



# ELLIS EAGLES PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 6, 2012

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## **Parent Forum**

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE: The next Parent Forum will be held **January 12, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Ellis School Library.

## **AIMSweb Winter Benchmark Testing**

In mid-January all Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be assessed using the AIMSweb Winter Benchmark. These Benchmark assessments are given three times per year; once in September, once in January, and once in May. The assessments vary slightly depending on the grade level. The information gained from these assessment reports is extremely helpful to classroom teachers and administrators when making decisions regarding whole class and/or individual progress.

The assessment schedule for January is as follows:

### Kindergarten

- Letter naming fluency
- Letter sound fluency
- Phoneme segmentation fluency
- Nonsense word fluency
- Oral counting
- Number identification
- Quantity discrimination
- Missing number

### First Grade

- Phoneme segmentation fluency
- Nonsense word fluency
- Oral counting
- Number identification
- Quantity discrimination
- Missing number
- Reading fluency
- Math computation

### Second Grade

- Reading fluency
- Math computation
- Math concepts and applications

### Grades 3-6

- Reading fluency
- Reading comprehension
- Math computation
- Math concepts and applications

### **NWEA**

Our NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) Winter testing will take place this month beginning January 9<sup>th</sup> for Grades 5 through 8. This is our computer-based assessment that the students receive in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. The Winter benchmark test is a shorter test which takes approximately 20 minutes. Students will be tested in Reading and Math.

### **Head Lice Alert**

There have been a few cases of head lice in Elementary and Middle School. Please check your students regularly for lice or nits. If you treat your child for lice, please inform the School Nurse and any close friends your child has been in contact with. The Ellis School Nurse will check your child several times a week for three weeks. Please go to the Ellis School Nurse's website for more information at <http://sau83.org/staff/office/nurse.html>.

### **No Name-Calling Week**

National No Name-Calling Week will be celebrated at Ellis School the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>. No Name-Calling Week was inspired by a young adult novel entitled The Misfits, by James Howe. The book tells the story of four friends who grow tired of the constant teasing in their middle school. Based on their experience, they decide to run for student council on a "No Name-Calling" platform. The initiative was launched Nationally in 2004 and involves a week-long focus on educational activities aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds.

The goal of No Name-Calling Week is to help all students consider the weight of the words they use, and make school a safer, healthier place for all students. More information can be found at [www.nonamecallingweek.org](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org).

All students will be learning and discussing National No Name-Calling Week during classes the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### New Staff

There have been some staff changes at Ellis School recently. Mrs. Gagnon, Special Education Teacher, will be out for the remainder of the year, and Miss Cahoon, who was a Paraprofessional in our building, will be substituting. Replacing Miss Cahoon as Paraprofessional for the remainder of the year will be Mr. Milner. Also, Mrs. Abney has returned as a Paraprofessional replacing Miss Gragg. We are in the process of searching for a replacement for Miss Hester who has resigned for another job and to go back to school. We want to thank our departing staff for their service to Ellis School and welcome the new staff to our school.

### Nurse Milner

It is with deep regret that I inform you that Mrs. Milner, our School Nurse, will be leaving Ellis School this month. Maura has been offered an exciting opportunity in the medical field that she couldn't pass up. It will be a great loss to Ellis School. We wish her well in her new endeavor.

### Important Dates

- January - AIMS Web Winter Testing - Elementary School
- January - NWEA Winter Testing - Middle School
- January 10 - No School - Election Day / Teacher Workshop
- January 10 - School Board 6:30 PM - Ellis School Library
- January 16 - No School - Civil Rights Day
- **January 12 - Parent Forum 6:00 PM - Ellis School Library  
(Date changes from January 18)**
- January 23 through 27 - No Name-Calling Week
- January 30 - Eighth Grade Open House at Sanborn High School