



Ellis School Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 25, 2014

Pajama Drive!

The 6th graders are participating in the annual Scholastic Reading Club Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive benefitting Pajama Program, a non-profit organization that provides new pajamas and books to children in need—especially those living in group homes, shelters, foster care, and orphanages.

Since 2009, caring classrooms across the country have risen to the challenge and donated nearly 350,000 pairs of new pajamas. The Scholastic Reading Club has more than matched those numbers with nearly 700,000 new books donated directly to Pajama Program. Our class wants to be part of this drive so that we can

help make a better bedtime for these children. Together we can help the Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive reach even more kids with pj's and books.

We would like to invite all families of Ellis School to participate. If you and your child are able to share in this outreach, please have your child bring in a new pair of pajamas to school by December 10th and ask your teacher to send it to Mrs. Holmes in the 6th grade.

Guidelines for the Pajama Drive:

- ◆ PJ's must be brand-new.



A good night's sleep & a sweet bedtime story

- ◆ All sizes needed.
- ◆ Complete PJ sets
- ◆ PJ's in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas -this ensures they are flame-retardant & safe

Thank you for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep & a sweet bedtime story.

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Special points of interest:

- * Middle School Dance
- * Blood Drive Thank You!
- * Middle School Guidance Update
- * 7th Grade Language Arts & Math Updates

Ellis Middle School—Invitational Dance Fundraiser

Where: Ellis School Gym

When: Friday, 12/12, 7—9

We would like to invite all 6th, 7th, & 8th graders (and a guest if they wish), to our fundraiser dance to benefit the 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip.

- * *Cost: \$5.00 per student & \$5.00 per guest (note: guest must be in the 6th*

-8th grade)

- * *Refreshments will be served for a fee of \$1.00—\$1.50 (water, popcorn, etc.)*

- * *Also, glow necklaces & bracelets will be available for purchase for a fee of \$1.00—\$2.00 each*

***Please remember to have*

all forms filled out & returned before attending the dance.

◇ *Student Responsibility Form*

◇ *Student Release From Dance Form (if leaving dance with someone other than parent/legal guardian*

◇ *Invitational Guest Form*

Reminders from the Main Office

Absences, Tardiness, Dismissals & Pick-Ups

The Main Office would like to remind parents/guardians about a few important procedures regarding Absences, Tardiness, Dismissals & Pick-Ups.

- (1) Please report your student absent or tardy **NO LATER** than 9:00 am using the absence line. Phone number 603-895-2511 then press "7". If the school hasn't heard from you, you will be called at home or work.
- (2) Students who are tardy to school **MUST** be signed in at the front office by the parent/

guardian.

- (3) All requests for early dismissal **MUST** be accompanied by a written note from the parent/guardian.
- (4) If it is necessary to change your student's dismissal routine, the parent/guardian **MUST** write a note to the classroom teacher notifying them of this (i.e. bus to a walker, visa versa or ride a different bus home than their regular bus.) ***THIS INCLUDES IF YOUR CHILD STAYS AFTER SCHOOL FOR ANY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.***

- (5) If a change is made in the middle of the day, we encourage parents to e-mail the teacher and follow up with a phone call to the office. If there is no note or phone call to the office, the student **WILL** be sent home via their regular dismissal routine.
- (6) Review pgs. 10—12 of the Ellis Student/Parent Handbook for more details. Thank you for your cooperation with these procedures as they are important to the protection of our students.

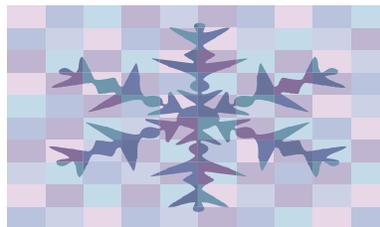
Third Grade News, from Mrs. Gobeil

The children are beginning to learn their multiplication tables. It is imperative that they master their tables for a solid foundation. Children who practice at home are known to do better at mastering their tables. Don't forget to access the Everyday math games.

Building a community and learning how to work together has been the focus in reading. Nonfiction stories about everyday people who have helped their community is the genre and they are showing the children that everyone can make a difference and get along.

The children are start-

ing to create a unit on Christmas Around the World. They



have planned a meal that goes with their country's traditional holiday foods. Ms. Janet, the manager of the café, has been working with the 3rd grade and will serve a different meal depending on what country the class is studying. This event is to take place in mid December and will be on December's lunch menu. Each class is going to decorate and select music for the feast to make it feel

like Christmas.

Descriptive writing using details from their reading materials has been an important part of writing. The children have been working on expository paragraphs. This is a great way for them to learn to know fact from fiction.

The rainforest is being studied in science. The children are learning how important the rainforest is and what could happen if we did not protect the rainforest. Understanding the importance of our environment is a goal for us to teach children. We hope that they extend this goal to respect nature and all the beautiful things it contains.

Fifth Grade News, Ms. Wentworth

What do you get when you have a tenacious and dedicated group of fifth grade students? A willing and able homeroom that advocates for others, whether they are near or far. This was so evident when 5W decided to dedicate as much of their own candy as possible to Candy Buy-back. They did this as a means to gather around the troops and without being driven by the incentive of gaining anything back other than the good feeling of doing something for such a deserving group of troops.



Little did they know when they made the donation of 12.6 pounds from their large candy cauldron, that they would win the “Most Spirit” award for this generous gesture by receiving a cauldron of Beanfields chips.



Elementary Guidance News, Mrs. Avelino

Red Ribbon Week—The last week in October we had our annual Red Ribbon Week. The kids had a great time with the themed dress-up days and we focused on the concepts of making healthy choices, consequences of our actions, and peer pressure. Ms. Kimball and Mrs. Avelino co-taught lessons during Wellness class which focused on the above topics and integrated some fun physical activity. Three winners from each grade earned a “Too Smart to Start” book-mark and an extra recess.

Mix-It-Up at Lunch—On November 14th we held Mix It Up at Lunch day. This day is a fun way to focus on the concepts of how to make a new friend, learning about others, and conversation skills. The kids always enjoy the music and decorations and it is exciting to be able to sit at a different table, or with a new friend.

School Counseling Intern—We are fortunate to have a School Counseling Intern start this December. Ms. Katie

Sauer, a Master’s level student from Plymouth State University, will be working with Mrs. Avelino one or two days each week for the remainder of the year. Ms. Sauer will begin by observing, then co-leading, and eventually facilitating some of her own interventions. Ms. Sauer will be participating in all Guidance activities while she is here. As with any *ongoing individual* interventions, we will request parental permission if we feel this may be beneficial for any student. We are so fortunate to have Ms. Sauer assist the Counseling Dept.

Mrs. Lee—6th Grade Language Arts—Learning Thru Lemurs

Did you know that in 2012, according to Duke Lemur Center, lemurs were named the most endangered mammals on the planet? This year, 6th grade Language Arts will focus on environmental & ecological awareness. Our year-long theme is centered on the Leaping Lemurs of Madagascar, stars of the IMAX movie island of Lemurs: Madagascar.

Students will be immersed in a plethora of learning opportuni-

ties: implementing an Adopt A Lemur Fundraiser; researching lemurs, creating a press kit, and designing a Lemur stuffed animal and back-story; analyzing rainforest deforestation and crafting an argumentative/solution piece; and organizing an end of year LEMURPALOOZA celebration.

Fundraiser—Lemurs Love Lollipops—Help us lick extinction. YUMMY EARTH LOLLIPOPS will be

on sale during lunch on November 24 & 25. Cost is 4 for \$1.00.

Donations will be sent directly to Duke Lemur Center, which has been caring for and learning from lemurs for nearly 50 years. Adoption of a lemur brings educational materials to support classroom instruction.

Please follow us on Twitter @leapinglemurs2 to learn more.

Music Program at Ellis School

The Ellis School Music Program strives to give the students the following experiences:

- ◆ Nurture an enjoyment and understanding of music, enriching the quality of life.
- ◆ Help students realize their potential by providing opportunities for creativity and expression of feelings and ideas through music.
- ◆ Develop individual musical interests and skills which allow partic-



**Concert December 15
Sanborn High School**

ipation in music making throughout life and which may lead to a career in music.

- ◆ **E x p a n d** knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of different kinds of music to cultivate an appreciation for music in our world.
- ◆ Offer varied musical experiences through which students may become acquainted with other art forms and cultures.

We present one major concert per year. This year's concert will be on December 15th at Sanborn High School. The Elementary grades and Middle School chorus will perform. The Elementary children are singing a collection of various winter and holiday songs. These songs range from traditional Christmas, to Chanukah, to a German carol.

We have added a chorus to our program! These children are amazing! They are singing the "Christmas Canon" in three parts, "Little Drummer Boy" and "Pine Cones and Holly Berries". There will be a special song at the end of the concert for everyone to sing along to.



We have been fortunate enough to get a brand new Yamaha Arius Keyboard. This instrument has thousands of features including hundreds of styles and instrument sounds. There are play along songs that you can adjust volumes, tempos, keys, and voicing so you can play however you want.

Each student in the school will have basic keyboard skills. I begin in Kindergarten and spiral the curriculum through eighth grade. We have keyboards and headphones so the children can compose in their own space. They learn several levels of piano music. They also learn to read piano music through MusicTechTeacher.com.

The 2nd and 3rd graders learn the recorder. The 2nd graders learn 5 notes and to play songs using those notes. The 3rd graders learn the full octave and songs using those notes.

The 4th and 5th graders learn easy songs on the guitar using the low "E" string. They learn posture and how to play with the correct fingers.

All grades use percussion instruments and rhythm patterns. Kindergarten through 2nd grades play the bells and a variety of other hand held percussion instruments. The children in 3rd and 4th grades add drums to this.

The middle school students use the drums to accompany compositions they write on the keyboard and/or guitar.

Lastly, all grades are exposed to at least one musical. Currently, we are studying "Les Miserables" in 7th and 8th grades. We are studying "The

Phantom of the Opera" in 5th and 6th grades. The real life connection and history of these musicals is a vital piece of my program.

I am always looking for parent volunteers and musicians to come in and help out. If you are interested in this please email me (Tami Smith) at tsmith@sau83.org.



Halloween Candy Buy Back Program

Ellis students donated 559 1/2 pounds of candy, making this our most successful candy buyback ever! The candy will be delivered to the Pease Greeters, who in turn distribute it to military troops serving overseas. There will be many grateful service members (and dentists too) thanks to the generosity of our Ellis students.

- ◆ Total candy collected 2014: 559 1/2 lbs
- ◆ Total candy collected 2013: 370 lbs.
- ◆ Total student participants: 262
- ◆ 62% of total population grades PreK—8

participants: 22

Biggest individual contributors:

- ◆ 1st place winner of the autographed Red Sox picture with 30.2 lbs.—Kiersten Cloutier 5W
- ◆ 2nd place winner of Summer Session surf lessons with 24.6 lbs.—Declan Schreiber 8K
- ◆ 3rd place winner of rare Pokemon cards with 23.2 lbs. Nick Corona 3GL
- ◆ 4th place winner of Fly Guy prize pack with 19.6 lbs. Nathan Le-Clair 8K

- ◆ 5th place winner of Beanie Babies trading card poster & bonus cards with 12.7 lbs. Katelyn Stokes 5WH
- ◆ The Beanfield's Award for the biggest class contributor, best participation, & most spirit goes to 5W. We are filling up your cauldron with a case of Beanfield's chips for the class to enjoy.

► We are collecting letters/pictures to the soldiers to send with the candy and thank you cards for all our sponsors. Thank you all for helping make this a successful event.

Carla Smith MSN, RN, CEN



◆ Total staff members & community par-



Blood Drive Report

On Wednesday, November 12 the Fremont Education Association held their semi-annual blood drive at Ellis School. Teachers and members of the PTA worked together with the Red Cross to process 43 generous donors. From those donors we were able to gather 36 successful units of life saving blood. Thank you to all members of the Fremont community who contributed to the success of our drive.



Middle School Counselor's Corner

Mix It Up at Lunch!

Students thrive socially and academically within schools. For far too many students, school is where they feel excluded. Mix It Up at Lunch seeks to break down the barriers between students and improve intergroup relations so there are fewer misunderstandings that can lead to conflicts, bullying and harassment. Many students identify the cafeteria as the place where divisions are most clearly drawn. Mix It Up at Lunch is a simple call to action, asking students to move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch. A national campaign launched by Teaching Tolerance over a decade ago, Mix It Up at Lunch encourages students to identify, question and cross social boundaries.



On Friday, November 14th all students at Ellis School participated in Mix It Up at Lunch. All were encouraged to sit with students they don't usually sit with. School Counselors met with each grade level to pre-teach about Mix It Up at Lunch, how to make new friends, accepting others and about empathy.

8th Grade Visit from SRHS Assistant Principal

Ann Hadwen, Assistant Principal of Sanborn High School began discussions with 8th grade students about Sanborn High School early December. 8th Grade Open House will take place at Sanborn High School on Monday, January 26th—mark your calendars as you don't want to miss it. Ms. Hadwen will be back at Ellis School in February to discuss course selection sheets.

Middle School Lunch Groups

New signups for middle school lunch groups will take place the week of December 8th, the new groups will start the following week and run until February break. The groups are voluntary and students miss recess that day.

Michelle Farrar, Guidance

7th Grade Language Arts

Students in 7th grade language arts class have started to learn about the short story. We will be reading some classic stories from famous short story authors such as Edgar Allen Poe, Guy DeMaupassant, and W.W.Jacobs. Students will be learning about literary elements such as characterization, theme, plot, and point of view, to name a few. Students are learning how to purposely write a short answer response using evidence from the text. Students are also being asked to put together a short skit from one of the short stories to perform in front of the class.

Students continue to read stories about the American Revolution in literature circles, and they are busy creating A to Z PowerPoints for important vocabulary words relating to this time period.

Please continue to check the homework hotline for any important information including homework assignments—895-2511 ext. 177. Susan Pipitone, 7th grade Language Arts

7th Grade Math News

7th graders have recently finished a unit on adding and subtracting rational numbers (fractions, decimals, and integers). This unit combined a review of operations learned in previous grades with advanced calculations (like adding and subtracting negative fractions). All unit work, the unit assessment, and the Unit 3 Progress Check were sent home Friday 11/7. In Unit 4, students have been multiplying and dividing rational numbers. Both units have allowed students to work more at their own pace by utilizing a "Work List." This is an outline of all work available to students for the unit (using a scaffold that builds from beginning skills to advanced). As students are ready to move to the next skill, they are provided with the lesson and activities needed. Students have commented on how much they like this method because it allows them to move ahead or practice a skill more as needed. Students showed great success on the Unit 3 assessment and I expect I will see the same with Unit 4!

As a reminder, grades are closing and reports cards will be issued by the Monday after Thanksgiving. Parent conference day is also quickly approaching (December 3rd) - please schedule your appointment early as slots fill up fast! The holiday season is upon us, which means changes in schedules and stress for everyone. Homework completion can often go to the bottom of the priority list. If possible, help your child manage their busy schedules and set aside time for school work each day. They are getting older, and want more control and independence, but will still benefit from you checking in. Looking at their planners for nightly homework, checking teacher websites at www.sau83.org, or calling the HW Hotline 895-2511 ext. 177 are all options for information. Cleaning out and organizing backpacks and binders shows your support for what they are doing in school. If you are finding that HW is becoming a burden, please let me know so we can formulate a plan! Thanks! You can contact me at 895-2511 or kkane@sau83.org.

Sincerely, Kristine Kane