



**Mrs. Ness' Notes**  
**February 11, 2025**

**Enrollment:** 594 students + 8 Shared Time students  
VPK-29, K-106, 1st-86, 2nd-96, 3<sup>rd</sup>-84, 4<sup>th</sup>-101, 5<sup>th</sup>-91

**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 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** and **Saturday, March 15<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 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the Elm Creek Elementary Media Center. Grace Wagner, our school-based therapist with St. David's, will be sharing at 11 a.m. about what St. David's offers.

**VOLUNTEERS--**We have 337 active volunteers as of the beginning of February, and they have logged 2,195 hours so far this school year! Our amazing volunteers have begun presenting Art Adventure lessons to our students this month. They've also prepared food for our staff during Parent Teacher Conferences and organized our school's Book Fair. They've gone on field trips, helped with take-home projects, and helped in the kitchen and lunchroom. Over the next few weeks, we'll have Osseo Senior High students helping lead our 4<sup>th</sup> grade Kindness Retreat and more volunteers helping with our Family Fun Dance. We thank you for giving your time to our school. You help make Elm Creek even more amazing every day!

**ART ADVENTURE WITH Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA)**—Art Adventure has started at Elm Creek, offering an exciting art curriculum for our students based around the theme "Amazing Animals in Art." We are fortunate to have four returning Elm Creek volunteers leading Art Adventure again 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 3rd graders will receive an extra art lesson in working with clay from local volunteer artist, Barbara Aldaffer. Barbara visits 3rd 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:** We had our February student council spirit day last Friday. We have our February meeting this Thursday and will decide on next month's spirit day. We are collecting tabs for Ronald McDonald house for the month of February but will continue to collect all year 😊. We are pairing up with Kidstop this spring to collect art supplies for Children's hospital, possibly pairing with Chloe Bears.

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We will be working with a high school group that makes cards for kids with Cancer. They will be meeting and presenting their project to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders during their recess sometime next month.

**School Supply Drive:** Thank you so much! We really appreciate all your help with our International School Supply Drive. Last week Elm Creek families donated **\$2617.80**, which will provide lots of needed school supplies for the children in Sasabe, Mexico! Thank you very much for your generosity; we know the students in Mexico will be so appreciative! Teague L., our Elm Creek student representative, will be delivering supplies to Sasabe students in April.

**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 Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Library News:** We will spend the rest of February and most of March doing research in the library. Students in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> will all do a research project that includes finding information resources, taking notes, synthesizing our new knowledge into a final product, and sharing it with others.

**No School:** Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> is Presidents' Day. There will be no school for students and staff.

**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> 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:**

**February 13<sup>th</sup>:** 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

**February 14<sup>th</sup>:** Fourth Grade Kindness Retreat field trip

**February 17<sup>th</sup>:** No School, Presidents' Day

**February 18<sup>th</sup>:** WATCHD.O.G.S. at Elm Creek

**February 19<sup>th</sup>:** School bus driver Appreciation Day

**February 20<sup>th</sup>:** Firefighters visiting Kindergarten classrooms

**February 21<sup>st</sup>:** Fifth Grade field trip to Ordway

**February 21<sup>st</sup>:** PTO Family Fun Dance, Elm Creek Gym, 6 p.m.

**February 21<sup>st</sup>:** Fifth Grade field trip to Ordway, 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

**February 24<sup>th</sup>:** Author visit, Keenan Jones, to Elm Creek

**February 27<sup>th</sup>:** February Birthday lunches

**February 28<sup>th</sup>:** Coffee with the principal, 10:30 a.m., Elm Creek media center

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>:** National School Breakfast Week

**March 7<sup>th</sup>:** No school for students. Mark Reporting Day.

**March 11<sup>th</sup>:** PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**March 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>:** Spring Break, no school for students

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