

ESSEX ELEMENTARY



March Newsletter

Important Dates:

- 3/2 - Dr. Seuss's Birthday
- 3/3 - EES BOE Budget WS - Central Office 6pm
- 3/6 - PTO Family Night 6pm
- 3/7 - Daylight Savings - Move Clocks Forward and Change Batteries
- 3/10 - PTO Meeting 7pm (re-scheduled from 3/3)
- 3/12 - BOE Meeting 7pm @EES (Budget WS #2 starts @6pm)
- 3/18 - Progress Reports go home
- 3/18 - 5th Grade CMT Testing
- 3/18-20 PTO Book Fair
- 3/19-20 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 3/20 - 1st Day of Spring
- 3/31 - Kindergarten Orientation 6pm



A Letter from the Principal

As we move into March in lion fashion with an anticipated storm, I am hopeful that the month will go out like a lamb, leading to spring sunshine and warmer days. We may have a few more days of snowflakes ahead, but the promise of Spring is in the air and we are certainly looking forward to it.

Many thanks to our outstanding students who are indeed anxious to have outdoor recess on a more consistent basis!.

The month ahead is certainly a busy one here at Essex Elementary School. We celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd, St. Patrick's Day on March 17th, and the first official day of spring on March 20th. Please see the list of important dates on the side bar of the newsletter.



Kindergarten Geometry

CMT Testing- Science March 18th

Students in grade 5 will take the annual CMT science assessment administered to all CT students in grades 5, 8 & 10. This is a 60 minute paper/pencil test measuring students' mastery of science concepts and inquiry skills. We encourage all families to schedule vacations and appointments around this designated testing date. We have minimal make-up days that are restricted to a specific window for students who are ill or absent for unavoidable reasons. We encourage all students to get a good night's sleep the night before the assessment and to eat a good breakfast.



Some of your favorite staff members serving ice cream at last year's PTO Family Night

The Second Trimester ends on Friday, March 12th and report cards will go home on March 18th. Remember, report cards are a reflection of your child's progress over the entire trimester. Please review them carefully with your child being sure to recognize their successes as well as offering support to help in areas in which they may need to improve. Emphasize with your student that report cards are personal and private. They are a communication between the school and the family, and do not need to be shared with friends. You will have a chance to speak with your child's teacher in the upcoming conferences on March 19th and 20th.

"May your troubles be less and your blessings be more; and nothing but happiness come through your door" Author Unknown

Warmest Regards,

Scott Jeffrey

PTO Family Night



Please join us for Family Night on Friday March 6, 2015, for an Ice Cream Social and BINGO. The Ice Cream Social will take place from 6-7pm and the Bingo from 7-8pm. The cost is \$20 per family and 1-2 gently used books. BINGO prizes will include books, games, gift certificates, homework passes, pizza dinners, hula hoops, sporting equipment and more! Be there for a chance to win The GRAND PRIZE of an iPad mini, This event sold out last year! Please send in your form for tickets.

March 1, 2015



Invention Convention

March = Inventions!

Teachers will be meeting with all students in grades 4, 5, and 6 during the week of March 2nd to describe the process and distribute "Intent to Invent" forms and invention development packets. Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Plumley, and volunteer parents will work with interested students after school on three Tuesday afternoons in March from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. (March 10, 17, and 24). Parents need to complete the permission form (in the Invention packet) for each Tuesday afternoon students are staying after school. Parents may pick up their students in the 4th grade hallway at 4:00 on each of the 3 afternoons. The Tuesday, March 10th workshop is mandatory for interested students at which time students will be guided to determine an inventing idea that solves a problem. The Tuesday, March 17th workshop is optional and will help students to refine their inventing idea. At the Tuesday, March 24th workshop, all students will be able to pick up their display board and will be given guidance on the requirements for the final project.

Our school Invention Convention is held on the evening of April 1, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.! On April 1, students may begin setting up their display boards and inventions beginning at 6:00 p.m. Each year, four to six students are selected by our judges to represent EES at the state CIC at Gampel Pavilion on the UCONN campus in May and regularly bring back several state-level awards! Families are encouraged to visit the Connecticut Invention Convention website (www.ctinventionconvention.org) for more information about inventing in Connecticut. Parents who would like to assist our young inventors with their creativity during the afterschool workshops in March are very welcome and continue to be needed! Please call Debbie O'Donnell at EES if you would like to volunteer on one or all of the March dates or in the evening for the "Convention." We are grateful to the EES PTO for their continued support!

Kindergarten Registration

At this time of the year we begin making plans for 2015-16 kindergarten class. If you have a child in your family, or know of a child who will have turned five (5) by December 31, 2015, please call the school office at (860)-767-8215 or email bwilcox@reg4.k12.ct.us.

Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for March 31st at 7:00pm.



Mrs. Breitenbach's Class celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday



4th Grade Visits the Old State House

On Wednesday February 25, 2015, the fourth grade visited the Old State House in Hartford as part of their social studies curriculum learning about the state government. The students participated in two programs. One program was an interactive re-enacting of the Legend of the Charter Oak that took place in Hartford in 1687. They also engaged in interactive role-play programs in which they were able to discover first-hand how a bill is voted into law, how the election process works and how a trial is conducted!

6th Grade Fundraiser



During the month of March the 6th Grade Class will be selling Smencils to raise funds for the 6th Grade Big Day Out field trip in June. Smencils will be sold starting Friday, March 6th at PTO Family Night and will continue during lunch waves on A and C days. Smencils are hypoallergenic and made of recycled materials. The 6th Grade Class will be selling Smencils for \$1.50 each or 4 for \$5. Your support in their community building and fundraising efforts is very much appreciated.

From the Health Office

All sixth grade students are required to have a health physical for entrance into 7th grade. At conference time, parents and guardians will receive a letter detailing the requirements for completion of the State of Connecticut "blue" health form. If your child has had a physical since September 1, 2014 and you have handed the form in to the Health Office, please disregard the letter.

Parents and guardians of 5th grade students will receive a letter at conference time with information about the puberty movie preview.

A reminder that according to Essex Board of Education, all 2nd and 5th grade students are required to have a current physical on file in the Health office by the end of the current school year. Please call or e-mail the Health Office with any questions or concerns.

Thank-you to all the parents and guardians who have e-mailed, phoned, or sent notes to inform me of their child's absence. It is a big help!

Please remember to send in healthy snacks for your children at snack time. On occasion a child may spill his/her snack or forget to pack one. If you have an extra box/bag of snacks, the classroom teacher would appreciate the donation.

Please feel free to call me at 860-767-1524 or e-mail me at sudeens@reg4.k12.ct.us with any questions or concerns.

Suzanne Deens, R.N.
Rosemary Vitali

Student Lunch Accounts

Your help is needed! In the coming week our office staff will be contacting families whose lunch accounts are in the negative. This is an ongoing problem at EES that we hope to remedy. Please check your child's lunch account balance by visiting your Powerschool account (<http://powerschool.reg4.k12.ct.us/public/>) or by calling our front office staff. Lunch accounts can be replenished with cash, credit card or check. Free/reduced lunch application forms are available at the front desk. Please contact us at 860-767-8215 for more



2nd Grade students enjoying the snow.

CHECK OUT OUR EES WEBSITE!

<http://www.ees.reg4.k12.ct.us/>
You will find great information to stay connected to school!

- Monthly Calendar
- Breakfast/Lunch Calendar
- Links to Staff
- District/School Forms
- On-line lunch/breakfast payment options and much more!

PTO Spring Book Fair

We are very excited to announce some changes to the Spring Book Fair!! The theme for Spring is "Under the Sea". This year we will be having an "Early Preview & Purchase" sale on Tuesday, March 17th from 5:00 to 7:00. There will be fun games and Ocean inspired photo props for fun photos. Don't miss an excellent opportunity to check out the fully stocked book shelves with friends and family. The remainder of the fair will proceed Wednesday (March 18th 7:30-3:30), Thursday (March 19th 7:30-3:30), and Friday (March 20th 7:30-3:30). Two \$25.00 EES Book Fair gift certificates will be available to raffle/bid at the Family Night!! We need used books and will begin our collection immediately following Family Night in the EES foyer. We will have a short time to collect USED books for this very popular portion of the fair. Please consider donating! Volunteer information will be coming home in the next couple weeks. We always look forward to new volunteers and veteran volunteers. The kids love seeing all the parents who come to help! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Emily Wrann at emilywrann@hotmail.com or Stacia Libby at 860-662-0928.



The Importance of Reading Daily

Students who read at least 20 minutes per day for homework experience greater success in school. Please remember to make daily reading a priority.



Students in Mrs. Artymiak's class share their most recent published books at an Author's Tea. Congratulations to all of her students for working so hard to create wonderful Non-fiction Books.

Student "A"	Student "B"	Student "C"
reads 20 minutes each day	reads 5 minutes each day	reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year
1,800,000 words		
	282,000 words	
		8,000 words

LIBRARY LINKS

EES Library Media Center

Student Work!

Check out the new Library Media Website. One exciting new feature is a student work page. Right now we have book review movies made by the first graders featured on the student work page.

Get Caught Reading!

For the month of March - Read Across America Month - we will be seeing who we can catch reading. Students who are caught reading will have their pictures displayed on the bulletin board outside the library media center.

Sonya Xaypanya was caught reading in the Library!

See the following page for logins and passwords to our online resources & databases.

Read Across America

On March 2, EES celebrated Read Across America Day! This is a national event that occurs on or near Dr. Seuss's birthday, and the goal of this celebration is to motivate students to read for pleasure! This year at EES, students from Valley Regional High School will be visiting to read Dr. Seuss books in the classrooms. Keep an eye out for the Cat and the Hat; and rumor has it Thing One and Thing Two have been spotted making trouble in the area!



**"You're never
too old, too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book and
read to a child."
-Dr. Seuss**

If you'd like to play some fun Dr. Seuss games at home, visit Seussville at www.seussville.com!

Essex Elementary School Online Resources

Use the Logins & Passwords to access these resources for reading and research from home.
You can find links to these resources on the EES Library Media Website!



BookFlix – Online literacy resource that pairs classic video storybooks with related nonfiction eBooks. PreK-3.

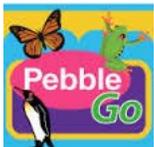


FreedomFlix – Features eBooks that bring American history to life with embedded timelines, maps, and videos. Grades 5-6.



TrueFlix – Provides Social Studies and Science titles supported by related primary sources featuring videos, audio, images, and text. Grades 3-6.

Log in: essexelem
PW: essexelem

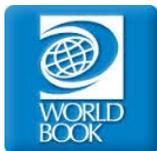


PebbleGo – Four online databases: Animals, Biographies, Social Studies, and Science. Grades K-2.



PebbleGo Next – Two online databases: State Studies and American Indian Studies. Grades 3-6.

Log in: essexelem
PW: school



World Book Online Encyclopedia – Articles accompanied by pictures and videos at primary and secondary levels and in Spanish. Grades 1-6.

Log in: eeslmc
PW: eesresearch



iConn.org – Databases of articles from newspapers, magazines, and journals. Free to all residents of Connecticut. Go to www.iConn.org and click 'Try This' in the Connecticut Residents box. PreK-Adult.

Library Website: http://essexelementary.ss3.sharpschool.com/student_resources/LibraryMediaCenter



March 2015 Breakfast Menu

BREAKFAST IS AVAILABLE AT ALL SCHOOLS. COME JOIN US FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY AND PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK FROM MARCH 2 THROUGH MARCH 6

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3/2 National School Breakfast Week Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/3 National School Breakfast Week Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/4 National School Breakfast Week Zucchini Bread Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/5 National School Breakfast Week Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/6 National School Breakfast Week Apple Cinnamon Muffin Fresh Apple Slices Choice of Milk
3/9 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/10 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/11 Banana Bread Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/12 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/13 Blueberry Muffin Fresh Apple Slices Choice of Milk
3/16 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/17 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/18 Zucchini Bread Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/19 Early Dismissal Elementary Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/20 Early Dismissal Elementary Apple Cinnamon Muffin Fresh Apple Slices Choice of Milk
3/23 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/24 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/25 Banana Bread Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/26 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/27 Blueberry Muffin Fresh Apple Slices Choice of Milk
3/30 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk	3/31 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit Choice of Milk			



March 2015 Lunch Menu

BREAKFAST IS AVAILABLE AT ALL SCHOOLS. COME JOIN US FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY AND PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK FROM MARCH 2 THROUGH MARCH 6

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3/2 Dr. Seuss' Birthday Cindy Lou Hou's Stuffed Crust Pizza Knox Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Cat in the Hat Vanilla Cake Diffendoferer Fresh Fruit Cup	3/3 Ham Grinder or Cheese Grinder Baked Chips Veggie Sticks w/dip Chilled Fruit Cup	3/4 <i>Pasta Bar</i> Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Garden Salad Chilled Fruit Cup	3/5 Hamburger or Cheeseburger Lettuce & Tomato Oven fried Potatoes Fresh Green Beans Chilled Fruit Cup	3/6 Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup with Fresh Vegetables Warm Roll Chilled Fresh Fruit
3/9 <i>Personal Pizza</i> Or Personal Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Whole Fruit Sherbet Cup Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup	3/10 Chicken Ranch Wrap Pretzels Veggie Sticks w/dip Fruit Cup	3/11 <i>Pasta Bar</i> Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Garden Salad Chilled Fruit Cup	3/12 All Beef Hot Dog on a bun Baked Beans Veggie Sticks w/ dip Fresh Watermelon Slices	3/13 Fluffy Pancakes Strawberry Topping Baked Butternut Squash Sausage Links Fresh Fruit Cup
3/16 <i>Stuffed Crust Pizza</i> Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Juice Bar Fresh Fruit	3/17 Chicken Fajitas Salsa & Sour Cream Homemade Beans & Rice Fresh Broccoli Chilled Fruit Cup	3/18 <i>Homemade Baked Ziti</i> w/ Tomato or Meat Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Garden Salad Chilled Fruit Cup	3/19 early dismissal elementary Turkey Grinder Or Cheese Grinder Baked Chips Veggie Sticks w/dip Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup	3/20 early dismissal elementary Barilla Plus Mac & Cheese Fresh Broccoli Crowns Warm Dinner Roll Chilled Fruit Cup
3/23 <i>Personal Pizza</i> Or Personal Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Whole Fruit Sherbet Cup Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup	3/24 Beef & Bean Nachos Cheese Sauce Salsa & Sour Cream Roasted Zucchini Chilled Fruit Cup	3/25 <i>Pasta Bar</i> Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Garden Salad Chilled Fruit Cup	3/26 Crispy Chicken Pattie Sandwich Lettuce & Tomato Baked Sweet Potatoes Wedges Chilled Fruit Cup	3/27 <i>Toasted Cheese Sandwich</i> or Toasted Ham & Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Baby Carrots Chilled Fruit Cup
3/30 <i>Stuffed Crust Pizza</i> Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Juice Bar Fresh Fruit	3/31 <i>Sausage, Egg & Cheese Sandwich</i> Hashbrown Potatoes Vegetable Sticks Fresh Fruit Cup			

Meal Price \$ 2.75

Milk \$0.50 each

Adult Meal Price \$ 3.75

Our menus follow dietary guidelines for reduced fat, salt and sugar while increasing whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Meals include a source of protein, grains, vegetables, a milk & fruit or juice. We proudly offer locally grown, seasonal fresh fruits & vegetables. All Bread & Pasta items are Whole Wheat. Menu Subject to change without advance notice. Sandwich and or Saled choice available.

For suggestions and questions about School Lunch Program please call 860-326-9346 ext. 1420

