



Mrs. Ness' Notes
December 10, 2024

Enrollment: 571 students + 8 Shared Time students
VPK-29, K-102, 1st-83, 2nd-94, 3rd-80, 4th-96, 5th-87

Report Cards: Report Cards will be uploaded to ParentVue by Thursday, December 12th. If you do not have a ParentVue account, please contact Staci in the office. Jones@district279.org/763-425-0577

Lost & Found: The lost & found is OVERFLOWING! Lots of sweatshirts, jackets and hats. Some of the lost and found items have been spread out onto tables to make it easier to find lost items. Please encourage your child to look for lost items. All unclaimed items will be donated after school on December 20th. Parents are welcome to stop in to check the lost & found for lost items! Office hours are 7:30 - 4:00 daily.

Finding Nemo 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 *Finding Nemo Kids Musical* on **Friday, March 14th at 7 p.m.** and **Saturday, March 15th at 2 p.m.,** at the Maple Grove Middle School Auditorium. Admission is FREE and the show is about 1 hour long. Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays after school at Elm Creek Elementary from January 13th-March 10th. This class fills up quickly so register soon at <https://osseo.ce.eleyo.com/course/8052/youth-w-sp-25/finding-nemo-kids-with-stages-theatre-elm-creek>

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 20th from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in the Elm Creek media center.

VOLUNTEERS--We have 278 active volunteers as of the beginning of December, and they have logged 1,384 hours so far this school year! Our amazing volunteers have put in over 300 hours at home making adorable crafts for our Holiday Shoppe! THANK YOU! Over the next few weeks, we'll have more volunteers helping at the Holiday Shoppe, assisting with Kindergarten Holiday Trees and 3rd Grade Gingerbread Houses, helping in the cafeteria, and chaperoning a 4th grade field trip. We thank you for giving your time to our school. You help make Elm Creek even more amazing every day!

Student Council: Our next Student Council meeting is this Thursday.

- We have a spirit day on Dec. 20: PJ and stuffed animal day.
- We collected about 560 non-perishables during our CROSS Food Drive in November. Thank you to everyone who helped support the student council in this community service project.

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- We also have a Crayola marker recycle program. The student council has a team that will collect the dried-up markers from the classrooms once a month and then we bring to Staples to recycle.
- We have an ongoing pop/soup tab collection for Ronald McDonald house. We collect all year and then donate at the end of the school year.

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 Thursday, December 19th.

Third Grade News: We are excited to host our annual Gingerbread House decorating on Wednesday, December 18th!

Fourth Grade News: 4th graders will be traveling to Eastman Nature Center on Tuesday, December 10th. We will be learning about wilderness survival, including shelter building and fire starting (safely of course!) This activity aligns closely with the book Hatchet by Gary Paulsen.

HOLIDAY SHOPPE—Holiday Shoppe crafting is complete, and we're looking forward to hosting our expanded Holiday Shoppe on December 12th and 13th. 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.

Library News: Students are enjoying coding and robotics in the library this month! Next month we will talk about digital citizenship and what it means to be safe, respectful, and healthy when we use technology and go online. We will send out overdue notices later this week; it's a great time to look for those lost or missing library books and let us know if you can't find them at home. Encourage your child(ren) to do lots of reading over the winter break, and maybe even visit the public library in Maple Grove, Brooklyn Park, or Osseo!

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. 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:

3rd grade – October 22, 24 (Adaptations)

4th grade – Dec 10 (Outdoor Survival)

Kindergarten – May 7 (Better Homes & Habitats)

1st grade – May 9 (Animal Life Cycles)

2nd grade – June 2 (Pond Study)

5th grade – June 3 (Geocaching)

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 recognize classrooms that keep their room neat and tidy with a golden vacuum-one classroom per week.

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Great Kindness Challenge: Elm Creek students will participate in the Great Kindness Challenge the week of January 27-31, 2025. The Great Kindness Challenge is a proactive and positive bullying prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student engagement. Our students will be challenged to perform as many deeds of kindness as they can in one 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 10th: Fourth Grade to Eastman Nature Center

December 12th: Report Cards post to ParentVue.

December 12th: Osseo Senior High Carolers sing for 4th grade in Music class, 2:35 p.m.

December 12th & 13th: PTO Holiday Shoppe

December 13th: Sparkle Day, Wear sparkly clothes

December 18th: Third Grade Gingerbread Houses, 9:30 a.m.

December 19th: Kindergarten tree decorating

December 19th: December birthday lunches

December 20th: Student Council Spirit Day, Pajamas and Stuffed Animal Day

December 20th: Coffee with the principal, 9:30 a.m., Elm Creek Media Center

December 23rd-January 3rd: No school for students and staff, Winter break.

January 10th: Fifth Grade DARE program, 1:30 p.m.

January 14th: PTO General Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Elm Creek Media Center

January 14th: 5th Grade Band Concert, 6:30 p.m., Osseo Middle School

January 17th: Asynchronous Learning Day

January 20th: No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

January 27th-31st: Students Connecting through International Service Supply Drive/Mexico Project

January 27th: Coffee with the principal, Annabelle House, Osseo, 10 a.m.

January 28th: Third Grade Vocal Music Concert, 6 p.m., Elm Creek Gym

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January 29th: January birthday lunches

January 30th: 5th Grade Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m., Osseo Middle School

January 30th: 2nd Grade Field Trip to Stages Theater

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