



EASTSIDE NEWS

A monthly newsletter for Eastside parents

Eastside Elementary
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www.constps.org

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November 2008

2009-2010 Kindergarten Registration



Children who will be five **on or before December 1, 2009** are eligible for Young Fives or Kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year. If you have a child who is eligible to enroll, please contact our office at (269) 435-8960. (Parents of students currently in Young Fives do not need to contact the office).

If you have a neighbor or friend who has a child who will be five on or before December 1, 2009, please encourage them to contact our office.

Thank you!

PTA & Other Reminders...

- Spirit wear orders and money are due on Monday, November 5—the orders will be back by Thanksgiving Break.
- Please sign in at the office and get a visitor tag if you will be in the hallways, classrooms or other areas of the building. This includes signing children in when they are late to school. The school day begins at 7:40 a.m.
- New Family Orientation – we have one more date if you have not been able to make a previous orientation – **Thursday, November 13 @ 9:00 a.m.** The office staff will be contacting you to set up a time for a home visit should you not be able to attend this final orientation. We look forward to meeting with you! We are nearly at 100% attendance!
- Per Eastside handbook: "...if a child is well enough to be in school, he/she is well enough to take part in normal activities including the noon-hour outdoor program...children who are sick should not come to school."

Lost & Found

The office is already overflowing with lost and found items. Please claim your items before Christmas Break, as we will donate them to Goodwill at that time.

Thanks!



Partners in Education!



We had nearly a 100% turnout at conferences! Thanks for those that attended as partners in your child's education. If you were unable to meet with your child's teacher during conference week, it is not too late to set up a time. I encourage you to do so. Children excel when parents are involved in their child's education and in contact with their child's teacher on a regular basis.

We look forward to continuing this partnership throughout the school year!

I will continue sending out PRINCIPAL NOTES-- Friday emails to parents and families. If you would like to be on this list serve weekly, please leave your email address in the Eastside office or call (269) 435-8960!

Yours in Education,

Mrs. Kristin M. Flynn, Principal

Upcoming Events

November

National Reading Month!

- 3-7 Give a Child a Book Week
- 5 PTA Mtg-6:00 pm
(Child care & snack provided)
- 8 PTA Bazaar @
CHS-8 a - 3 p
- 10 Picture Retakes
- 10 Board Mtg @ CMS-
7:00 p
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 13 Make Up Parent
Orientation
9:00-9:30 a
- 14-25 Food Drive
- 14 PTA Fall Carnival
5:00-8:00 p
- 20 Backwards Day
- 21 Bible Release
- 24 PTA Inflatable
Party-3:15-5:15 p
- 26 End of 1st
Trimester
- 26 Market day orders
due
- 27-28 No SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break!

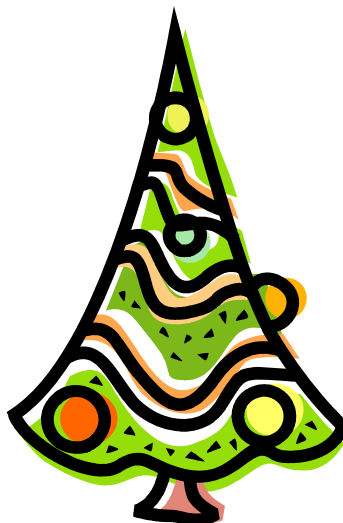


December

- 1-5 PTA Santa's
Workshop
- 3 PTA Mtg-6:00 pm
(Child care & snack
provided)
- 5 Bible Release
12:30-1:45 p
- 8 Board Mtg @ CHS
7:00 p
- 10 1st Grade to Junie
B. Jones
- 11-12 1st/2nd Grade
Vision/Hearing
Screening
- 19 Jingle Bell Day

Christmas/ Winter Break

December 20-January 4, 2008



Guidelines for Parent Volunteers

We really appreciate the parents and community members who volunteer at school. Here are a few things to keep in mind when you are working with students:

- Please sign in and out at the office.
 - Please make every effort to be on time. If you are unable to come at your scheduled time, please call the office or send a note, so we can make other arrangements.
 - Be positive with students and their efforts.
 - Remember, we are always role models for our students.
 - Encourage independence. Ask students first, "What do you think you should do?" before offering help.
 - *Confidentiality is a must!* Please do not discuss the lives or learning of the students you assist with other students or adults who are not in the classroom. However, if you have a concern, please bring it to the teacher's or principal's attention.
 - Have fun and enjoy your time working with the students. You make a difference by being here at school.
- Thank you!

"A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark."

-- Chinese Proverb

How to Nurture a Growing Reader



Reading doesn't just happen. It is a skill that must be nurtured from a child's earliest years. Once children know how to read, they still need gentle coaxing and support to reach their full potential as readers.

Here are a dozen tips for nurturing your growing readers:

1. **Read with your children at least once every day.**
2. **Make sure they have plenty to read.** Take them to the library regularly, and keep books and other reading materials in their reach.
3. **Notice what interests your child,** then help find books about those things.
4. **Respect your child's choices.** There's nothing wrong with series fiction if that's what keeps a young reader turning the pages.
5. **Praise your children's efforts** and newly acquired skills.
6. **Help your child build a personal library.** Children's books, new or used, make great gifts and appropriate rewards for reading. Designate a bookcase, shelf or box where your children can keep their books.
7. **Check up on your children's progress.** Listen to them read aloud, read what they write and ask teachers how they're doing in school.
8. **Go places and do things with your children** to build their background knowledge and vocabulary, and to give them a basis for understanding what they read.
9. **Tell stories.** It's a fun way to teach values, pass on family history and build your children's listening and thinking skills.
10. **Be a reading role model.** Let your children see you read, and share some interesting things with them that you have read about in books, newspapers or magazines.
11. **Continue reading aloud to older children** even after they have learned to read by themselves.
12. **Encourage writing along with reading.** Ask children to sign their artwork, add to your shopping list, take messages and make their own books and cards as gifts.

Families That Play Together...



How can your busy family find ways to spend time together? Here are a few suggestions:

- **Celebrate each new season.** You might toast pumpkin seeds and sip warm apple cider when autumn begins. Hide acorns and walnuts around your living room, and have your children pretend to be squirrels and search for them.
- **Get fit together.** Walk or bike with your youngsters to school. Find an indoor pool and enjoy a Saturday morning swim. Rent a video to learn hip-hop or swing dancing.
- **Set up a family carnival.** At one "booth," players can use kitchen tongs to fish for ice cubes in bowls of water. At another, toss rubber balls into plastic cups. Idea: The last stand can be a refreshment booth.

Q: I would really like to help my children's school but don't have a lot of time. Is there any other way that I can help besides volunteering?

A: Great question! A very simple way to support our schools is by participating in the PTA's Scrip Program. "Scrip" is the purchasing of gift cards to stores and restaurants that you already use. Companies donate between 2%-14% of the card's value back to the school. You're not paying an extra and there's no need to change where you shop. In fact, you can even pay your Kohl's and JCPenny credit card bills with Scrip. It's easy to participate! Look over your checkbook. Where do you spend money every month? Do you eat at Wendy's, Panera's or Texas Roadhouse? How about going to Celebration Theatre to catch a movie? If you buy shoes at Payless, prescriptions at Walgreens or Rite Aid, books at Barnes and Noble, clothes at Sears or American Eagle, or home project materials at Lowe's or Home Depot, then Scrip has cards for you! Send Eastside PTA your paid order by the 15th of the month, and your Scrip will be sent home to you usually within a week. If you would like further information, or a complete listing of participating retailers, just email kflynn@constps.org or call the Eastside Elementary office at (269) 435-8960.



Help us win \$10,000 in needed equipment!

Modern Woodman of America provides free Youth Educational Programs that we use. As an organization that offers fraternal financial services and supports community causes, Modern Woodman launched an online giveaway for \$10,000 in computers, digital cameras, projectors or other technological equipment.

One lucky school or organization will benefit. Let's try to make it ours! Log on to www.modern-woodmen.org and click on the **Technology Giveaway** icon to enter and find out more. One entry per day, per email address, is allowed. Entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2009. Thanks! - Mrs. Flynn

After School Arts

Come join us for a great time & great projects

Every Tuesday after school at the **Constantine Art Center** Tuesdays 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

\$24 non member \$19 member

Per six week session

Scrapbooking Workshop

1st & 3rd Tuesday: 7:00-9:00 p.m. \$3:00 per session

Constantine Art Center

Bring your own supplies and have fun! There will be limited supplies available at a great price

*Also many great adult/evening classes available

For more info call Deb @ 435-6610

FOOD DRIVE

The food drive runs November 14-25 (ending at 2:00 pm). All food and non-food items are to be brought to school during these dates, and the classroom teachers will help to get the food to the general location for deliveries.

Items that we need include:

- any non-perishable food item (boxed, canned, bagged)
- any liquid items such as juices, waters or broths that are non-perishable
- toiletries such as soap, shampoo, Q-tips, toilet paper, etc.

-We will need one frozen turkey per family, so anyone that would like to donate a turkey, please contact Mrs. French at 435-8960.