



Mrs. Ness' Notes

January 16, 2024

Enrollment: 515 students + 10 Shared Time students
K-87, 1st-94, 2nd-82, 3rd-89, 4th-80, 5th-83

PTO Restock the Classrooms: Thank you for all the amazing classroom materials provided through PTO Restock the Classrooms. Our teachers are very grateful and excited for the fun things students can do because of how you helped!

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.**, at Maple Grove Middle School. Admission is FREE and the show is about 1 hour long.

School Supply Drive: Thank you for donating to the school supply drive for Students Connecting through International Service in December. Isaac W., Elm Creek 5th grader, will be joining 5 other fifth grade Osseo students to deliver school supplies at the border near Sasabe, Mexico in April. Sasabe students are not able to go to school unless they have supplies. Your generous donations are helping students in Mexico get an education-Thank you!

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 Monday, January 22nd from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at Annabelle House in Osseo.

VOLUNTEERS-- We have 236 active volunteers as of the beginning of January, and they have logged **2,187 hours** so far this school year! Volunteers have helped in classrooms, served lunch with our cafeteria staff, helped out during kindergarten lunch, prepped projects for teachers, shelved books in the media center, worked on laminating, helped out at the Holiday Shoppe (during the event and before, making amazing crafts), worked at our Book Fair, attended field trips and so much more! On behalf of students, teachers, and staff, THANK YOU!!!

--WATCHD.O.G.S.--

WATCHD.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is a powerful, national program that seeks to involve male role models in schools through active participation. We launched WATCHDOGS at Elm Creek in 2019 and are excited to bring it back each year. Our first WATCHD.O.G.S. day at Elm Creek will be Friday, January 26th. We will have a group of men (EC dads, stepdads, grandpas, uncles etc.) come to the school and help out in different classrooms. It's always a fun day, and the students love seeing the WATCHD.O.G.S. in the building!

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.

ART ADVENTURE WITH Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA)—Art Adventure begins 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 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 collected 650 pounds of food for CROSS. For our next service project we are making valentine cards for residents at Havenwood retirement center in Maple Grove. Student Council members are continuing to make positive message signs to post around the school as well as collecting markers for recycling.

Upcoming Student Council spirit days:

Jan 26-Twin/MN Twins Day

Feb 9th-Jersey Day

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 January birthday table is on Tuesday, January 30th.

Physical Education News: Moonlight Bowling in PE was a hit right before Winter Break! Thanks to PTO’s support, we were able to provide prizes to students for different bowling games.

Kindergarten News: Kindergarteners at Elm Creek Elementary School were recently visited by Maple Grove firefighters. The students watched a video on the ABCs of fire safety, played "safe to play or stay away," learned about how to make a plan in the case of a fire, and heard what a fire alarm sounds like. The firefighters also demonstrated the equipment that they wear while fighting fires. At the end, the kindergarteners had the opportunity to ask questions, such as where the axe and hose are stored and if they have a fire dog.

First Grade News: Thank you for restocking 1st grade classrooms. We will have a Valentines party and 100th day celebration on February 14th. Mystery Reader opportunity for parents in the classroom starting in February. 😊

Third Grade News: 3rd grade music rehearsals and concert on Jan 25th. The evening concert is at 6 p.m. Third grade will be testing students in aReading and aMath the week of Jan 16th.

Library News: Family Reading Night (with a splash of math) will be held in the Elm Creek media center on Thursday, February 1st from 5:00-6:30 p.m. This is for kindergarten through 2nd grade students and families.

No School: Monday, February 5th is a professional development day for staff and no school for students.

Dine to Donate: The next PTO Dine to Donate will be at Naf Naf Grill from 4.-8 p.m. on February 7th.

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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.

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

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 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:

January 22nd-January 26th: Great Kindness Challenge

January 22nd-Neon Day and Pledge to Kindness

January 23rd-Career Day and Kindness to Animals

January 24th-Elm Creek Spiritwear Day and Compliment Wall Kindness

January 25th-Decade Day and Coffee Shop Cards Kindness

January 26th-Twin/Twins Day and Kind Bracelets

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

January 23rd: Fifth Grade Demo Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m., Osseo Middle School

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

January 26th: WATCHD.O.G.S. at Elm Creek

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January 30th: January birthday lunches

January 31st: Osseo Middle School principal, Brian Chance, visiting 5th grade classrooms

February 5th: No School, District Professional Development Day

February 9th: Student Council Spirit Day, Jersey Day

February 12th: WATCHD.O.G.S. at Elm Creek

February 13th: PTO General Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Elm Creek Media Center

February 14th: 100th Day of School

February 16th: Fourth Grade Kindness Retreat field trip

February 16th: Coffee with the principal, 10:30 a.m., Elm Creek media center

February 16th: PTO Family Fun Dance, Elm Creek Gym, 6 p.m.

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