

EYES ON EASTLAKE

Volume 23 Issue 3

December 12, 2017

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Reading is at the core of a child's success. As we approach the holiday season and take some time off for winter break, I'd like to offer a few ways that reading with your child for 20 (or more) minutes a day can benefit him or her.

Reading is "brain food"

Our brains develop as we "feed" them with experiences. The experience of reading (whether you're the reader or the one being read to) activates and "exercises" many of the areas of the brain.

Reading improves listening skills

The experience of being read to helps children develop good listening skills by keying them into the components of language.

Reading builds early literacy skills

When you read with your child he/she learns that print is a representation of the words you say aloud. Repeated experiences with reading allow this understanding to grow. The single greatest factor in a child's ability to read is early experiences being read aloud to.

Practice makes perfect

Generally, the more time you are exposed to something and the more time you spend practicing it, the better you'll become at performing it. This is absolutely true for reading.

Reading improves academic performance

There is a strong correlation between a child's ability to read and his/her academic performance. Because so much of our schooling relies on our abilities to read, children must have strong reading skills to succeed and thrive in school.

Reading improves relationships

Because we are busy it is difficult to have "quality" one-on-one time with our children without distractions. Building 20 minutes into each day for reading together provides this important bonding time.

Wishing you all a happy holiday and a safe winter recess.

Bryan Hershkowitz
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/13 – Winter Concert

12/15 – School Spirit Day

Super Hero Day

12/20 – Bruss & Safarik Class Parties

12/20 – 5th Grade Spelling Bee

12/21 – Holiday Parties 1:30

12/22 – 1:30 Dismissal K-5

12/25 – 1/1 – School Closed

Christmas Recess

1/2 – School Reopens

| **The PTA meeting that was scheduled** |
| **for 12/21 has been cancelled.** |

K-KIDS

The Eastlake K-Kids have been very busy this month. Our little "Elves" have been working hard assembling and delivering "Kindness Canes." It is great to see the reaction of the children and teachers when they receive one. The sale will continue through the end of this week. The children will vote on a charity to donate the proceeds to after we return from Winter Break. Thank you to everyone who has sent in toys for our Toys for Tots collection. The toys will be distributed to various agencies that are collecting and distributing toys to children in need. Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

Mrs. Baltuch, Ms. Coen and Mrs. Mastrangelo -
K-Kids Co-Advisors



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Looking Ahead

Pre-School: We had so much fun with our clothing study and making our t-shirts! During the month of December we will be learning all about winter, weather and celebrations happening this time of year! We are looking forward to everyone joining us for our Open House/Class Party on Wed, Dec. 20th. Please remember a maximum of 2 parents per child due to the limited amount of space in the class room and no siblings please. This will ensure that your child will be able to enjoy making crafts together and receive your full attention! Progress reports will be coming home and you will receive two copies, please sign and return one copy and keep the other copy for your records. I would like to take a moment to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season! I look forward to returning in 2018 and wish you all a happy and healthy new year! Ms. Bruss

We've been working hard in Miss Fairweather's class! This past month, we completed our study on clothing. We learned about types of clothes, the clothing we should wear for different weather and features of clothes. We enjoyed our fun theme days to go along with this study! Looking ahead, we will be learning about community helpers. The cold weather has arrived, so please practice putting on hats and mittens!

For the month of December, Ms Gonzalez's class is focusing on different holidays that occur during the month. My favorite is a silly holiday....National Cookie Day! We read books about cookies, practiced our rolling pin and cookie cutter skills, and made many cookie crafts. We even delivered cookies to the teachers in the school to celebrate the occasion!!! For the rest of the month we will be looking at other holidays, including Christmas and Hanukkah.

Mrs. Pepe's class delivered cookies to all of the teachers at Eastlake on December 4th for National Cookie Day! This week we are reading "Penguin, Penguin, what do you See?" The students are matching pictures in the story. In the Art Center, we are learning about Winter by making snow globes, melted snowmen and mittens. The students are using Q-tips and sponges to paint. We also enjoy going into the gym on Fridays with our friends from Ms. Gonzalez class.

Mrs. Safarik's class is busy learning about the winter time, all of the changes from fall to winter and of course holidays. We have a lot of fun things in store for this theme. We are going to have some special guest readers. We are even having our parents in to make crafts. Please make sure that if your child needs to wear boots, you send in their sneakers as well so that they can change for gross motor activities. Have a wonderful holiday to everyone. See you in 2018!!!!

Kindergarten: Thank you all for taking the time to meet with us during conferences. We enjoyed discussing your child's progress and appreciate your continued support.

Our Super Readers have been learning about the special super powers they can use to help them become stronger readers. During Reader's Workshop, students spend time reading independently and with a partner to practice using these super powers when reading. Your child will begin to bring home a special bookmark with their super powers listed. This tool can be used when they read their "just right" books for homework.

With the winter months approaching, please practice self-help skills with your child. This includes, zippering/buttoning jackets and putting on hats and gloves. Please allow for extra time each morning and encourage your child to become more independent.

Please continue to read and count with your child at home. We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.



First Grade: Happy holidays!!! We have just started writing "How to" books in writing workshop, and the kids are getting the hang of it. We will be learning new crafts, and adding more details as the weeks progress. In reading workshop, we are about to earn our detective badges for learning all the strategies for solving tricky words! We will be learning about our country over the next few weeks in social studies, and we just finished our Engineering and Technology in science. We wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season.

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Second Grade: The weather outside is getting frightful, but inside our classrooms it is delightful. In Science, we are continuing to learn all about the engineering process. This week, students are comparing strengths and weaknesses of design solutions by building two separate towers that will each have to hold a marshmallow at the top. In Reading Workshop, students are applying decoding strategies in both fiction and nonfiction texts. Writers are busy revising and editing their work to prepare for celebrations in Writing Workshop. In Math, students will begin to extend their knowledge of basic facts into 2-digit addition, where they will apply various strategies to find the sum. Please be sure your child is reading at home each night to continue building their reading stamina. Second grade is looking forward to the winter concert and holiday party. It's going to be a holly, jolly good time!

Third Grade: Third graders have been busy little elves this month! We are getting close to wrapping up our first Reader's Workshop unit and cannot believe how much we are growing! We can now read for very long stretches of time and are growing into more challenging books. Our mystery unit is next, stay tuned to see what mysteries we learn to solve! Students in the third grade are also getting very close to publishing our personal narratives. As writers, we have taken on the large task of finding ways to include figurative language and leads within our writing. We are also looking closely at how we can organize what we have written, so that our readers become captured by our writing. In just a few more weeks, we will have our published copies, ready to celebrate with each other!

In social studies, we have been learning about different Native American tribes, while also completing a Navajo sand painting. Sand paintings were used as prayers for Navajo that were sick or needed help. Be on the lookout for the display outside Room 12 in the next few weeks! Third graders have also been busy, busy learning our multiplication facts. We can't believe that we are already up to the nine times tables! Before we know it, we will be multiplying two digits by two digits.

As we get ready to embark on new learning, we want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season! We are going to take some time to relax over our holiday break, so that we come back raring to go! Happy Holidays!

Fourth Grade: The fourth grade has been working very hard over the last several months to prepare for our band and chorus concert this week. We are so excited to share what we have learned with you! We would like to give a big shout out to Mrs. Perry and Ms. Bamber for all of their support and guidance in preparing us for our very first concert! In reading workshop, we are reading realistic fiction and analyzing the characters in our books. We will be exploring their personality traits, the motivations they have for their actions, and the obstacles they must overcome. In math, we are working on learning how to perform long multiplication. When our parents and teachers were young, they only learned one way...but we have already learned multiple strategies including using the distributive property and expanded form to find a produce! For those of us still trying to mastery our multiplication facts, continuing to review them each night would be very helpful!



Fifth Grade: 'Tis the season....5th graders have been preparing for their winter concert which is sure to delight everyone. In math, the children have completed addition and subtraction of decimals and now they're on to multiplication. In reading, we're busy asking questions in order to analyze arguments. Building cars is what we're doing in science in order to determine how far they'll travel based on weight, shape and speed. Moving west is our next adventure in social studies. The children will be learning all about the expedition of Lewis and Clark and will culminate this unit by writing journal entries from the point of view of one of the members of the expedition team. We wish you all a Merry Everything and Happy Always!

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ART NEWS

We are finishing up our Color projects and taking photos so that art can be uploaded to Artsonia.com. We have 77% of our students signed up to have artwork displayed on Artsonia, but it would be great to have 100%! In addition to giving parents, relatives and family friends the opportunity to view your child's art work and leave encouraging comments, it provides us the opportunity, in class, to view and talk about the group of artwork as we review our lesson objectives.

Only kindergarten and other students new to Eastlake received permission slips. Once you have given permission, it extends through your child's school years. Please take a look at Artsonia.com and look for your child's artwork soon. If you have a desire to purchase an item with your child's artwork, but do not yet see the artwork, let me know and I will make sure to photograph and upload it right away.

If you have any questions, please contact me at pgallagher@pthsd.net



TIPS FOR CHOOSING BOOKS FOR KIDS

- Younger children enjoy books that use word repetition, rhymes, and predictable text. Look for books with colorful pictures and simple words.
- For beginning readers, select books that match their skill level.
- At the library, let your child choose some of the books.
- If your child has a favorite book, he or she may enjoy other books written by the same author.
- Choose stories that provide new experiences, such as folktales or books about different countries and cultures.
- Choose books that match your child's interests, from dinosaurs to dancing. (Most children like books that are funny.)
- For children who are already reading, select a variety of books – books you can read together, books you can read to your child, and books your child can read to you.
- Encourage your child to try different kinds of books, such as mysteries, biographies, and other non-fiction.
- Ask the children's librarian for book suggestions or booklists.
- Books about events in your child's life (new siblings, moving) can help him or her cope with fears and feelings.
- Visit the *Between the Lions* web site (www.pbskids.org/lions) for more on children and reading.