

# JAMES S. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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JANET WARDEN, PRINCIPAL



OCTOBER 2012

## Principal Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We had a very successful start to the school year! The students are in their classroom routines and appear eager to learn. We are working on implementing the common core learning standards; the six instructional math shifts are included in this newsletter. The best way to support these shifts at home is to practice flu-

ency at home by using cards or practicing on the computer. Also included in this newsletter are good math websites. I appreciate your attendance at Parents as Partners. Communication is key; please contact the teacher regarding any academic or other problem. We also had our first bullying committee meeting; the members are committed to combat bullying at Evans. We

brainstormed ideas and are looking forward to implementing them in the future. Hope to see you all at Halloween Fun Night!

Respectfully,

Janet Warden

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- *October 8th - No School*
- *October 17th - PTA Meeting 4PM*
- *October 23rd - Bullying Committee Meeting 8AM*
- *October 26th - Halloween Fun Night*
- *October 31st - Wear Orange & Black Day*

## EAGLE BUCKS IS WHAT YOU DESIRE!!!

As part of our PBIS program, we are introducing Eagle Bucks. Eagle Bucks are given to students when they demonstrate expectations in the hallway, buyer's line, cafeteria, and bus. We also have a new stuffed eagle mascot, Liberty, he visits the classroom that has the

most eagle bucks for the week. Congratulations to Mason Townsend for coming up the name of our eagle. Eagle Bucks school wide collection will be rewarded as follows:

500 Eagle Bucks = Movie/Popcorn Celebration

1500 Eagle Bucks = Game Day

2500 Eagle Bucks = Classroom Celebration

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## COMMON CORE INSTRUCTIONAL MATH SHIFTS

Under the common core standards there are six instructional shifts in the area of Math. The intent of standards is to prepare our students for college and careers for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Shift 1	Focus	Teachers significantly narrow and deepen the scope of how time and energy is spent in the math classroom. They do so in order to focus deeply on only the concepts that are prioritized in the standards.
Shift 2	Coherence	Principals and teachers carefully connect the learning within and across grades so that students can build new understanding onto foundations built in previous years.
Shift 3	Fluency	Students are expected to have speed and accuracy with simple calculations; teachers structure class time and/or homework time for students to memorize, through repetition, core functions.
Shift 4	Deep Understanding	Students deeply understand and can operate easily within a math concept before moving on. They learn more than the trick to get the answer right. They learn the math.
Shift 5	Application	Students are expected to use math and choose the appropriate concept for application even when they are not prompted to do so.
Shift 6	Dual Intensity	Students are practicing and understanding. There is more than a balance between these two things in the classroom – both are occurring with intensity.



### MATH WEBSITES TO HELP BUILD FLUENCY

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

[www.mathmastery.com](http://www.mathmastery.com)

[www.academicskillbuilders.com](http://www.academicskillbuilders.com)

**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	Required Fluency
K	Add/subtract within 5
1	Add/subtract within 10
2	Add/subtract within 20 <sup>1</sup> Add/subtract within 100 (pencil and paper)
3	Multiply/divide within 100 <sup>2</sup> 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 2x2 systems by inspection

1 By end of year, know from memory all sums of two one-digit numbers  
2 By end of year, know from memory all products of two one-digit numbers

*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).

The word *fluency* was used judiciously in the Standards to mark the endpoints of progressions of learning that begin with solid underpinnings and then pass upward through stages of growing maturity. In fact, the rarity of the word itself might easily lead to fluency becoming invisible in the Standards—one more among 25 things in a grade, easily overlooked. Assessing fluency could remedy this, and at the same time allow data collection that could eventually shed light on whether the progressions toward fluency in the Standards are realistic and appropriate.

**NEWS FROM THE GYM**

We have gotten off to a fast start in PE. This month the children in kindergarten through third grades have been working on foot-eye coordination with a variety of soccer skills. The children in grades four through six have been working on flag football. Intramurals will be starting the last week of September. Flag Football will be on Mondays, Soccer will be on Tuesdays, and Recreational Games (Rec Games) will be held on

Thursdays. Please be prompt in picking up your child at 4:50 pm. Pick up is in the gymnasium.

Please remember that children need to wear traditional sneakers and short sleeve shirts for PE class and for intramurals. Jewelry, including dangling earrings, is not allowed and long hair should be tied back. Thanks for your cooperation.



## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kindergarten is off to a great start. The children have adjusted nicely to the long day and they are quickly learning the rules and routines of our school. In September we focused on identifying colors and shapes. In math we are learning to count to 30 and are learning to write numbers from 1 - 5. In ELA we are focusing on Concepts About Print (identifying the front cover, title page and defining the roles of an author and

illustrator). In readers workshop we will learn how to handle books correctly and discuss that different books are read for different purposes. In writer's workshop we will learn to write a story from our memory. For Constitution week we worked together in groups to create a Preamble Quilt. In October we look forward to our first celebration for Halloween!

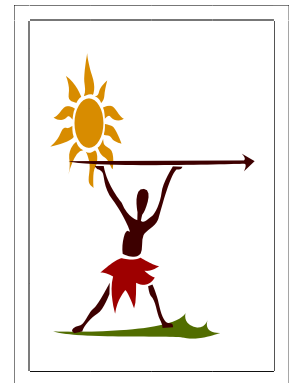
Mrs. Sheremeta  
Mrs. Konstantinou



## FOURTH GRADE NEWS

The fourth grade team has gone back in time 600 years and is finding out how the Native Americans of the Hudson Valley area lived. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the fourth grade classes will be going on a field trip to Bowdoin Park. During their trip they will see how the Lenape tribe lived right here in Dutchess County. Also they will be able to

experience how the Native People hunted using an atlatl and spear. More trips and events will be announced throughout the year as the fourth graders travel through time. Thank you in advance to all parents and guardian who help us with our adventures.



## SONG CLUB

The Literacy in Song Club is a before school activity where the children learn and write songs about content and character. Mr. Clarke works with the children to brainstorm information about topics they have learned about in school and turn them into songs. The children come up with new and innovative rhythms and melodies for each

song, record them with Mr. Clarke on the guitar and sometimes even get to perform them live. Many collections of the songs have been recorded onto CDs and distributed to the members of Song Club. Some of



the songs the Literacy in Song Club has composed in past years include: The Native American Song, Sail Away (a song about the explorers), King George (a song about the Revolutionary War), Respect (a character education song), Learn the Facts (a math facts song) and Liberty (a song about our democracy). As you can see, the children have a lot of fun and at the same time reinforce what they've learned in school.

Michael Clarke

## NEWSPAPER CLUB

The Evans Eagles Newspaper will be open to students in grades 4th - 6th. The children in this club will be working on editorials that focus on current events. The newspaper will also have sections that include interviews of teachers, a write up on intramurals, a section for word games (word search or crossword) and I am also open to

more ideas. The first meeting of the newspaper club will begin on Tuesday, October 2nd at 8:15 A.M. We will discuss the goals for the Evans Eagles Newspaper. I look forward to meeting with all of you!

Mrs. Sheremeta  
Newspaper Advisor



## CITIZENSHIP CLUB

Citizenship Club is kicking off their second year at Evans. The Club will meet on Thursday mornings from 8:00-8:45 and is open to students in grades 3-6. The goal of Citizenship Club is to help make our school and local community a better place. For the 2012-2013 school year we will try to do that in many ways. Our members look forward to managing the upkeep of our school gardens. There is a lot of weeding and mulching to be done! In the coming months ahead we will focus on volunteerism and giving back to the community as we "adopt"

local charitable organizations and help them raise money or supplies for the people they serve. Thank you to the parents and staff for their support of this club.

**\*\*Donations are being accepted\*\*** Be on the lookout for any travel size personal care items such as shampoo, toothpaste, etc. Citizenship Club will be working on an important project and will need these items.



## PTA CORNER

We are all settling in to the new year at Evans. The first couple of weeks is a learning process for all – kids and parents!!! Our first PTA meeting was very successful and we saw many new parents

at this meeting!!! Thank you all for taking the time to show your children that being involved is important! If the PTA can help you understand or ease your way at Evans.... Let us know!!!

James S. Evans

**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.®

### Reminders:

- 10/8 School Closed
- 10/17 PTA Meeting 4pm
- 10/26 Halloween Fun Night
- 10/31 Spirit Day: Wear Orange & Black Day

# 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:*

September 18, 2012- Brinckerhoff ES- Response to Intervention (RTI)

October 16, 2012- Myers Corners ES- Official opening of the Special Education Resource Library

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:*

October 11, 2012

November 8, 2012

December 13, 2012

January 10, 2013

February 14, 2013

March 14, 2013

April 11, 2013

May 9, 2013

June 13, 2013