



Counselors' Corner

By Mrs. Farrar and Mrs. Hoppa

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week (RRW) takes place October 24-October 28, and this year is coming to **all** grade levels at Ellis. It is a national program that began in 1988 to highlight our nation's commitment to a safe, healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

At the elementary level, we focus on topics such as making good choices, being involved in positive activities, working as a community, and becoming good role models.

Students in grades K-2 will read the book The Red Ribbon – A Story of Hope by John Lasne. Students in grades 3 and 4 will discuss the basic effects of drugs and alcohol as well as making good choices even when faced with peer pressure. We will also demonstrate our commitment to making healthy choices across the curriculum by using the color red in art, math, science and literature projects. Even Café Services will participate by serving us an all-red lunch on the Friday of RRW!

Students in grades 5-8 will view the movie, *All You Need to Know about Drugs and the Teen Brain in 17 minutes* during their gym/wellness class. Based on the latest research, this scientific

video explains why the teen years are a critical time for brain development. It also shows how drug use of any kind can derail the brain's full potential when it comes to critical thinking skills, memory, learning and decision making. This history of Red Ribbon Week and why Ellis participates in this event yearly will also be discussed.

All students who are seen participating in the RRW Spirit Days will earn a raffle ticket to be placed in a drawing to win exciting prizes. Classroom teachers will be encouraged to work with their homeroom students on a door decorating contest. The homeroom winner for the best door decoration celebrating the values of Red Ribbon Week will receive a pizza party.

All students will also plant a red tulip bulb around the school grounds to signify our commitment to a healthy lifestyle. In the spring, these tulips will bloom and serve as a beautiful reminder to make good choices.

Spirit Days Oct 24-28:

Monday: Wear as much red as possible

Tuesday: Sock it to Drugs (wear your craziest socks)

Wednesday: Turn your back on drugs (wear your clothes

backwards)

Thursday: Give drugs the boot (wear your favorite boots)

Friday: Use your head not drugs (wear a hat)

Middle Grades Guidance Morning Group

Starting Monday October 3rd, students who arrive to school before the 7:50 bell are welcome to join Mrs. Farrar's daily Guidance Morning Group. This group will meet in her office from 7:30-7:50 each day. Students who sign up for this group can use this time to get organized before the school day starts and work on classroom assignments. Space is limited; the sign up sheet is posted outside her office door.

Elementary Classroom Lessons

In early September, Mrs. Hoppa began her biweekly classroom lessons that will continue throughout the school year. Topics for this month included the roles of a guidance counselor (kindergarten), working within your own personal "space bubble" (grade 1), and brainstorming the qualities that make a good friend (grades 2-4).

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Upcoming Events:

- *NECAP Testing begins October 4.*
- *October 7-10 No School*
- *All AMC payments and paperwork are due by 2pm on October 7. Students who do not turn them in will be unable to attend.*

2, 4, 6, 8, First Grade is Really Great!

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Open House. The 1st Grade Team was excited to meet the people who know our kids best! For those of you who couldn't make it, we sent home blue folders with some key information for you and for us. Please return the orange goal setting page if you have any academic and/or social goals for your child that you would like us to know about. Additionally, we sent home a quick check-list that can help you to describe your child as a learner. We are always looking to teach to children's strengths, so your insight is key in these early days! Our balanced literacy approach was outlined and math goals were included, as was a developmental profile of 5, 6 and 7 seven-year olds. Check out the first grade webpage to view our Welcome to First Grade Powerpoint.

On the topic of child development - Here's an excerpt from Yardsticks by Chip Wood to help us understand some of the unique characteristics of Six.

"Six is an age of dramatic physical, cognitive and social change. Tooth eruption is continuous; teachers find chewed pencils, papers and workbook corners in the first grade. Visual development is maturing, allowing for easy introduction of beginning reading tasks. Rapid physical growth is mirrored in rapid physical activity. Children are constantly in a hurry, rushing to be finished. They love to do their assignments, but are decidedly more interested in the process than the product. Schoolwork tends to be sloppy or erratic. There is great interest in being first, in doing the most work, or the opposite extreme. Children who can't be first, may gladly be last; dawdling is a favorite past time. Along with great bursts of energy, go periods of fatigue and frequent illness.

The importance of friends now rivals the importance of parents and teachers in the child's social development. Classrooms full of six year olds are busy, noisy places. Talking, humming, whistling and bustling are the order of the day."

Then come the Sevens... "Sevens love the routine and structure of school and appreciate their personal relationship with the teacher. Substitute teachers... are constantly being told "That's not the way the Teacher does it!"

In first grade we balance the developmental needs of the "Sixes" with the academic capabilities of the "Sevens." The structure of our school day is grounded in routine. Our routines allow students to be engaged in a variety of known academic learning experiences while opening opportunities for teachers to meet students at their developmental levels. We are teaching curriculum and we are teaching the structure of school. We have high expectations and we nurture. During our school days we help many 1st graders cross the beautiful bridge between self as child and self as student.

Stay tuned for information on Fire Safety Awareness, Fall Festival, and Volunteer Schedules.

Vote for Mrs. Schreiber

Mrs. Schreiber has entered the Del Monte Classrooms for Cash contest. She needs your "votes" on the website to win! She is trying to win money for her classroom and to also encourage healthy eating habits by using some money for her special visitor in Kindergarten, Frannie Friendship, to have a Frannie Friendship Fruit Salad Friday for a few weeks using fruit from Del Monte. Mrs. Schreiber is very excited about this contest!! Every Monday for six

weeks, ten teachers with the most "votes" on the website win some money for their classes. Please vote for Mrs. Schreiber by going to this website

<http://teachermonday.votigo.com/teachermonday>

Click on the word "vote" on the right hand side and type in Kathy Schreiber in the search box. You will find a picture of Fran-

nie Friendship with a brown shirt on, a crazy smiley face hat, and huge orange sunglasses :o) It will ask you for an email address and you can vote there.

You can vote once a day until the contest is over. Thanks so much for your support. Frannie will be SO EXCITED if Mrs. Schreiber's class wins!!! :o)

Wellness News

In order to fulfill the health education requirements for the NHDED health education program, there will be a film presentation and class for all sixth grade students during Wellness classes. The film is titled Straight talk About Self Image and Identity. This film and class will highlight the following goals:

- To introduce facts about hormones and their effect on the male and female body.
- To help students recognize and resist peer and commercial pressures.

- To promote decision-making based on facts and information.
- To help students identify self-defeating thoughts, behaviors and actions.
- To acknowledge each individual as important and unique.

We will also be watching a film in order to fulfill the requirements for seventh and eighth grade students during Wellness class the week of October 3rd. The film is titled Straight Talk About Social Choices and Consequences. This film and class will highlight the following goals:

- To introduce the facts about human reproduction and reproductive health.
- To reassure students that the changes they experience are normal and healthy.
- To help students make decisions based on facts and information.
- To promote good health and hygiene.
- To help students recognize and sustain healthy relationships.
- To show students productive ways of dealing with peer pressure.

Sixth Grade Goings On

THE CASE OF THE MISSING TEACHER!!!

Sixth Grade is currently engaged in a **Mystery Genre Unit**. Student **sleuths** (alliteration) are uncovering the elements of mystery, using context clues for finding the meaning of unfamiliar words, analyzing personality and physical traits, investigating setting descriptions, and predicting outcomes based on clues.

Our detectives will be planning a riveting end of unit activity, a **Mystery Dinner Theater**, (comma use- appositive) for all to attend. Date to be announced



soon! Bring your magnifying glass, Sherlock hat, and a finger-print kit. I think the kids are planning a **kidnapping**. **Hey, has anyone seen Mrs. Lee?**

Language Arts with Mrs. Lee- 6th Grade

JOURNEY to AMERICA

Continuing our **historical perspective learning**, integrating U.S. History, classes will embark on an interactive learning excursion: **Journey to America**.

While focusing of **diversified writing activities**, class-time learning opportuni-

ties will additionally foster an increased understanding of why the United States is called the nation of all nations.

Students will learn about the greatest human immigration period in United States history, as well as the history of and events that took place at **Ellis Island**.

Students will share their learning experiences by **writing a newspaper article**, summarizing their knowledge of Ellis Island, journey on an Ellis Island **Web-quest**, and craft a **narrative diary** of the immigrant experience.



Eighth Grade Language Arts

The Hunger Games

For the second year, students in Ms. DiBurro's 8th grade Language Arts class are reading Suzanne Collin's smash hit, The Hunger Games. This dystopian novel keeps students on the edge of their seats with extraordinary

scenes of survival and friendship. While students in this class are completing traditional comprehension activities, they will also be exploring the ideas of humanity



and what it means to be truly civilized. We are all eagerly awaiting this book's transformation onto the silver screen in March of 2012!

Learning Through Observing in 2L

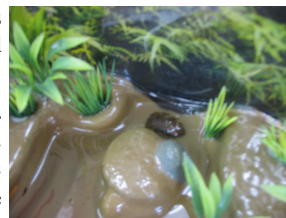
Children in second grade learn more about what living things need. They already know about air, water, and food. By observing, discussing, and reading children are also learning that living things need shelter, space, and eventually accommodations. Frogs breathe through their skin so the water has to be fairly clean. We had a tadpole, which already had two hind legs. Within a few weeks the frog had two front legs as



well. We found out that while its stomach changes over from eating plant food to insects, it gets its food from its tail. We had a froglet for a week, now we have a frog. We hope it likes to eat crickets, because that's what we feed

Flash the toad.

Flash is a fire-belly toad. It does eat crickets. Sometimes these crickets escape when feeding the



toad. If we can catch them, we can put them back in the cricket cage.

One night last Friday, it showed its orange underbelly. It was scared and tried to scare Ms. Lathrop from picking it up. Now 2L knows how Flash protects itself. We in 2L are certainly learning a lot from our amphibian friends.

7th Grade Language Arts

In 7th grade language arts class, we have been preparing for the NECAP tests that are coming up in October. We are learning how to answer a short answer response question by focusing on what makes a great paragraph. Students reviewed how to use a graphic organizer prior to writing. Also, students learned that it is okay to take notes on the reading passages. They can write in the margins (top, bottom, left, and right), underline or even highlight details or supporting evidence that they would like to use. When writing their answers, students will need to write a topic sentence. Then, they will need to find 5-6 supporting details that answer the question. Next, they will find evidence or quotes from the passage to back up those supporting details. Finally, students will write a concluding sentence that restates the supporting details. Sounds easy, right? This is a task that most of the

students are finding to be a challenge. Students have begun work in the area of vocabulary--Greek/Latin word roots. As of Friday, students have completed two quizzes. I have notified parents via e-mail if your child has earned any grade below meeting the expectations. Anytime your child wants to improve their grade, even if it's a meeting the expectations grade, they may do so. All they need to do is study and get a note from you saying that they are ready to re-take the quiz.

For reading, students have been asked to find a free read book. We looked up all of their **Lexile scores** ("information about either an individual's reading ability or the difficulty of a text") and the Lexiles of the books that they are reading. It is recommended that students do not choose books that are more than 50L above their Lexile

score or more than 100L below. "When a Lexile text measure matches a Lexile reader measure, this is called a 'targeted' reading experience. The reader will likely encounter some level of difficulty with the text, but not enough to get frustrated. This is the best way to grow as a reader—with text that's not too hard but not too easy."

After NECAP testing, we will begin to look at short stories!

Please remember that homework is recorded on the homework hotline. You can reach that number by calling the school, 895-2511. Then, dial extension 177. Also, students are asked to write down their homework each day in class, and their assignment books are checked by an adult.

Third Grade News

The children have really adjusted to school. They are getting the procedures down and they seem eager to work. Thank you for all your support creating a positive atmosphere.

Reading is moving along at a good clip. The Just Right Reading Program is finding its way to the young readers of 3rd grade. Getting to know their classroom library and reading expectations has been the curriculum for the month of September.

Every child has been given an Every Day Math login card. This card allows them to access the math games and learn as they play. Time, money, place value and a review of addition and subtraction have been the main focus. Keep in mind that your child needs to know their basic facts to be successful in math. Practice, practice, and practice is the only way to get the facts down.

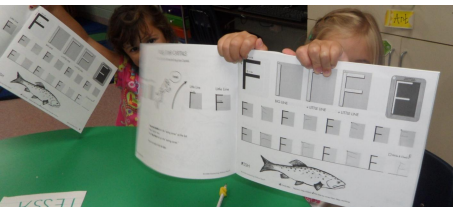
Thank you for returning the field trip slips for Cinderella. This prompt manner helps make the planning easy. We will keep you posted of any details when the trip is near. Keep your eyes out for permission slips for our trip to the Fremont Town Library!

The Third Grade Team

Ms. Booth, Mrs. Eichen, Ms. Wright and Mrs. Gobeil

Kindergarten News!

The full day Kindergarten is having fun with their Handwriting Without Tears book, as they learn to start their letters from the top. Kindergarten will be ending the month with the letter "A" and going on their first field trip Wednesday to Cider Hill Farms. They've had 2 surprise snack visits from the one and only Frannie Friendship going over Kindergarten social tips.



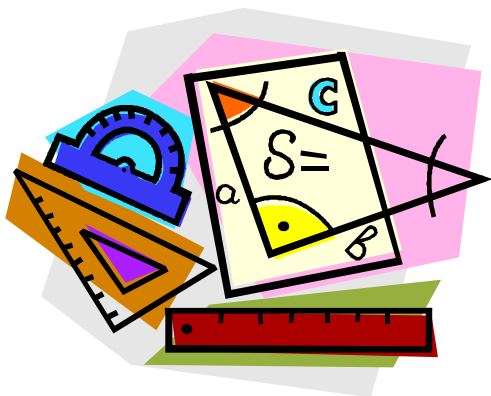
We Want to Save You Money!

Imagine saving between \$459.00 and \$585.00 per child each school year! Such an incredible financial benefit is simple, and so many families are pleasantly surprised that their children can receive Free or Reduced Priced Breakfast and Lunch! This program is completely confidential, as no child or staff member will know that you are getting such a great deal!

We urge every family to request an application, and if you are not eligible at this time but have a decrease in household income, become unemployed, or have an increase in household size, you may re-apply at any time during the school year. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Safina at 895-2511, ext 103.

7th Grade News

Welcome back to another school year at Ellis! The 7th grade team is pleased with how most students have adjusted to new teachers, schedules, and routines. Even though they are getting older and more independent, 7th grade students still need you to check in with them now and again. Ask to see their Language Arts and Math Binders (which should be organized and neat), check backpacks and folders for “lost” homework and forms, and encourage your child to do their best work each day. The homework demand has increased from 6th



grade and students may need help scheduling afterschool activities, sports, and academics.

In math, students have been transforming shapes on a coordinate grid using reflections, rotations, and translations. They have also been finding area and perimeter of regular and irregular shapes as well as solving geometry word problems. To finish the unit they will add the concepts of surface area and volume.

Notes are taken on new concepts and kept in their math binder. Please encourage your child to bring the binder home as a reference as well as an organizational tool.

Lastly, please check for the math fact progress report sheets sent home every 3-4 weeks (one was sent home on 9/20). Students should be able to complete at least 30 facts in 60 seconds. Right now, adding facts with sums 10 or greater are the toughest for the group (ex. 6+7, 8+3, 9+5, etc.). Please review these with your child – a few minutes each night is better than long stretches less frequently.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at kkane@sau83.org or 895-2511 x308. Thanks! Mrs. Kane

Fourth Grade News

The fourth graders are off to a great start. They came in eager to learn and prepared for success. Great job parents and students with being responsible for nightly homework completion. So far, we have had 100% participation. WOW!!! Keep up the

good work. In Math, we've been busy studying Geometry which includes Angles, Lines, Line Segments and Rays. Coming up is Data, Place Value, and Equivalent Names for Whole Numbers. Life Science will encompass the parts of a flower. We're look-

ing forward to our annual flower dissection to identify each part. Next week we will be participating in the NECAPs. Please ensure your children get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast.

Peppermint Ponies 4H

Does your child love horses? Girls and boys 5 - 18 years old are welcome to club meetings to learn more about horses, ponies, and 4H group. No experience or horse ownership necessary. Questions, contact Jan Brubacher, Leader 303-1584, j.brubacher@comcast.net, www.4hpeppermintponies.org, www.northroadfarm.com. Scholarships available. Stop by and visit the farm.

Sixth Grade Math

We have had a wonderful start to our 6th grade year in mathematics! So far this year we have finished the first unit that covered data analysis with the landmarks (maximum, minimum, mode, range, median, and mean). We also worked on reading graphs (double bar graphs, circle graphs, broken line graphs, and step graphs). Our next unit will be focusing on place value (up to the trillions and down to

the millionths), addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals. Decimal division is new to our 6th graders this year. Please remind students to be using their SRBs that are at home for examples to help them on their homework.

Students did a great job getting used to our new policy on math box assignments this year! For the parents that did not

know about the change, students are being given all of the math box pages at the beginning of the unit. They are due by our final assessment day in that unit, but are welcome and encouraged to be passed in any time throughout. If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact me at spolizzo@sau83.org.

Reading Class by Brandon P.

We are using the Treasures Reading Program this year in Fifth grade. This story is about what Mrs. Wentworth is teaching us during this time. The class is reading many stories like “Maya Lin”, “Jane Wins a Job” and “Dan can Rap”, all of the best stories. We are learning about suffixes, prefixes, spelling, and reading strategies.

Social Studies by Alan H.

In Social Studies we just finished our business plan where we wanted to start our own business. We identified our capital resources, natural resources, and human resources. We are about to start work on our cruise line after we review goods and services. We are also doing mapping challenges where we learn certain ideas about maps and the world.

The Fremont Playgroup

Join the Fremont Playgroup every Friday from 9:30 to 11:00 for Play, Snack, Story time, and caregiver to caregiver chat!

Cost is just \$3 per child for Gym~ Free if child is not yet walking, Free at People's United Methodist Church

(We are a non-denominational group and do not practice religion)

There is no Registration or Membership, just come and play when you can make it!

Upcoming Playdates are As Follows:

- September 9: Brentwood Commons Gym
- September 16: People's United Methodist Church, Fremont
- September 23: Brentwood Commons Gym
- September 30: People's United Methodist Church
- October 7: People's United Methodist Church

More Dates to Come!

For questions contact Nicole Cloutier via email at: nicole-cloutier725@yahoo.com, Call 244-2755,



Costume Swap!

The Fremont Playgroup is Hosting a Costume-Swap! On Fridays October 7th and 14th At our designated location for Playgroup Playdates from 9:30 - 11 am.

Can't make it, but want to donate/swap? That's OK! Just contact us via email at fremontplaygroup@yahoo.com for information on when and where you can drop-off or swap your costumes

*Please indicate on your costume if you would like your costume returned. All ages and sizes are welcome!

The Fremont Halloween Costume parade

On Saturday, October 29th At the Ellis School Gymnasium From 2 to 4 pm. Come in Costume for a Halloween Parade, Games, Crafts, Music, Goodies and More for All Ages!

Bring your carved pumpkin to enter a pumpkin-carving contest for all age groups! Prizes will be awarded!

Bus and Walker Notes

When sending a bus note for your child, please be sure to include their full name, homeroom, bus number and the name and address of the friend's stop they are going to. These notes come to the office where we have to write bus passes for them. All of this information makes it much easier for us to get your child to their destination safely.

Walker notes need to include the child's full name, homeroom and the name of the person they are going home with.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to call the main office.

Happy Peace Day!

Kindergarten classes celebrated Peace Day by posting peaceful messages from students at Ellis in the hallways all over the building! It was very moving to read all the peaceful messages from Preschool to 8th grade including many staff members. Knowing that this was a WHOLE SCHOOL initiative was very cool and we really appreciate you all taking time out of your day to help with this project.



Second Grade News

Every Monday afternoon, the second graders gather in Mrs. Maher's room to listen and share. Children let their teachers know what they would like to share. Several children from each class get

to share each week. Sometimes it's a few pages of a book they are enjoying and want the others to enjoy as well. Sometimes it is a journal writing or story they have written. We have been led in the Macarena as we

sing and dance our way through the names of the months. Projects, books and writings are celebrated. Children learn to project their voice, and the rest learn how to be a good audience.