



Erickson Elementary School

NEWSLETTER

Graham Edwards, Principal

Encouraging Everyone to Succeed

March 2, 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 17-Wear Green for a Dream

March 17-Parent-Teacher Interviews in the evening

March 18-Parent-Teacher Interviews in the morning. Schedule will be coming home at a later date.

March 28-April 1-Spring Break. No School.

March 21-25-Milk Spirit Week.

EES PAC Update

We would like to send a big Thank You to the Erickson Rec. Committee for their generous donation of \$5000 toward the Playground Fund!! It is so wonderful to see our community rallying around this project. Donations like this bring us so much closer to seeing the new structure installed!

We had another great meeting in February. Mr. Edwards provided us with an update on all of the happenings at the school – it is a busy place! Thank you to Mrs. Sawchuk who joined us at the meeting.

A Hot Dog Lunch Fundraiser was held on February 2nd in honour of the Brewster Family who unfortunately experienced a house fire. Thank you to all who came out in support.

Tara and Leslie are continuing to do presentations for interested local groups about our plans for the play structure.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week was February 14 to 18. I hope they all felt appreciated for all that they do for our kids.

On March 19th, the PAC will hold a Meat Draw at the Nordic Inn in Erickson beginning at 5 PM. Please plan to come and join us for a couple hours of fun and laughter. (No children permitted in the bar.)

The PAC will be providing the lunch at the Zatylny Farm Auction on April 8th. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help out with the auction meal, we would appreciate it.

There are still cookbooks available – ask any board member if you are interested in purchasing more.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 10, 2011 at 7 PM at the EES Library.

For more information, please go to our website at <http://eespac.wordpress.com>

Erickson Library

The Library is looking for donations of **children's educational software** to be used on the Children's Computer at the library. We are especially interested in software for pre-school aged children. Donations may be dropped at the Library. Thank you.

Kindergarten

We have had a “love”ly February in Kindergarten as we learned about the people we love through author Mercer Mayer’s “Just Me and My...” books. The Kindergarten’s had the opportunity to make Lovebugs with their Grade six buddies this month and have shown how much they love to read as we chart the number of books that the students have been reading at home through our home reading program. Students have been challenged to read ten books each as part of Scholastic’s Classrooms Care Campaign. If we reach our goal Scholastic Canada will donate 100 books to kids in need.

In February we started our measurement and shapes unit in math and will continue this unit in March. During this unit we will explore containers that hold more and less, look at differences in height and weight of objects and become familiar with 3-D shapes.

New in March we will feature a Star of the Week. Student’s will have the opportunity to tell us a bit about themselves and will be featured on a bulletin board in the hallway! The student of the week will also be able to bring in their favourite story and invite a special person in their life to lunch. Look for your child’s scheduled week on the Star of the Week Calendar sent home in planners. If there are any conflicts with the dates that have been selected, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can make the necessary changes.

The Kindergarten class is excited to welcome Brandon University student teacher Delonna Huntinghawk to Kindergarten on March 14th. Ms. Huntinghawk will be completing her final teaching experience in our classroom!

Here’s hoping that March comes in like a lamb and stays like a lamb throughout!

Have a Happy St.Patrick’s Day,

Ms.Carlson

Grade 1 News

It is hard to believe we have been in school for over 100 days. The Grade 1 class celebrated with bringing in 100 items and counting them in groups tens and fives. They also counted out 100 steps from our classroom door and most of the students went to the Kindergarten room. They also collected or tried to collect 100 names. Thank you to Miss Huntinghawk for treating us to 7 items of 100 treats . They were delicious.

In Math we are starting Unit 4-**Measurement**.

In Science we are working on **The Senses**.

In ELA we continue printing, spelling, writing and Guided Reading.

Please continue to read with your child and sign the sheet provided. They will also have a Spelling Test each week. They will have the words they need to study in their planners each week.

Please send a water bottle with your child if they don’t have one in school. Thank you.

Untiil next time.

D. Gaywish

Book Fair News: We sold \$1847.00 worth of books and we will receive \$1030.00 worth of books for the Classrooms and Library.

Thank you for your support! Mrs. Frey

Grade 2 News

Here's a look at what the Grade 2 Class has been busy at this last month:

1. Dinosaur Learning- students have been reading and discovering many interesting facts about these extinct animals. This week we will be finishing up our research projects, completing the 3-D display in the hallway, and illustrating the class book we wrote called "How Do Grade 2 Dinosaurs Behave in School?"
2. S.S. Diorama project- we will have completed both dioramas by the end of this week. (My House and Yard and My Community)
3. I Love to Read Month- Good Work Grade 2!!! You have been reading, reading, reading and most students have reached their goal and some students have even surpassed their goal.
4. We enjoyed working with the Grade 1s when we wrote about the things we LOVED. We also really enjoyed sharing ideas and making the acrostic with Grade 3 Class.
5. Snow Fort Building- One our gym classes we spent outside building a snow fort. I wonder if we'll get some more snow so we can keep adding to it?
6. Thank you to the Grade 6s (and Mrs. Hanson) for leading us through the "Bucket Filler" activity during our Community Group Meeting. What a terrific way to end the last week of February.

We look forward to Ms. Smith coming back to E.E.S. She will be doing her second student teaching placement in our classroom. HURRAY!!!

Have super week everyone.

Mrs. S. Hall

Grade 3 News!

What a cold month it has been! Hopefully we will start to see things warming up in March! The Grade 3's have taken on the responsibility of hauling the school recycling down to the depot every week. The students are enjoying it, although we would appreciate some warmer temperatures.

In science we finished our unit on structures. Students had a lot of fun building (and then destroying) structures made out of popsicle sticks, marshmallows and toothpicks.

Students have just taken flight to Thailand where they will be studying all about the cultures in South East Asia. We are looking forward to a presentation from Mrs. Warrington about her experiences teaching in this part of the world.

In math we have moved onto a unit in Measurement. Students are learning about the passage of time using clocks and calendars. They are also learning about measuring different items in centimetres, meters and kilometres. We finished reading our novel Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Students really enjoyed reading about Willy Wonka and all of his adventures. They also made golden tickets, and designed their own unique candy boxes. Please remember to check planners in the evening for notes home, spelling words, reminders and book orders.

Grade 4 News

BOO HOO

The LOVE bugs gone.

But gear up because the SOKO ARMY IS HERE.

Everybody is multiplying through the army names

Everyone is doing really well.

We have finished our old novel "KIM" and we watched the movie

We have started our new novel "Alison's ghost" it is about a girl named Alison and she found an Indian pipe bowl and it took her back in time where she met an Indian man Who told her to find the pipe stem and now she's going through a journey to find it.

We went bird watching around town with friend's of the park
The girls went with the girl that came and the boys went with the boy.
After we were finished we gave them our bird numbers into the internet and then we had hot-Chocolate and cookies that that were delicious
It was fun.

We started multiplying.

Hope you have a good March.

SINCERELY
MEAGAN
&
TRINITY

Grade 5 – Mr. Lamb

February was a very busy month for the class. We had the opportunity to go snowshoeing in lots of snow. What a wonderful opportunity to see how helpful snowshoes can be. The Book Fair also visited the school and some students had the opportunity to win prizes. Congratulations to the grade 5 student who won the grand prize, we received some very good books for the classroom.

In Science we learned about chemical change. Thanks to all the students for bringing the necessary supplies for the chocolate chip cookies. It turned out to be one of the more tasty science experiments we have done. We will be wrapping up the unit in the next few classes and will have a test in the near future.

In Social Studies we are learning about the early explorers that sailed to Canada and how hard life was living on a boat. It is very inter-

esting seeing the reactions on the students faces when they find out some of the foods they ate and how they preserved them.

Upcoming events in March include report cards, parent teacher interviews, Milk Spirit Week and of course, Spring Break. I look forward to seeing you at Parent Teacher Interviews.

Grade 6 Newsletter

Since our last news letter we have accomplished plenty of work. Here is some information about our subjects and what were working on. In E.L.A we started a new thing called Writers' Wall. It is a thing where if we write something that we want to share, we can put it up on the wall for others to read. In math we are learning about factors and multiples. We are also learning about prime and composite numbers. In social studies we are learning about residential schools and immigrants in Canada. In science we are learning about the solar system and making power points. In French we are learning about a girl named Natalie who is staying in Quebec to learn French. The goal for the unit is to improve our communication skills in French. In Sauteaux we are reading about Nanabush and drawing Nanabush. In our music class we are continuing music around the world and brought in artifacts. In P.E we had an opportunity to go snowshoeing for the last two weeks. It was fun.

Now that the snowshoes are gone we are playing paddle ball. The virtue of the month is LOVE. The grades 4's were being the love bugs, and have been giving various gifts and doing nice things. Thank you grade 4's! On February 11 we went on an awesome ski-trip to Ski Valley at Minnedosa. We learned how to ski, and some people tried snowboarding. We had a BLAST!! We had two nice ladies from Oak Hammock Marsh come to our school to do a presentation for each grade. Our class got two presentations. One was about stars and con-

Grade 6 News cont. next page

stellations, the other was about how various wetland animals and plants have inspired the invention of many things we use every day. Curing our visit to the Care Home on February 24th we read to the residents and made book marks to celebrate "I Love to Read" month. They really enjoyed it and so did we.

*Reminder for parents: Please check (and sign) planners daily and make sure students have supplies at school, including a calculator. Also, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Thank you.

Congratulations to Emily, Jocelyn, Megan and Miss Carlson on an excellent presentation at West CAST on Saturday as part of Hannah Taylor's keynote address. They spoke about their involvement with the Ladybug Foundation last school year.

By: Dawson, Kaylee, Maia, Jennifer, Avery

From the Guidance Corner:

A huge **Thank-you** to everyone who donated winter clothing towards the "Coats for Families" program. Thank-you also to all the Businesses and Agencies that served as drop-off locations and to Mr. Stephenson's class in Onanole. The program was successful in that many items found new homes! The Grade 4 class delivered the remaining items to the Samaritan House in Brandon.

Guidance Presentations

Kindergarten – "Feelings", and "How to Cool Down from being Angry". Grade 3 – Acceptance/Tolerance – Follow-up from "HONK" play (The ugly duckling)

Surveys: School-wide Student & Parent Surveys will be done in March/April; inquiring about experiences on issues like bullying and safety at school. **April 13** is the "Day of Pink" - the International Day Against Bullying, Dis-

crimination and Homophobia. We will be participating in a Division-wide plan to help raise awareness on these issues. More information will come out about these plans, but in the meantime....gather your "Pink" clothing to wear for that day!

School-Wide Community Groups: Our last school-wide event involved learning about "Filling Buckets!" This is based on the book "Have you Filled a Bucket Today? – A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids" by Carol McCloud. Many schools and groups have used this concept to encourage positive behaviour, and help children see how easy and rewarding it is to express kindness, appreciation and love on a daily basis. The book presents the concept that we all have "invisible buckets" that represent our feelings. When our bucket is full...we feel great; when it is empty, we feel empty. A "bucket filler" is someone who says or does nice things for other people. This also helps to fill our own buckets as we feel happy when we make others happy. On the other hand, a "bucket dipper" says or does things to cause other people to feel bad. In our groups we identified what actions would be considered "bucket filling" and what would be considered "bucket dipping" actions. We also did a "bucket filling" activity in partners. The Grade 6 students helped to facilitate these groups and did a great job!

Mentorship Program: There are several high-school students that have volunteered to be mentors. They have received some training and will be starting this month to work 1 on 1 with some of our EES students on a regular basis. **Small Group Work:** Currently, small groups in Kindergarten and Grade 1 are working on developing stronger social skills.