

The Eagle's Roost

Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School (847) 870-3875



From the Principal

The leaves are beginning to show the first signs of autumn, as PTO events, Cub Scouts, Daisies, Indian Princesses, football, and soccer seasons get into full swing.

With our first trimester coming to a close on November 18th, we find our students demonstrating their knowledge and skills on a variety of beginning of the year assessments from our tri-annual benchmark AIMSweb curriculum based measures (CBMs). Kindergarten and first grade students are tested in letter naming fluency, letter sound fluency, phoneme segmentation fluency – the ability to hear critical sounds in the spoken word, and nonsense word fluency – the ability to link the written code with the most common sounds, while first grade will begin a reading curriculum-based measure, winter and spring, to assess their oral reading fluency. These assessments allow us the opportunity to target our students' needs across the learning continuum.

In doing so, our staff is able to adjust and focus lesson plans on areas of growth, while extending learning opportunities to a variety of needs. As part of our school's Response to Intervention (RtI) program, students in the lowest 25th percentile are provided with a daily, thirty-minute, instructional intervention block. Students scoring above the 25th percentile will receive an instructional extension block. Whether it is an intervention or extension instructional need, these "Eagle Time" groupings will begin this month. These groupings allow our students to make connections with new staff member faces, helping to promote an even greater interconnectedness among all learners, students, and staff alike. Our daily sessions strive to ensure that each student is successful and that they are working to their full potential. However, this cannot be completely accomplished only through their time at school. It also takes a home-school commitment. As part of this commitment, parents of students below grade level standards will be provided with practice materials and a nightly review time schedule in the form of a parent home-school contract.

October Events

- Oct. 10th – Columbus Day
No School
- Oct. 12th – School Board Meeting
7:00 PM
- Oct. 17th – 21st Book Fair
- Oct. 19th – PTO Market Day
- Oct. 20th –
- Open House 6:30-7:15 PM
- Ice Cream Social 7:15-8:00 PM
- Book Fair 6:30-7:30 PM
- Oct. 27th – Birthday Lunches
- PTO Meeting
7:00 PM
Sullivan Library
- Oct. 31st - AM Early Childhood
& AM Kindergarten Parade 10:00
AM
- PM Early Childhood, PM
Kindergarten, & 1st Grade Parade
12:00 PM
- *If it is raining, the parade
will be inside the
gymnasium.**

This year, we will be continuing our Academic Vocabulary program that we piloted last year. As you walk through our halls you will notice chalkboard street signs located at key intersections. These signs are used to display our grade level teams' academic vocabulary words for the week.

The greater command (background knowledge) of academic vocabulary terms, the greater the impact on student achievement. Academic vocabulary is a key part of standardized tests your child will be exposed to over the next 12 years of their schooling. From the MAPs test to the ISAT to the ACT/SAT, students are exposed to over 7,932 words that they are expected to be able to understand while understanding how to answer/address a prompt or problem.

Knowledge of specific terms is critical to understanding any subject. Research shows that what students already know about a subject is the strongest indicator of how they will learn new information in that subject. The more terms a person knows about a specific subject, the easier it is to understand and learn new information related to that subject. This knowledge is commonly referred to as background knowledge. A student in the 50th percentile will continue to score in the 50th percentile with no direct vocabulary instruction.

A student in the 50th percentile with direct vocabulary instruction will score at least in the 83rd percentile. If you want to encourage greater vocabulary capacity at home, here are a few steps you can take.

Six -Step Process (Multiple exposure is necessary for storage into permanent memory).

1. Provide a description/example.
2. Have your child restate the explanation of a new term in their own words.
3. Have your child create a non-linguistic representation of the term.
4. Students periodically do activities that help add to knowledge of vocabulary terms – Analogies/Word Associations class. Any word game works.
5. Periodically ask your child to discuss terms with you.
6. Your child participates in games... Games trigger emotions/fun, happy thoughts, these associations are retained/coded in long term memory...Ask any child their favorite class or what they did today and they will most likely begin talking about gym.

As I write this letter we are also reiterating proper hand sanitation throughout the school. Also, we encourage parents to continue sending in hand sanitizer for their own child's and/or classroom use. Of course, as a reminder, if your child has a temperature, they need to stay home for 24 hours without using fever reducing medicine at the first signs of a temperature.

In addition to the changing of the leaves, we are all noticing the children grow as well. These first couple of months of school are an important time for them as they adjust to new routines, curriculum, and classroom expectations. Make sure to not only help them with their homework, but ask about their friendships, how they feel about themselves, and if they are being an active participant in classroom activities, conversations, and discussions. Always encourage conversation and inquisitiveness; it's what makes us all lifelong learners above all else. Challenging questions and anecdotal tales are wonderful ways to get them to become their own advocates and conversationalists.

Simply asking how their day was will produce the usual contrived answer – it was good/fine. Linking your own childhood experiences of friends and school and subject matter is a wonderful way to stimulate a conversation and learn what is most pressing on their minds.

Teaching them how to express themselves and explain what they've learned can be as simple as discussing what you learned or experienced that day as well.

Conversations should be premised on sharing and being a reciprocal listener.

It's a wonderful skill that we impart on our children everyday and one that will hopefully make the completion of their chores a little easier as well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lambatos

The Principal's Century Book Club



The Century Club is a listing of children who read multiples of one hundred books during their years at Eisenhower School.

The child's name will be added to the front foyer wall when they read their first one hundred books. Children's names will remain on the wall year after year. Their name continues to be added with each 100 books they read. Students will also receive a special pencil from the office.

Books should be at the child's reading level, and left to parent's discretion.

If you would like a form, please come to the office to get one. You may also just list the books on a sheet of paper.

Reading is Out of This World Book Fair at Eisenhower School



Dear Parents,

You are invited to attend the Eisenhower Book Fair, Monday, October 17 through Thursday, October 20, 2011. The Fair hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. You may also shop during Open House in the library on Thursday evening, October 20 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Book Fairs are held each year to provide a convenient opportunity for parents and children to select books of interest to their family. At the same time, Eisenhower Library is able to generate a profit to purchase more books for the library. Many new books have been added to the library from Book Fair profits as well as comfy seating for independent reading. We hope this may help stimulate students' interest in reading as a worthwhile leisure time activity.

You may want to check out the Teacher Wish List Display. This added attraction is meant to provide a way to add new books to classroom library collections. Families may purchase books for children to present to teachers for this purpose. Stickers will be provided and placed in these books to recognize the donors.

Parents are welcome to come in and shop with their children to avoid any upset or disapproval with their selection(s). We feel the book choice is a respectable collection and the majority range in price between \$5.00 and \$10.00. Be aware that posters, pencils, and other trinkets will also be for sale as part of the Fair. You might want to consider providing special instructions to your children regarding purchases of these items.

Attached to this letter is a book list with **some** of the titles that will be in the Fair. Purchases must be made in person, so please **DO NOT USE** the order form in the Scholastic flyer. Children will be allowed to shop during their library classes and at other times with approval from their teachers. Cash, checks (**payable to Eisenhower School**), and major credit cards will be accepted. Tax laws require us to charge sales tax (9.0%).

If you're all booked up during Book Fair week (or just want to keep shopping), be sure to visit the Book Fair online at www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs. The online Book Fair is available for an extended time from October 9th to October 23rd.

- Find an expanded selection of books for the whole family—preschool to adults
- All orders ship to school for FREE and each purchase benefits our school

We invite you to attend and look forward to seeing you. Happy Reading!

Kristen Herzog, LMC Teacher
Dr. Lambatos, Principal