



**Mrs. Ness' Notes**  
**May 13, 2025**

**Enrollment:** 592 students + 8 Shared Time students  
VPK-29, K-105, 1st-87, 2nd-95, 3<sup>rd</sup>-85, 4<sup>th</sup>-99, 5<sup>th</sup>-92

**Staff Updates:** Please join me in sending well wishes to **Shari Swanson, Angie Paige, Carol Hammer, Jill Benson,** and **Cindy Christensen**, who are retiring at the end of this school year or retired earlier this school year. Thank you for your service to Elm Creek students and we wish you all the best in your retirement!

We will also miss **Angela Adelman**, School Social Worker, **Tiffany Clarno**, ADSIS Intervention teacher, **Elizabeth Wald**, Talented and Gifted (TAG) teacher, and **Andrew Gelbmann**, School Psychologist, as they are reassigned by the district office to other schools for 2025-26, Well wishes go to **Jenny Muellner** who is going on leave. Well wishes go to **Caty Solberg** and **Nicole Moretine** who have been long-term substitute teachers at Elm Creek this year. We will also miss **Kyle Cox, Deiah Johnson,** and **Brandy Khokhar**, who have been Kindergarten Educational Support professionals to help in our large class sized Kindergarten classrooms this year.

Thank you for your dedication to Elm Creek students and staff! You will be missed!

**Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5th-9th:** Thank you for showing appreciation to Elm Creek teachers and staff last week!

**Elm Creek Annual Family BBQ:** You are invited to come to our 9th annual all-school BBQ lunch on **Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. It is always a fun and well-attended event. A flyer was sent home last week, and extra forms to purchase your meal are in the main office. Please return the form by this Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> so we have an accurate count on the number of meals needed. Thank you. Adult meals cost \$5.25. Lunch times are:

Kindergarten-12:50  
First Grade-10:55  
Second Grade-11:45  
Third Grade-11:20  
Fourth Grade-12:10 and  
Fifth Grade-12:35

Remember to bring a blanket to sit on the grass.

**Camp Baldwin:** Students will be enjoying learning during our 9th Annual Camp Baldwin. Elm Creek Elementary teachers and staff have created a creative and fun curriculum for our students in the last few days of school, May 27<sup>th</sup>-June 4<sup>th</sup>. Students arrive to their cabin (classroom) each day, sing around the "campfire," have special camp snacks and read with flashlights in classroom tents. It is a terrific way to end the school year on a fun and positive note while still engaging in academics.

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**School Newspaper for sale:** Elm Creek Newspaper Club will be selling their final newspaper of the year on **Tuesday, June 3rd**. It is only 25 cents and made entirely by 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students!

**VOLUNTEERS**--We have 401 active volunteers as of the beginning of May, and they have logged 3,592 hours helping at our school! Over the next couple of weeks, we'll have volunteers going on field trips, serving ice cream at our Kindergarten Ice Cream Social, helping at our all-school BBQ and assisting our 5<sup>th</sup> graders with their end of year Handprints on the Rock celebration. We thank you for giving your time to our school. You've added so much positivity, creativity, and enrichment to our community this year. WE LOVE OUR EC VOLUNTEERS!


**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, May 16th from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the Elm Creek Media Center.

**Student Council:** Student council collected 113 Chloe Bears to donate to Children's Hospital. We are having school spirit day, Tropical Day, on May 29<sup>th</sup>. We have our final meeting to celebrate all the hard work our student council team has done this 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. Our May birthday table was on Monday, May 12th. June birthday lunches will be on Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. July birthday lunches will be on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and August birthday lunches will be on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**No School:** Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> there will be no school for students. It is Memorial Day holiday.

**Media Center News:** The last day to check out library books is Friday, May 23rd. All books are due back on Tuesday, May 27th. I will work with classroom teachers to deliver overdue notices and collect books each day until the last day of school. Here are some fun library statistics from this school year:

- As of May 9, we have circulated 19,448 books in the library this school year! That averages about 30 books per student throughout the year.
- Of our top 10 most circulated books this year, ALL 10 of them are Dog Man books by Dav Pilkey.  

- The top classes for the number of checkouts throughout the year are Ms. Wyman's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class and Ms. Pazandak's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. Way to go, readers!

**PE Update:** Field Days are coming!

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** grades 3rd-5th

9:15-2:45 (lunch break from 12-1)

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** grades K-2 and School BBQ Day

9:10-10:45 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

11:10-12:45 kindergarten

1:25-3:00 1<sup>st</sup> grade

Parents/Guardians are welcome to come and watch! Please send your child with their tennis shoes, sunscreen, and a water bottle filled with ONLY water on their designated day!

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**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.

**Kindergarten News:** Kindergarten went to Eastman Nature Center and learned about what animals need to survive. They will also be heading to Como Zoo on May 30<sup>th</sup>. We are finishing up our last 26 days of kindergarten with an ABC countdown and are having a lot of fun celebrating all that we have learned this year!

**First Grade News:** First grade is taking a field trip to Elm Creek Park on June 6<sup>th</sup>. We just started Alphabet Countdown as a fun way to countdown until summer!

**Fourth Grade News:** Fourth grade took our final Fastbridge aMath, and aReading, tests on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be going on a field trip to the Minnesota History Center on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Elm Creek Fishing Club will be going on their fishing trip to Weaver Lake on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Fifth Grade News:** Fifth graders are looking forward to many end-of-year activities. Students will be adding their hands to the rock out front, on June 2nd, to commemorate their time here at Elm Creek and will be visiting Eastman Nature Center June 3rd for geocaching. We are also excited to once again be able to celebrate the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade with a visit from National Yo-Yo Master, Dazzling Dave. During Camp Baldwin, students will watch a performance, learn their own yo-yo tricks, take home their very own yo-yo, and participate in a grade-wide yo-yo competition. Big thank you to the PTO for funding this special event!

**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:**

May 13<sup>th</sup>: Final PTO meeting of the year, 6:30 p.m.

May 14<sup>th</sup>: Fishing Club field trip

May 15<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> grade Band Concert for Elm Creek 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students

May 16<sup>th</sup>: Coffee with the principal, 10:30 a.m., Elm Creek Media Center

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Images of the World assembly, K-2, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade.

May 21<sup>st</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Field Day

May 22<sup>nd</sup>: K-2<sup>nd</sup> Super Kids Day

May 22<sup>nd</sup>: Annual Family BBQ

May 22<sup>nd</sup>: Assembly-Students Connecting through International Service

May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Last day of Band/Orchestra lessons for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students

May 26<sup>th</sup>: No School, Memorial Day

May -June 4<sup>th</sup>: Elm Creek Camp Baldwin

May 27<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to the Minnesota History Center

May 29<sup>th</sup>: Student Council Spirit Day: Tropical Day

May 29<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Dazzling Dave

May 30<sup>th</sup>: Kindergarten field trip to Como Zoo

May 31<sup>st</sup>: Girls on the Run 5K, Elm Creek will have a team of twenty 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade girls participating

June 2<sup>nd</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trip to Eastman Nature Center & Elm Creek Park Reserve

June 2<sup>nd</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Handprints on the Rock, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>: June Birthday Lunches

June 3<sup>rd</sup>: School Newspaper for sale, 25 cents

June 3<sup>rd</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Eastman Nature Center & Elm Creek Park Reserve

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June 3<sup>rd</sup>: July Birthday Lunches

June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Kindergarten Ice Cream Social

June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Last day for student devices

June 4<sup>th</sup>: August Birthday Lunches

June 5<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Dazzling Dave Yo-Yo contest

June 5<sup>th</sup>: Seniors walk the hallways, 2:30 p.m.

June 6<sup>th</sup>: 1st grade field trip to Elm Creek Park Reserve

June 6<sup>th</sup>: First annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade walk the hallways

June 6<sup>th</sup>: Last day of school

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