



Ellicottville Elementary



January & February 2013 Reading and Writing Celebration Months

*January's character trait is **Perseverance**. February's character trait is **Generosity**.*



IMPORTANT DATES

January 17	Gr. 2 & 3 Performing Arts Program Author Cynthia DeFelice will be visiting ECS
January 21	NO School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 24	Eagle Time at 1:45 PM, Hosted by Grade K End of 2 nd Marking Period Grade 6 Moving Up Day NO School for Students Staff Development Day
January 25	Grade 3 – Play in Buffalo
January 29	PTO Meeting
February 5	Elementary All County @ Franklinville
February 8	Elementary All County @ Franklinville
February 9	NO School – President's Day
February 18	Winter Recess
February 19 – 22	Students & Staff Return to School
February 25	PTO Meeting
February 26	Eagle Time – Hosted by Grade 1
February 28	

Communication and Information:

Message from our Principal: Mrs. Poulin

THE NEW COMMON CORE Increases the focus of reading nonfiction.

Research indicates that more than 80 percent of what people read and write is nonfiction text. Newspapers, magazines, directions on new products, application forms, and how-to manuals are just some types of nonfiction reading material we encounter on a daily basis. As students move through the grades, an increasing amount of time is spent reading informational text for subjects such as science and social studies. Many reading comprehension sections on state and national tests are nonfiction.

Learning how to compare fiction and nonfiction is a skill that develops over a child's school career. Often, children, learn this skill early in their school years, but it reappears more and more often when children begin to write more in later grades. The saying "truth is stranger than fiction" sometimes applies to literary works. Determining if a book is fiction or nonfiction can sometimes prove difficult. When books are not clearly labeled as either fiction or nonfiction, evaluating the content becomes a necessary skill. Teaching children the difference between fiction and nonfiction is important so children will be able to intelligently analyze a piece of work. Evaluating the two literary genres takes a combination of research and common sense.

Past saying simply fiction is not real and nonfiction is, there are a few more specific distinctions between the fiction and nonfiction writing styles. For instance, while fiction is largely set within the realm of the imagination, the setting, characters and details of fiction writing can sometimes be entirely based in fact. For instance, historical fiction is a genre which sets fictional accounts of events within a historically accurate setting. No universal classification system exists for nonfiction writing. Essays, news articles, biographies, journals, historical nonfiction and letter writing are all types of nonfiction. Fiction and nonfiction reading are the two cores of most people's early education. The basic differences should be evident to most adults, but children and those not familiar with literature may need an explanation to justify and understand the inherent variations in style, presentation, function and approach of each piece. As the line between the two different genres becomes blurred in some contemporary writing even adults and especially children may struggle with a clear identification.

We can guide students with some strategies.

- Have a fair idea of the topic of your nonfiction text and research key ideas either in an encyclopedia or online.
- Look up unfamiliar words in the dictionary. Highlight or underline key ideas or passages as you read.
- Take notes in the margins of the text or on notepaper about things you find important or want to research later. Post-it notes are also helpful to mark specific pages or sections you wish to revisit.
- Reread difficult passages or, if necessary, the entire piece. Your notes will be helpful.
- Consider possible parallels to other reading materials and questions if there are flaws in the author's reasoning or even your own.
- Finally, review your understanding of the text and take some additional steps. Can you explain the main ideas of the nonfiction text that was just read? What was the author's purpose in writing the piece? What did you learn from your reading? If you looked up unfamiliar words, do you remember that they mean? Whatever you are reading with your child, enjoy the time, the learning and the adventure!

It is important for us to keep in mind that students can find it difficult to grasp the difference between fiction and nonfiction. This is because they may be just learning to read more and more fluently in the first place and students often find it difficult to distinguish the nuances between what is true and what is untrue. With patience and guidance students can confidently grasp the difference between the two, gaining one more step in their quest to read to learn rather than learn to read.



Message from the Nurse: Mrs. Watt

Tips from the School Health Office
**WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME
WITH ILLNESS DURING COLD AND FLU SEASON**

Sometimes it can be difficult for a parent to decide whether to send children to school when they wake up with early symptoms of an illness or complaints that they do not feel well. In

general, during cold and flu season, unless your child is significantly ill, the best place for them is in school where they have all already been exposed to the same germs and where they are less likely to expose other more vulnerable people, like the very young or very old, to their routine bouts of cold and flu. Remind and show your children to discard used tissues promptly, not to share personal items, to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, to keep their hands away from their face, and to wash hands thoroughly and often with soap and warm water. Suggest that they silently sing the Happy Birthday song twice while washing their hands. However, there are some situations in which it is best to plan on keeping your child home for a day to rest or to arrange for an appointment with your health care provider. The following are a few such situations that warrant watching and possibly conferring with your health care provider.

- ❖ Persistent fever greater than 100.4 orally, including a fever that requires control with medication, like Tylenol
- ❖ Child is too sleepy or ill from an illness, like vomiting and/or diarrhea, to profit from sitting in class all day
- ❖ Significant cough that makes a child feel uncomfortable or disrupts the class
- ❖ Sore throat that is severe, accompanied by fever and/or feeling ill, that persists longer than 48 hours, OR after known exposure to a confirmed case of Streptococcal throat infection
- ❖ Hone-crusted sore around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts that might be impetigo; OR a rash in various stages including boils, sores and bumps that may be chicken pox; OR a significant rash accompanied by other symptoms of illness such as fever
- ❖ Red, runny eyes that distract the child from learning
- ❖ Large amount of discolored nasal discharge, especially if accompanied by facial pain or headache
- ❖ Severe ear pain or drainage from the ear
- ❖ Severe headache, especially if accompanied by fever
- ❖ Any condition that you think may be serious or contagious to others.

Whenever there is an outbreak of a specific contagious infection, the school sends out a notice to alert you to watch out for any symptoms. If your child starts to develop symptoms, it is important that you alert your own health care provider that your child had possible exposure. Be sure to ask your provider when it is safe for your child to return to school, both for your child's health and for the health of the rest of the school. If you send your child to school even though you suspect there is significant illness as described above, please call the school nurse to provide her/him with phone numbers where you can be reached that day should your child become more ill and require early dismissal.

Finally, if you know your child is still running a fever, it is not a good idea simply to give them Tylenol and send them onto school because as soon as the medicine wears off, you are apt to get the dreaded call from the school nurse to leave work and come to pick up your feverish child. It is better to let them stay home in bed with a fever and take their medications at home until they are off all medicines and ready to learn for a full day in a classroom. If you find a pattern of your child's asking to stay home from school, especially if they are falling behind or appear

anxious by the thought of attending school, or if there does not appear to be any obvious physical symptoms, it may be a good idea to contact your school nurse and your health care provider to discuss your concerns. Remember, whenever you keep your child home from school, please call the school nurse or attendance office in advance of the start of the school day and leave a message that your child will be absent.

Message from the Guidance Office: Mr. LaCroix

As we move into the 2nd half of the 2012-2013 school year, I am hoping to form a few more groups for students who may struggle or lack some skills in particular areas. We currently have "Banana Splits" going right now, which focuses on students whose parents have recently split up, or students who are still having a tough time adapting to their parents being divorced. If you have a child who you feel could benefit from this group, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would also like to offer groups related to friendship, study skills, changing families, grief, coping, anxiety, and self-esteem. These groups could be as little as a few sessions, or might go until the end of the school year. So if you have a child who could benefit from working with other students who share similar situations, or even if you would want them to just meet with me one-on-one, let me know and I will be more than willing to help. I can be reached at 699-2318, or you can email me at dlacroix@eville.wnyric.org.

The "We Care" Rules

We listen to each other.
Hands are for helping, not for hurting.
We use caring language.
We care about each other's feelings.
We take responsibility for what we say and do.

Message from the PTO:

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 5th at 4:15pm.

Family Fun Night

Thank you again to all the volunteers who helped make this big event such a success!

2013 Dime Carnival

The Dime Carnival is back! This year's Dime Carnival is being held on Friday, March 1st from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Come to the High School Gymnasium to join in on all the fun. We will be using tickets for the games again this year and they will be sold 10 tickets for \$1. We will also have tickets for our themed baskets for sale at \$1 each or 12 for \$10. If you would like to help the PTO out by volunteering your time, donating desserts for the cake walk, or donating clean glasses, plates, cups, etc. for the dime pitch, please contact Diana Olson at 378-6698 or dolson@eville.wnyric.org. We look forward to seeing you at the Dime Carnival!

Get involved!

Come find out what the PTO is doing and get involved. PTO continues to help K-12 students and the surrounding community. These activities can't be done without all of the volunteers! If you would like more information please feel free to attend any of our meetings or email Diana Olson at dolson@eville.wnyric.org.

Our meetings for the remainder of the year are listed below:

January 8th

February 5th and February 26th

March 5th

April 9th

May 7th

June 17th

****All of these meetings are on Tuesday's at 4:15 in the Elementary Art Room.****

TOPS in Education

The new TOPS in Education Program are helping to raise money for the PTO. A flyer was sent home back in September but there was some confusion on how to enroll with the program. If you follow these steps it you can now enroll in the program.

1. Go to www.Topsmarkets.com/Education
2. In the lower right corner click on "Supporting Our Schools".
3. The next page is "TOPS Supports Schools". Click on "TOPS in Education"
4. Click on "Parents and Shoppers".
5. Click on "Here to Begin".
6. Here you will enter your TOPS Bonus Card number, your email, and your name. For the school choice you will find it as "Ellicottville Middle School High School". Ellicottville is the city and 14731 is the zip code.

Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Box Tops

The PTO continues to send in Box Tops to help raise money for our students so that we can provide them with prizes for the Dime Carnival, Family Fun Night, and Field Day. This year our goal is to raise \$1,000. Every little bit helps so please continue to send in your Box Tops. Let's keep up the great work! Please feel free to send Box Tops in with your students or drop them off in our collection boxes located at TOPS Market in Ellicottville or at the Great Valley Post Office. You can also contribute to Box Tops by using the boxtops4education.com website. This allows you to do the following:

- See how much our school is earning with Box Tops
- Enter online promotions for chances to win eBoxTops and other prizes
- Print coupons for your favorite Box Tops brands



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- CALL THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT - 699-2318.
- REMEMBER WHEN BRINGING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL, FOR SAFETY REASONS NO VEHICLES SHOULD PARK IN THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL. PLEASE PARK IN THE ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT OR USE THE DROP OFF ZONE AREA OR THE ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT. Observe the "No Parking This Side" signs. It is not safe for children to cross the drive.