



# EASTSIDE NEWS

A monthly newsletter for Eastside parents



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October 2008

## WE ARE OFF TO A GREAT START...



We are off to a great start this school year! The Eastside staff members are hoping for a 100% turnout for parent teacher conferences in October (October 13-17). Thanks in advance for making the effort to be involved in your child's education. Please remember that parents should always feel welcome to contact a teacher at any time if they have a concern. It is important to communicate a concern early before it becomes a larger problem.

Looking forward to seeing you at conferences!

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, call (269) 435-8960 or email me directly at [kflynn@constps.org](mailto:kflynn@constps.org)

Yours in Education,

Mrs. Kristin M. Flynn, Principal

## MARKET DAY

PTA would like to thank those who purchased Market day items in September.

Check out  
[www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com)

to order...and help send \$\$ back to the school!

## THANK YOU!

PTA would like to send many thanks to those of you who participated in the Eastside Fundraiser. The PTA could not thrive without your support. The total amount collected for the PTA annual budget will be announced in the November issue of the Eastside News! This money allows the PTA to sponsor many annual events for our children and families.

It's NOT too late. Become a PTA member for \$3.75 and make a positive impact on your child's future.

## Coat & Boot Exchange

Send in your new or gently used winter coats and boots. There will be a table set up during parent-teacher conference week...these items will be free to anyone who needs them!

Thanks for donating!



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.

**Mandatory New Parent/Family Orientation** – we have a make-up date – **October 14 (3:00-3:45 p)**. We look forward to meeting with you! We are nearly at 100% attendance!

**Free and reduced lunch forms** - if any family feels they *may* qualify for free or even reduced breakfast/lunch, please fill out a form that can found in the Eastside office. This is *confidential* information and only the food services director is aware of any qualifications.

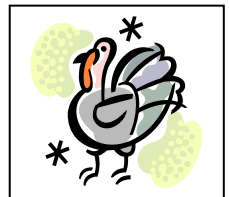
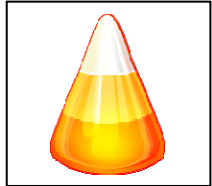
# Upcoming Events

## October

- 1 Market Day Pick-Up  
5:00-6:00 p
- 1 PTA Mtg-6:00 pm  
(Child care & snack provided)
- 5-11 Fire Prevention Week  
(Check your smoke detectors)
- 10 Favorite Sports Team Day!
- 13 Board Mtg @ Mason  
Twp Hall-7:00 p
- 13-17 Book Fair
- 13-17 Parent/Teacher Conferences & Progress Reports
- 14 New Parent/Family Make-Up Meeting  
3:00-3:45 p
- 17  $\frac{1}{2}$  day of school—  
students dismissal at 11:15 a
- 19-25 School Bus Safety Week
- 22-23 Mobile Dentist
- 29 Market Day orders due
- 31 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip-  
Nottawa Fruit Farm
- 31 Halloween Costume Parade-1:00 p.m.

## November

- National Reading Month!
- 3-7 Give a Child a Book Week
- 5 Market Day Pick-Up  
5:00-6:00 p
- 5 PTA Mtg-6:00 pm  
(Child care & snack provided)
- 10 Picture Retakes
- 10 Board Mtg @ CMS-  
7:00 p
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 14-25 Thanksgiving Food Drive
- 14 PTA Fall Carnival  
5:00-8:00 p
- 20 Backwards Day
- 21 Bible Release
- 25 "Turkey Trot"  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Music Program-7:00 p
- 26 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester
- 26 Market day orders due
- 27-28 No SCHOOL  
Thanksgiving Break!



## HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTION

Mrs. Lindsay French, Counselor

[lfrench@constps.org](mailto:lfrench@constps.org)

(269) 435-8960, x5962

I hope that your child's first month back at school has been a successful one! Just remember, it does take some time for most of the children to get back into the routine of school and get settled back in to the swing of things. If there is anything that I can do to help support this transition, please let me know.

Also, I have been in all of your children's classrooms this past month to discuss and role play our new Conduct Program. Please ask your child to share what we have talked about at home. The children are really catching on quickly!

### Things to look forward to in the next months:

- November: Thanksgiving Adopt-a-Family Food Drive (school and community- wide), please let me know if you or another family could benefit from this program.
- December: Holiday Adopt-Family (staff/PTA participation) please let me know if you or another family could benefit from this program.
- Classroom Guidance Topics for 2008-2009: Appropriate Behavior...and much more!

**I**f children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

**I**f children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

**I**f children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.

**I**f children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

**I**f children live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.

**I**f children live with encouragement, they learn to be confident.

**I**f children live with praise, they learn to appreciate.

**I**f children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

**I**f children live with acceptance, they learn to find love in the world.

**I**f children live with sharing, they learn to be generous.

### **Medication**

This is the season of allergies, colds and other health concerns where medicine may be required.

All medications to be administered during school hours must be registered with the office.

Medication **MAY NOT** be sent to school in the child's lunch box, pocket, or other means on or about his/her person. An exception to this would be prescriptions for emergency medications for allergies and/or reactions.

For each prescribed medication, the medicine must be in the original prescription bottle with:

1. Student's name
2. Physician's name
3. Date
4. Pharmacy name and telephone
5. Name of medication
6. Prescribed dosage and frequency
7. Special handling and storage directions

Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year.

A log for each prescribed medication shall be maintained which will note the personnel giving the medication, the date, and the time of day. This log will be maintained along with the parent's written release.

**“Medication” also includes cough drops and over the counter medications.**

Contact the Eastside office if you have further questions.

# Helping School-Age Children Become Better Readers

Literacy Advice from Sharon Darling, founder and president of the National Center for Family Literacy

**Question:** How can I help my child become a better reader?

**Answer:** When you are involved in your child's learning, he or she will be more successful! Providing language and literacy support to school-age children helps connect learning at school to learning at home. When school and home learning are linked, children are more focused and confident as they learn to read.

Here are a few strategies – ranging from simple to more complex as their abilities grow – you can use to help your child become a better reader.

## Phonemic Awareness

- Sing songs, say chants and poems, and share nursery rhymes.
- Ask your child to think of words that begin with the same sound.
- Say a word; ask your child to say words that rhyme with that word.
- Clap syllables in words and names — "How many syllables in hippopotamus?"

## Phonics

- As you read with your child, point to letters and ask him to name them.
- Make an alphabet book together with drawings or illustrations for each letter.
- Encourage your child to write notes, lists, letters to family and friends, and stories.
- Play word games — "I spy something that starts with the letter M. What is it?"

## Fluency

- Read aloud to your child, changing your voice for different characters in the story.
- As you read, pause and show your child where sentences begin and end.
- Read books that your child is interested in, taking turns reading a page; when your child slows down or makes mistakes, encourage her to read the page again.
- Encourage your child to read lots of different things — books, magazines, newspapers, letters, signs.

## Vocabulary

- Talk with your child often about family events and interests, their friends, and activities at school.
- As you read or talk with your child, draw his attention to new words and what they mean.
- When reading with your child, ask him to describe the pictures or illustrations and then point to words in the text that match his descriptions.
- Write new words in a list, display the list at home, and encourage your child to use these new words again and again when talking and writing.
- Look up new words in the dictionary or thesaurus to find out what they mean

## Comprehension

- Encourage your child to tell stories; ask her questions that focus on the characters, the message, and the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
- When reading with your child, encourage her to predict what might happen next in the story; discuss events in the story and compare to her own experiences.
- Read many different kinds of books (poetry, fiction, nonfiction), magazines, and newspapers
- Visit interesting places (museums, zoos, parks, cities), do things together (cooking, shopping, sports) and then talk about the experience with your child.
- Encourage your child to write for different purposes (lists, letters, stories, reports) and different audiences (family, friends, general public).
- After your child has read a book, ask him to talk about the meaning of the book.

*Written by the National Center for Family Literacy*

# Websites Worth Checking Out

Mom's – check this out for recipes, money-saving tips, quotes of the day, bargains and much more for Michiana moms!

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

Great site for preschool and early elementary

<http://pbskids.org/caillou/games/>

Michigan Department of Education – Parent Guides to Kindergarten and other grades

[http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530\\_6809-152726--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_6809-152726--,00.html)

Reading is Fundamental – Parent Tips

<http://www.rif.org/parents/tips/default.aspx#cat189>

## Art News!

### **Reminder to parents:**

- Please remember to send your child in older clothes and/or provide an old shirt to be used as a “paint shirt” on days they have art. We sometimes get messy!
- *Art to Remember* is coming soon. Students are creating beautiful artwork and parents will have the opportunity to order various items including: t-shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs, mouse pads, These priceless keepsakes make wonderful Christmas presents. More information following soon...be on the look out!

Thank you!

Mrs. Dawn Melville, Art Teacher

## PTA Spirit Wear Coming Soon!

Look for Eastside and Constantine Falcon wear in the form of t-shirts, sweatshirts, seat cushions and much more in the coming weeks!