



Ellicottville Elementary Newsletter September and October 2012

The Character trait for September is Respect.

The Character trait for October is Responsibility.

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Important Dates

September 19	Performing Arts Program Grades 1 & 2 Grade 4 & 5
September 20	Open House 6:30 to 7:30 Book Fair 3:00 - 8:00
September 25	Project Know Parent Orientation - 7:00
September 26	Picture Day
October 2	Performing Arts Program - Grades K & 1
October 5	Project Know Begins
October 7 - 13	Fire Prevention Week
October 8	NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day
October 9	NO SCHOOL for Students Staff Development Day
October 10	Project Know Parent & Child Night
October 11	Homework Club Begins
October 18	Eagle Time Assembly - Grade 6
October 23	Performing Arts Program - Grades 2 & 3
October 31	K - 5 Halloween Parade - In the Village of Ellicottville (Please remember, If a costume includes toy weapons, do not send the toy weapons to school that day.)

RED RIBBON WEEK for Drug Prevention – OCTOBER 23 – 31

Communication and Information:

Message from our Principal, Mrs. Poulin:

For several years now I have presented the elementary students with a 'Principal's Challenge'. Each year we have continued the tradition to help us stay focused on accomplishing a particular goal. Four years ago I asked the students to challenge themselves to look people in the eye and give a friendly greeting. The next year the challenge was to include a person's name along with the friendly greeting. Last year the challenge was to stand tall and not be a passive bystander whenever they witnessed unkind behavior taking place.

This year the 'Principal's Challenge' is to USE GOOD MANNERS! Over the first two days of school, I spoke with each grade level about the challenge this year. We talked about examples of good manners. For example, students are to greet their bus drivers with a formal name rather

than a first name or nickname. (Ex. Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Kent, Mr. Golley, Mrs. Brown etc.) Over the course of this school year, we will continue to talk about examples of good manners. In the June newsletter, I included an article written by John Rosemond. I am including the article again this month to reinforce for all of us the importance of developing good manners in young people. As we guide our young people through the adventure of childhood, we must not be afraid to insist that they serve others and develop the skills required to be good citizens. Good character development is paramount now more than ever before. In today's fast paced "ME" society, we are bombarded with examples of poor behavior. For our children to become successful contributing adults, we must remember that practicing good manners is the best way of opening the door to a successful future academically and socially.

Good manners = good life for kids

February 1, 2012

The Charlotte Observer

Feelings have been the paramount consideration in raising children since the late 1960s, when parents became persuaded that they should no longer take their cues from their own upbringing, but from psychologists and other mental health professionals. As a consequence, the focus of American parenting veered sharply away from training the child's character and mind toward that of protecting his feelings from insult (i.e., disappointment, failure, embarrassment and other basic facts of life) and elevating his opinion of himself. Proper parenting, the new experts said, was a matter of being sensitive to and acting in accord with the feelings that issued from one's child. Psychologist Thomas Gordon, author of "Parent Effectiveness Training," the best-selling parenting book of the 1970s, said that because children do not like being told what to do, adults should not tell them what to do. Children who submit to their parents' authority, Gordon said, grow to be adults who "fill the offices of psychologists and psychiatrists."

We now know, of course, that this isn't true. Research psychologist Diana Baumrind's decades-long study of parenting outcomes finds that the most well-adjusted children come from households presided over by parents who are loving but unequivocally authoritative - parents who, in other words, adhere to a traditional (pre-1970s, nonpsychological) parenting model. It turns out that the very parenting model promoted by the mental health community compromises child mental health! Indeed, the mental health of America's children has been in free fall since the 1960s. Today's child is much more likely to become seriously depressed, commit suicide or become a bully. Feelings can enrich one's life. But unless they are governed by reason, feelings are unruly and destructive beasts. People who are ruled by their feelings say stupid things, make stupid decisions and fail to learn from experience. The child mental health crisis in America is the result of raising children who have lots of emotions but no emotional resilience. They're full of self-esteem but have little respect for others. This cannot lead to a satisfying life.

It's not complicated: The emotionally sturdy person is characterized by a high level of respect for other people, not a high level of self-regard. Instead of wanting attention from people, he pays attention, looking for opportunities to serve. That's what good manners are all about, and learning good manners is where the Good Life starts.

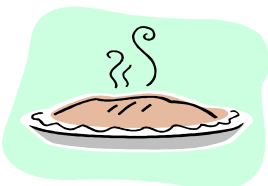
Message from the Nurse, Mrs. Watt:

HELPFUL REMINDERS FOR CLASSROOM TREATS



The following reminders will help you and your child when preparing to send treats for sharing with your child's classmates.

- ✚ Talk to your child's teacher to find out if there are any children with food allergies in the class. Please avoid any foods that a student in the class is allergic to. If there are foods allergies, always be sure to let the teacher know about the ingredients in the treat that is being brought to school.
- ✚ We prefer that you provide a treat that was baked in a commercial kitchen (there are strict rules from the Health Department that they must follow). Homemade treats are not forbidden, but please consider purchasing your child's treat for the class.
- ✚ Food should be brought in single servings, such as cupcakes or cookies rather than cake, to minimize the handling of the food that is served.
- ✚ If baking at home, please be sure to clean all food preparation areas with warm soapy water before you start and again if the area becomes contaminated.
- ✚ Have your child wash his/her hands before handling food, and again if they become contaminated during preparation. They should also be washed when serving food.



- ✚ Items containing mayonnaise, raw eggs, milk products, custards, cream pies, filled pastries, creamed sauces, dips, meat or cheese products are not appropriate for school snacks. We cannot accept home canned foods.
- ✚ When students distribute snacks at school, they are asked to wash their hands for at least 30 seconds with warm soapy water; dry them and wear disposable food service gloves that the teacher will provide.

Thank you for your support in keeping treat time a Pleasant and healthy experience!

Message from the Guidance Office, Mr. LaCroix:

After another gorgeous summer with very warm weather, and not much rain (I believe that makes 3 in a row) it's time to get back into the groove of school. Students still have that beginning of the year excitement! We are beginning to get settled back into the routine of doing what they need to do in order to excel academically. And it certainly has that fall feeling with the cool weather and crispness to the air, which helps getting back into the routine.

Programs through the guidance office are also beginning or will be shortly. All students in grades K - 8 will be receiving Second Step, being taught by myself (grades 1, 2, 5, & 6) Mrs. Eddy (grades 4, 7, & 8), and Dr. Eagan (grades K & 3). Please contact any of us with any questions. We will also be starting "Banana Splits" and other social groups in the near future. If you feel your child could benefit from meeting with any particular type of group, please feel free to contact me with ideas and/or concerns.

As we continue with the new school year, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or issues regarding your child. Hope everyone has a very successful 2011-2012 school year!

Message from the PTO:

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:

October 2nd

November 6th and November 27th

January 8th

February 5th and February 26th

March 5th

April 19th

May 7th

June 17th

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

Book Fair

PTO's fall book fair will be held:

Thursday, September 20th from 3:00 pm until 8:00pm during Open House.

Friday, September 21st from 8:00 am until 3:30pm.

If you would like to volunteer for this event please contact Melissa Foster at 378-6442 or mef1921@atlanticbb.net.

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:

1. See how much our school is earning with Box Tops. 2. Enter online promotions for chances to win eBoxTops and other prizes. 3. Print coupons for your favorite Box Tops brands

What does PTO do?

Last year the ECS PTO organized the following events: Book Fairs, Craft Show, Family Fun Night and Santa's Secret Workshop, Dime Carnival, Lip Sync, and Elementary Field Day. The PTO purchases prizes to create prize boxes for many elementary classrooms. Through the Scholastic Book Fairs PTO was able to donate some books to classrooms and bookmarks to the elementary library. At Halloween PTO purchased treat bags for students in Pre-K through 5th. There was a craft and snack activity held for all 6th graders. In the spring the PTO sponsored an Employee Appreciation breakfast for all employees of ECS. The PTO also helped organize the Science and Technology Exposition and was responsible for creating certificates for each participant and passing out ribbons. In June the PTO purchased tie-dye kits for the Pre-K class so they could have tie-dyed shirts for their field trip to Midway Park. PTO also purchased a digital camera for an Attendance Award that many high school students were entered into. The PTO plans to continue many of these great services during this new school year.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- CALL THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT - 699-2318.
- REMEMBER WHEN BRINGING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL or at DISMISSAL TIME, 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. PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE GRASS SIDE OF THE DRIVE WAY OR IN AREAS NOT DESIGNATED FOR PARKING.