

Ella P. Burr School Newsletter

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



Contents

Principal's News	1
Curriculum/Title 1	1
Music Concerts	1
Pre-K News	2
Kindergarten News	2
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	2
Project Vote Reminder	2
PE, Music, Guidance	3
Mrs. Faulkner's room	3
Literacy Interventionists	4
Math Interventionists	4
Title 1 Night	4

2021-22 Concerts

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

Principal's News Mr. Loisel

March has arrived, the weather is warming, and the snow and ice is melting. Add all those positives to the eliminations of mandatory masking and the Spring is looking pretty good! Mrs. York and the second and third grade students have performed the first concerts in over two years with great success and we still have two more to go. It's nice to hear music being shared again. As things continue to improve with the pandemic, we are opening things up a little more. At the end of the month we have our Title 1 Math and Literacy Night, which has been cancelled for the past two years. Check out the information on page 4. We are also looking for individuals who are interested in volunteering during the school day. If you are interested, please contact Rose at the central office to get the application form. Finally, two important pieces of information:

- If you have a child who needs to ride the bus to a place other than home, please be sure to fill out the alternative transportation form, which can be found on the district website. 24 hours of advanced notice is needed to ensure seating.
- DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS! We need your support. The district has ESSER funds that will help support adding extra space both physically and with parking at EPB, as well as improve spacing at MJHS, and replacing a deteriorating Central Office building. At EPB there are plans for a large room added to the end of the gym to be used for breakfast and lunch, allowing for gym and stage use all day, and provide extra space for classes and large group work. The second piece is replacing the Central Office to the back of MA, which will provide us with more parking and more playground room out back. Please vote to use the funds for these projects and MJHS project on April 26.

Curriculum/Title 1 Update Dr. Heather Rockwell

As the 2nd trimester comes to a close, as a family there are many ways you can support education. Take time to review the report card that comes home, paying attention to the comments shared by your child's teacher. Talk with your child about what they have learned in the last few months. Ask questions like, "What is something you enjoyed learning about?" or "what is your favorite part of the day?" It is great to follow-up with a question of "why?" or "tell me more about that." Another great way to support your child is to have some time every day where you read together. This small act can make a tremendous difference. You can also use a deck of cards or dice to play a variety of games that support math skills and understanding. Another way to get involved, is the Title I program is looking for parents who would like to participate in the Title I Parent Advisory Committee which works with the Title I Steering Committee to support a project within the school. If you are interested please contact me, Heather Rockwell, at hrockwell@rsu67.org or 794-6500 for more information.

Pre-K News Mrs. Barrows and Mrs. Leighton

PreK's next unit's theme is shadows and reflections. Using observations and books to learn what makes a shadow and a reflection. We will hear about a girl playing by a still pond, a puppy who thinks he's a kitten, a crocodile collecting reflections in a pail, a sleepy boy who sees a shadow save a cat, and a raccoon who has an adventure with only his reflection for company. Children continue to learn about letters and sounds, and counting concrete objects. They will be participating in many other mathematics, science, music, poetry, and art activities.

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

The next few weeks will be busy ones as we begin the third trimester. We have just wrapped up the annual Dr. Seuss Week as we celebrated Read Across America. For the first time in two years kindergarten was able to join with the "big" kids to buddy read, it was wonderful to see this bit of normalcy return. As we head into April new units will include learning about money, practicing addition and subtraction, Earth Day, the life cycle of plants and animals, and we will begin our favorite service learning project Quarters for Eagles. The kiddos are doing a great job with their nightly reading bags, we are noticing a difference in their small group reading instruction. Keep the hard work and think spring!

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

First grade has enjoyed learning about animals, the characteristics of living and nonliving things, and life cycles in science. We have started learning what a symbol and monument are. We are enjoying identifying national symbols and monuments in social studies. While reading we have been identifying characters and settings along with retelling the stories. First graders are working on fluently adding to 10 and identifying money.

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

The second graders are working on their annual publishing project. They are super excited to be "real" authors! Everyone picked a career and did some research and brainstorming. Then they wrote a rough draft about what they want to be when they grow up. We did some editing and then a final draft. These pieces of writing will be sent away to Student Treasures, a publishing company that makes books written by kids. Each family has a chance to order these books and they are a wonderful second grade keepsake!

Third Grade News Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Manzo, and Mrs. Brawn

Wow! We're beginning the third trimester already! The year is moving along too quickly! Third grade is learning about all kinds of new topics. In Writing, students are finishing up the final copies of their personal narratives and in Reading, they are working on their Book In A Bag projects. They are working on the FOSS Science Water and Climate unit in Science. They have been creating posters promoting clean water. Students will be engineering waterwheels soon! In Math, we have begun learning about division and continue to practice multiplication facts. The days are getting longer and warmer days are ahead!

PLEASE VOTE ON APRIL 26 TO APPROVE THE THREE BUILDING PROJECTS TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS. THESE PROJECTS COST THE TOWN NOTHING, AND WILL BENEFIT OUR STUDENTS FOR YEARS TO COME.

Physical Education and Health Mr. Lindsay

Hi everyone! In the world of PE we have finished up our snowshoeing unit, but because of the lack of good skiing snow, it doesn't look like we are going to get to XC skiing. I am hoping this means things will dry up quickly and we can get back outside soon! Until then, we are going to be reviewing some of the skills we have done this school year, and hopefully learn a few new ones!

Music and Art Mrs. York

We are now fully into the concert season with two down and two to go. April 7 will be Kindergarten and April 28 is Grade one. For the groups no longer singing for their concert, we are exploring the orchestra and all the different sounds various instruments make. This year I am able to get out my small collection for a petting zoo to touch and hear (and play if it does not involve air). After instruments comes voices and professional singers, and a smattering of performances to listen to!

Art is working on knots, needles (PLASTIC) and sewing skills. Coming soon is comics and comic strip design.

Guidance Mrs. Turner

Just a gentle reminder you can sign up for EPB Food Pantry anytime. We will give weekly snack to your child to have at school and send home a bag of food for home. Just send a note or call the school anytime. We also have a Fuel Fund, the money comes from anonymous donations and donations students and staff give when they wear sunglasses or a hat on Fridays.

The next few weeks will finish up on some problem-solving lessons and then start our bullying prevention unit. We will learn the definition of bullying and the various forms of it. We will also learn how to report bullying and name people we can report it to. We will also use scenarios to practice assertiveness in dealing with bullying. Lastly, we will define what a "bystander" is and demonstrate how bystanders can help stop bullying.

Mrs. Faulkner's Classroom

The resource room has been working on reading comprehension and finished the first book in the Boxcar Children series. The students were able to describe the characters, setting, beginning, middle, and end of each chapter as well as the whole book.

We have started The Boxcar Children book 2 Surprise Island this week and students are excited to learn what mysteries will be next.

Others are working on letter identification and writing as well as letter sounds.

In Math, we are working on Subtraction of 2- and 3-digit numbers with borrowing. The third graders have begun multiplication as well.

We review with money games as well as teams in time identification.

In social groups we are working on expected and unexpected behaviors in class and unstructured times, manners, and kindness to each other as well as taking turns.



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**Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.**

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

March is National Reading Month, a month aimed at motivating people of all ages to read while having a bit of fun in the process. We encourage you to celebrate National Reading Month by spending some time reading with your child.

Most parents recognize the importance of reading aloud to young children. It helps them develop spoken language, recognize letters and words, and get ready for kindergarten. Here are 6 great reasons to continue reading to older children even after they can read on their own:

- It builds vocabulary.
- It helps your child hear what fluent reading sounds like.
- It improves comprehension.
- It improves listening skills.
- It helps with discussing difficult issues.
- It's a wonderful way to bond with your child.
- It creates a lifelong interest in reading.

Math Interventionists Mrs. Gulesian and Mrs. Stevens

We are excited to say that Morning Math Club has started for our Third Graders. It runs from the time the first bus students are dropped off until 7:40 each morning. We are averaging around 32 students each morning. They are getting into the routine and are enjoying solving word problems, playing math-related games, and learning to talk about Math.

Ella P. Burr's Welcome to the Jungle

Families are invited to attend a Title 1 Family Engagement Night. They are hosting a family math and literacy night. Ella P. Burr's Jungle Adventure will be held on Thursday, March 31st from 5:00 - 6:30.

Families will enter the EPB School through the doors by the gym lobby to sign in and receive a map. They will have math, literacy, read aloud, and photo opportunities among other fun Jungle activities. Each family will receive 2 books from local authors. It will be a FUN night for everyone.

This fun evening is being supported by funds from EPB Title 1 Program.

The purpose of education is to replace and empty mind with an open one. Malcom S. Forbes