



Mrs. Ness' Notes November 12, 2024

Enrollment: 569 students + 8 Shared Time students
VPK-28, K-102, 1st-83, 2nd-94, 3rd-81, 4th-94, 5th-87

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 the Maple Grove Middle School Auditorium. Admission is FREE and the show is about 1 hour long. Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays after school at Elm Creek Elementary from January 13th-March 10th. This class fills up quickly so register soon at <https://osseo.ce.eleyo.com/course/8052/youth-w-sp-25/finding-nemo-kids-with-stages-theatre-elm-creek>

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 to offer coffee with the principal. The next coffee with the principal will be Friday, November 22nd from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Elm Creek Media Center. I will host these get togethers monthly from September 2024-May 2025 at various times and locations. A flyer with dates for the year was sent out in Peach Jar, with reminders sent monthly. This month, **Elizabeth Wald, Elm Creek Talented and Gifted teacher, will be sharing at 11 a.m.**

VOLUNTEERS-- We have 242 active volunteers as of the beginning of November, and they have logged 813 hours so far this school year! Over the next few weeks, we'll have volunteers helping at Turkey Bingo, helping in the cafeteria, assisting with our Kindergarten Thankful Feast, leading 2nd grade math groups, popping popcorn for classrooms, and so much more! We thank you for giving your time to our school. You help make Elm Creek even more amazing every day!

Health Office donations needed: We need pants for both boys and girls. The girl pant sizes needed are size 8 to 12 and the boy pant sizes needed are size 5 to 12. Thank you!

Student Council: Melissa Elias and Melissa Uecker work with students in 4th and 5th grade as part of our student council. We welcomed our new 4th graders to Elm Creek student council, had a brief meeting to hand out certificates, and communicated our meeting dates. We had a red, white and blue spirit day on Nov. 11 in recognition of Veterans Day. Our first official meeting will be on November 14th. We will be running our annual food drive Nov. 18-22 through CROSS Food Shelf. Information will be sent home to families the week before.

Kindergarten Highlights: In kindergarten we are busy learning about our five senses and exploring how important they are to our everyday lives. Now that the weather is getting cooler, we are getting lots of practice putting on our winter gear for our two recesses. We are working hard during our phonics time and on our way to becoming readers!

Fourth Grade Highlights: 4th Grade is in the middle of five weeks of our DARE program. We are learning valuable lessons about making good choices and being kind to others. In November we took a field trip to Feed My Starving Children. We packed 97 boxes which is 20,952 meals, which will feed 57 kids for a whole year! On December 10th we will be going to Eastman Nature Center for a class on Wilderness Survival. This ties very well in with the novel Hatchet by Gary Paulsen.

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 at the end of each month, a table is set up in the lunchroom. Students who have their birthday during that month can have lunch with the principal and will get ice cream. Students who have birthdays in July and August will celebrate in June. Our November birthday lunches will be on Monday, November 25th.

Coats and Snowpants donation: Thank you to the Knights of Columbus, with support from Premier Bank and the Osseo and Maple Grove Lions, for donating snowpants and winter coats to Elm Creek Elementary. If your child has need of a winter coat, please reach out to Kelly Deines, Elm Creek School Social Worker at Deinesk@district279.org.

Third Grade Dictionaries: Thank you to the Osseo Lions for donating a dictionary to each 3rd grade student at Elm Creek!

HOLIDAY SHOPPE—Holiday Shoppe crafting is underway, and we're looking forward to hosting our expanded Holiday Shoppe on December 12th and 13th. This year the Shoppe will continue to include items from different holidays celebrated by the cultures and traditions of our students and families here at Elm Creek. We still need plenty more crafts to help make this a successful event, so please consider contributing a simple homemade craft item!

Library News: We are looking forward to spending the month of December doing coding in the library. K-3rd grade will construct and code with Botzee robots, and 4-5th grade will build and code with Lego WeDo robots. Students will learn coding skills like creating algorithms (a sequence of instructions that a computer program follows to perform an action) and debugging (solving errors that come up in programming). It's a great way for students to build their skills in problem solving, logical thinking, and creativity. It's always a fun time for all!

Also, please remember to keep looking for library books and return anything that is overdue. If there is a library book that has gone missing or has been damaged, please reach out to the library and let us know. We will be sending out email overdue notices before Thanksgiving break.

PBIS & Outstanding Eagles: Remember to check out our Outstanding Eagle photos in Osseo-Maple Grove Press each week. Also, as part of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), we recognize classrooms that keep their room neat and tidy with a golden vacuum-one classroom per week.

No School: No school for students on Wednesday, November 27th. It is a report card marking day for teachers. Report Cards will be viewable on Parent Vue on December 12th. No school for students and staff on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for Thanksgiving break. Winter Break is from Monday, December 23rd-Friday, January 3rd.

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)

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Dates to Remember:

November 15th: PTO Turkey Bingo (6pm - 8pm)

November 16th: School Choice Fair, 9 a.m.-noon, Osseo Senior High School

November 18th-22nd: Student Council led Food Drive for CROSS. Please send in canned items to donate.

November 22nd: Coffee with the principal, Elm Creek Media Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Talented & Gifted teacher presenting at 11:00 a.m.

November 25th: November Birthday lunch table

November 27th: No School for Students. Mark Reporting Day.

November 28th-29th: No School, Thanksgiving break

December 10th: Fourth Grade to Eastman Nature Center

December 12th: Report Cards post to ParentVue.

December 12th & 13th: PTO Holiday Shoppe

December 20th: Coffee with the principal, Elm Creek Media Center, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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