

# JAMES S. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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LAUREN GUERRERO, PRINCIPAL



NOVEMBER 2013

## PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The school year is off to a great start! The students are well into the routines of daily school life and are actively engaged in learning in their classes. This month has also been jam packed with unique learning activities for our students. We have had an author visit by David Fischer, a Sleepy Hollow Halloween Show, a presentation on Juvenile Diabetes, a visit from the Wappingers Rotary Club with dictionaries for each third grade student, and a presentation from the Hughsonville Fire Department that included a walk-on tour of a fire truck for kindergarteners. Last, but certainly not least, on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> we held our epic Halloween Fun Night which was attended by over 500 Evans community members! I person-

ally thank our Evans PTA as well as our dedicated teachers and staff for all these wonderful opportunities for our students to learn academically, socially, and developmentally.

The safety of our students continues to be my highest non-instructional priority. The Evans Safety Team meets regularly and includes teachers, administration, staff, and parents. Our students have been actively practicing safety drills this month. To date, we have completed six fire drills (most of which were unannounced to faculty, staff, and students). The children have done a great job adhering to our expectations of their behavior during evacuation drills. We also completed a lockdown drill where four local police

agencies monitored and assisted us in this drill. In the future, all lockdown drills will be unannounced and law enforcement will participate with us every time. All in all, our Evans Eagles have demonstrated an excellent ability to remain quiet and focused on practicing safety during all drills.

I also would like to thank those teachers, parents, and students who attended my Meet the Principal Night on October 23<sup>rd</sup>; the Evans community has truly embraced me and made me feel a part of the family. I look forward to working with each of you!

Warm Regards,  
Lauren Guerrero



## IMPORTANT DATES:

- November 4th - BOE Meeting, WJHS 7:30PM
- November 5th - NO SCHOOL
- November 7th - Donuts For Dad
- November 11th - NO SCHOOL
- November 14th - PTA Meeting @ 5PM
- November 21st - 25th - 1/2 Days Parent Teacher Conferences (Dismissal 11:30AM)
- November 27th - 29th - NO SCHOOL, Happy Thanksgiving

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## SQUARE ONE ART AND PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER UPDATE:

All of the Custom Catalogs came in on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. If you did not receive one for some reason, contact Mrs. Schor please. Inside you will find the personalized catalog, order form, and a free set of stickers with your child's artwork on it! You can order in paper format OR on online (which is super easy!!). Just go to [www.square1art.com/shop](http://www.square1art.com/shop) and enter your child's number. What is even better is that you can pass this number onto relatives and they can order separately if need be!! How great is THAT??!!

These products make WONDERFUL gifts for the holidays, birthdays, and future holidays (like Father's Day, Mother's Day or whatever!). Examples of many of the products are located in the front lobby showcase... CHECK THEM OUT! They are great quality and is the reason we keep using this company!

The DEADLINE for returning orders and accurate payment is DUE OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>!! This is very important because after this, the orders cannot be included on the whole school order and your products will come late.

The TOP 3 SELLERS in the school will receive A.C. Moore gift cards!!!!

The school will receive the products around November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Check out the parent video link that tells you all about Square 1 Art! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yn6AIFzxp4&feature=youtu.be>

Thank you for helping to support the J. S. Evans Playground Fund!!! All proceeds benefit YOUR kids!!

The J. S. Evans Playground Fund Committee



## ANNUAL HALLOWEEN FUN NIGHT AT EVANS!

James S. Evans Elementary School Community held their annual Halloween Fun Night on Friday, October 25, 2013. Students grade K-6 attended with their families and participated in activities throughout the evening. The evening began with a pizza dinner as families enjoyed spooky music. Then the costumed children with their parents went around in teams to five different stations during the two hour event. The activities included cupcake decorating for a

sweet dessert, fun carnival games, a chilling Haunted House, spooky stories, crafts, and a sing-a-long. Also, for the second year in a row, the Hudson Valley Karate School, owned by Mr. Peter Antonelli, hosted a Bully Prevention Workshop. As one of the stations, the workshop helped students and their families build their confidence and know how to defend themselves. The evening was enjoyed by all and children left with smiles and many sweet

treats. Evans' Halloween Fun Night would not be possible each year without the dedication and time of the teachers, staff, parent volunteers, and teen volunteers from Ketcham High School's Interact Club and National Honor Society who help make each activity a great success.

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**



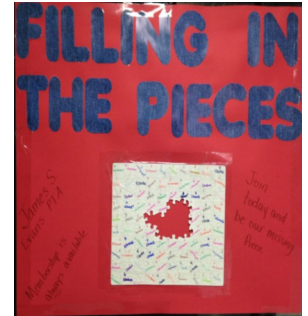
**PTA CORNER**

We are looking forward to seeing all the dads at our first annual Donuts For Dads on November 7th! Our Membership Drive is coming to an end on November 6th, so far Mrs. Sheremeta's Kindergarten class is in the lead for most memberships. WAY TO GO! Our puzzle is almost complete! Thank you to all that parents, teachers, and staff that have joined. Membership helps us to fund many events, but most importantly our Arts & Education Programs that foster what your children are learning in class. These programs can be assemblies the children partici-

pate in or organizations that work in your child's classroom or art room. Other ways to help us enhance our Arts & Education Programs are:

- ◆ Register your Stop & Shop card online
- ◆ Collect box tops, Campbell soup labels, Yoplait item labels, and lables for education.

Membership is always available. Please feel free to contact the membership chairperson if you have any questions. Check our website frequently for updated information!



**PTA MEETINGS 2013/2014 SCHOOL YEAR**

NOVEMBER 14TH - 5PM

MARCH 20TH - 8:15AM

DECEMBER 19TH - 8:15AM

APRIL 10TH - 8:15AM

JANUARY 23RD - 7PM

MAY 22ND - 7PM

FEBRUARY 20TH - 8:15AM

JUNE 19TH - 8:15AM

\*Please refer to the Evans PTA website frequently for changes to meetings, announcements, or information. All meetings will take place at Evans in the cafe-

“STATISTICS SHOW THAT CHILDREN WHO HAVE PARENTS INVOLVED IN THEIR SCHOOL – DO BETTER ACADEMICALLY!!”

**PEER MEDIATION CLUB**



Thank you to all who have returned permission slips to join our club! We are off to a great start. For those 6th grade students selected, Peer Mediation will be meeting every Day 2 at 8:15am. All students should always listen to the announcements for changes or cancellations with our meetings.

## THE EVANS EAGLES PREPARE FOR BATTLE!

Evans will, once again, participate in the Wappingers Central School District's "Annual Battle of the Books Competition". The competition is open to any 5th grade student who wishes to participate. In the past we, have competed with as little as five team members. To date, we have 20 team members. We are hoping to continue our excellent track record by adding a **third** first place trophy to our collection!

Team members are required to read 6 preselected books by the end of February. We will be meeting, in the library, each week during school hours. We will discuss each book, make review questions, and practice for the competition during these meetings.

The Battle will take place at the District Offices on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. Transportation will be provided by the district. If you are in fifth grade and are interested in joining our team please see Mr. Hobart for a permission slip.

Reading list for 2014

The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity by Mac Barnett

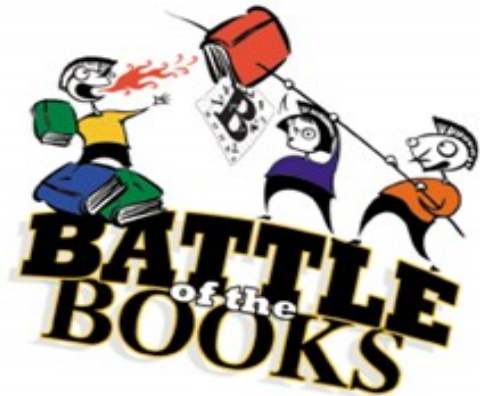
Coraline by P. Craig Russell

The Get Rich Quick Club by Dan Gutman

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Thunder Raker by Justin Richards

Secret Identity by Wendelin Van Draanen



## EVANS STUDENT HONORED AS WAPPINGERS ROTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

On Thursday, October 17th, 2013 Edward Cekici was honored as Student of the Month by the Rotary Club of Wappingers Falls at a luncheon at Longobardi's Restaurant. Eddie was chosen because of his high academic standards and for upholding the Six Pillars of Character; Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Citizenship, Trustworthiness, and Fairness. In addition, Eddie is a member of the Song Club and plays the trumpet. He also enjoys playing chess and tennis. Eddie was accompanied to this event by his mom, Mrs. Cekici. I also had the pleasure of attending this luncheon and saying a few words on Eddie's behalf. Three other students from schools in the WCSD were also honored. The honorees received a plaque from the Rotary Club and two gift certificates one to Barnes and Noble and the other to Longobardi's restaurant. Congratulations Eddie, keep up the great work!



Mr. Edwards, 6th Grade Teacher



# AUTHOR CELEBRATION

By Michael Clarke, 4<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher

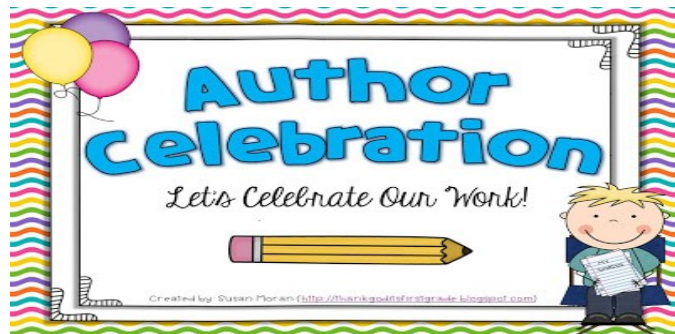
The end of a writing unit is always an exciting time in fourth grade at Evans Elementary and this week was no exception. More than fifty parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles (and even older siblings) attended the Author Celebrations this week in Mr. Clarke and Mrs. Burke's 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. The celebrations were truly an outpouring of support for student writing.

The children were just wrapping up their study of narrative, aptly called "The Arc of a Story." This is an interesting title for the unit, since one of the strategies the children learn is to plan the plot of their narratives on what we call a "story mountain," displaying the characters and setting, rising action, major events, falling action and conclusion of their stories.

During the unit, children planned and drafted narratives, rewrote their endings and beginnings using mentor texts and ideas from published authors and learned to find and develop the heart of their stories. They learned how to create movies in the minds of their readers, speeding up and slowing the action of the story as necessary. They learned how to describe the internal and external characteristics of their characters, make their characters more real using dialogue and capturing the characters thoughts and feelings and even threw in a few metaphors and similes.

The week before the celebration was spent publishing one of the narratives, a work of realistic fiction. You could feel the energy in the room building all week in anticipation of the celebration. The children were very excited to have their family members come to school to experience and celebrate their writing. The day before the celebration, the children practiced reading their work in small groups and commented on each other's writing using the narrative checklist, a list of the tools and strategies of writer's craft that they had learned throughout the month-long unit.

The day had finally come. As family members entered the room, the children met their parents and explained to parents how they too could read and comment on the children's writing using the narrative checklists. The room was buzzing with conversation about writing as the parents read and commented on the writing. One by one the children then shared their writing to the amazement and delight of the audience. Finally, we shared some treats ("Thank you Mrs. Zaken and Mrs. Zorilo") and more conversation about the children's writing. It was a day to remember. Already, the children (and parents) were talking about the next Author's Celebration.



## BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

We have been working very hard to keep our school grounds aesthetically pleasing! Please join us in our efforts by parking in designated areas *ONLY!* If you are interested in being apart of our mission, please feel free to join us!

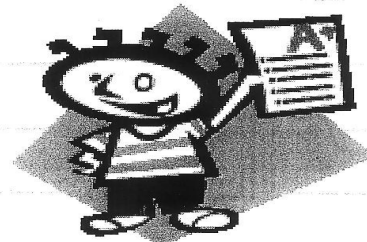


# Grinnell Library's Homework Help Center

Monday -Thursday 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Grades: Kindergarten - 6th Grade

## What does the Homework Help Center offer?

- Free Help with Homework
- Studying
- Research
- Reading
- Library Help



**\*\* Remember to bring your text books, homework, and a pencil. \*\***

### PLEASE NOTE

Homework Help Center closes with the Wappinger Central School District schedule.

If there is bad weather, early dismissal, or vacation, Homework Help Center will be closed.

## Register today!



## Begins September 9



2642 East Main Street, Wappingers  
845-297-3428 ~ [www.Grinnell-Library.org](http://www.Grinnell-Library.org)

