolutely true for reading. Research shows that children who have repeatedly been exposed to books from birth generally exhibit strong reading abilities.

Reading improves academic performance

There is a strong correlation between a child’s ability to read and his/her academic performance. Because so much of our schooling relies on our abilities to read, children must have strong reading skills to succeed and thrive in school.

Reading improves relationships

Because we are busy it is difficult to have “quality” one-on-one time with our children without distractions. Building 20 minutes into each day for reading together provides this important bonding time.

And remember ...The S’more you read, the smarter you get!

Respectfully,

Bryan Hershkowitz
Principal

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Looking Ahead

Pre-School: We are enjoying our study on Pets in Ms. Bruss's class this month! The weather has certainly been cooperative in helping us to learn about winter weather! We are very excited to be singing a song on Friday with the 4th and 5th grade chorus and hope you can make it! We are looking forward to our Open House/Class Party on the 21st. I wish everyone a happy holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year! See you in 2017!

We're wrapping up 2016 with great work in Miss Fairweather's class! In these past few weeks, we have been completing our Music Making Study. Some of our favorite activities included playing different instruments, creating patterns with music and singing a variety of songs. Looking ahead, our next study will be clothing as the weather is getting colder! I hope to see many of you at our Holiday Party & Open House!

We have been busy, busy, busy in Ms. Gonzalez's class! We finally wrapped up our fall theme by learning what animals do to get ready for winter. We also joined in on Ms. Fairweather's investigation of music by studying percussion instruments. We will finish off December by looking at different holidays celebrated in December. Some will be traditional and some will be a little silly (National Cookie Day anyone?!) Please remember that as long as the wind chill is above freezing and the ground is dry, we will go outside twice a day. Please dress your child appropriately. If you have your child wear rain or snow boots, you can also send sneakers in their backpack. Sometimes the boots are too heavy and hot to wear all day.

Mrs. Safarik's has been busy learning all about pets. We opened a vet clinic in the classroom which has been a lot of fun. I think some children might be asking Santa for a new friend. We have learned so much this year while investigating all our fun filled studies. Time really has gone by quickly. See you all at the Winter concert and holiday craft day on December 21st. Wishing all of you a wonderful holiday season. Enjoy your time with family and friends. Be safe and healthy.

Kindergarten: Thank you all for taking the time to meet with us during conferences. We enjoyed discussing your child's progress and appreciate your continued support.

Our Super Readers have been learning about the special super powers they can use to help them become stronger readers. During Reader's Workshop, students spend time reading independently and with a partner to practice using these super powers when reading. Your child will begin to bring home "just right" books at the beginning of January.

With the winter months approaching, please practice self-help skills with your child. This includes, zippering/buttoning jackets and putting on hats and gloves. Please allow for extra time each morning and encourage your child to become more independent.

Please continue to read and count with your child at home. We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.



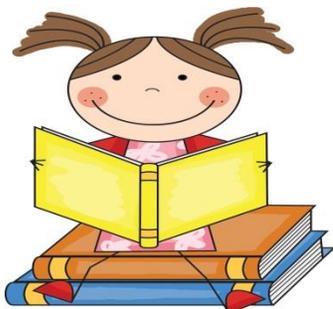
First Grade: First graders are starting a new unit in readers workshop called Word Detectives!!! They will be given a word detective tool kit and top secret missions!! Sounds exciting and we are looking forward to solving each mission. In writers workshop, we will be using all the knowledge we gained during our non fiction reading workshop to write non fiction chapter books. What an exciting time to be a first grader. We wish everyone a healthy and happy December and Holiday Season!!

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Second Grade: The weather outside is getting frightful, but inside our classrooms it is delightful. In Science, we are continuing to learn all about the engineering process. The students were amazed when they were able to successfully complete a STEAM activity where they built a table using paper and 10 centimeters of tape to hold the weight of a can of food! In Readers' and Writers' Workshop, we've been working very hard to identify and apply author's craft. We've learned that authors use craft moves to make their writing more interesting and meaningful to read about. Students have been jotting down craft moves, like repetition and descriptive language, to use in their own writing. In Math, students will begin to extend their knowledge of basic facts into 2-digit addition, where they will apply various strategies to find the sum. Please be sure your child is reading at home each night to continue building their reading stamina. Students should also remember to record their reading minutes for the 'S'more You Read' challenge. Second grade is looking forward to the winter concert and holiday party. It's going to be a holly, jolly good time!



Third Grade: Third graders have been busy little elves this month! We are wrapping up our first Reader's Workshop unit and cannot believe how much we are growing! We can now read for very long stretches of time and are growing into more challenging books. Our mystery unit is next, stay tuned to see what mysteries we learn to solve! Students in the third grade are also getting very close to publishing our personal narratives. As writers, we have taken on the large task of finding ways to include figurative language within our writing. We are also looking closely at how we can organize what we have written, so that our readers become captured by our writing. In just a few more days, we will have our published copies, ready to celebrate with each other!



In science class, third graders recently had a very large task. They were to design, collect materials, and build a bird's nest. This sounds fun right? Well, it wasn't just fun and games! Oh no, third graders then had to test the design and durability of our nests by dropping them three times with an actual egg inside! Needless to say, we had a lot of fun but learned a lot about how important the design process is. Third graders have also been busy, busy learning our multiplication facts. We can't believe that we are already up to the nine times tables! Before we know it, we will be multiplying two digits by two digits.

As we get ready to embark on new learning, we want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season! We are going to take some time to relax over our holiday break, so that we come back raring to go! Happy Holidays!

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Fourth Grade: The fourth grade has been working very hard to finish up our Multiplication Unit in Math. We're getting really good at multiplying 3 digit numbers! In reading, we have been discussing and analyzing characters, as well as debating to prompt rich book conversation. Our teachers are so proud of our how nicely our independent reading is coming along! In social studies, we're practicing our map skills, and we've been having fun using the write-on maps to locate different places around the world. Lastly, we are anxiously looking forward to hearing all of our hard work pay off at the Winter Chorus and Band Concert this week. Wish us luck!



Fifth Grade: T'is the season to learn how to add and subtract decimals, research and write a non-fiction inquiry project, construct a shipping container and learn about the westward expansion. In math, the students are relating decimals to real life experiences by shopping and creating a menu using a ShopRite circular. In reading, we have been learning about what it means to research and the different types of sources our information can come from. Can you create a shipping container using only cotton balls, popsicle sticks, cardboard, and tape? Well, the fifth graders were successful in constructing a container that kept a single Pringle chip from cracking when shipped. Make sure to ask your children all about it and try it at home! Wishing everyone a relaxing break and happy holidays!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 12/16 – Winter Concert 1:30**
- 12/19 – School Spirit Day –
Disney Character Day**
- 12/21 – Pre-K Open House/Parties
AM – 10:30
PM – 2:00
Ms. Fairweather 10:30
Ms. Gonzalez – 2:00**
- 12/23 – 1:30 Dismissal
K-5 Class Parties 10:30 – 12:00**
- 12/26 – 1/2 – Christmas Recess**
- 1/3 – School Re-Opens**
- 1/13 – School Spirit Day – Pattern Day
Wear as many different patterns
as possible**
- 1/16 – School Closed
Martin Luther King Jr Day**

Notes from the vocal music room

12/2016

Mrs. Mickey Hamell

Happy Holidays!!

The Kindergarten students are learning about high, middle, and low pitches. We have chanted and acted out the story of The Three Bears using our voices in different ranges.

This month we continue learning about fast and slow tempo while singing and moving with winter and holiday songs.

The first grade students are differentiating beat and rhythm. Beat is the heart beat- Thump...Thump.... Rhythm is the shorts and longs, the syllables of words. We can figure out how many sounds are on a beat. Very impressive! This month we will sing and dance for all the holidays.

Pre-K students are keeping the steady beat while singing songs for the season and the holidays. They are using their singing voices in beautiful ways.