

JAMES S. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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JANET WARDEN, PRINCIPAL



APRIL 2013

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Happy Spring! We have had a long winter! I hope everyone enjoyed their spring break! During the month of April, students in grades 3-6 will be taking the English Language Arts and Math exam. Included in the newsletter are testing dates and ways to cope with stress associated with testing. These tests are going to be aligned with our new common core state standards.

Congratulations to Nyree Thompson and Kaylah Phillips, they represented Evans in a chorus of the best singers in Dutchess County at the All-County Music Festival at Webutuck High School. Karla Machado, Steven Albon, Chloe Cacace, Angellina McLees, Haley

Swint, and Jalen Thompson have been selected to participate in the All-District Music Festival at Van Wyck Junior High on April 13th. This festival features the most talented elementary school musicians in the district. Congratulations to all of them!

Thank you to all the families that came out to support Evans at March Madness! Despite our basketball skills, the school spirit of Evans shined through!! Also, thank you for attending our annual Open House. The students and teachers have been working very hard and love to highlight their work.

Respectfully,

Janet Warden



IMPORTANT DATES:

- April 16th - 18th - Grades 3-8 ELA Testing
- April 24th - 26th - Grades 3 - 8 Math Testing
- April 17th - PTA Meeting 4PM

PEER MEDIATION

The Peer Mediation Club worked with Student Forum's *Friendship Week* in March. We joined their efforts on highlighting the importance of friendship by making KINDNESS NOTES. Students in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades had the opportunity to write a nice note to another student in our building. The Peer Mediation Club members then hand delivered these kindness notes to the classrooms. We hope that the kindness notes reminded others how just a few simple words can really brighten someone else's day!!!



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NEWS FROM THE GYM

Hi Everyone,

We have just completed Jump Roping Skills in all grades. Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 developed and performed long rope routines in groups of 4 or 5 persons. The younger students worked on learning to jump with a long rope and how to turn a long rope for their friends. Then all students worked on individual jump roping skills. Thanks to all of the students who contributed to the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. The money raised will go for research on cures and medicines for heart disease.

During the month of April, we will be working on folk dance and ribbon routines to music. The unit

will culminate with ribbon routine performances. Parents will be invited to see the routines (4-6) and to dance with their child (k - 3). Keep an eye out for your invitation to arrive later in April.

Basketball intramurals have just concluded. A good time was had by all. Floor Hockey Intramurals will be starting April 4. Bowling intramurals will be starting April 9. The year will end with Capture the Flag Intramurals in the month of May. Be on the lookout for permission slips and please return them by the due dates.

The last session of Evans Eagles will begin on April 3. This program will run until 5/8. Thanks for all of

your support in getting the children to Sports Club by 8 am.

Finally, thanks to all the children, families, faculty, and staff who came and supported the Evans team at March Madness. It was impressive to see all the red shirts. For me, the best part was watching the children shoot baskets. They all showed such great form and made a lot of baskets. It made me really proud!!

Rosie Versace-Pinczes

March Madness

2013



NEW YORK STATE TESTING DATES

Grades 3-6 English Language Art Exam-April 16, 17 & 18

Grades 3-6 Math Exam April 24, 25, & 26

Tips for Parents on Testing Day

- See that your child is rested and eats breakfast.
- See that your child arrives at school on time and is relaxed.
- Encourage your child to do the best work possible.
- Do not send your child to school if illness is apparent.
- Do not remove your child from school on test days for appointments

TEST ANXIETY

Students may experience anxiety about tests and may experience heightened anxiety before a testing situation. A certain degree of test anxiety is normal and may help students prepare more effectively, work more efficiently, and remain focused during testing. Too much anxiety, however, can negatively affect performance. The following strategies may assist students, parents, and teachers in reducing test anxiety.

Parent Strategies for Reducing Test Anxiety

- Discuss the test openly and in a positive way.
- Have realistic expectations of your child's performance while encouraging his/her best efforts.
- Emphasize that the test is only one measure of academic performance.
- Emphasize that test scores do not determine a person's worth.

NEW YORK STATE TESTING DATES CONTINUED...

Required Fluencies in the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics

When it comes to measuring the full range of the Standards, usually the first things that come to mind are the mathematical practices, or perhaps the content standards that call for conceptual understanding. However, the Standards also address another aspect of mathematical attainment that is seldom measured at scale either: namely, whether students can perform calculations and solve problems quickly and accurately. At each grade level in the Standards, one or two fluencies are expected.

Grade Level	Required Fluency
K	Add/subtract within 5
1	Add/subtract within 10
2	Add/subtract within 20 Add/subtract within 100 (pencil and paper)
3	Multiply/divide within 100 Add/subtract within 1000
4	Add/subtract within 1,000,000
5	Multi-digit multiplication
6	Multi-digit division Multi-digit decimal operations
7	Solve $px + q = r$, $p(x + q) = r$
8	Solve simple 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 systems by inspection

Fluent in the Standards means “fast and accurate.” It might also help to think of fluency as meaning the same thing as when we say that somebody is fluent in a foreign language: when you’re fluent, you flow. Fluent isn’t halting, stumbling, or reversing oneself. Assessing fluency requires attending to issues of time (and even perhaps rhythm, which could be achieved with technology).

Dutchess Transition Network
TRANSITION PLANNING SERVICES
PARENT WORKSHOP SERIES
SPRING 2013

Tuesday, March 19, 2013 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Transition Planning for Life after High School: Connecting with Adult Service Systems

This workshop will give parents an overview of how schools assist families in planning for the future and develop activities that help teens prepare for the transition to adulthood. The way in which transition services are incorporated into a student's IEP at age 15, will be discussed. Linkages to various adult service systems which may be able to provide continued support upon graduation and should be considered in the transition planning process will also be highlighted. This workshop will be held at New Horizons Resources, Inc., 123 West Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 7:00 – 9:00 pm

COLLEGE WITH CONFIDENCE

This workshop will address the issues faced by students with IEP's and their families during the transition from high school to post-secondary education. Topics will include academic preparation, self-advocacy and understanding, time management and accessing Disability Support Services. The changing roles of parents and students will also be discussed. This workshop will be held at Dutchess Community College, Bowne Hall, Room 104, 53 Pendell Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 7:00 – 9:00 pm

READY, SET, GO TO WORK!

This workshop will focus on activities and supports that will allow our students and children to become productive members of their communities. Presentations will include ACCES-VR (Adult Career and Continuing Educational Services – Vocational Rehabilitation formerly known as VESID), OPWDD, Medicaid Service Coordination, Supported Employment, School to Work Programs and Day Habilitation Programs. *This workshop will be held at New Horizons Resources, Inc., 123 West Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569*

Tuesday, May 7, 2013 7:00 – 9:00 pm

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

This workshop will provide information about protecting our children's health and safety now and in the future. Legal and Advocacy experts will cover topics including SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and Medicaid, Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts. *This workshop will be held at New Horizons Resources, Inc., 123 West Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569*

There is no cost to attend, however, we ask that you pre-register by calling Karen Lynch@ 845-452 3913 x112 or by email: k.lynych@taconicresources.org

These workshops are sponsored by the Dutchess County Transition Network. Members include Abilities First, Arlington Central School District, Astor Services for Children and Families, Beacon City School District, Dutchess ARC, Down Syndrome Association, Dutchess BOCES RSE-TASC, Dutchess Community College, Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene, HV Special Education Parent Center, Hyde Park Central Schools, New Horizons Resources, Pine Plains Central Schools, Poughkeepsie City School District, Putnam ARC, Spackenkill Union Free School District, Taconic Developmental Disabilities Planning Office, Taconic Resources for Independence, ACCES - VR and Wappingers Central School District.