



Mrs. Ness' Notes

December 9, 2025

Enrollment: 618 students +21 Shared Time students
VPK-38, K-74, 1st-110, 2nd-93, 3rd-111, 4th-95, 5th-97

Report Cards: Report Cards will be uploaded to ParentVue by Tuesday, December 9th. If you do not have a ParentVue account, please contact Staci in the office. Jones@district279.org/763-425-0577.

Recess: It is COLD outside!

Please send your child to school each day with winter boots, snow pants, warm winter jacket, winter gloves (not thin cloth), winter hat and scarf.

Students go outside for recess each day and need to have warm winter gear.

We always go outside unless it is below zero at recess times. It is safe to plan on students going outside each day and needing warm winter gear.

If your family is experiencing financial hardship and are unable to provide basic winter gear for your child, please reach out to the school social worker for resources. She can be reached at DeinesK@district279.org.

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 23rd. Parents are welcome to stop in to check the lost & found for lost items! Office hours are 7:30 - 4:00 daily.

Seussical Kids Musical: Stages Theatre is offering a community education after school opportunity for Elm Creek Elementary students. Students enrolled in this class will perform *Seussical Kids Musical* on **Friday, March 13th at 7 p.m.** and **Saturday, March 14th 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 12th-March 9th. This class fills up quickly so register soon at <https://osseo.ce.eleyo.com/course/8870/youth-w-sp-26/seussical-kids-with-stages-theatre-elm-creek>

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, January 9th from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. in the Elm Creek media center. January's topics will be: What do math and reading interventions look like at Elm Creek? How do I help my child on an Asynchronous Day?

VOLUNTEERS--We have 301 active volunteers as of the beginning of December, and they have logged 1,810 hours so far this school year! Our amazing volunteers have put in over so many hours at home making adorable crafts for our Holiday Shoppe! THANK YOU! Over the next few weeks, we'll have more

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.

volunteers helping at the Holiday Shoppe, assisting with Kindergarten Holiday Trees, and 3rd Grade Gingerbread Houses, helping in the cafeteria, and more. We thank you for giving your time to our school. You help make Elm Creek even more amazing every day!

Student Council: We just had our 2nd meeting last Thursday.

- We have a spirit day on Dec. 23: PJ Day.
- We collected about 625 non-perishables during our CROSS Food Drive in November, up from 560 last year. Thank you to everyone who helped support the student council in this community service project.
- 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 them 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 Tuesday, December 16th.

First Grade News: Our first graders are currently delving into mathematical equations by practicing addition and subtraction using a number line. We are approaching the conclusion of our unit on Early Civilizations, after which we will transition to studying astronomy during our CKLA reading lessons. In social studies, we have been exploring Holidays Around the World. On December 19th, the first graders will have the exciting opportunity to attend a performance of "Elf, Jr" at Stages Theatre.

PTO HOLIDAY SHOP—PTO Holiday Shop crafting is complete, and we're looking forward to hosting our PTO Holiday Shop on December 11th and 12th. This year the Holiday Shop 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! K-3rd grade will be using Botzee robots, and 4-5th graders will be using our new Lego Spike Essential Kits. 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. 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!

Students Connecting through International Service: Elm Creek will be conducting its 17th Annual International School Supply Drive this week, December 8th-12th. Our school supply drive is part of a multi-school project called Students Connecting through International Service, which will provide school supplies to a small school in Sasabe, Sonora, Mexico.

Any amount you give will help us buy school supplies for the Mexican children!
Please contribute cash or checks made out to "Students Connecting through International Service" to buy the school supplies. If we all give a little, we can accomplish a lot!

Thank you for your support!

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.

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.

Great Kindness Challenge: Elm Creek students will participate in the Great Kindness Challenge the week of January 26-30, 2026. 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/>

Eastman Nature Center: Eastman Nature Center field trips are scheduled for all K-5th 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 \$6/student Eastman fee. We value our partnership with Eastman Nature Center, which 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 – Adaptations (10:00-12:00pm)

10/28 – Ward/Wyman

10/29 – Dylong/Ockuly

Bus 9:45/12:15

4th Grade – Outdoor Survival (10:00-12:30pm)

12/4 – 2 classes

12/5 – 2 classes

Bus 9:45/12:45

1st Grade - Birds Big & Small (10:00-12:00pm)

5/4 – 2 classes

5/5 – 3 classes

Bus 9:45/12:15

5th Grade – Geocaching (10:00am-12:30pm)

5/7 – 2 classes

5/8 – 2 classes

Bus 9:45/12:45

Kindergarten - Better Homes & Habitats (10:00-12:00pm)

5/12 – All 4 classes

Bus 9:45/12:15

2nd Grade - Pond Study (10:00-12:00pm) & Playground

5/20 – All 4 classes

Bus 9:45/1:30

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.

Dates to Remember:

December 11th & 12th: PTO Holiday Shop

December 16th: December Birthday lunch table

December 19th: First Grade field trip to Stages Theatre

December 23rd: Student Council Spirit Day: PJ Day

December 24th-January 2nd: No School, Winter Break

January 8th: WATCHDOGS at Elm Creek

January 9th: Coffee with the principal, 10 a.m., Elm Creek Media Center

January 9th: Fifth Grade DARE Graduation

January 13th: PTO General Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

January 15th: Student Council Spirit Day-Color Block Day, each grade level assigned a color

January 16th: Asynchronous Day

January 19th: No School for students or staff, MLK Holiday

January 29th: 3rd Grade Music program, 6 p.m., Elm Creek Gym

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.