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Remember!

December 15 EGM Ice
Skating Night at South-
ern Lights

December 16 Birthday
Book Club Celebration

December 16 3rd-5th
Grade Christmas Parties

December 19 K-2nd
Grade Christmas Parties

December 19 Holiday
Dress Pass

December 20 End of
2nd Nine Weeks

December 21 First Day
of Christmas Break

January 9 Students Re-
port Back to School

ALLEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Parents,

School days continue to roll by with incredible speed! Four months have passed by since we welcomed you and your students back to school. They have been very busy months filled with learning, football, running club, spirit squad, silent auction, carnival, first grade program, book fair, field trips--the list goes on and on. Thank you for continuing to make Eden Gardens a very unique place to be. Your enthusiastic support of everything we have done these last few months has made each endeavor more successful than it ever could be without you! As I walk through the hallways and cafeteria daily and see our wonderful parents helping out in more ways than you can imagine, I continue to feel blessed to be working with the best school family. Thank you for always showing up, rolling up your sleeves, and helping out here at school.

Our school has rolled out the implementation of the Leader In Me program with fidelity this fall. I have enjoyed your emails and phone calls telling of the special Leader In Me moments you are seeing at home. As we focus on "Beginning with the end in mind" during December, please join us as we reinforce planning and preparation to meet personal and academic goals at home and school. During the month of January, we will "Put first things first" by working before we play. The adults in our building, as well as the students, are learning about the 7 Habits. Thank you for your support with this program. Look for big things to come regarding your child and the Leader In Me program here at Eden Gardens.

Now that we have paused to give thanks for our many blessings during the Thanksgiving break, our thoughts turn to December and our emphasis on giving. Please encourage your children to give things during the month of December that cost nothing--keeping their rooms clean, helping with a younger sibling, setting the table or helping clear the dishes away after a meal, doing homework without complaining--the list could go on and on. Gifts given from the heart that cost nothing are priceless. My hope is that you are the recipient of one of these priceless gifts during this very special season when thoughts of others are put before thoughts of self.

Your life will truly be enriched when you visit our building the month of December as there is no place quite like an elementary school during the holiday season. The joy, excitement, and special activities going on will make it hard to keep the walls from reverberating! As we prepare to enjoy this time of giving, we continue to be thankful for our most precious gift--your children. May you and your children join our school family as we create lifelong memories during this special time of year.

Happy Holidays!
Sydney D. Allen



Congratulations

The following students were nominated as finalists for the Eden Gardens Outstanding Student of the Year: Isabella Hamilton, Kaylie Nhan, Hudson Roberts, Ella Rossi and Joey Simon. **Hudson Roberts** was chosen Eden Gardens Outstanding Student of the Year, and she will go on to represent us at the Parish Level!

Counselor's Corner

By Krista Wilburn

As we prepare for the holiday season, here are some tips to think about!

Tips for Parents: Making Holidays Special
by Jan Levinson Gilman, Ph.D.

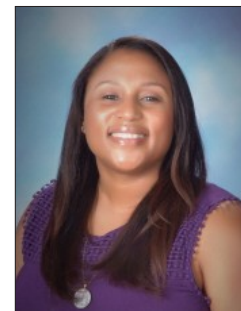
As a parent of young children, you probably share an almost universal desire to make holidays special for your children. You also may have to overcome certain obstacles in creating your own special experiences with your children such as finances, distance from family members, and the special circumstances created by divorce, step-parenting, and blended families. Many parents work overtime during the holidays only to find themselves frustrated by the experience and doubtful that the end "result" was particularly meaningful to their children. While it's difficult to determine exactly what special means to any one child, here are some guide lines which are most likely applicable to your family.

1. Develop traditions. Create activities which are special to your family. They need not be elaborate or costly, but they need to be enjoyable and reflective of your family. Traditions can be as simple as a special recipe that everyone associates with the family holiday to an elaborate vacation or special event in which everybody participates. Some family holiday meals consist of recipes that the parents enjoyed when they were children or foods that are reflective of their culture. The opportunity for everyone to participate in the preparation of the meal may become part of a tradition. Traditions may naturally develop around certain activities such as finding a Christmas tree or they may be deliberately planned in order to make the holiday special. Once formed, these traditional activities contribute to a sense of identity and uniqueness for your children about their family holiday.
2. Keep the scope of your plans within the scope of your resources. Holidays are double duty for most parents. What parent hasn't wondered where the extra time will come from to shop, wrap presents, cook, and plan and attend special events? What parent hasn't wished for that mythical homemaker of the 1950 sitcoms to be dropped on their doorstep to complete all the family's holiday preparation in a timely manner? Short of granting that wish, be realistic about the scope of your plans. If you are hurried and stressed your personal contribution to your children's holiday may be your short temper and irritability rather than your patience and enthusiasm.
3. Be sensitive to your children's wishes. This is the time of year when it's difficult to avoid the many conflicting issues between parents and children. This is often true when children become teen-agers and the value of family time changes. Blended and divorced families pose special challenges for the holidays. Children often lose the delight and excitement of the holidays and instead feel the demands of making all their parents happy. If you anticipate any of these circumstances, plan ahead. Discuss with your children how they and you will spend their time.
4. Help your children understand the value and the meaning of the holidays. Don't rely upon others to convey the meaning to your children; do it yourself. Talking about your own personal meaning is important. If the holidays are a religious experience for you, impart that by your religious practice; if it's a sharing experience, provide your child an opportunity to share; if it's a predominant family reunion experience, provide a reunion of family for your child.
5. Finally, have fun yourself. Don't expect perfection. Remember just as your child doesn't need or want a perfect parent, neither do they need a perfect holiday... just a good enough day will do.



Instructional Coordinator's Column

An Eden Gardens Christmas Poem by Felecia Gipson



'Twas two weeks before Christmas,
When all through our school,
Not an eagle was silent,
All were focused on yule!

Kindergarteners were painting sweet Christmas shirts,
A precious eagle treasure of priceless worth
First graders were busy spreading their usual cheer,
As we celebrate Mrs. Woods, our Teacher of the Year!

Second graders were learning all 50 states,
As they planned their agendas for the upcoming break
Third grade writings were hung in the hallway with care,
With hopes that the nine weeks' end soon would be there!

Fourth graders were working toward the AR Goal,
New team member- Mr. Guy- our hearts he stole!
The fifth graders of the school,
A mighty nifty group,
Were savoring these moments
As they prepared to fly the coop

When out in each hallway,
There arose such a clatter,
It was Mrs. Allen's heeled shoes,
As she observed each class' subject matter

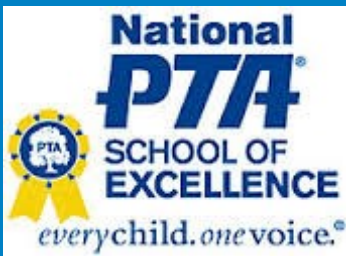
Now children, she said,
We know Christmas time is here,
And "The Garden" is filled with much Christmas cheer,
I want you to remember this very important thing,
We will learn all we can,
Until that final bell rings!

And when this happens,
You will see such a sight,
Students and teachers,
All taking flight!

On to their destinations,
They will not have to travel far,
To be home with their families,
And enjoy a Christmas beyond par

Until that time comes,
I would simply like to say,
Happy Holidays to all,
AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY!





PTA President's Letter

This time of the year, as we enter into a special season of thanksgiving and holiday celebrations, I am reminded of how blessed I am to be part of the Eden Gardens PTA family. It has been six years since I joined the PTA and every year I am amazed by our wonderful parents, teachers and students that work together to ensure we have one of the best schools in Caddo Parish. Thanks to your hard work we had another great fall in the Eagle's nest!

We honored first responders and local law enforcement during our "See You at the Pole" event. Jenni Genovese and her committee did a wonderful job organizing and coordinating the event where special guests were treated to a breakfast after the program.

Beth Edmonds and her committee planned a very successful Open House. We toured prospective parents through the halls of our wonderful school answering questions and sharing the incredible opportunities children have at our school. We cannot wait to have some of these families in the Garden next year.

Other events we hosted this fall were the Silent Auction and the Carnival. Both events were very successful and had a great group of parents working together to make sure everything was perfect. The Silent Auction Committee was able to host a great time of fellowship and bidding in our tailgate theme event. Carnival Chair, Will Whited, and his committee did a fantastic job hosting a fun-filled school carnival and Amanda Brewer provided great food for all to enjoy. Their team worked countless hours to make sure everything was ready for the event. Thank you to all that participated in either or both events. Together both events raised over \$37,000 and we would have not been able to do it without your help!

I also like to thank to all those that have worked behind the scenes making sure that our PTA runs smoothly every day. Our PTA membership finished strong thanks to Lindsay Smith. Thanks also to Kristy Payne for countless hours putting together our directory and keeping our Room Mothers informed. Elizabeth Strong has gathered and submitted our Reflections, Safety Poster and "My Louisiana" entries. Congratulations to all our talented winners!

Parisa Zamani once again headed up the very successful Holiday Dress Pass. Dawn Townsend and her committee continues to make sure that our Super Slice days run smoothly and are enjoyable for all those that chose to participate in this fundraiser. Amy Watts and her committee worked many hours to ensure that we had another fantastic Book Fair. She also continues to make sure that AR treat days are fun for all those that meet their goal. Terri Lux continues to do a great job maintaining our website! Jennifer Rossi has been organizing our Eagle Society donations. Remember it is not too late to donate and all Eagle Society donations are tax deductible. Bronwyn Sanders has spent hours keeping our finances in order on all these wonderful projects. Thank you Leslie Smith, for creating this fantastic newsletter you are reading right now!

All of these events, though sponsored by the PTA, would not be possible without you - our parents!

Thank you for your time, talents and donations. It is because of your support that we are able to supply the best educational experience for our children. As we come to the close of 2016, I want to say "thank you" for providing me the opportunity to serve as president of the PTA. I pray that you enjoy a wonderful holiday season full of great memories in company of your family. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I look forward to serving with you in 2017!

Elba Hamilton
PTA President, 2016-2017

2016-2017 PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President, Elba Hamilton
Vice President, Lindsay Smith
Second VP, Sydney Allen
Third VP, Elizabeth Holtsclaw
Recording Secretary, Kathryn Wood
Corresp. Secretary, Kristy Payne
Treasurer, Bronwyn Sanders

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Wednesday, January 11
Wednesday, March 1
Wednesday, April 12
Wednesday, May 3*
(Notebook Exchange)

Meetings are held at 12 noon
in the Eden Gardens Library
unless noted.

Caddo District PTA Meetings

January 19
April 20

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
The Board Room
1961 Midway Ave

February 16, 2017

Caddo District PTA Founders
Day

PTA Resources

Pta.org
Ptaourchildren.org
Louisianapta.com
Caddodistrictpta.org

October Fest Sponsors

TOUCHDOWN

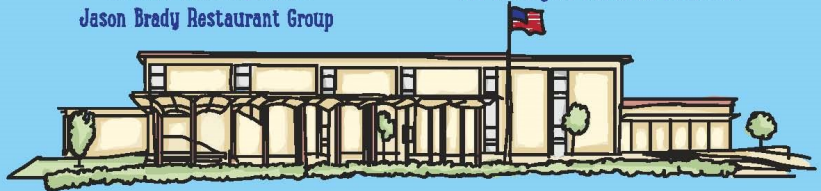
Barksdale Federal Credit Union
Burford Land Services
Dr David K. Clark, LLC
Mrs. Scott's 5th Grade Class
Sassafras
The Cooper Family

IN-KIND

Chemistry Hair Salon
Oasis Aquatech Pools, Inc
Pelican Tents & Events
Jason Brady Restaurant Group

FIELD GOAL

Brewer Physical Therapy
Catie Miller
Dr Peter Nasser
Ellen & Charles Kirkland
Juliana & Shayne Clifton
Lois Maberry - Expedia Cruise Ship Centers
Mary Taylor, MD, NCMP
Melody Zamani
Pita Pit
Rachel B's, LLC
Whitney & Jeff Howell
The family of Darshan Bhandari



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11 Room Mom Meeting 11 a.m.

January 16 No School - Professional Dev Day

January 17 No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 19 Straight As Party

January 27 Holiday Dress Pass

February 3 Louisiana Learning Carnival, 3rd Grade

February 14 Holiday Dress Pass

February 15 EGM PTA Founders Day Luncheon

February 20 No School - Presidents' Day

February 24 Fourth in February, 2nd Grade



Pictured are Social Studies Fair winners and Mrs. Erwin. Thanks to Mrs. Erwin & Mr. Guy for a great Social Studies Fair!

2016 Reflections Contest Winners

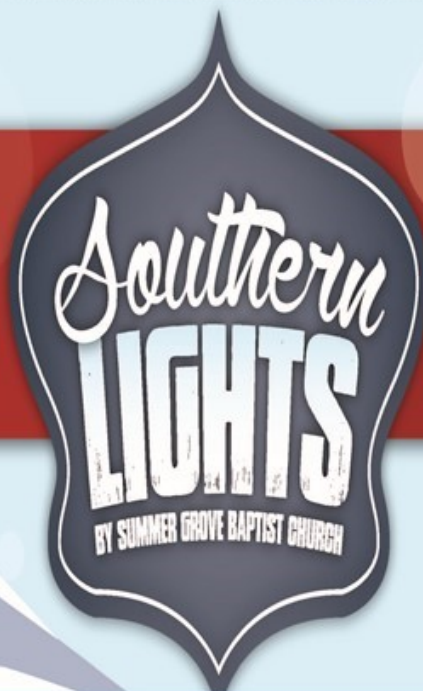
Anjali Beedupalli, Sanjana Beedupalli, Shamyant Boda, Lillie Carlisle, Adya Darsi, Aubrie Everett, Sarah Koshy, Aashni Shah, Alexander Slaughter, Anna Slaughter, Aubrey Strong, Colin Strong, Emma Grace Strong, Eric Yi

2016 My Louisiana Essay Winners

Sanjana Beedupalli, Shamyant Boda, Adya Darsi, Sarah Koshy, Vennela Malireddy, Mikayla Ringor, Colin Strong

Save the Date: Teacher Appreciation Week, March 20-24

★ ICE ★
SKATING



CHRISTMAS
★ VILLAGE ★

Thursday, December 15th

Eden Gardens PTA Family Night

Event Opens at 5:00 pm / EGM Choir signs at 6:30 pm

There is a \$10 ice skating fee. The Christmas Village is free.
Concessions will be available also!

<http://southernlights.me/info/>



**Thank you to our wonderful
Eden Gardens volunteers!**

2016 Silent Auction Committee

Superintendent Goree at the Annual
Eden Gardens Candy Lab

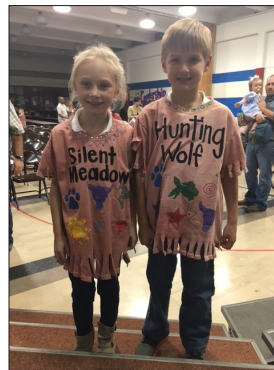
Jonathan Smith and Mr. Beverly driving
the barrel train at EGM Carnival

Gateway White House Dinner Com-
mittee

Lauren Smith with Mrs. Gilliam's
Class

Super Slice Committee





**We love to show off
the Eagles Nest!**

Send pictures of Eden
Gardens events,
school activities or
EGM students having
fun while learning, to
egm.publicity@gmail.com
ATTN: Newsletter.