



Mrs. Ness' Notes
December 5, 2023

Enrollment: 515 students + 10 Shared Time students
K-85, 1st-95, 2nd-81, 3rd-91, 4th-80, 5th-83

Willy Wonka Kids Musical: Stages Theatre is offering a community education after school opportunity for Elm Creek Elementary students. Students enrolled in this class will be performing *Willy Wonka Kids Musical* on **Friday, March 15th at 7 p.m.** and **Saturday, March 16th at 2 p.m.**, location to be determined. Admission is FREE and the show is about 1 hour long. Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays after school at Elm Creek Elementary from January 17th-March 11th. This class fills up quickly so register soon at osseo.ce.eleyo.com

School Supply Drive: Elm Creek is conducting its Fifteenth Annual International School Supply Drive the week of **December 11-15, 2023**. Our school supply drive is part of a five-school project called Students Connecting through International Service, which will provide school supplies to a small school in Sasabe, Sonora, Mexico. Please support this service-learning opportunity by sending in funds with your child during this week. Checks can be made out to SCTIS (Students Connecting through International Service). Isaac W. is our Elm Creek fifth grade student representative who will be delivering supplies to Sasabe students in April.

Elm Creek Twitter and Instagram Pages: Please join us on our Elm Creek Elementary twitter page @ElmCreekElem or on our Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/elmcreekelem/?hl=en>.

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 principal will be Friday, December 15th from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Elm Creek media center. The district lead for Gifted and Talented education will be joining us to answer questions you may have in this area.

VOLUNTEERS-- We have 224 active volunteers as of the beginning of December. Our volunteers have logged 1,470 hours so far this school year. They've have helped in classrooms, served lunch with our cafeteria staff, helped out during kindergarten lunch, prepped projects for teachers, planned PTO events, worked on laminating, helped out at Turkey Bingo, made crafts for our Holiday Shoppe, worked at our Fall Book Fair, attended field trips, and so much more! On behalf of students, teachers, and staff, THANK YOU!!!

HOLIDAY SHOPPE—Holiday Shoppe crafting is underway, and we're looking forward to hosting our expanded Holiday Shoppe on December 6th and 8th. This year the Shoppe will continue to include items from different holidays celebrated by many of the cultures and traditions of our students and families here at Elm Creek.

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Student Council: In November the Student Council had their annual food drive and collected **750 food items for CROSS**. Thank you very much! Our next spirit day is **PJ and stuffed animal day on December 19th**.

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. Students who have birthdays in July and August will celebrate in June. Our December birthday table is on Monday, December 18th.

Kindergarten News: It's amazing in kindergarten to see so many kids grasping the phonics and reading skills needed to begin to read! Two teachers are piloting the new reading curriculum and are seeing great growth academically. The other two teachers continue to do the older curriculum and are seeing growth, too! It's also fun to see friendships getting stronger. We really become a kindergarten "family" as we work and play together. December is full of learning around the themes of winter and holidays. Take a walk down our hallway to see some great artwork and projects.

Library News: It's coding time in the library! Fourth and Fifth graders are using the LegoWeDo 2.0 kits and K-3 are using Botzees. Both kits allow students to build robots and code them using Blockly (blocks that connect to make the codes). It's fun to see the creativity, problem solving, and collaboration, with the teams of students. We all look forward to it!

Eastman Nature Center: Eastman Nature Center field trips are scheduled for all K-5th grades. 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.

Eastman Field Trip dates are:

3rd grade – Oct 31, Nov 3

4th grade – Dec 12, 14

Kindergarten - Apr 17

1st grade – May 15

2nd grade – May 22

5th grade – June 4

PBIS & Outstanding Eagles: Remember to check out our Outstanding Eagle photos in Osseo-Maple Grove Press each week. As part of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) we recognize classrooms who are doing a good job in the lunchroom with a golden tray that hangs outside their class door. We also recognize classrooms that keep their room neat and tidy with a golden vacuum-one classroom per week.

No School: No school for students and staff during Winter Break which is from Wednesday, December 20th-Monday, January 1st.

Dine to Donate: The next PTO Dine to Donate will be at Frankie's Pizza from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. on December 13th.

Great Kindness Challenge: Elm Creek students will participate in the Great Kindness Challenge the week of January 22-26, 2024. The Great Kindness Challenge is a proactive and positive

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bullying prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student engagement. Our students will be challenged to perform as many kind deeds as they can in one week. Thank you to Elm Creek volunteers, Paris L., Katie L., and Kathy M., who will be leading our kindness club of 4th and 5th graders during Wednesday recesses in January to plan and prepare for this week. See an article about us in the local newspaper from 2019 here: <https://ccxmedia.org/news/elm-creek-students-participate-in-great-kindness-challenge/>

Dates to Remember:

December 6th & 8th: PTO Holiday Shoppe

December 11-15: Students Connecting through International Service School Supply Drive

December 12th: Report Cards post to ParentVue.

December 12th: Fourth Grade Baker & Pazandak to Eastman Nature Center

December 13th: Sparkle Day, Wear sparkly clothes

December 14th: Fourth Grade Olson to Eastman Nature Center

December 14th: Osseo Senior High Carolers sing for 4th grade in Music class

December 14th: Third Grade Gingerbread Houses

December 15th: Coffee with the principal, 11 a.m., Elm Creek Media Center

December 15th: Kindergarten tree decorating

December 18th: December birthday lunches

December 19th: Student Council Spirit Day, PJ's and Stuffed Animal Day

December 20th-January 1st: No school for students and staff, Winter break.

January 5th: Fifth Grade DARE program, 1:30 p.m.

January 12th: Asynchronous Learning Day

January 15th: No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

January 16th: PTO General Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Elm Creek Media Center

January 22nd: Coffee with the principal, Annabelle House, Osseo, 10 a.m.

January 25th: Third Grade Vocal Music Concert, 6 p.m., Elm Creek Gym

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