

JAMES S. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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JANET WARDEN, PRINCIPAL



JANUARY 2013

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

To Parents/Guardians,

As the new year begins, my deepest sympathies go out to the families in Newtown. Our faculty and building safety team have met to ensure the safety of our students. It has been and will continue to be a top priority for me. I would like also to remind everyone of our dismissal and early release procedures. Please remember to send in a note if you are picking up your child early or at dismissal. Also, please carry photo ID with you at all times. If you are sending another adult to school to pick up your child they need to have photo ID, be over the age of 18 and be on your emergency card. If they are not on the emergency card, they will not be allowed in the building without your written approval. Please remember to update the school when you have a new phone number or emergency contact.

Please mark your calendar for our first Kids Night Out event. On January 11th at 6:00 p.m., students will watch a movie in the cafeteria while parents go "back to school." Parents will attend classes to learn

about our literacy program and several ways to promote reading at home! Your attendance is appreciated.

I would like to welcome Tamara Negron, Administrative Intern, to Evans. She is working on her educational administration degree at SUNY New Paltz and completing her internship at Evans. She will be working on curriculum development and helping with the daily running of the school. Please read the enclosed information about her.

Congratulations to Cierra Sanchez and Michael Friary for winning the Evans Spelling Bee. They will be moving on to the district spelling bee on Monday, January 7th at Myers Corners Elementary School. Also, join us on January 17th at 7:00 p.m. at Wappingers Junior High School for the Evans Winter Concert.

I wish you all the best in the new year.

Respectfully,
Janet Warden

IMPORTANT DATES:

- *January 7th - Spelling Bee at Myers Grades 4-5 5:30PM Grade 6 at 7PM*
- *January 11th - Kids Night Out at Evans 6-8PM*
- *January 14th - BOE Mtg WJHS 7:30PM*
- *January 16th - PTA Mtg 8:15AM*
- *January 17th - Winter Concert WJHS 7PM*
- *January 21st - No School Martin Luther King Day*
- *January 22nd - Evans 5th Grade Music Concert in Cafeteria*
- *January 28th - BOE Mtg 7:30PM WJHS*
- *January 29th - Bullying Committee Mtg 8:15AM*

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SPELLING BEE WINNERS!

The winners of the Evans Spelling Bee are Cierra Sanchez, for grades 4-5 and Michael Friary, for grade 6. Please join us to “root them on” at the District Spelling Bee on January 7th!



EVANS WELCOMES AN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION INTERN FROM SUNY NEW PALTZ, TAMARA NEGRON

MESSAGE FROM MS. NEGRON

I have a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Mount Saint Mary College and a Master of Science in Elementary Education from New York University. I have 11 years of teaching experience in the Peekskill City School District. During my time there I have taught first, second and third grades. I am currently enrolled in the Educational Administration graduate program at SUNY New Paltz and anticipate graduating in June with a Certificate of Advanced Study in School Building Leadership/School District Leadership. It is my hope to someday become a Director of Personnel. I am very excited to have been given the opportunity to work with Janet Warden at Evans Elementary and I look forward to meeting the staff, students and their families. It is sure to be a rewarding

NEWS FROM THE GYM



During the past month, students have been enjoying the game of volleyball. In grades 4 – 6, we have had a lot of fun using beach balls for their games. It is amazing how using a softer ball that does not hurt encourages the students to not only hit the ball but to work on the correct skills and techniques. Students in grades K – 3 have been working on skills according to their developmental level and then playing some recreational games.

Intramurals have also been very popular, forty children

signed up for volleyball, which concluded Dec. 17th. Bowling intramurals are also being held at the Hoe-Bowl Lanes on Rt. 9. 23 children are enjoying not only bowling but the excitement of being “off-campus” for the activity. Eagles Sports Club has thirty second and third graders enjoying before school activities that reinforce their physical education lessons.

Upcoming activities in the gymnasium include basketball, ball skills, jump rope (including

the annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser), and rhythmic activities (ribbon routines, folk and square dance). Thanks for your support in having the children dressed correctly to participate in PE (short-sleeve shirts, sneakers and hair tied back).

Rosemary Versace-Pinczes,

PE teacher

STUDENT DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

Just a reminder for all parents regarding the procedures for dropping a student off in the morning for school:



- All cars need to go through the center parking lot. No drop offs are allowed in front of the building in the circle unless it is after 9:15 am.
- Cars must wait in a single file line. Do not pull up alongside another car (double parking) that is dropping off a student.
- Children should get out of the doors facing the building so that they do not need to walk around the car. Students should be prepared to exit the car as soon as the vehicle stops.
- Parking is not allowed in the center of the parking lot. Parents do not have to get out of their car or stay to watch students go into the building. There are staff members to cross the children and keep them safe.
- If you need to park, proceed to the lower, side parking lot.
- Children are only to be dropped off at the crosswalk. Please do not drop them off at the corner of the parking lot.



Please help us keep your children safe by following the rules on this sheet. Safety, not speed, is the main concern. Thanks for your cooperation.

PBIS CORNER

PBIS expectations are being continually followed at Evans. Everyone who walks these halls knows the expectations, can find them around the school, if needed and is using them!!!! This is evident as we are celebrating many "HOORAY" celebrations. These

celebrations are received when a classroom collects 2500 Eagle Bucks!! The celebration is held in the cafetorium and includes singing with a karaoke machine, a Wii, board games and fun with your peers. It is nice to see the classes celebrate and bond over their ef-

forts!! Keep up the good work Evans Eagles – let us watch you soar!!



PEER MEDIATION



The Evans Peer Mediators have become Peer Mentors! This month our mediators started spending time in some of our younger classes during their free time to play games and socialize with these younger peers.

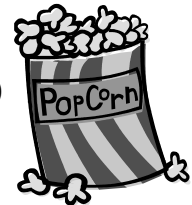
Thanks to Mrs. Cardoso, Mrs. Moran, and Mrs. Whitehouse for opening up your classrooms to our group so they can mentor your students.

The Peer Mediators will be coming into your classes in the next few weeks to do lessons on bullying and how to have healthy peer relations.

Look out 2nd grade classes!

JOIN US FOR A FIRST KIDS NIGHT OUT...

Go retro, go back to school on Friday, January 11th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The students will be eating popcorn while enjoying the movie, *The Lorax*, in the cafeteria. Parents will visit classrooms to learn about our reading program and numerous ways to promote reading at home! The event is free and your attendance is encouraged.



PTA CORNER

Hello to the Evans community!! Welcome to 2013!! It is hard to believe that half of this school year is over – we are motivated to bring all that we can to your children.

This past December we held the "Holiday Boutique" – our first ever and I am very happy to report what a success it was! We had 14 vendors, happy vendors and happy customers. They offered many

deals to help the customers get all their shopping done for the holidays!

We also held our annual "Holiday Breakfast". Again, a success. This is a relaxing morning where we have breakfast, socialize with our friends, sing some holiday songs with Mr. Clarke and his wife and of course, visit Santa!! We have several dates to mark on your calendars:

January 11th – Kids Night Out

January 24th – Rainforest Show at WJHS @ 5:30pm & 7:30pm (more to follow)

February 22, 2013 – 4th, 5th & 6th grade dance

Some dates for the years PTA meetings have changed:

*January 10, 2013 @ 7pm

*February 21, 2013 @ 8:15am

*March 21, 2013 @ 8:15am

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MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

On Monday, January 21st, the country observes Martin Luther King Day. It celebrates the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., an influential American civil rights leader. He is most well-known for his campaigns to end racial segregation on public transport and for racial equality in the United States. Below is an excerpt from his I Have A Dream Speech.

“I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”



COMMON CORE LEARNING STANDARDS

Common Core Learning Standards requires a *balance of literary and informational text*. Beginning in the elementary grades, the Common Core calls for an equal balance (**50%/50% split**) between time spent on literary texts and time spent on informational text. This shift really isn't about ensuring that students can read technical manuals by the time they graduate high school. It's about building coherent and integrated knowledge within and across grades, beginning in students' early years.

Informational Text Leads to Discovery

The role of informational text for college and career preparedness is obvious. Think for a moment about your daily life. What kind of reading do you do? Chances are, the majority is informational in nature – whether it be professional (journal articles, news) or personal (new appliance research, vacation destination research). Whether you get your information from physical print or digitally, you use informational text to *find out*.

Students who read more have better vocabularies and both narrative and informational text provide these opportunities. However, it is the informational text that is more likely to provide the vocabulary required in content and real world related reading.

How to find out is an important life skill and why the new CCSS emphasize informational text beginning at the earliest grades. There are good reasons for this. Using more informational text from kindergarten forward prepares students for real-life reading – the kind you do every day. In addition, informational text targets students' real interests at all grade levels. It is a way of satisfying their curiosity about the world and starting them on the path to be life-long learners. We want all students to have a thirst for *finding out*. While satisfying their curiosity about the way things work, they are building their knowledge of nature and the social world – the way the world works. We know that this background knowledge is a key ingredient for comprehension. As they begin to meet more and more content-heavy text, this background knowledge will be of great assistance in tackling increasingly more complex text. Of course, the habit of knowing *how to find out* is an essential life skill!

COMMON CORE CONTINUED

A Pathway To Better Vocabulary

Another key factor necessary for comprehension is vocabulary. Students who read more have better vocabularies and both narrative and informational text provide these opportunities. However, it is the informational text that is more likely to provide the vocabulary required in content and real world related reading.

Finally, informational text requires critical reading and thinking skills and encourages exploring multiple points of view. I don't think anyone can argue that these are not extremely important survival skills. If we want to graduate students who are independent, thinking members of society, we need to start putting a laser focus on using more informational text.

Roberta Williams is a retired educator with 36 years of experience in the education field and a contributing writer for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. She currently conducts workshops in reading, writing, Common Core State Standards, math, best practices and instructional coaching.

SQUARE 1 ART WINNERS

Our TOP 3 SELLERS were: 1st Place Ainsley McMillan, 2nd Place Maia Perillo, and 3rd Place Tyler Kisslinger. They received gift cards from A.C. Moore.

Thank you for supporting our playground fund!



6TH GRADERS: REMINDER FOR YEARBOOK

To All Sixth Grade Students and Families:

We invite you to participate in Guess that Baby which will be featured in our yearbook.

We would love to see our graduating 6th grade's baby pictures in the yearbook for the popular can you guess who the baby is?

If you would like to participate you can email ONE baby photo or any photo up to Kindergarten to evansyearbook1@gmail.com. If you do not have access to an email, you may send it to school in an envelope marked **Baby Photo for the yearbook**.

Please be sure to include your child's name in the email or on the envelope.

Please submit all photos no later than

JANUARY 25TH 2013

We look forward to seeing all those baby faces!!!!

