

EYES ON EASTLAKE

Volume 23 Issue 1

October 12, 2017

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Once again, I would like to welcome all of our Eastlake families back to school. On September 13th, 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

We are getting off to a great start in Art!

We began the year with collaborative class art projects, which are hanging in the halls. This was a great way to open the school year with discussions about working together and being supportive and kind.

We drew our September self-portraits, set up our Art Folders and we have Activity Sketchbooks that we will work on during the year. We are working on our Color unit, observing Landscape and Still Life Paintings, and learning about and experimenting with Color. Students will learn about color by mixing their paint colors to achieve new colors, shades or tints. We will be using watercolor, watercolor crayons and watercolor pencils.

We will use creative & critical thinking skills through observations, critiques and writing about our artwork in our art workbooks.

Mrs. Gallagher

DATES TO REMEMBER

10/13 – Book Fair

10/16 – Fire Safety Trailer

10/20 – School Spirit Day – Crazy Hair

10/26 – PTA MTG

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

11/7 – School Closed for Students

11/9 & 10 – School Closed

Teacher's Convention

11/16 – School Spirit Day – Mismatch Day



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Looking Ahead

Pre-School: We had a fantastic start back to the school year this year in Ms. Bruss' room! I truly enjoyed meeting everyone at Back To School Night. We are excited for fall and all of the exciting changes that come along with it! We have begun a study on Making Music and will be learning about Fire Safety and Pumpkins this month. We are very thankful that our PTA will be providing the Pumpkins for our Pumpkin Picking on October 23rd and we hope you are able to join us for a fun event! We are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

We're off to a great start in Miss Fairweather's class! We've enjoyed meeting our new friends and exploring the areas of our classroom. During the month of September, we learned classroom routines and procedures, strategies to ask friends to play or join a group and emotions. The month of October will be busy with learning about fire safety, trees and pumpkins. We are looking forward to the visit from the fire department on the 16th and the Pumpkin Patch on the 23rd. It is going to be a fantastic school year!



Ms. Gonzalez's class has been working hard to get back into the swing of the school year. This month we are focusing on family and culture. We are learning the members of our family and some of the cultural holidays that we celebrate. The two holidays we are focusing on are Diwali and Halloween. We made puzzles with pictures of our families and decorated frames to hang the pictures in. We read a Diwali book to learn all about the holiday and made special wreath to decorate our classroom. For Halloween we will read some special Halloween books, including one from the "There Was an Old Lady" series.

Mrs. Pepe's preschool class is off to a great start! We have been working on getting to know each other. The students enjoy playing in the Discovery Center, building in the Block Center and painting in the Art Center. This month we are learning about Fire Safety and we will be visiting the fire truck. We will also be going pumpkin picking at the end of October. In the Art Center, we will be making a fire truck craft, a ghost, and shape monsters. We have a variety of fantastic themes and activities prepared for this year. We look forward to an exciting new school year at Eastlake!

Mrs. Safarik's class finished up a terrific study "All About Me". We are moving on to music making, fire safety and pumpkins this month. We have so much fun stuff to do. We are making our own instruments to play. We are visiting the book fair on Thursday, the Fire truck on Monday. The pumpkin patch is coming to Eastlake Monday, Oct. 23rd with our parents. We will finish up the month with our Halloween Parades and parties. Wow!!

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: Learning Letter Sounds by Jack Hartmann (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 graders are settling in nicely with the new routines and new classrooms. We are learning to build good reading habits and working with our partners in Reader's Workshop to build our stamina and help one another remember these good habits. Writer's Workshop focus is on Small Moments. Students are using the narrative layout to talk about memories in their lives. We are adding details and revising as they continue to write.

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've established routines and are familiarizing ourselves with the work that mentor authors do. Later this month, we will learn how words are spelled by identifying their spelling patterns. In Math, we've written two- and three-digit numbers in standard, expanded, and picture forms. In Social Studies, we identified the differences between urban, suburban, and rural communities. We are excited to begin our first Science unit next week! Make sure you are reading at least 20 minutes at home to continue growing those 'reading muscles'!

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Third Grade: Third graders are off to a fantastic start this year! We dove right into reading by working in different literature groups. Students were given different novels, assigned groups, and worked diligently together to practice the different strategies we have been learning. Students have worked so hard together and are just about ready to complete their final assessment. We have also spent a lot of time creating our Writer's Notebooks, coming up with ideas that only WE can write about. Third graders are so excited to start to develop their writer's voices! Right after we finish, we are jumping right into our first Reader's and Writer's Workshop units of study.

In math class, we are almost through our first unit, learning 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 ongoing STEAM project, we are designing and building waterproof backpacks. We have learned that every solution must have criteria and that sometimes we encounter constraints or obstacles when coming up with solutions. Third graders are quite the engineers!

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 started the year off with hard work and enthusiasm! We have been reading "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" by Judy Blume. We're excited to wrap up this hilarious book and begin our new novel, "The Tiger Rising" for Reader's Workshop. In math, our Place Value unit is coming to a close, and we will start reviewing multi-digit Addition and Subtraction. Science is getting interesting with our "What is Energy" lesson, where we're learning where energy comes from. In social studies, we've created the map "Candy Land" and even made our own to practice the map skills we've been studying! This trimester is going by quickly, and we're so excited to see what else we'll be learning!

Fifth Grade: It's been a busy start to 5th grade! In reading, we have been working in our book clubs to analyze and discuss the historical fiction novel, Home of the Brave. We have been writing about reading and interpreting the themes of the novel. Writing powerful personal narratives about turning points in our lives has been keeping us very busy. Place value, multiplication and expressions are a thing of the past as we are now moving onto division of whole numbers. How America became the wonderful country that it is, is what we're learning all about in social studies. The children acted out the acts imposed by the British and then wrote reaction paragraphs based on their role. Needless to say, no one other than the King, Parliament and the tax collector was happy. This conflict led to the American Revolution. Be sure to ask your children all about this! We have new science curriculum this year, and are following the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The children have been busy conducting experiments that allow them to act as scientists and engineers to solve problems. What a great start to the year it has been!

Vocal Music Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First Mrs. Hamell

Pre-K All our classes started on October 4th. The children are using their beautiful singing voices for songs and games for the beginning of the year.

Kindergarten The students are working on knowing how to use their singing voices. We are singing songs for Autumn, and doing fun activities with steady beat.

First Grade The students are doing activities with accurate singing, and steady beat. They know what to listen for in "spot-on" singing! They will soon experience 1 and 2 sounds on a beat - the foundation of rhythm.



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Counseling Corner Bonnie Griesemer

We have had a wonderful beginning to the school year. If your child has not told you about the new Eastlake Lions' Pledge he or she recites each morning, please ask about it. I have gone over all the words with every class from Kindergarten through 5th grade to talk about what the pledge means.

Eastlake Lions' Pledge

Today I will be calm and focused with a positive attitude.

I will treat all others with kindness and respect.

I will be responsible, do my best, and feel proud of my efforts.

I will encourage and help others,

And, I will follow all of the school rules,

Because, I am an Eastlake Lion!

In addition, I have met with all the classes to discuss our eHOPE Kindness Alerts. That stands for Eastlake Hallways of Optimism, Positivity, and Encouragement. When any of the children receive one, I will be posting it on the wall for everyone to see. In addition, I will send the information to the child's pthsd email account. All of our students have a school Gmail account which can be accessed on google with the user name and password they use for our computers in school.

As always, please call me with any concerns or comments. I am here every day for anything you choose to reach out about. My voice mail box is private, so you can always leave me a message if I do not answer. [973-428-7583 ext. 4](tel:973-428-7583)



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!

