



**Mrs. Ness' Notes**  
**February 13, 2024**

**Enrollment:** 517 students + 10 Shared Time students  
K-87, 1st-95, 2nd-81, 3<sup>rd</sup>-90, 4<sup>th</sup>-80, 5<sup>th</sup>-84

**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 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** and **Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.**, at Maple Grove Middle School. Admission is FREE and the show is about 1 hour long.

**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, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the Elm Creek Elementary Media Center. Our long-term substitute for Talented and Gifted Services, Mindy Schroeder, will be joining us to answer questions about this program.

**VOLUNTEERS--** We have 242 active volunteers as of the beginning of February, and they have logged **2,520 hours** so far this school year! Volunteers have helped in classrooms, served lunch with our cafeteria staff, helped during kindergarten lunch, prepped projects for teachers, shelved books in the media center, worked on laminating, taught art lessons to classrooms through Art Adventure, led various clubs for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, participated in WATCHDOGS, attended field trips and so much more! On behalf of students, teachers, and staff, THANK YOU!!!

**ART ADVENTURE WITH Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA)**—Art Adventure began in February, offering an exciting art curriculum for our students based around the theme “Cultural Reflections in Art.” We are fortunate to have four Elm Creek volunteers leading Art Adventure this year. They completed training at MIA and are busy preparing lessons and projects for each grade level. They will go into classrooms and present throughout the month of February. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will receive an extra art lesson in working with clay from local volunteer artist, Barbara Aldaffer. Barbara visits 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms in February to teach them how to make clay pots. It’s going to be a creative month at Elm Creek!

**Student Council:** This month, the student council made around 50 Valentine cards for the residents at Havenwood of Maple Grove Retirement & Senior Living.

**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 February birthday table is on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Kindergarten News:** Kindergarten is making great progress with math, pre-reading, and reading skills. It's fun to see all the progress the kids are making. February is full, with Valentine's Day, *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.*

Presidents' Day, and the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of school. Friendships are strong and days are busy. The best part of the week is Fun Friday, when we open the kindergarten doors for 30 minutes and all 80+ kindergartners move from room to room playing and socializing.

**First Grade News:** We will have a Valentines party and 100<sup>th</sup> day celebration on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Mystery Reader opportunity for parents in the classroom starting in February. 😊

**Third Grade News:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes are learning about Lunar New Year traditions and history. We are looking at the Lunar zodiac animals and looking at attributes that may connect to ourselves. Some 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes have started (eventually we will all do it) natural disaster research and projects.

**Library News:** Family Reading Night (with a splash of math!) was attended by 142 children who participated in up to 14 activities. Thanks to the PTO for the generous donation of books to give away! Superintendent Hiel, DARE Officer Laurel Slawson and "Grandpa" Bob Zahn were our popular guest readers. It was fun to see so many families together sharing the joy of reading and learning.

Research is in full swing with first graders researching animals and third graders researching weather disasters. They are all working on projects on their iPads that will be shared with each other and families. Fourth graders are starting state research as well.

As a part of I Love to Read Month, our fourth and fifth graders are writing Ten-Word Tiny Tales. It's based on a book by the same name and the author had 20 different artists illustrate the stories with their own interpretation. We plan to create books out of the projects to add to our library.

**No School:** Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> is Presidents' Day. There will be no school for students and staff.

**Dine to Donate:** The next PTO Dine to Donate will be at Two Scoops, in Osseo and Anoka, on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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 that 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.

**Eastman Nature Center:** Eastman Nature Center field trips are scheduled for all K-5<sup>th</sup> 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:

3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Oct 31, Nov 3

4<sup>th</sup> grade – Dec 12, 14

Kindergarten - Apr 17

1<sup>st</sup> grade – May 15

2<sup>nd</sup> grade – May 22

5<sup>th</sup> grade – June 4

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**Dates to Remember:**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>:** 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

**February 16<sup>th</sup>:** Fourth Grade Kindness Retreat field trip

**February 16<sup>th</sup>:** Coffee with the principal, 10:30 a.m., Elm Creek media center

**February 16<sup>th</sup>:** PTO Family Fun Dance, Elm Creek Gym, 6 p.m.

**February 19<sup>th</sup>:** No School, President's Day

**February 21<sup>st</sup>:** School bus driver Appreciation Day

**February 21<sup>st</sup>:** Fifth Grade field trip to the Ordway, Dr. Kaboom science program

**February 21<sup>st</sup>:** Fifth Grade Crimson Robotics program

**February 26<sup>th</sup>:** PBIS Assembly, Magic of Cooperation

**February 28<sup>th</sup>:** February Birthday lunches

**March 4<sup>th</sup>:** PTO General Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**March 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:** National School Breakfast Week

**March 6<sup>th</sup>:** Parent/Teacher Conferences and Scholastic Book Fair

**March 8<sup>th</sup>:** No school for students. Mark Reporting Day.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>:** Parent/Teacher Conferences and Scholastic Book Fair

**March 14<sup>th</sup>:** Parent/Teacher Conferences and Scholastic Book Fair

**March 14<sup>th</sup>:** Student Council Spirit Day, EC Orange & Black

**March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Coffee with the principal, 9:30 a.m., Elm Creek media center

**March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Fifth grade students from ECTV, field trip to CCX

**March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Elm Creek Musical, Willy Wonka Kids, Maple Grove Middle School, 7 p.m.

**March 16<sup>th</sup>:** Elm Creek Musical, Willy Wonka Kids, Maple Grove Middle School, 2 p.m.

**March 20<sup>th</sup>:** Second grade field trip to Bell Museum

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