

Ella P. Burr School Newsletter

December 2021
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Principal: Peter J. Loiselle
School Website: <https://www.rsu67.org/o/ella-burr-school>



Principal's News Mr. Loiselle

The holidays are always a time for family and excitement and you can feel it here at school. Students seem to have a little more of a jump in their step and the classrooms are filled with festive learning activities. This newsletter has some important information and updates about what is happening this month and I hope will help clarify some of the guidelines we need to follow. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns. All of us at Ella P. Burr wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Contents

Principal's News	1
COVID Guidelines	1
Attendance and Tardy	1
Music Concerts	1
Pre-K News	2
Kindergarten News	2
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	2
PE, Music, Guidance	3
From the Library	4
Literacy Interventionists	4
Math Interventionists	4
Staff Member Spotlight	4

COVID Guidelines District Nurse Jeri Davis

- If your student has any symptoms of COVID-19 (including minor cold symptoms), please keep them home from school and have them tested at a testing facility. If the test comes back negative, they cannot return to school until they have been 24 hours fever free without medications and have an improvement of symptoms. If they develop more symptoms after a negative test, please have them re-tested.
- The CDC does not accept a positive result from a home test. If your child tests positive on a home test we will request this is followed up with a test at a testing site. We cannot report the case to the CDC or contact trace a case, based on home test results.

Attendance and Tardy

Students who are often tardy are missing the first part of the day's lesson on a regular basis, which means they are missing the same subject matter each time they are absent. For some, that means intervention time where learners get extra assistance in areas they are struggling. Please help your child by getting them to school on time each day. Two reminders:

1. A reminder the school day begins at 7:45 am. Anyone who arrives after that time will be marked as tardy. Please do your best to get your child to school on time because instruction begins at 7:45 am meaning they are missing an important part of the day's instruction.
2. If you need to keep your child home due to illness, doctor's appointment, or another reason, please contact the office. Contacting your child's teacher via Dojo, Facebook, or Bloomz, while helpful for the teacher, it cannot be used to identify excused vs. unexcused absences.

2021-22 Concerts

- Gr. 2: Feb. 10
- Gr. 3: Mar. 10
- Kinder: Apr. 7
- Gr. 1: Apr. 28

Pre-K News Mrs. Barrows and Mrs. Leighton

We are finishing up our unit "Friends". We will be revisiting the social emotional curriculum to emphasize how to be a successful group member, how to regulate our emotions, and how to express our feelings through appropriate gestures, actions, and language.

Our next unit is "Wind and Water". We will explore wind and water using observations, experiments, and books to learn more about such topics as evaporation, weather, temperature, insulation, rain and snow.

We find water in different forms; as rain (liquid), snow and ice (solid), and as steam (gas). Temperature affects the form of water. Water soaks into, or is absorbed by, some things but is repelled by others. Wind - moving air - affects things. Lighter things are moved a lot by wind. Heavier things are moved less by wind. The amount of wind changes with the weather.

Water and wind provide opportunities for recreation.

Kindergarten News Mrs. McCarthy, Miss. Crockett, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Larlee, and Mrs. Peters

December is going to be a very exciting month here in kindergarten! We will be learning about how Christmas is celebrated in other parts of the world! We will learn a little about Christmas trees and hopefully get to decorate our very own kindergarten tree. In literacy we are still practicing our upper and lower case letters as well as reading and writing our sight words. In math we are working on numbers 0-10 and patterns! We have a great group of kiddos this year who are working hard on remembering the rules at school. Remembering to keep our hands to ourselves has been one rule we are working hard to follow! I hope everyone has a great holiday season, I know the K team has a lot of fun activities planned!

First Grade News Mrs. Olsen, Mrs. Cuccinello, Ms. Croce, Ms. Ocana

November was a fun month in First Grade. Everyone enjoyed the firefighters visit. The first graders were excited to come to school the day after receiving the smoke detectors to tell where they hung them. We learned the history of Thanksgiving and are looking forward to learning about Christmas around the world in December.

Second Grade News Mrs. Hallett, Ms. Sherman, Mrs. Gardner, and Mrs. Himes

Our Second Graders have a new learning target in Social Studies this year. They need to do a research project on an important person in our state. We thought this would be the perfect opportunity for students to learn about a local hero. Students will be learning about and researching Master Sergeant Gary Gordon. They will get to read about him, fill out a research paper, as well as do a poster about him that focuses on what made him a good leader, since we just learned about leaders. When the project is completed, students will be able to bring it home to share with their families. We can't wait for students to learn about our local hero and his sacrifice.

Third Grade News Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Manzo, Mrs. Brawn, and Ms. Lee (Student Teacher)

It's December already and the second trimester is beginning! Third grade is working on many new units. In Reading, students will be finishing up their Stone Fox unit before December break. They have been working on Personal Narratives in Writing and are also learning about adjectives. We have begun our Multiplication unit in Math. Our first target is Various Ways to Represent Multiplication. Students have been very enthusiastic about learning about the Human Body Systems in Science and they will spend the month learning about Holidays Around the World in Social Studies!

Physical Education and Health Mr. Lindsay

Hi everyone!!

We have made it to December and I couldn't be more excited! I am hoping for snow, and lots of it so we can get our winter outdoor activities started. This also means that it is super important to remember to pack extra shoes for your student so when we are inside on cold days, they have something safe and comfortable to run in.

Also, Ella P. Burr was just announced as one of the participants in this year's WinterKids Winter Challenge. The winning school will receive a grand prize of \$10,000! The challenge will be starting in January and lasting about a month. As I get more information on what will be included in the challenge I will be passing it along to you.

Music and Art Mrs. York

December brings notes, rhythms, and dynamics together to see the notes on a staff, and "write" some music as a class. I also like to use The Nutcracker Ballet as a real world cultural example of music's everyday influence around this time of year.

In art, a virtual museum tour is planned, where we will be searching the work of artists for their use of Elements of Art. We will also be exploring how popular artists in history make and think up their ideas. This is in preparation for thinking up their own piece.

Guidance Mrs. Turner

We need a Piglet, really, we do! Why you ask? Well, Mr. Loiselle challenged us to fill our School Wide Kindness Bucket and we did it! He said he would, YEP!! KISS A PIG!! So that is why we need a piglet, if you have one, please call the school at 794-3014. Thank you in advance! We hope to have our Kindness Celebration on Friday, Dec. 17.

This month we will be talking about taking responsibilities for our actions and understanding that accidents can happen. We will discuss how to apologize beyond saying "Sorry." We learn to apologize, take responsibility for the harm caused and help the person we hurt. We also will talk about how to be a good friend and the various ways we can show compassion and care to others. The last week we will hear stories and discuss the importance of giving and helping others. We will discuss that we do not measure a person's character on what they have for "stuff." We are not a better person because we have more things and we are not less because we have less than others.

Please remember we have a food pantry and are offering a better variety of food. Please return the black and blue bag sent home and we will gladly fill it weekly. Snacks for school are also provided. All you have to do is call or send in a note. We want to help families in our school. Our Ella P. Burr Fuel Fund is also available, staff and students can wear hats and/or sunglasses and bring in 50 cents for each. This allows everyone to help keep each other warm during the cold days ahead.

Please take care and have a wonderful holiday season!



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**Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.**

From the Library Mrs. Pelletier

It is great to be back in the library this year, with things as close to normal as possible. Our goal is for learners to develop a love for literacy and it is great to see them being able to access books again. For our older students, keyboarding is part of their curriculum. They are learning finger placement and are increasing their accuracy and speed, which will benefit them as they get older and are required to utilize the computer even more for their studies.

Literacy Interventionists Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Harper, and Mrs. Murchison

Sight words are words that do not fit standard phonetic patterns and must be memorized. High-frequency words are words readers will encounter regularly in text. These words appear in print about 50% of the time. We want our students to be able to read them without hesitation because it improves their reading fluency. Improved fluency can mean improved comprehension—our ultimate goal.

Your child's teacher can provide you with the list of words that your child is expected to read and write. Practicing at home can make a big difference.

Math Interventionists Mrs. Gulesian and Mrs. Stevens

It's hard to believe that we're in the last month of 2021. We've been working hard here in the Math Room! We have been busy working on addition, subtraction, place value, comparing numbers, and skip counting. Kids have been enjoying lots of holiday games focused on fluency with addition and place value. Kindergarteners have been working on number identification, counting, and writing numbers to 20. First graders have been solving simple word problems and playing lots of games with the 120 chart! Grade 2 students have been focusing on addition and subtraction fluency, place value, and solving word problems. Our 3rd graders have been plugging away at their math facts, comparing numbers into the thousands, and solving addition and subtraction word problems. There's a lot of learning happening here!

Staff Member Spotlight: Ellie Ocana, First-Grade

Hello! My name is Ellie Ocaña. I am the new first grade teacher at Ella P Burr. I recently graduated from the University of Maine this past spring with my bachelors in Child Development and Family Relations with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. It has always been a dream of mine to become an Elementary teacher. I also attended school in the RSU 67 district, I was very excited to come back home and teach in the same district I learned so much from. I am very happy to be a part of the EPB Family!



“Leave a little sparkle wherever you go.”

