

Ella P. Burr School Newsletter

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



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2018-19 Concerts

- Gr. 1: Jan. 17
- K: Feb. 7
- Gr. 2: Mar. 14
- Gr. 3: Apr. 4

Principal's News

Warmer weather has arrived...I hope. I hope you had the opportunity to watch our EPB learners in Cry Wolf. The gym was certainly filled to capacity, and it also proved there is such a thing as body heat. What a great way to end the month of March. April brings another great event, Literacy/Math Night on April 10. This year's theme is "Legoland Adventure," and there are many fun activities planned for the evening. During the week, students will have the opportunity to participate in numerous fun activities such as "It's cool to be part of a team" (wear team shirt), "Building a bright future" (wear sunglasses and bright colors), "LEGO you imagination" (wear something silly or wacky), and it will all conclude with a kindness celebration. I hope you can make this yearly tradition, it certainly is looking like a fun, educational evening for all. And finally, who can forget April Vacation?! The third week of April, there will be no school because the school is closed for the week, so everyone can enjoy a fun week of improving weather and relaxation. Have a great month.

Mr. Loiselle

Parent Reminders

There are several things that will help keep us informed and our learners safe. If you could help us by following these expectations it will ease the confusion for each learner. Thank you.

1. Plans for learner dismissal must be confirmed before 1:00 each day. The ideal way for dismissal plans is to send a note in with your child, but if you must change plans please call Traci in the office before 1:00. There have been several instances where learners have gotten on the incorrect bus and one case where they got on the bus and someone came to pick them up.
2. When dropping off your child each day, and when picking them up in the afternoon, please park beside the school for safety. The front of the building gets very busy with the busses and there have been a couple of instances where learners almost ran into traffic.
3. Please be sure you either call the school or send a doctor's note when your child cannot come to school due to medical reasons. Without your communicating why your child is absent, they are recorded as an unexcused absence.

Children's Stage Adventures

What a tremendous success for our learners. 85 of our learners performed to a packed house Friday evening and they did a great job. Other than a very warm gym and an overflow crowd, it couldn't have gone better. It was amazing to see what the two CSA actors, Kristen and Mary, were able to pull off in just one week. Hopefully, we can have CSA back in the future for another extravaganza. Thank you to all the parents, staff, and learners for your support and help, whether it was supervision during the week or clean up following the event, it was greatly appreciated.

Pre-K News Ms. Sherman and Ms. Tash

Spring is in the air! We are currently finishing up with Shadows and reflections. Our next unit theme is Things That Grow. We will be exploring living things through observation, experiments, and books. Children will continue to learn about letters, sounds, rhyming, and participating in Math, Science, Music, Poetry, and Art activities. We are planning our field trips to the Fish Hatchery, Greenhouse, and the Jr. High. Stay tuned for details!

Early K/Kindergarten News Mrs. McCarthy, Miss. Crockett, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Olsen, and Mrs. Peters

March was a very busy month in Early K and kindergarten. We continue to watch and learn about eagles. The two eggs should be hatching mid-April. Then the excitement will really begin as we will be able to watch the chicks grow. In kindergarten, we are learning about paper and the many different kinds of paper there are. We will also be making paper in the coming weeks. Of course, we are all very excited to see our students in the play, Cry Wolf. It has been a great learning experience for our students. April will be another busy month as we prepare for the next grade level. We will fine-tune our reading and writing skills and continue to learn about plants, frogs and butterflies. We are looking forward to literacy week. The theme is Legos. Early K is all over this theme! Let the classroom door contest begin!

First-Grade News Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Cuccinello, Mrs. Harper, and Mrs. Larlee

All first-grade students are very busy learning how to create great opinion writing pieces. They started the unit by writing about collections. Some of the collections came from the student's homes and others came from the classroom. A few examples were, Roblox, matchbox cars, monster trucks, Legos, and books. Students were asked to line up their collection, take a good look at all of them and make a decision on which one was their favorite. Once they decided on their favorite they had to give reasons why. When the students were finished writing about their own collection they were able to write about other collections that were brought into the classroom. This is when disagreements occurred. We had to have conversations about why it's okay to have a different opinion from someone else and how to handle that. We are learning about how to tell time in first grade. The target for the students is how to tell time to the hour and half hour. Some students are still getting a little confused about the half hour time but we will keep practicing and it will come.

Second-Grade News Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Gardner, and Mrs. Himes

Spring has finally (it seems!) to have sprung...rain is falling and warming things up. Let's hope it continues! We've been busy here in 2nd grade, learning away. Here's what we're working on. In Math, we are busy finishing up subtraction with borrowing, and onto fractions soon! In Science, we're almost done with Friction, and next is States of Matter (solid, liquid, gas). In Reading, we're continuing our Non-Fiction Text Feature unit. We're learning all about how to use Non-fiction books correctly...using the Table of Contents, glossary, bold words, captions, etc., to make our reading experience as rich as possible. In Reading groups, we're learning all about fluency and expression, and we're trying to smooth our voice out to captivate the listener! In Writing we're starting the most-loved Opinion unit! Kids LOVE to write about their opinions and try to persuade readers. It's a fun month of learning!

Third-Grade News Ms. Tolman, Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Manzo, and Mrs. Brawn

Third grade is in the midst of MEA's. Please remember to make sure your learner is well rested on testing days. In ELA, learners are completing Book In A Bag projects in small groups and also working on opinion writing. In Math, we are finishing up perimeter and area and will soon be beginning measurement. We have been discussing communities and leaders in Social Studies.

Bully Prevention Mrs. Turner, School Counselor

In my guidance lessons the next month I am going to be talking about bullying. We are going to learn what it is and what it isn't. We will learn that bullying is aggressive behavior that

- Is repeated over time
- Occurs in a relationship where there is a power imbalance
- Intends to cause harm or distress

Conflicts and arguments are common in childhood and usually can be resolved by using problem-solving strategies. We will learn to recognize bullying and apply assertive skills to respond.

We will learn how to identify caring adults to report the bullying too. We will learn to differentiate between tattling and reporting. The children will have the opportunity to role play reporting bullying. Lastly, we will learn what a "bystander" is and ways that bystanders can help.

Math Practice at Home Mrs. Gulesian and Mrs. Goslin

The more kids practice math skills, the better they will achieve in school. Here are some simple tips to help your child become a Math Master!

- **What time is it?**-Make sure you have at least one analog clock in your home-a clock with hands. Every now and then, ask your child what time it is. You could also say, "Look at the clock. What time is it? What time will it be 15 minutes from now?"
- **Just the Facts Ma'am**-Make math a part of every day. For example, at breakfast say, "You had 3 slices of bacon and your brother had 4 slices. How many is that in all?" or "You have 18 Cheerios in your bowl. If you eat 7 of them, how many are left?"
- **Driving Home the Facts**-While you're driving, call out simple addition and subtraction facts (or multiplication and division facts for third graders) and have your child answer them.

Have You Heard About Graphic Novels? Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Leighton, and Ms. Murchison

- Graphic novels are a good choice for struggling readers.
- They have less text than traditional books, making them less overwhelming.
- Graphic novels are easy to read but have age-appropriate content.
- Graphic novels are book-length comics. The story is told in a series of pictures with a limited amount of text. Unlike comic books, graphic novels are usually stand-alone stories. They have more complex plots. Many favorite children's stories have now been turned into graphic novels. Because of their growing popularity, graphic novels are found in most libraries.

Physical Education/Health Mr. Lindsay

Snowshoeing has finally come to a close. Thank you to all the teachers for allowing me to be able to adjust the PE times in order to get the students outside for a longer period of time! It looked as if the students had a great time outside, especially when we saw the deer! As the weather starts to warm-up I would like to remind parents that crocs, heels, open toes shoes and sandals of all types do not make for good footwear for PE. If you can, please remember to have your child wear or pack proper shoes for PE. I look forward to getting rid of the snow so we can get back outside for some more fun times in the SUN!!

Art and Music Mrs. York

It's been a crazy month of pulling together concerts, listening to instrument sounds, practicing symmetry and drawing comic books. Looking ahead, we only have one last concert on April 4th, then it's note reading with the staff for all! Art will be starting color theory very soon. Expect lots of painting and some stained fingers.

From the Clinic Mrs. McIntyre



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Unfortunately, we continue still seeing confirmed cases of influenza in our community and school district, please stay alert to the signs and symptoms of influenza in your learners. If your learner does come down with influenza (or any other communicable disease) please call the school and let the clinic know. If your child is sent home with a fever please refer to our fever free policy and do not send them back to school until they are fever free without a fever reducer for 24 hours. We also ask that if your child has vomited in the middle of the night or in the early morning before school, please do not send them to school. Practice good hand hygiene at home and limit the amount of time spent around individuals who are sick. A friendly reminder to parents that learners are **not** allowed to bring medications into school, those need to be brought in by a designated parent/guardian with the proper paperwork filled out. Thank you for your help and understanding in this and let's all think spring!

Failure *Is* an Option

Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.

Over the past month, the staff has been involved in a book study involving the book *"What if Everybody Understood Child Development? Straight talk about bettering education and children's lives."* Last month I shared a clip on the importance of the role of "play" in child development, and this month I share the importance of understanding failure.

- Encourage and support rather than praise.
- Make sure your actions match your words. If you say that it's okay to make mistakes but react in a way that contradicts that, the children will pick up on the latter.
- Let children know that you *expect* them to make mistakes—that we especially make mistakes when we're taking a risk or trying something new. Einstein once said that anybody who never made a mistake had never tried anything new.
- Remember that the process (the learning!) is far more important than the product (the end result, or grade).
- Don't try to hide it when *you* make a mistake. Send the clear message that adults make them too, and that it's no big deal.

Rae Pica, pg. 62

*"A child's life is
like a piece of
paper on which
every person
leaves a mark."*

Chinese Proverb

