

Ellis School

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February is "I Love to Read" Month

Below is a line-up of the month's events for *all elementary school students*.

We look forward to seeing you!

February 1st – February 5th – Guest Readers Week

Volunteers needed!

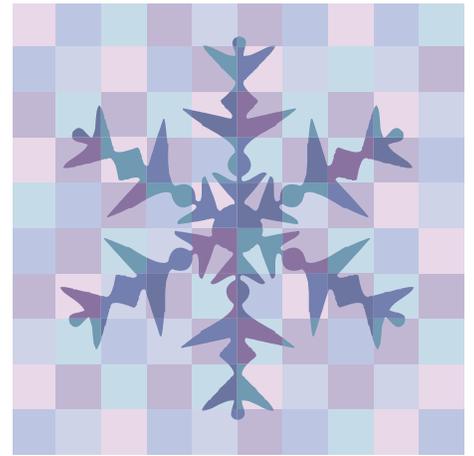
During this week, community members, parents, administrators, and staff are encouraged to sign-up to read-aloud to individual classrooms of their choice in Grades K through 4.

If you would like to participate, please contact the classroom teacher directly via e-mail or voice mail to set up a time during the week of February 1st that works for both of you.

Monday, February 1st – Literacy Night – 6:00 – 7:00

Parents are invited to join us for an informational night about Literacy at Ellis School. This event will take place in the Ellis School library from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. This will be an informal event in which our Reading Specialist, Mrs. Thomas, will be available to answer questions and share information with you.

Children are welcome to accompany you and are encouraged to wear their pajamas. We will share a story with them and have light refreshments.



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Important



Announcement

See Page 5 for exciting news about our Future City Club!

Friday, February 12th – Vocabulary Parade – 9:00 – 9:45

You Are Invited!

On Friday, February 12th from 9:00 – 9:45 all K – 3 students will participate in a science-themed Vocabulary Parade in the Ellis gymnasium. Each student will dress up as a vocabulary word based on their current science curriculum. They will then parade around with their class for all staff, community members and parents.

This year, our 4th grade students will be doing something a little differently. They will be performing a Space School Musical by NASA for everyone at the close of the vocabulary parade.

The science theme for each grade level is listed below:

- Kindergarten – Weather
- First Grade – Careers in Science
- Second Grade – Land & Water Forms
- Third Grade – Nutrition & Wellness
- Fourth Grade – Space School Musical

You will receive more information about the Vocabulary Parade, the 4th Grade Science Skit and your child's specific word from your child's classroom teacher. For general information about Vocabulary Parades and examples of costumes and parades from across the country, please visit the following website: <http://debrafrasier.com/pages/books-events/miss-alaineus/index.php>

However elaborate you wish to make these costumes, please keep the end goal in mind: You want your child to know and understand (and be able to articulate) their vocabulary word and how it fits into the overall science topic at their grade level. You also want their costume to show off their knowledge of the word.

Friday, February 19th – Drop Everything and Read Day

On Friday, February 19th all staff and students are encouraged to wear comfy clothes to school, bring pillows, and read all day.



If you have any questions or need more information, please e-mail Mrs. Thomas at jthomas@sau83.org or call 603-895-2511 ext. 109.

Physical Education (Wellness) News

Happy Winter! That time has come when snow boots are popular. Please remember to pack a pair of sneakers for your child on the day they have Wellness. It is important for your child's safety that they wear sneakers during activity. I have been very lenient so far this year, but from this point on your child will be asked to sit out if they do not have sneakers. UGG boots and Bear Paws are not acceptable either. Thank you for your understanding!

Also ... DRUMROLL PLEASE! ... (no pun intended)... A movement residency program called **Drums Alive** will be coming to Ellis School! **Drums Alive** is a fitness program where participants use drum sticks or noodles to drum on yoga balls to loud, upbeat music. The focus of the program is on fitness, exercise, rhythm & beat, but can be modified to incorporate language arts, science, and math concepts. **Drums Alive** mixes kinesthetic learning with cognitive learning for a total brain-body workout. We are very fortunate to have Anne Poirier, Drums Alive Master Trainer come to our school for a whole week! All Wellness classes for that week will see Anne and get to experience **Drums Alive!** (February 15 – 19)

For more information on the program, visit the following resources:

<http://www.drums-alive.com/programs/academic-beats> (info)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoXg3UqP4LANvS-ntHxVHQw> (Anne's YouTube channel)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usD6qF052Hc&list=PLQ9miUCik1HZRBbVrk1XV9U3ROGr_ob--
Movement Residency YouTube video)

Third Grade News

The children are gearing up for the Vocabulary Parade. Each child has been assigned a vocabulary word and given a notice of all the details pertaining to the event.

Kick-It Math has been a big help to students to increase their computation skills. Although practice, practice, practice is the key to success, games such as Yahtzee, Connect 4, Battleship, cards and whatever you may have at home can help too. The winter is a great time to bring these board games out and have family time with your child while they learn.

The PTA has done it again. They approved our mini-grant for the Iditarod Dog Race Unit. The children are going to be able to follow the race through a GPS online and the book Race the Wild is being added. It's a book about dog sled racing. Thank you, PTA!

Keep in mind that the children need to bring in a pair of sneakers or shoes in the winter months. Boots are warm and their feet can sweat when they wear boots all day. To stay healthy: sneakers, shoes and dress boots are the way to go.

See you at the Vocabulary Parade!

The Third Grade Team: Mrs. Gobeil, Mr. Glennon, & Mrs. Soares

7th Grade Math News

Seventh graders are working on their Algebra skills by studying expressions, equations, and inequalities. We cover such subtopics as the distributive property, combining like terms, adding, subtracting, and factoring linear expressions, as well as solving various types of equations and inequalities.

All 7th graders are working on making choices that will benefit their learning. This year I have started handing unit maps out with all the required work listed in order. Students may progress through the increasingly difficult work at their own pace, meaning less whole group instruction takes place and more individual/small group time is available. I have also provided students with choices on their homework and routinely ask students to “negotiate” with me if they need less (but more challenging) problems, fewer problems because of a sport or other commitment that will be taking up time that evening, or easier problems (I don’t want them practicing problems they don’t know how to do). Students are also given chances to choose who they work with and where in the room they can concentrate best. All of these choices are made within guidelines set by me to ensure students are continuing to learn and challenge themselves while also learning to take on more responsibility for their education.

Students continue to be drilled weekly on math facts (we are currently focusing on multiplication and division facts) and nightly practice is important for increased fluency and accuracy. Math fact progress reports have been sent home approximately every 3 weeks. Please let me know if you have any questions on these. You can contact me at any time at 895-2511 x308 or kkane@sau83.org.

Sincerely, Mrs. Kane

Ellis’ Version of the *Polar Express*

For the second annual Ellis Polar Express, students in preschool and kindergarten were loaded on to the Ellis Express and treated to an enthusiastic reading of the book the *Polar Express* by our very own conductor, Mr. Percy Hill. Following the reading of this classic children’s story, students were transported to the intervention room for a snack of sugar cookies and hot chocolate. This experience would not be complete without the making of reindeer food to help guide Santa’s sleigh on Christmas Eve. Bells were provided to be hung on tree all over Fremont for all of us who believe in the magic of the season.

A huge thank you to all of the parents who donated supplies for this wonderful experience!

Holiday Spirit

In the month of December, the Ellis School staff came together to purchase Christmas gifts for two Colonial Poplin Nursing Home residents who have limited personal connections. The staff purchased warm blankets, slippers, soaps, lotions, adult coloring books and colored pencils for the residents. In addition, the elementary students made colorful Christmas cards for each and every resident.

On December 23, the 4th grade students from Mrs. Marggraf's classroom joined Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Marggraf, Mrs. Bond, Mrs. Olms, and Ms. Parenteau at Colonial Poplin where students sang Christmas songs to the residents, passed out homemade cards, and chatted with residents while we watched the residents open their Christmas presents.

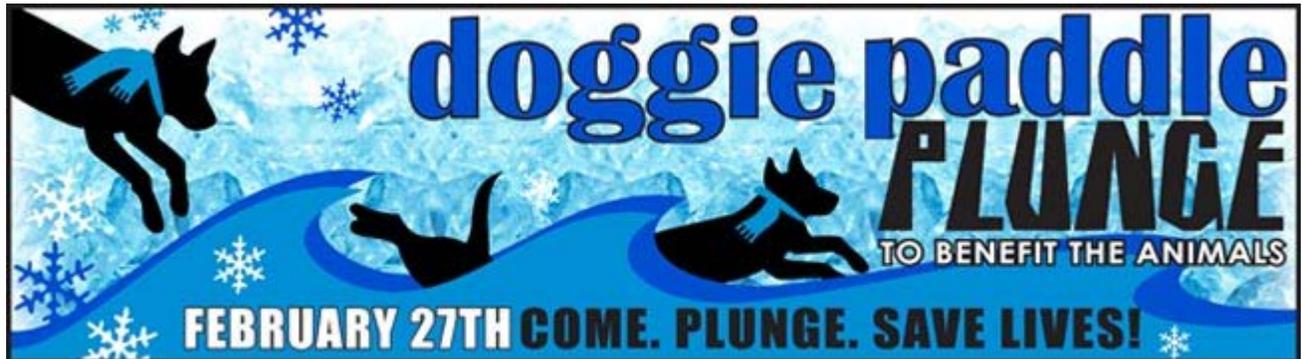
It was an unforgettable experience to see such pure joy in the resident's eyes during such a special time of year.

Future City Club Presentation

Future City Club presented their project and solution to "Waste Not, What Not" on Saturday, January 16, 2016 in Boston, Massachusetts. The student's challenge was to design an innovative citywide solid waste management system for a future city that is safe, environmentally sound, and energy efficient. Pi City's solution involved smart trash cans that can separate trash into different compartments and a centrifugal system that is connected to vacuum-operated pipes and conveyer belts to rot, recycle, reuse, and reduce waste. Pi City, from Ellis School, received 3rd place and won the People's Choice Award (voted by all students) and the Stantec Award for Best Use of Innovative Construction Materials and Techniques.



Doggie Paddle Plunge



Oh my Rooey, it is true! 6th grade Dog Nation has signed up to do the Doggie Paddle Challenge to help raise funds for the SPCA. Well, so far Mrs. Lee is going to freeze her tail off; anyone else want to join her? Please see the link below to register, donate, or even just help out!

<https://www.firstgiving.com/NHSPCA/doggie-paddle-plunge-2016>

Please help us PAW it forward! Donate today!

Robin Lee, 6th Grade Language Arts Educator

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/robin-lee-6/doggie-paddle-plunge-2016>