

EYES ON EASTLAKE

Volume 22 Issue 6

March 17, 2017

Principal's Message

Dear Eastlake Families,

It's hard to believe that March is half way over. I hope that everyone stayed warm and safe during the late Winter snow storm. I for one am excited about the warm weather that is in our near future.

In other news, our students are very close to achieving their goal of 300,000 minutes in the S'more You Read Reading Challenge. I have promised the students that they can watch me get S'mored if this goal is attained. Although it may be messy, I am excited to see the amount of reading that takes place at Eastlake School and at home. I am looking forward to exceeding this challenge next year. For my sake, maybe we will raise the challenge to 500,000 minutes.

March also brings us Read Across America Week. At Eastlake School, we call it Read Across America Month. Mrs. O'Connor along with the students and staff at Eastlake celebrate this month with exciting weekly activities that promote reading. From the Seuss-A-Switch to Drop Everything and Read to meeting Author Rachel Burke, reading is in full force at Eastlake.

Looking ahead to April, the students will be celebrating Eastlake School's 50th Birthday. We opened a time capsule that was sealed in 1992 and on March 16, the students had the chance to view the artifacts. Each grade level took a museum walk through the gym to observe and learn about life at Eastlake in 1992. There was even one artifact from the original time capsule in 1967. Additionally, the students listened to an audio cassette with messages from the children in 1992. Our students will celebrate Eastlake's 50th birthday on April 6th.

Best Wishes,

Bryan Hershkowitz
Principal

Follow us on Twitter @EastlakeMrH

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 3/20 – No School for Students
Professional Development Day
For Teachers**
- 3/23 – 5th Grade Parent Mtg 6:30pm
PTA Mtg 7pm**
- 3/24 – School Spirit Day
Wear Eastlake Colors**
- 3/30 - 5th Grade GRO Field Trip – PAL**
- 4/4 – Expressive Reading Competition
4 – 7 pm PHHS**
- 4/6 – Eastlake 50th Birthday Celebration**
- 4/7 – Eastlake 50th Birthday Rain Date**
- 4/7 – School Spirit Day – Wacky Sock Day**
- 4/10 – 4/14 – School Closed
Spring Recess**
- 4/20 – Kindergarten Orientation**
- 4/21 – School Spirit Day
Wear Your Favorite Spring Color**
- 4/21 – Eastlake Tricky Tray – PAL**



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Looking Ahead

Pre-School: It was a pleasure meeting with all of you for parent teacher conferences! Ms. Bruss' class has begun March with our study on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We will be focusing a lot on sorting and grouping categories of recycling items such as papers, plastics, cardboard and aluminum (cans). We are so excited to have parents coming in to read to our class for Read Across America! Thank you to each and every one of you who signed up, we are so grateful you are able to. If you did not sign up but would still like to come in, please email me or send me a note and we can still arrange a day and time.

We've been busy builders in Miss Fairweather's class! This past month, we completed our Buildings study. We learned about features of buildings, neighborhood buildings, how buildings are built, construction workers and tools. Some activities we enjoyed included creating our own blueprints and becoming construction workers in the Blocks center with toy tools. Looking ahead, we will be completing a study on Roads. We're hoping the weather will be warming up soon to be able to return to the playground, so please be sure to wear sneakers for safety!

March has sure brought a lot of excitement to Ms. Gonzalez's classroom! We are amazed by all the different kinds of weather we have been able to experience this month. We've had our beautiful, no jackets days on the playground, some really heavy rain, windy days, and of course the late season snow. We love looking out the window or standing by the door to watch the different types of weather. We've also been looking at different mini themes in our room. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and learning about St. Patrick's Day. We'll spend the rest of the month looking at all things spring. We'll check out baby animals and flowers. We'll explore different events or activities we may see in the spring.

Mrs. Safarik's class is currently working on a recycle, reduce and reuse study this month. We are celebrating Reading Across America this whole month. If any parent would like to read to our class, drop me a note with the date and time. We would love to have you in the class reading to your child and their peers. Progress reports will be sent home March 24, 2017. As always keep snack nutritious and simple. Sneakers are the preferred footwear for class.

Kindergarten: The kindergarteners are developing their comprehension skills, reading bigger books, and getting bigger reading muscles. You can help your child by asking about the characters, setting, and sequence of events. You can also have your child make predictions about the story. In Writer's Workshop, the students are using a variety of writing skills to create "How-To" books. We are completing our unit on teen numbers in math and will be beginning to learn about shapes. We look forward to the warm spring months ahead.



First Grade: First Graders are entering a new reading and writing unit. We will be writing reviews and opinion pieces in our writing program. In reading they will be taking charge of their reading and becoming the "boss"! In math we have been working on place value and 100 charts. In Science and Social Studies we are studying animals/living things and past/present.

Second Grade: The end of a trimester brings a new beginning filled with exciting things in second grade! In Reading Workshop, students are applying various fluency and comprehension strategies into their reading. Students are thinking more critically about the differences between fiction and nonfiction text, and the differences in how to read each genre. In Writing Workshop, students are using editing and revising strategies to improve their drafts. In Science, students will soon be entering a unit all about animals, and in Social Studies, we will discuss the differences between needs and wants. This pairs nicely with our new Math unit on money! At home, work together as a family to complete Miss Costa's Family P.E. and Health Challenge to promote healthy habits. Good luck!

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Third Grade: Third graders have continued to work hard this month! We are currently learning how to read and write non-fiction. As non-fiction readers, third graders have really focused hard on using text features to support comprehension. Learning about the many different kinds of text features, has really shown third graders the importance of reading closely. Our non-fiction unit in Reader's Workshop is really going to support our learning of academic vocabulary as well. This means that third graders will be learning all kinds of new words that will support their understanding of different science, math, social studies, and English topics.

As third graders get further into their Writer's Workshop unit of study on non-fiction writing, they will surely use what they have learned about text features to add more depth to their writing. There is so much that third graders are learning about non-fiction writing, including different ways to organize their writing, so that they can teach their reader the most important information. They will also be including Table of Contents, Indexes, and Glossaries into their final, published copies.

In math class, third graders have really worked very hard on their new fraction unit. Third graders have learned what a numerator and denominator are, how to model fractions, and even how to plot fractions on a number line. It's amazing how much they have learned, even though we just began this unit. Make sure to check back next month for updates on the ever hard-working third grade students. Let's hope by that time, Spring will finally be here!



Fourth Grade: We are working very hard in the fourth grade! In math, we have been learning about fractions. Now that we have finished learning how to compare, order, and reduce them, we will be moving on to adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers the next few weeks. In reading workshop, we are about to begin our new unit called, "Reading History - The American Revolution" and will be applying many of the strategies we learned during our previous nonfiction unit to help us explore this exciting time in U.S. history. In science, we are wrapping up our study of ecosystems before we move on to forms of energy. Our upcoming social studies chapter is about the region of the United States that we live in, The East. How many different states have you been to in the eastern region of the United States?

Fifth Grade: Let's hope that the snow is now over and those spring flowers can begin to bloom! "Should chewing gum be allowed in school?" This is the question that our 5th graders debated about in reading this unit. The students came up with facts and supporting details to try and win their case against the opposing defense. What a fun experience this was for them. Make sure to ask your children what side they were on. In math, we will be moving forward with our fractions and diving into division. STAY, CHANGE, FLIP are the three words that will be used often throughout this chapter. In science, the students have just finished up the unit on ecosystems and are filled with knowledge about the many different types of species as well as how an ecosystem can be damaged. Make sure to discuss with your children the different abiotic and biotic factors that surround them every day. In social studies we have been working hard on our Reform Movements project and gathering a lot of research to present to our classmates. We can't wait to have our gallery walk and see the wonderful projects each group has created.

Mickey Hamell Pre-K-1st Vocal Music

Our Pre-K classes are learning about echo and beautiful independent singing on the pitches sol and mi. They have been reading and singing "Jump!" by Scott M. Fischer. You can try out this YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54n5QN01PcE> We don't sing it quite like him but we do love the illustrations and the song!

Kindergarteners finished their instruments unit and know so many classical instruments by sight and sound! Please ask them to tell you. First graders are amazing. Not only do they know their instruments by sight and sound, they can tell you how they make their sound and put them in the correct family. Please ask them to tell you.



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Art News

March is Youth Art Month! Many of you have signed up for Artsonia.com and have registered yourselves or family members in your child's "fan club". By now, hopefully you have visited the website and seen your child's artwork! I am still working on getting our first projects uploaded and hope to have photos of our Design projects uploaded soon. There have been many comments left for students and their artwork and it is something the kids love to see! If you have not yet left a comment for your child, please visit www.Artsonia.com and leave a comment today! You can show your support for your children and their art by looking at the website and artwork with them and commenting or discussing their work with them. Thank you so much to those of you who have done so already!

We are beginning our third and final unit of study: Portraits. We are having lots of fun practicing drawing facial features. Perhaps you can pose for a portrait at home and let your child show you what they are learning!

Please contact me with questions or comments. I would love to hear from you! If you are having any trouble with registering on Artsonia.com please contact me via email for assistance.

Mrs. Gallagher

pgallagher@pthsd.net

TIPS FOR SELECTING BOOKS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

- Choose books for children that have interesting language, engaging illustrations or photography.
- Books with rhythmic words intrigue children.
- Predictable books, with highly structured patterns engage children in anticipating and predicting what comes next.
- Try to select books that present experiences for children that are relevant to their lives.
- Don't forget to include information and nonfiction books!

The research is clear; children who are read to, and who read for pleasure, are significantly more successful in school than children who do not. Give your children a head start on success – teach them that reading is FUN!

