

# Elmer Eagle News

Elmer Elementary School  
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January/February  
ISSUE



## Reminders from the Office

Please make every effort to inform our office of any change in your contact information and emergency contact people. Updating information with the office will help us to locate you, should your child become ill or school should close due to weather conditions. Information can be updated by a hand written note or email to the office. Should you have questions regarding the information on file, do not hesitate to call the office.

Often students advise the office of changes to their regular afternoon schedules. Please be reminded that parents should advise the office of these changes and not the student.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Corner

Happy New Year! First Grade's Resolution is to become the best students we can be! Thank you for all of your support in making our winter holiday activities a success. First Grade is looking forward to celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School and Valentine's Day in February. We deeply appreciate your coming out for parent teacher conferences. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with your family.

In Language Arts, we are continuing our Journeys Program with a deeper focus on reading and writing informational texts. You can help at home by continuing to support your child in daily reading and memorization of our 'words to know' and spelling words. First Grade has now moved on to monthly subtraction tests for the remainder of the year. Please continue to practice our math facts at home every night. "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." -Helen Keller

Best wishes for you and yours in 2017!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Corner

The Second Grade Teachers would like to wish everyone a very healthy and happy New Year. We would also like to thank everyone for donations to our holiday breakfast, which was a huge success.

Here are just a few reminders for the New Year. Your child is responsible for bringing a snack each day to school. Also, please make sure your child is wearing a heavy jacket to school. Weather permitting, we will be going out for recess.

All Second Grade classrooms participate in the xtramath web-based program. We use this program to increase speed and accuracy in arithmetic. In order for your child to benefit from this program, it needs to also be practiced at home. Your child should be using Xtra Math at home on a daily basis. This exercise will take your child less than five minutes to complete. This program also allows your child's teacher to get reports on your child's progress.

In Journeys, the students are reading informational texts to identify facts and opinions. They are also using the stories in the reading book and identifying text evidence to help answer comprehension questions. In writing, they are writing informative paragraphs. For our shared reading lessons, we will continue to practice our comprehension strategies. While the students are reading and being read to, they are using their comprehension strategies to better understand the text. We want to stress how important it is to have your child read each night. As with any skill one wishes to become deft at, the only way to improve one's reading is to practice reading daily.

## BSI Corner

Our Language Arts students are learning to identify "Key Understandings." After reading a story, the children should be able to tell about the main idea, characters, sequence of events, and what they have learned. I also ask them if there was a problem in the story and what the solution was. We often ask, "If the story continued, what do you think would happen next?" - Mrs. Poolake

BSI Math is working on skills taught in the classroom as well as learning both Addition and Subtraction Math strategies for help with Basic Math Facts to 20 and above. Learning these facts will help children become more confident learners as they are able to recall without struggle. This is especially helpful in solving word problems as well as other math skills. Please help your child practice every day.

- Mrs. Snyder

## FUTURE EVENTS

Happy New Year



2017

School Spirit Day

1/6 & 2/3



Author Spotlight Assembly

1/20



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Holiday - School Closed

1/16



Class Group Photos

2/9



Author Spotlight Assembly

2/10



Valentine's Day Celebrations

2/14



100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

Celebrations

2/13



**Principal**  
Daniel F. Bruce  
Ext. 4770

**School Nurse**  
Tracie Ewing  
Ext. 4772

**School Secretary**  
Stephanie Costanzo  
Ext. 4771

**Guidance Counselor**  
Terri Probasco  
Ext. 4773

**BSI/Head Teacher**  
Donna Poolake  
Ext. 3204

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Lead Teacher**  
Erin Talarico  
Ext. 3206

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Lead Teacher**  
Maria Ricci  
Ext. 3210

**Speech Teacher**  
Keyanah West  
Ext. 3261

**Special Area Teachers**  
Jason Ragan - Music  
Ext. 3243

Gwen Acosta - Library  
Ext. 4664

Janice Chassier - Art  
Ext. 3244

Eileen Miller - Technology  
Ext. 4771

Joyce Moskalow - Spanish  
Ext. 3136

Robert Hall - G & T  
Ext. 3232

Irene Krawiec - Gym  
Ext. 3246

### Special Education Corner

On behalf of Mr. Driscoll, Mrs Lewbart, Ms. Lodge, and Mrs. Scholl's Special Education Classrooms we would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! We have been working hard and having fun. We simply can't believe that  $\frac{1}{2}$  of our year is already behind us. Looking forward, we have many exciting activities and projects to keep us busy. For the months of January and February, Mr. Driscoll's class and Mrs Lewbart's class will be focusing on Journeys Prefixes and Suffixes. In Wilson Foundations we will be working with Welded Sounds. In Reading A-Z we will be making connections to text. In our My Math program we will be working with Place Value, Number Stories, and Expanded Form. For writing, we will be working on our own "I have a dream" speech to honor Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday and Black History Month.

In First Grade with Mrs. Scholl's class we are continuing to work hard in Journeys and memorizing our sight words! In My Math we are working on number and operations in base ten blocks to model two and three digit numbers, which help us to add, subtract and compare numbers.

Happy New Year and welcome back! In the MD program, some are continuing to work hard on writing the letters in their names and identifying letters in the alphabet, while others are practicing reading sight words and writing CVC words independently! We continue to work on daily living and social skills, as well as our fine motor skills. ~ Mrs. Lodge

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not." - [Dr. Seuss, The Lorax](#)

### Special Area News

**Media Center Happenings** - First and Second Grade students are busy learning about authors and genres. This month the students will have the chance to participate in a cover contest sponsored by Scholastic. Author Tedd Arnold is looking for his next book idea and needs help! In Library, we will read various books from the FLY GUY PRESENTS series. Students will brainstorm, draft, and create their own book cover idea for Tedd Arnold to use in his next Fly Guy Presents series. The Grand Prize Winner will win an adventure field trip for his/her entire class! Have your child share and discuss their idea with you.

"Everyone is a reader, some just haven't found their favorite book yet."

**Art- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade - Art Day is Play Clothes Day.**

In Art we have mixed the primary colors to make secondary colors. Red+Yellow=Orange Blue+Yellow=Green & Blue+Red=Violet Learning how to use paints and oil pastels was the beginning of the year. Presently we are using paper to create a textured Eagle. Shapes, colors, and learning about famous artists along the way is First Grade Art!

**Art- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Art Day is Play Clothes Day**

Using a variety of lines and mixing tints and shades has been our focus to date. If you add white to a color it gets lighter and black added to a color makes it darker. Blue Dog by George Rodrigue, Aliens in Underpants by Claire Freedman and artist John Rizzi's "happy houses" have been our inspiration. Now students are doing a sewn project that uses symbols with very special meanings.

- Mrs. Chassier

**Music - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Music**-So far, Music Class has been a blast! We learned to identify, feel and express the steady beat through singing and moving and by using instruments. We developed our voices by using them in different ways, and we identified high and low sounds, and pitch direction that moves up or down. By the time you are reading this newsletter, we will be learning about rhythm, and patterns in two, three, and four. The remainder of the year will consist of building on all of those skills and of course, adding more. The students will learn loud and soft (dynamics), fast and slow (tempo), long and short (duration), and they will be introduced to the four families of instruments. Awesome stuff!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Music**-We've covered lots of cool stuff over the last five months! We learned about the importance of strong and weak beats, how to properly use our voice as an instrument through singing solfege and partner songs. We know how to identify melodic direction and phrases, and how to improvise melodies using the pentatonic scale. We've met three Baroque composers (Vivaldi, Handel and Bach) and discovered what makes Baroque music so unique.....it's very fancy! At this point, we are starting to learn about note durations, accent marks and how to write notes and rests. Upcoming lessons will focus on beat, rhythm and ostinatos, contrasting meters, dynamics, form and composing original music. Fun stuff for our mini-Mozarts! - Mr. Ragan

**Technology 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades**- I am pleased with how well Elmer students have become at entering their email address and password to log on to the Chromebooks. During the month of January, we have been learning how to use the address bar. Students have to locate the address bar (at the top of the browser window), then they have to type in the website address. I write the web address on the board, then they type it in and go to the website. Once there, students can choose from various activities to reinforce language and math skills. This also helps them become more proficient at using the keyboard and mouse to perform the various tasks. Websites we have used so far are [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com) and [www.seussville.com](http://www.seussville.com). ABCya is a good website to practice many language, math and computer skills, while Seussville has a number of fun activities to go along with Dr. Seuss books. - Mrs. Miller

**P.E.** From the Elmer Gym... Well it is that time of year when the students come to school wearing coats, hats, gloves, and boots. I'd like to make the suggestion that they put a pair of sneakers in their book bags so they will be prepared for Gym no matter what day of the week it is. We will be starting our Basketball Unit soon in Second Grade and Ball Handling Unit in First. Stay warm and keep exercising! - Mrs. Krawiec

**Spanish - Grades 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades** - This year we are exploring Spanish and the Spanish speaking culture. Learning how to communicate with people from Spanish speaking countries is one focus.

Some highlights so far include learning phrases to greet and say good-bye to each other, including asking how everyone is feeling. Students can count to 10 easily, and can name several parts of the body and many colors, too.

It's a fantastic journey guiding our students in appreciating another language. We continue to have fun while learning! - Mrs. Moskalow

Cool Websites . . .  
check these out!

Math Practice:

[xtramath.org](http://xtramath.org)

[coolmath-games.com](http://coolmath-games.com)

Reading Practice:

[disneydigitalbooks.go.com](http://disneydigitalbooks.go.com)

[www.spinandspell.com](http://www.spinandspell.com)

[http://www.starfall.com](http://http://www.starfall.com)

Just for Fun:

[kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com)

[www.sproutonline.com/games](http://www.sproutonline.com/games)

[www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/)

[pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org)

Media Center's Website -  
[pittsgrove.oncoursesystems.com/websites/12104704](http://pittsgrove.oncoursesystems.com/websites/12104704)

For Parents/Guardians:

[readingrockets.org](http://readingrockets.org)

[scholastic.com/parents/](http://scholastic.com/parents/)

Nurse News

Nurse's News: January and February 2017

"WINTER HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS FROM THE NURSE"

W- wash your hands..

I- inspect hair for lice..

N-never talk to strangers!!

T- take a family walk outside, bundle up, enjoy the winter sights..

E- eat healthy fruits and vegetables..

R- rest and get plenty of sleep.. "Coins for the Heart" was great success this year. We helped many families.

Upcoming Events: American Heart Association Day! Wear Red.....February 9, 2017

We had a great Dental Assembly last month the students enjoyed it. Our Health lessons are about dental health and how to take care of our teeth. Please check out the Nurse's Website for more healthy tips.

As always, if need be, please contact me in the Health Office @ 358-6761 (#4772) - Mrs. Tracie Ewing, R.N.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, ELMER FAMILIES !

"Wuzzy Bear" has started his Health Lessons.....

W- warm soup in January...yummy!

O- oh, school is fun, but....need rest

R- remember to stay home if you are ill!!

D- don't forget a hat and gloves..

S- SMILE, every day!

Guidance Corner

Our students are excited to be "Caught by the Eagle."

Please continue to encourage your child to demonstrate our motto:

**Patience - Respect - Integrity - Diligence - Empathy**

- Mrs. Probasco - Guidance Counselor

A Message from your Principal

Dear Elmer Elementary Family:

It's hard to believe that 2017 has arrived! During the month of December the children at Elmer were busy with many seasonal and holiday activities. Between crafts, guest readers, and other holiday events, our classrooms were fully immersed in the holiday season. Thanks to those who were able to join us for the festivities!

Looking ahead, our students will continue to be challenged to grow academically. In order to meet the academic needs of all we continued our T.E.A.M. (Together Elmer Achieves More) Time period at Elmer Elementary School for both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. Students visit with different teachers/practitioners every other week for forty minutes providing them with additional time to work on improving skills necessary for educational success. For example, we have a phonics room, where students are given additional support on phonological awareness skills. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact us. Progress reports went home on February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester. Our PTO will only be coving a portion of the cost of our field trips for the 2016-2017 School Year. Parents/guardians will be asked to contribute the remaining cost.

We have many events planned for the up coming months; Author's Spotlight, 100<sup>th</sup> day of School Activities, and Black History Month Activities, just to name a few. I encourage you to read with your child each day, keep an open line of communication between you and your child's teacher, and ask your child about his/her school day each day. A quote to consider: *Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation.* -- C. Everet Koop, M.D.

Here's to a great 2017! The Elmer School staff and I wish you and your families a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Cordially, Daniel F. Bruce - Principal

Fun Snowflake Facts

- 1) Snowflakes form when water vapor in the atmosphere freezes into ice crystals.
- 2) Snowflakes form in a variety of different shapes.
- 3) Light and fluffy snow is often called 'powder'.
- 4) Snowstorms with high winds are often called 'blizzards'.
- 5) Highest snowfall ever recorded in one year period: 1224 inches - Mount Rainer, Washington State, between February 19, 1971 and February 18, 1972.

Red and Rover

by Brian Basset

