

Change for
Change -
Holiday Giving



EES WORLD
CULTURES - HAITI



WINTER CONCERT
DECEMBER 10, 2014
VRHS 7:00PM



REPORT CARDS GO
HOME 12/11/14

ESSEX ELEMENTARY DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Letter from the Principal

As we begin the month of December, I would like to extend to you my sincere wish for a wonderful holiday season. This month is such a special time of the year for our children and families. It is a season of great joy, when we are all reminded of the importance of generosity and kindness. We, at EES, find ourselves reflecting on the past year and on all of those who have helped shape our wonderful school. One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you.

We want you to know that we value our relationship with you and look forward to continuing our partnership in the new year ahead. Thank you for the gift of your wonderful, spirited and unique children. They are truly remarkable!



Our first trimester ended on November 24th and report cards will be sent home on December 11th. I am very proud of the tremendous progress our students have made thus far, and I am eager to see the continued growth of each and every student. December is a busy month highlighted by the Winter Concert showcasing the effort of teachers and students as they prepare to perform on December 10th at 7:00pm. I hope you will be able to join us for this special

“May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and every window open to great possibility.” - *Mary Anne Radmacher*

holiday tradition. To learn more about the daily happenings in your child's classroom, please visit our website at www.ees.reg4.k12.ct.us and search for you child's teacher webpage.

As always, I extend to you best wishes for happy and peaceful holiday season.

Warmest Regards,

Scott T. Jeffrey

EES Winter Concert

Please join us for our annual Winter Concert Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 7pm to celebrate the musical achievements of the young musicians of the Essex Elementary School:

- 3rd and 4th Grade Chorus
- 5th and 6th Grade Chorus
- Beginning Band
- 5th Grade Band
- 6th Grade Band
- Jazz Band

The concert will take place at Valley Regional High School starting at 7:00pm (Snow date: Monday, December 15th).

Students in second and third grade enjoyed learning about Haitian music, art and culture.



World Culture Day - Haiti

Our second and third grade students were recently treated to "Haiti Day." Students were immersed in the culture of Haiti, all day! During the morning, students rotated through presentations by musicians, artists

and experts in Haiti's history and aspects of life in Haiti. While second graders constructed masks, the third graders made rubbings from patterns onto metal for "metal art." Students learned about music from the Caribbean islands, including how to make different pitches on a steel drum.

Teachers and presenters helped students to understand the impact of the 7.0 earthquake on a nation of 9 million people, as well as the work of Sister Cities Essex Haiti. In the afternoon, all second and third graders enjoyed a concert by the "Caribbean Trio" who also reinforced the culture of Haiti, as well as other specific islands in the Caribbean Sea.

Please take a look at the showcase in the school lobby which is full of pictures and artifacts from Haiti and was constructed by Mrs. Harrigan and Mrs. Whitney with items from our Sister Cities Essex Haiti friends. EES is so fortunate to bring these cultural experiences to students with funding by former EES Foundation board member, Justus W. Paul, through the World Cultures Program arm of the Essex Elementary School Foundation. In February, we look forward to being immersed into the culture of China.



Holiday Giving - Change for Change

The 5th and 6th grade student leaders of EES have been working on creating a FUNdraiser that students can actively participate in to help support the Town of Essex's Goodwill Program. With the holiday season quickly approaching, The Essex Goodwill Committee is planning and preparing their efforts as a community to ensure that it is a positive and uplifting time of year for all. The Goodwill Program collects monetary donations to support the purchase of gift cards to be donated for the holidays to families in need. (i.e. Toys R Us, Marshalls, Bennies, Claire's, Best Buy, Dick's, Movie Passes) Also, each family will be provided with a grocery store gift card to purchase their holiday meal.

We are very fortunate that we have such plentiful resources, and we believe that it would be a good lesson for the many students here at EES to learn that they should always support those in need. We hope you will support our efforts to help out local citizens who are less fortunate.

We are mobilizing our school community. We are asking all students to participate in our CHANGE FOR CHANGE coin drive. This year, there will only be jars around the school unlike last year when they were all over town. We are counting on the Essex Elementary community to provide the profits for this CHANGE FOR CHANGE drive.

We are excited about working together as a school to support the town efforts to help Essex community. We love that the Essex Elementary school families can come together, each doing a little part to add up in a BIG way. Supporting this Goodwill Program is a way we can do our part to help make a difference for other children and their families.

This annual project helps make the holidays bright for many families in our community. Look for Ozzie the Osprey out on the front platform of EES over the next week. Ozzie will be happy to take your donation! Also please note that we are asking folks to bring a donation for the jar at the holiday concert on Wednesday, December 10th this year instead of bringing a new unwrapped gift as in year's past. All donations to our CHANGE FOR CHANGE drive will go directly to the Town wide Holiday Goodwill Program.

THE DESK OF THE HEALTH OFFICE

Winter is upon us along with colds, coughs, and flu season. Although a typical cough/cold should **NOT** be a reason to miss school, I would encourage you to keep your child home if (s)he is coughing endlessly and/or has a constant runny nose, is generally not feeling well, and does not appear to be "him/herself."

AND...speaking of colds, a donation of tissues to your child's teacher and/or specials teachers would be **greatly appreciated**. The tissues I am supplied with to distribute to the classrooms tend to be rough especially on little noses.

At times, children forget or drop their snacks on the floor making them inedible. A donation of a healthy snack to your child's homeroom teacher would be appreciated in the event that a child does need a snack. It can be a long time for students from breakfast to lunch without a snack. As I tell the children, "food is fuel for the brain." It helps them to concentrate, focus, and be better learners.

Children do go out for recess during the cold winter months even when there is snow on the ground. The children look forward to recess and this time of play is healthy for them. Please be sure your child has the appropriate winter gear – hat, mittens, and especially boots and snow pants if there is snow on the ground.

If you have any questions or concerns or to notify me that your child will not be in school, **please call my direct number 860-767-1524 or e-mail me at sudeens@reg4.k12.ct.us**.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Suzanne Deens, R.N. & Rosemary Vitali

Morning Drop Off

Morning Drop off is an important time of the school day where students say good bye to their parents and enter the school ready for a day full of learning. **Students can begin entering the building at 8:10am each morning and should arrive no later than 8:25am.**

Please read the reminders below so that we can ensure a safe experience during morning drop off.

- **Drop off** between 8:10am and 8:25am. If you need to drop off earlier, please inquire about YMCA before school care.
- **PLEASE - ONLY** drop off from the passenger side of the vehicle. If you can not drop off from the passenger side, please park and escort you child to the front door.
- **Jazz Band** - Siblings of Jazz Band members should not be dropped off at the scheduled Jazz Band times. Please drop off between the regular 8:10 - 8:25am time period.
- **Breakfast** - Breakfast is served between 8:10 - 8:25am each morning at a cost of \$1.25. Students bringing beverages and breakfast food to school will be asked to go to the cafeteria to finish their breakfast.

Thank you in advance as we work hard to provide the safest environment or all students.

Being a Role Model For Reading

From: The Reading Team

Your child walks like you, talks like you, and absorbs everything you do. So set the right example when it comes to reading.

1. Surround yourself with reading material. Books don't belong only in libraries and classrooms. Make the written word a part of your living space with books, magazines, and newspapers readily available and throughout your home.
2. Draw attention to all the things you read. Provide a bibliography for the things you talk about. When you explain why the sky is blue or who the first president of the United States was, tell your child which book helps you know these facts. You'll show him how knowledge is largely shaped by the things we read and how reading connects us to the world.
3. Buy or borrow books together. Whenever you're going to the library or a bookstore, let your child come along. Even if you aren't looking for anything in particular, practice the art of book browsing and admiring. Make an event out of it and he/she will learn to be exhilarated by the sight of books.
4. Don't be a solo reader. Open up conversations through reading by pausing to read an interesting fact aloud or wonder what an unfamiliar word means. Knowing that the reading experience is not a solitary activity will motivate reluctant readers.
5. Read for leisure. Show that reading isn't work. Cuddle up with a good book and you'll model how reading can be just the thing to make your day.
6. Bring something to read everywhere you go. From the office to the home, or even the living room to the bedroom, make sure you're equipped with reading material for yourself and your child. You never know when you'll have some down time. Show him that reading is a constructive and fun way to pass the time.
7. Emphasize the universal importance of reading. Librarians, teachers, students, mechanics, lawyers, doctors, architects, and athletes read. Show your child that reading is part of everyone's life by reading diverse works that serve different purposes. Consider cookbooks, television manuals, online magazines, and cereal boxes. Make a habit out of living through reading.



Cafeteria News: Now Accepting Credit Card Payment

Again this year, we will be using a computerized system in the cafeteria. For the system to be effective, we request that you send a check/cash to the school for the amount of money you wish credited to your child's account. Please place a check or cash in an envelope that is clearly marked with your child's full name and the teacher's name. New this year, we are now accepting online payments for student lunches.

Online credit card payment is designed to allow parents to make quick and easy payments to their children's school accounts. Please visit our district website at www.reg4.k12.ct.us and select the link on the homepage. All a la carte items are paid for with cash so that students are only buying a treat when parents have approved the purchase and provided money. We ask that all families maintain a positive balance in their child's lunch account. Regular reminders will be sent home via email and/or letter once your child's balance falls below the \$8.75 level.



DECEMBER 2014 Breakfast Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12/1 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/2 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/3 Banana Bread with String Cheese Fresh Fruit & Raisins Fruit Juice Choice of Milk	12/4 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/5 Blueberry Muffin Fresh Apple Slices Raisins Choice of Milk
12/8 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/9 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/10 Zucchini Bread with String Cheese Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/11 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/12 Apple Cinnamon Muffin Fresh Apple Slices Raisins Choice of Milk
12/15 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/16 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/17 Banana Bread with String Cheese Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/18 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/19 Blueberry Muffin Fresh Apple Slices Raisins Choice of Milk
12/22 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Raisins Choice of Milk	12/23 Holiday Break No School	12/24 Holiday Break No School	12/25 Holiday Break No School	12/26 Holiday Break No School
12/29 Holiday Break No School	12/30 Holiday Break No School	12/31 Holiday Break No School		

Paid Meal Price \$ 1.25

Free & Reduced Eligible Students – No Charge

Milk \$0.50 each

1% unflavored or fat free flavored and unflavored milk available daily with breakfast or \$0.50 a la carte.
Our menus follow dietary guidelines for calories, reduced fat, sodium and sugar while increasing whole grains, fruits and vegetables. 100% of our grains are whole-grain rich.
Menu Subject to change without advance notice. Free & Reduced lunch applications are available in your school's main office.
For suggestions and questions about School Lunch Program please call 860-526-9546 ext. 1420

The Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region #6, and Supervision District Boards of Education are committed to a policy of equal opportunity/discriminatory action for all qualified persons and equal access to Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. The Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region

Essex, Deep River and Chester Elementary Schools



DECEMBER 2014 Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12/1 Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza Or Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Sherbet Cup Chilled Fruit Cup	12/2 Sloppy Joe on Roll Steamed Carrots Chilled Fruit Cup	12/3 Pasta Bar Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Garden Salad Chilled Fruit Cup	12/4 Hamburger or Cheeseburger Lettuce & Tomato Oven fried Potatoes Fresh Watermelon	12/5 Turkey Grinder Or Cheese Grinder Baked Chips Veggie Sticks w/dip Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup
12/8 School made Personal Pizza Or Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Whole Fruit Sherbet Cup Fresh Fruit	12/9 Harvest Chicken Stew Homemade Biscuits Fresh Broccoli Crowns Seasonal Fresh Fruit	12/10 Cheese Ravioli Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Fresh Green Beans Chilled Fruit Cup	12/11 Meatball Grinders Oven Fried Potatoes Fresh Green Beans Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup	12/12 Ham & Cheese Croissant or Cheese Croissant Veggie Sticks w/Dip Chilled Fruit Cup
12/15 Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza Or Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Sherbet Cup Chilled Fruit Cup	12/16 Chili con Carne Brown Rice Pilaf Fresh Broccoli Florets Chilled Fruit Cup	12/17 Pasta Bar Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Garden Salad Chilled Fruit Cup	12/18 Fluffy Pancakes Strawberry Topping Baked Butternut Squash Sausage Links Fresh Fruit Cup	12/19 Banilla Plus Mac & Cheese Fresh Broccoli Crowns Warm Dinner Roll Chilled Fruit Cup
12/22 School made Personal Pizza Or Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Whole Fruit Sherbet Cup Chilled Fruit Cup	12/23 Holiday Break No School	12/24 Holiday Break No School	12/25 Holiday Break No School	12/26 Holiday Break No School
12/29 Holiday Break No School	12/30 Holiday Break No School	12/31 Holiday Break No School		

Paid Meal Price \$ 2.75

Reduced Meal Price \$ 0.40

Milk \$0.50 each

Adult Meal Price \$ 3.75

Our menus follow dietary guidelines for calories, reduced fat, sodium and sugar while increasing whole grains, fruits and vegetables. 100% of our grains are whole-grain rich.
All Meals are served with a choice of entrée, vegetables, fruits and 1% unflavored or fat free flavored and unflavored milk. Sandwich, Bagel Plate and or Salad choice are available.
Please take at least 1 fruit or vegetable with every meal. We proudly offer locally grown, seasonal fresh fruits & vegetables.
Menu Subject to change without advance notice. Free & Reduced lunch applications are available in your school's main office.
For suggestions and questions about School Lunch Program please call 860-526-9546 ext. 1420

Rotation Schedule

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 B	2 C	3 D	4 A	5 B	6
7	8 C	9 D	10 A	11 B	12 C	13
14	15 D	16 A	17 B	18 C	19 D	20
21	22 A	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Winter Holiday Vacation </div> 				26
28	29  winter!	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Winter Holiday Vacation </div>				30
		30	31			

DECEMBER 5, 2014

DECEMBER 5, 2014