



Mrs. Ness' Notes
March 11, 2025

Enrollment: 593 students + 8 Shared Time students
VPK-29, K-105, 1st-86, 2nd-96, 3rd-85, 4th-101, 5th-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 14th at 7 p.m.** and **Saturday, March 15th 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 on Friday, March 21st from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in the Elm Creek Elementary Media Center. Jessica Ellingson, our behavior support teacher, will be sharing at 10 a.m. about the purpose and use of the SOAR room to support students at Elm Creek.

VOLUNTEERS--We have 352 active volunteers as of the beginning of March, and they have logged 2,597 hours so far this school year! Over the next couple of weeks, we'll have volunteers leading special interest clubs with our 4th and 5th graders and helping in classrooms and the lunchroom. 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 at Elm Creek, offered an exciting art curriculum for our students based around the theme "Amazing Animals in Art." Lessons were completed in February. Please come check out the animal creations on the wall outside the volunteer coordinator room. They look incredible!

Student Council: Student Council will be wrapping up the pop tab collection; however, we do continue to collect pop tabs throughout the year. Mrs. Tegland will be at our student council meeting this week to talk about Chloe Bears. We will be partnering with Kidstop and adding an art drive to our Chloe Bear collection. All items will be donated to the Children's Hospital. Our next spirit day will be March 21, and it will be a class color block day.

PreK-wear purple

K-wear yellow

1-wear red

2-wear white

3-wear orange

4-wear blue

5-wear black

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.

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 March birthday table is on Friday, March 21st.

No School: March 24th-28th is Spring Break. There will be no school for students or staff.

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

K-2 Family Reading Night: Family Reading Night is coming up on Thursday, April 3rd from 5:00-6:30pm. This is a fun family activity that is hosted by EC staff for K-2 students and their families. There will be activities, book giveaways, and lots of reading fun. While it is geared towards K-2 students, older siblings are, of course, welcome to attend.

Join us for:

- Storytime
- Fun reading games and activities
- Make a bookmark
- Book Swap*
- Earn a free book

(thanks to the Elm Creek PTO)

*Bring a gently used book or two if you choose, add it to the swap table, and take a book or two home with you.

Classroom Planning for 2025-26: It is that time of year when we begin thinking about placement of students into classrooms for next year. If you have concerns to share, please complete the Student Placement Information Form.

This is an optional form - Please only fill this form out if you have concerns to share or if your child will not be attending Elm Creek next year. The deadline to complete the form is Monday, March 31st.

<https://forms.gle/pDLQ7k7qU93EN2jw6>

Media Center News: We are wrapping up our research lessons in 1st through 5th grade. In April, we will focus on the Minnesota Youth Reading Awards: The Star of the North award for kindergarten through 2nd grade and the Maud Hart Lovelace award for 3rd through 5th grade. Students will read and vote for their favorite books and see how their favorites compare to other students in Minnesota. We also had a fantastic author visit from Keenan Jones last month. He came and spoke to our 2nd-5th grade students about his experience writing and publishing a book.

Kindergarten News: Kindergarten is ready for spring! We will be learning about the signs of spring and keeping our eyes out for robins. During reading, we will be learning about Kings and Queens and enjoying all kinds of royal activities. We have officially learned the whole alphabet and short vowels and are putting it all together. Get ready for our reading to take off!

Fourth Grade News: 4th grade is finishing Unit 4 in Math, and we are working on our Poetry Unit in CKLA. We will be focusing on preparing for the MCA tests once we get back from Spring Break.

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Fifth Grade News: 5th graders really enjoyed their field trip to the Ordway to see *DRUMline Live*. They also have many clubs that are beginning, and we appreciate all the adults that have volunteered their time to make these extra activities possible.

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 \$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)

Dates to Remember:

March 14th: Finding Nemo musical at Maple Grove Middle School, 7 p.m.

March 15th: Finding Nemo musical at Maple Grove Middle School, 2 p.m.

March 19th: Community Informational about Boundary Changes, 5:45 p.m., Osseo Middle School Cafe

March 20th: WATCHD.O.G.S. at Elm Creek

March 20th: Fourth Grade Recorder Concert, 6 p.m.

March 21st: Color Block Spirit Day

Pre K – wear purple

Kindergarten – wear yellow

First grade – wear red

Second grade – wear white

Third grade – wear orange

Fourth grade – wear blue

Fifth grade – wear black

March 21st: Coffee with the principal, 9:30 a.m., Elm Creek Media Center

March 21st: March birthday lunches

March 24th-28th: Spring Break. No school for students or staff.

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April 3rd: Student Council Spirit Day-Twins Day

April 3rd: K-2 Family Reading Night, 5-6:30 p.m.

April 8th & 9th: 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students take State Reading MCA Tests

April 8th: PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

April 10th: Student School Newspaper for sale, 25 cents

April 10th: Severe Weather Drill, 2:10 p.m.

April 15th & 16th: 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students take State Math MCA Tests

April 21st: Asynchronous Learning Day

April 22nd: Kindergarten Orientation, 5-6:30 p.m. for incoming 2025-26 Elm Creek Kindergarteners

April 23rd: 5th grade students take State Science MCA Test

April 25th: WATCHD.O.G.S. at Elm Creek

April 28th: Coffee with the principal, 10:00 a.m., Annabelle Coffee Shop in Osseo

April 29th: Fifth Grade Band Concert, OMS, 8:00 p.m.

April 30th: April birthday lunches

May 5th: No school for students. Licensed Staff Workshop.

May 7th: Fifth Grade Orchestra Concert, OMS, 6:30 p.m.

May 9th: PTO Carnival, 6 p.m.

May 21st: 3rd-5th Grade Field Day

May 22nd: K-2 Super Kids Day

May 22nd: Annual School BBQ

May 27th-June 4th: Annual Camp Baldwin at Elm Creek

June 2nd: 5th Grade Handprints on the Rock, 9:30 a.m.

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