

# JAMES S. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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JANET WARDEN, PRINCIPAL



NOVEMBER 2012

## PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The month of October was very busy. The students are all settled in their classrooms. It is amazing to see their progress in two short months. We continue to implement the common core standards this year. Included in this newsletter are the six shifts in English Language Arts and ways you can support these shifts at home. We also continue to promote our school wide expectations with our PBIS program and anti-bullying initiatives. Please join us at the next bullying com-

mittee meeting on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m. We will be holding a presidential election at Evans on October 30<sup>th</sup>, the hope is to teach students the importance of being an informed citizen. Thank you for your attendance at Halloween Fun Night, it is wonderful to be part of such a great community. Please enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends.

Respectfully,  
Janet Warden

## IMPORTANT DATES:

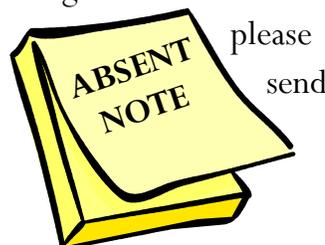
- November 6th - No School
- November 12th - No School
- November 14th - PTA Meeting 7PM
- November 15, 16, & 19 - Half Days Parent/Teacher Conferences - 11:30 Dismissal
- November 15 - Night Conferences 6-8pm
- November 21-23 - No School
- November 27 - Bullying Committee Meeting 8:15am
- November 30 - SPIRIT DAY - Patriotic Day

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## NEWS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

Please remember to write an absent note for your child every time they do not attend school. In the note include your child's name, date of absence, reason for absence and your signature. If you have not written an absence note, please call the main office to verify the date and send a note in at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your help with this!



**COMMON CORE STANDARDS SIX SHIFTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY**

1. Balancing Informational and Literary Text-The students read a true balance of informational and literary texts.
2. Building Knowledge in the Disciplines-The students build knowledge about the world (domains/ content areas) through TEXT rather than the teacher or activities.
3. Staircase of Complexity-The students read the central, grade appropriate text around which instruction is centered. Teachers are patient, create more time and space and support in the curriculum for close reading.
4. Text-Based Answers-The students engage in rich and rigorous evidence based conversations about text.
5. Writing From Sources- Writing emphasizes use of evidence from sources to inform or make an argument.
6. Academic Vocabulary-Students constantly build the transferable vocabulary they need to access grade level complex texts. This can be done effectively by spiraling like content in increasingly complex texts.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A PARENT TO SUPPORT THE SHIFTS?**

Balancing Informational and Literary Text- Parents can have their child read nonfiction texts aloud with them.

Building Knowledge in the Disciplines-Parents can read a series of texts with their child on topics of interest. Read nonfiction books and the ideas within them.

Staircase of Complexity-Parents should be aware of what level text their child can read independently. Read challenging text with them and show that challenging text is worth reading.

Text-Based Answers- Talk about the text your child is reading with them, ask them to show you where they found the answer.

Writing From Sources- Encourage writing in your home through journaling or book responses. Write books together using evidence from books.

Academic Vocabulary -Read often with your child using multiple books on the same topic. Let your child see you reading.

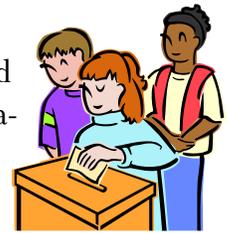


**\*\*THE MORE WE READ THE MORE WE CAN READ!**

## SECOND GRADE NEWS

Second grade is off to a great start this school year. As the students are settling in to the new routines we have been working on citizenship in our social studies unit. Students have learned that even they can be an important part of a community at a young age. Both classes are earning Eagle Bucks for following the school expectations, our version of the law in Evans. The students are enthusiastic about learning. Within the unit we have discussed rights and responsibilities. The students have made a connection to this by signing our bullying pledge and reviewing the Preamble for Constitution Week. As we move forward, the students “registered to vote” by filling out a registration form. Our classes have discussed the importance of voting as well as under-

standing the candidates and distinguishing between fact and opinion. We held our first class election the week of October 14<sup>th</sup>, by using cookies as our candidates. Students discussed the pros and cons between Oreos and chocolate chip cookies. It was interesting to see Mrs. Smith’s class voted for Oreos while Mrs. Wilson’s class “elected” chocolate chip cookies by casting votes and depositing them in a ballot box. Second grade will extend this even further by participating in the school wide mock election for President to be held on October 30<sup>th</sup>. It is apparent we are going to have a successful year of learning and fun, a great balance for a great education!



## SOCRATIC SEMINAR

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies with Mrs. Orr, we do something called a Socratic Seminar. A Socratic Seminar is an open-ended circle discussion when a group of people talk about a certain text. Our seminar was about bullying. Everyone was handed a packet that had an article called *Bullied Student Tickled Pink*, and four poems called: *My Mom and Me*, *Can't You Take a Joke Kid*, *I Am*, and *Remember Me*. We enjoyed the learning experience and agreeing and adding to each other's comments. We also liked not having to raise our hands during the seminar. However, we were kind and considerate of each other and let everybody take turns speaking. Everybody was allowed to participate if we took all of our notes. If not, we had to sit at the back table and write down everything that happened and we weren't allowed to comment on anything. But hey, what do you expect it's the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We need to be prepared and organized. At the end of the Socratic Seminar, we all received a worksheet. This asked us what the opening questions were, what some of the main key ideas were, what someone said that influenced you and at the very bottom we self graded ourselves on how we participated. In conclusion, I really enjoyed the Socratic Seminar on bullying and I believe a lot of other students did too.

Looking forward to or next intriguing topic,

*Madison Bosehulte*

## PEER MEDIATION

Congratulations to the following 6th grade students for being nominated for the Evans Peer Mediation Club this year: Kayla Phillips, Nyree Thompson, Steven Albon, Madison Boschulte, Chelesa Hanlon, Jada Langella, Jasmin Espinoza, Nikki Forcelli, Michael Friary, Brandi Pettit. These students are looking forward to a great year helping Evans be a Safe, Respectful and Responsible place to learn!!!!

## CITIZENSHIP CLUB

**Make A Difference Day-** Citizenship Club will host Make A Difference day on Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup>. Many local charities and organizations will be in attendance to help the students understand the importance of volunteering and giving back to your community.

**Coat Drive-** Please send in any gently used

coats so that we can help keep those in need warm. All coats will benefit Dutchess Outreach. Be sure to view our Coat Drive Pictograph in the lobby to see how we are doing!

**Donations-** Donations of beauty supplies are being accepted. Students will put together care packages of shampoo, soap, toothpaste and a toothbrush

for those in our local community.

**Stuff the Bus-** Yes, those little yellow boxes decorated like school busses will need to be filled with non perishable food items. Citizenship Club is sponsoring the drive and will deliver donations to the big bus! Let's help our local food bank!



## PTA CORNER

Congratulations to Mrs. Sheremeta's class for winning the Membership Drive! Mrs. Sheremeta's class won 40 Eagle Bucks to add to their classes total.

Thank you to all the family members who participated!

Membership is still being excepted. We hope that our membership continues to increase.

Come join us on November 14th at 7pm for our next PTA Meeting. We want to hear your *VOICE!*

James S. Evans  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild.onevoice.*<sup>®</sup>

# WCSD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC)

For the 2012-2013 school year SEPAC meetings will be held in our schools! Each month, a different school will host our SEPAC meetings.

**SEPAC meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.**

*Remaining Meetings this school year:*

**November 20, 2012- Sheafe Road ES- Parent Training & Counseling**

**December 18, 2012- Wappingers Junior High- Reading & Writing in WCSD Spec. Ed. Dept. K-12**

**January 15, 2013- Fishkill Plains ES- Assistive Technology**

**February 19, 2013- John Jay HS- Post Secondary Transition**

**March 19, 2013- Vassar Road ES- IEP/CSE documentation techniques**

**April 16, 2013- Gayhead ES- Sensory Integration**

**May 21, 2013- Evans ES- Kid's perspectives on disabilities**

**June 18, 2013- District Offices- Planning the 13-14 SEPAC year**

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**Parent Support Groups \*\*\*\*STARS \*\*\*\***

STARS meetings are held the 2nd. Thursday of each month. The meetings are held at district offices and begin at 7:00 p.m. STARS meetings last approximately 1 hour.

*Remaining STARS meetings this school year:*

- November 8, 2012**
- December 13, 2012**
- January 10, 2013**
- February 14, 2013**
- March 14, 2013**
- April 11, 2013**
- May 9, 2013**
- June 13, 2013**

