



**Mrs. Ness' Notes**  
**April 8, 2025**

**Enrollment:** 595 students + 8 Shared Time students  
VPK-29, K-106, 1st-86, 2nd-97, 3<sup>rd</sup>-85, 4<sup>th</sup>-101, 5<sup>th</sup>-91

**State Testing:** Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) are taken by our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Please make sure your child is well rested so they can do their best on these state tests.

MCA dates:

MCA Reading: Tuesday and Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

MCA Math: Tuesday and Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

MCA Science (5<sup>th</sup> grade only): Wednesday and Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Kindergarten Orientation:** Elm Creek Elementary School's *Kindergarten Orientation* is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2025, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. During this time, children will visit the kindergarten classrooms with the teachers and participate in some fun activities. This gives the teachers a chance to observe and perform a mini assessment of the children to assist with classroom placement. While the children visit the classroom, parents will hear information from several staff members regarding the beginning of their children's education at Elm Creek. Parents will join their child in the classroom and then follow a rotating schedule that includes visiting the Media Center and Classroom, taking a tour, and a short bus ride.

**Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5th-9th:** Please take a moment and write a note of appreciation to your child's teacher during this week. Thank you!

**School Nurse Appreciation Day:** Wednesday, May 7th is School Nurse Appreciation Day. Thank you to Elm Creek RN, Becky Christensen, and Elm Creek site RN, Ashley Reed, for your excellent care of our students.

**Investment in Youth Awards:** Congratulations to first grade student, Delaney H., and to Elm Creek Kindergarten teacher, Shari Swanson, for being awarded the Investment in Youth recognition. Delaney will be recognized in the area of "Significant Investment in Overcoming Adversity" and Mrs. Swanson will be recognized for "Significant Investment in the Betterment of Education." The Investment in Youth Celebration will be on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Park Center Senior High School. All are welcome!

**Elm Creek Annual Family BBQ:** Please set aside **Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**, for our 9th annual all school barbeque. You are invited to come to our all-school BBQ lunch. More information to come. It is always a fun and well attended event.

**Coffee with the Principal:** I like to connect with families in several ways to gather feedback and be available to answer questions. One way is through *Coffee with the principal*. The next coffee with the *Our mission is to inspire and prepare each and every student with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning.*

principal will be on Monday, April 28th from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at Annabelle House Coffee Shop in Osseo. Hope to see you there!

**Student Council:** Student Council is starting their next community service project on Monday, April 7th for 2 weeks. It is Chloe Bear collection for Children's Hospital, and we are teaming up with Kidstop who will collect art supplies for Children's Hospital. Flyers went out last week.

**Birthday Lunches:** One day towards the end of each month, a table is decorated in the lunchroom. Students who have their birthday during that month can have lunch with the principal and will get ice cream. Our April birthday table is on Tuesday, April 29th.

**No School:** Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> there will be no school for students. It is a Licensed Staff Workshop Day.

**PBIS & Outstanding Eagles:** Remember to check out our Outstanding Eagle photos in the Osseo-Maple Grove Press each week. As part of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) we also recognize classrooms that keep their room neat and tidy with a golden vacuum-one classroom per week.

**Media Center News:** Thank you to all who attended the K-2 reading night on Thursday April 3rd. It was a great success! We handed out activity sheets to over 150 students and siblings. The hour and a half event was packed with busy families and students building literacy skills and connecting with each other.

This month in the library we are going to continue focusing on building our habits as successful and courageous readers. Don't forget to look around your house for lost or missing library books!

**Kindergarten News:** Kindergarten is ready for spring! Our chick eggs arrived on Monday. We will be candling the eggs to watch and learn about how a chick develops in the egg. We are excited to see how many eggs hatch into chicks! Estimated due date is Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Eastman Nature Center:** Eastman Nature Center field trips are scheduled for all K-5<sup>th</sup> graders. We applied for a transportation scholarship through Three Rivers Parks last spring and most of our transportation costs for these field trips will be covered. Families will need to help cover the \$5/student Eastman fee. We value our partnership with Eastman Nature Center that allows each grade level to spend time outside learning. If you haven't been to Eastman Nature Center as a family, I encourage you to visit. 😊

Eastman Field Trip dates are:

3<sup>rd</sup> grade – October 22, 24 (Adaptations)

4<sup>th</sup> grade – Dec 10 (Outdoor Survival)

Kindergarten – May 7 (Better Homes & Habitats)

1<sup>st</sup> grade – May 9 (Animal Life Cycles)

2<sup>nd</sup> grade – June 2 (Pond Study)

5<sup>th</sup> grade – June 3 (Geocaching)

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**Dates to Remember:**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>:** Student School Newspaper for sale, 25 cents

**April 10<sup>th</sup>:** Severe Weather Drill, 2:20 p.m.

**April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>:** 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students take State Math MCA Tests

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:** Asynchronous Learning Day

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Kindergarten Orientation, 5-6:30 p.m. for incoming 2025-26 Elm Creek Kindergarteners

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade students take State Science MCA Test

**April 25<sup>th</sup>:** WATCHD.O.G.S. at Elm Creek

**April 28<sup>th</sup>:** Coffee with the principal, 10:00 a.m., Annabelle Coffee Shop in Osseo

**April 29<sup>th</sup>:** 5th Grade Band Concert, 8:00 p.m. at Osseo Middle School

**April 29<sup>th</sup>:** April birthday lunches

**May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>:** PTO BOGO Book Fair

**May 4<sup>th</sup>:** Investment in Youth event, 6:00 p.m. at Park Center Senior High Auditorium

**May 5<sup>th</sup>:** No School for students. Licensed Staff Workshop Day.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>:** Elm Creek Staff Appreciation Week

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m., Osseo Middle School

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:** Nurse Appreciation Day

**May 9<sup>th</sup>:** PTO Carnival, 6:00 p.m.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>:** PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>:** K-2 Super Kids Day & Annual School BBQ

**May 27<sup>th</sup>-June 4<sup>th</sup>:** Annual Camp Baldwin at Elm Creek

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Handprints on the Rock, 9:30 a.m.

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