

# Ellis School Newsletter

## Child Find—Fremont

### Special points of interest:

- Special Education Rights Discussion March 26—Pasta included!
- 4th Annual Vocabulary Parade—March 27 @ 9:30 am in the Gym!
- 2014—2015 Year-book
- “Just Paint” Fund-raiser March 21
- Spring Blood Drive April 15

The Fremont School District will sponsor an area Child Find Program. The program is designed to identify and screen children from birth through age five who are suspected of having learning disabilities that may interfere with later school progress. The screening is free and available to all families living in the town of Fremont.

Children will be screened in the areas of learning, speech and language, fine and gross motor skills and hearing and vision. Results of the assessments will be available to parents at the time

of the screening. All information will be kept confidential and will only be released to other professionals, i.e., school system or physician, with parental consent.

**The screening will take place Friday, March 20, 2015 from 9:00 am—11:00 am at the Ellis Elementary School. Appointments are a must.**

For more information and appointments, please call the Ellis School at 895-2511, ext. 425.



**Thursday, 3/26  
5:30—6 PM Pasta Dinner  
6—7:30 PM Basic Special  
Education Rights Discussion**

*The Parent Information Center (PIC) on Special Education.*

This workshop will provide participants with an introduction to the special education process. It includes a brief overview of each step in the process, as well as the important role of parents in the process.

Registration forms have been sent home. Please send the form back to your child's classroom teacher. Questions? Please call Lynn Noyes at 895-2511 or email at [lnoyes@sau83.org](mailto:lnoyes@sau83.org). Babysitting will be provided as needed by middle school students.

## 2nd Grade News—Mrs. Lathrop, Mrs. Normandin, and Mrs. Dobson

2nd grade has been busy learning about opinions and how to back their opinions up with reasons. Children picked a pet they were sure was the “Best Pet Ever”, then wrote about it. Giving proof for their thinking is a required skill in 2nd grade. Throughout the rest of the year, children will have a chance to share their opinion about their favorite pizza topping and their favorite ice cream flavor.

Children also learned, or continue to learn, about states of matter. Many experiments requiring the use of the scientific method were used. Children made a hypothesis, observed and made conclusions from what happened.

In Math, children have been working on telling time to the quarter hour. They have also been working on adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers and using data to

make many different types of graphs and to use that data to answer questions. We will be working on money soon. Please allow children to practice with spare change around the house. Possible questions include: How much do you have? What's the difference between your pile and my pile? How many more cents do you need to get my total? In 2nd grade the expectation is limited to \$1.00 but feel free to challenge those who are ready.

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## Ellis School Newsletter

### 4th Annual Vocabulary Parade



#### 4th Annual Science-Themed Vocabulary Parade @ Ellis School

You are cordially invited to join us at the 4th Annual Science-Themed Vocabulary Parade on Friday, March 27 at 9:30 am in the Ellis Gymnasium.

The Vocabulary Parade will feature all students from grades Kindergarten through Fourth. The science themes they will be covering are as follows:

- Kindergarten—Weather
- 1st Grade—Careers in Science
- 2nd Grade—Land & Water

#### Forms

- 3rd Grade—Nutrition & Wellness
- 4th Grade—Energy

Please enter the school through the back doors of the gymnasium and have a seat in one of the folding chairs. The doors will open at 9:15. Please park across the street in the dirt parking lot adjacent to the pizzeria.

When each grade level enters the gym, they will “parade”

around the audience in a circle and then sit or stand until the rest of the grade levels have been called down. Your best opportunity to take pictures will be when they initially “parade” by or when they exit the gym at the end of the event.

Costumes should have already been completed and turned in to your child’s homeroom teacher. Questions? Contact their homeroom teacher or Mrs. Thomas at [jthomas@sau83.org](mailto:jthomas@sau83.org), or 895-2511, ext. 109.



### Zebra Crossings

The Zebra Crossings monthly program series for Winter/Spring 2015 is well underway and open to more participants. Zebra Crossings, based in Dover, NH, provides programs for children ages 6—13 with a chronic medical condition, such as diabetes, asthma, heart condition, juvenile arthritis, epilepsy,

autoimmune disorders and severe allergies. Programs are supported by medical staff (RN or higher).

Our mission is to enrich the lives of children with a chronic health condition, including those at risk of developing a chronic health condition, by fostering greater self-confidence, a sense of independence, and a desire to

realize their full potential through fun and engaging enrichment programs that build a strong and caring community support network for families.

Please refer to our website [www.zebra-crossings.org](http://www.zebra-crossings.org) for more information or contact: Sheila Hatch, Program Coordinator at [Sheila@zebra-crossings.org](mailto:Sheila@zebra-crossings.org) or 603-312-2052. **“This is not an Ellis School Sponsored Activity.”**

### Third Grade News



Growing Stations are coming soon to classrooms. Donations are always welcome.

The children in 3rd grade have been working hard in their RtI classes. It includes: learning the structure of a sentence, the four types of sentences, topic sentences, supporting details, conclusions, and even creating menus that later lead to a small café experience.

Math has included a variety of concepts that are preparing students for the scope and sequence of Every Day Math, Smarter Balance testing, and creating a multiplication foundation. It sounds like a lot and it is, so we are asking the par-

ents to help. Please review multiplication tables and use the various free websites, such as Every Day Math games to assist your child to have an understanding of the math concepts being taught.

The children have begun working on their vocabulary words for the parade being held in March. The children were asked to bring in materials to create their own project and that is exactly what they did. Thank you! Supporting your

child’s education shows how important it is to learn, participate and work as a team.

Spring is coming and before you know it, planting will take place. Potting soil, seeds (flowers and vegetables) and peat pots are going to be used for each classes’ growing station. Donations are welcome and can be sent in with your child to the classroom teacher.

## Issue #3

### Learning Thru Lemurs — 6th Grade News



6th Grade Team Lemur has been asked by **Duke University's Duke Lemur Center** and **The Lemur Conservation Network** to write blogs chronicling their year of **Learning Thru Lemurs**.

Our year of **Learning Thru Lemurs** has been focused on increasing environmental and ecological awareness, as well as making a difference in our world.

Please visit our **Instagram** <https://instagram.com/leaping/>

**lemurs/** and **Twitter** <https://twitter.com/leapinglemurs2> account to learn more about lemurs. Also, learn more about lemurs at the following sites:

- <http://lemur.duke.edu/>
- <http://lemurconservationnetwork.org/about>

Lastly, check out our BLOG at:

<http://lemur.duke.edu/6th-grade-team-lemur-ellis-school-a-year-of-learning-thru-lemurs/>

Please join us for a night of fun and painting and bring your family and friends! Ellis School will be hosting a **"Just Paint"** event



### The 2014—2015 Yearbook

The 2014—2015 Yearbook is coming and we think you will love the change! New this year—you can **customize** your yearbook—**for free**. In the past, students may have appeared on their class page and one or two other places. Sometimes students felt left out. Now you can make two pages of the yearbook **all about them!**

All you need is a computer and a web connection, and the rest is easy. Simply sign on to [TREERING.COM](http://TREERING.COM) and use the

code supplied here (1014158226662652) or on the handouts your child recently brought home. The website will walk you through the rest. It asks you questions, gives you premade options, allows you to upload pictures, and shows you where to put things. In fact, you can probably put your child in charge of it! If you choose not to customize these two pages, they will simply be printed as "autograph" pages, don't worry.

Whether you decide to customize your yearbook or not, you will buy your copy the same way we have always done. If you do not already

have an order form, the office has plenty of extras. The cost of the yearbook is only \$19.00 (or \$25.95 for a hardcover). All customization will be completed and payments received by April 22nd. (You may submit your order any time and continue working on your customization until midnight on 4/22.)

Forms and payments should be turned into the main office. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Kidd at [dkidd@sau83.org](mailto:dkidd@sau83.org) or Theresa Blades in the main office. Link to customize your yearbook: [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate)

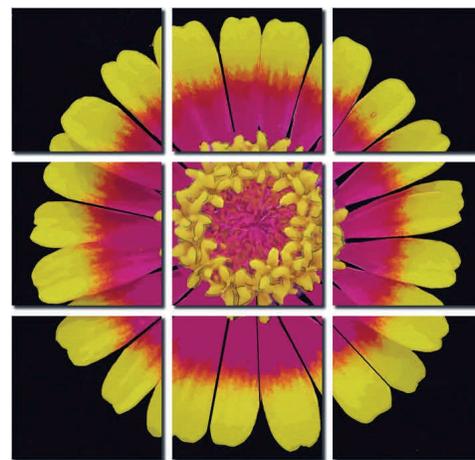
### "Just Paint" Fundraiser—March 21, 2015

to raise money for the 6th grade trip to Ferry Beach! The event will be held on March 21, 2015 at 6 pm in the Ellis gymnasium.

We will have snacks to munch on as you paint. To register for the event, go to [www.justpaintma.com](http://www.justpaintma.com). Go to Paint Classes page. Click Adult Book It button. Use calendar icon to move to date. Then click on the 6:00 pm time and complete

the registration that follows.

**\*\*This event is for adults only. Babysitting will be provided by Red Cross certified babysitters. \*\***



## Ellis School Newsletter



*Fantasy Books—  
where will they  
take you?*

### 7th Grade Language Arts with Mrs. Pipitone

Hello Parents!

Students in 7th grade language arts class are reading fantasy books in literature circles — small groups of students who get together to read literature and hold discussions about the reading that they have completed.

Students were given five different book choices:

- Gregor the Overlander,
- The Lightning Thief,

- Cinder,
- Seekers, and
- The City of Ember

Prior to February break, students were given a book talk and a chance to look over each book before making their top three choices. Groups were put together based on the student's choices.

Each group was given a calendar that details how many pages they are to read each day. They are

also given a packet of literature circle jobs — word wizard, discussion leader, illustrator, connector, and summarizer.

Each day, students gather their materials, assign jobs, check their calendar for pages to be read, read, complete jobs, and hold a literature circle discussion.



### Spring Fling & Silent Auction—March 21, 2015

The Fremont Education Association (FEA) and the Ellis School Support Staff will be raising funds during Sanborn PTO's 2nd Annual Spring Fling and Silent Auction! It is being held Saturday, March 21, from 6:30—10:30 pm at Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown, NH.

We have two amazing silent auction items to bid on, with 100% of the proceeds going to-

wards our Jeans for Teens Scholarships! The first item is a Boston Bruins hockey stick signed by the entire team in December of 2014 with a letter of authenticity. The second item is a pair of tickets to see One Direction live at Gillette Stadium on Saturday September 12, 2015.

If you would like to purchase tickets for the Spring Fling, please

contact Jodi Donahue at [jodi\\_donahue@comcast.net](mailto:jodi_donahue@comcast.net). Tickets are \$40 each and will be on sale until the venue is sold out. If you would like to place a bid on either the hockey stick or the concert tickets you may do so up until March 20 in the Main Office at Ellis School or contact Carla Smith at [csmith@sau83.org](mailto:csmith@sau83.org).



Give Blood -  
April 15  
2—7 pm

### Spring Blood Drive—April 15

The Fremont Education Association (FEA) and the Ellis School Support Staff is hosting a Spring Blood Drive with the American Red Cross on Wednesday, April 15 from 2—7 pm in Pettingill Hall at the Ellis School.

A blood donation truly is a "gift of life" that a healthy individual can give to others in their community who are sick or injured. In one hour's time, a person can

donate one unit of blood that can be separated into four individual components that could help save multiple lives. We are proud to be working with the Red Cross, and have set a goal of collecting 50 units of blood during this event.

- Comfortable waiting area including an art display by Ellis Students
- Refreshment table including

offerings from Telly's Pizza, Starbucks Coffee, Popovers, and other local businesses

- Free babysitting!

Walk-ins are welcome, but to facilitate adequate staffing appointments are suggested. Appointments may be made in advance at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

## Issue #3

### 7th Grade Math News—March/April—Mrs. Kane

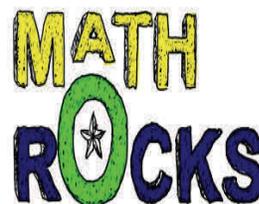
The time between February and April breaks can be the toughest all year (for me and the students). There are fewer holidays/days off, clocks change, winter won't let go, then spring arrives and thoughts turn to the warm air, not math! In my classroom we deal with this by recognizing what makes the time difficult and coming up with a plan for dealing with it. Keeping up with routines is one of the most important, as well as using student planners to map the day/week, scheduling breaks to give ourselves down time, and asking for

help when we feel off track.

At the end of March we will have finished Unit 7 on Ratios and Proportional Reasoning. This is considered one of the most important topics for 7th grade as it has many applications in Algebra, Geometry, and everyday life. Unit 8 (Percents) will be full of real-life applications. If you find yourself dealing with percents over the next few weeks, share it with your child! **Also, please help your child memorize the “Percent Conversions to Know” chart**

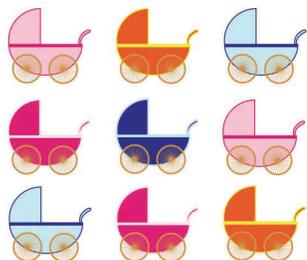
**that was/will be filed in their notes.** This is the only quiz they have to complete from memory.

Please let me know that you receive the Unit Reports by signing your child's planner and let me know if you have any questions. Please continue with your periodic checks on homework completion and encourage your child to get caught up if they are behind. As always, continue to keep in touch by note, e-mail (kkane@sau83.org), or phone (895-2511, ext. 308).



### Welcome to the World!

*The Ellis School Community welcomes two new members:*



*“Baby Girl” Holmes, born to Mrs. Holmes, 6th grade Math teacher*

*And ...*

*“Baby Girl” MacEachern, born to Mrs. MacEachern, 7th grade Math teacher*



### Destination Imagination

Congratulations to the 6th and 7th grade Destination Imagination Teams who competed this Saturday at the Regional Tournament held at Sanborn High School. Both teams have been working hard since October on their challenges and did well in competition. The 7th grade team will be moving on to the State Tournament on March 28th. Kudos and much thanks to Coach Shona Emery for all her work and commitment to her teams.

## Activities to Encourage Speech and Language Development, from [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

### 4 to 6 Years

- When your child starts a conversation, give your full attention whenever possible.
- Make sure that you have your child's attention before you speak.
- Acknowledge, encourage, and praise all attempts to speak. Show that you understand the word or phrase by fulfilling the request, if appropriate.
- Pause after speaking. This gives your child a chance to continue the conversation.
- Continue to build vocabulary. Introduce a new word and offer its definition, or use it in a context that is easily understood. This may be done in an exaggerated, humorous manner. "I think I will drive the vehicle to the store. I am too tired to walk."
- Talk about spatial relationships (first, middle, and last; right and left) and opposites (up and down; on and off).
- Offer a description or clues, and have your child identify what you are describing: "We use it to sweep the floor" (a broom). "It is cold, sweet, and good for dessert. I like strawberry" (ice cream).
- Work on forming and explaining categories. Identify the thing that does not belong in a group of similar objects: "A shoe does not belong with an apple and an orange because you can't eat it; it is not round; it is not a fruit."
- Help your child follow two- and three-step directions: "Go to your room, and bring me your book."
- Encourage your child to give directions. Follow his or her directions as he or she explains how to build a tower of blocks.
- Play games with your child such as "house." Exchange roles in the family, with your pretending to be the child. Talk about the different rooms and furnishings in the house.
- The television also can serve as a valuable tool. Talk about what the child is watching. Have him or her guess what might happen next. Talk about the characters. Are they happy or sad? Ask your child to tell you what has happened in the story. Act out a scene together, and make up a different ending.
- Take advantage of daily activities. For example, while in the kitchen, encourage your child to name the utensils needed. Discuss the foods on the menu, their color, texture, and taste. Where does the food come from? Which foods do you like? Which do you dislike? Who will clean up? Emphasize the use of prepositions by asking him or her to put the napkin on the table, in your lap, or under the spoon. Identify who the napkin belongs to: "It is my napkin." "It is Daddy's." "It is John's."
- While shopping for groceries, discuss what you will buy, how many you need, and what you will make. Discuss the size (large or small), shape (long, round, square), and weight (heavy or light) of the packages.



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SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
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ASSOCIATION**