



December - February 2018-19

---

Elm Creek Elementary

9830 Revere Ln N

Maple Grove, MN 55369

Phone: 763-425-0577

Absence Line: 763-315-7692

Fax: 763-315-7690

School Hours

8:50AM – 3:20PM

Office hours

7:30AM – 4:00PM

### Dates to note:

Dec 3

Tri II begins

Dec 3 – 14

Hat & Mitten Drive

Dec 4

Activity Pictures & Re-takes

Dec 4 & 5

3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trip to Eastman Nature Center

Dec 5

Student Council Meeting

Dec 7

5<sup>th</sup> grade MG Fire Department visit

Dec 12

Kindergarten field trip to Jewish Theater Co.  
4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Eastman Nature Center

Dec 12 & 14

PTO Holiday Shoppe

# Elm Creek News

Greetings Elm Creek families,

Elm Creek staff and students continue to do great work! In December the school wide Hat & Mitten Drive will take place. This is a great Community Service Project for the students to participate in and celebrate the joy in giving. Our partnership with Eastman Nature Center continues with curriculum supported and fun filled field trips. We are once again offering students grades 1-5 an opportunity to participate in a musical production, Madagascar A Musical Adventure Jr. Information on how to get registered is in PeachJar. In January and February, we will be participating in The Great Kindness Challenge and School Supply Drive for the Mexico Project.

There will be no school on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will be working on report cards. Your child's report card will be available electronically on ParentVue on December 5<sup>th</sup>. We will not be sending a printed copy home. If you do not have a ParentVue account, please contact the school office.

Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday season!

Mrs. Ness – Principal

## Volunteer Coordinator

**THANK YOU** to ALL of our Elm Creek volunteers who have given their time and energy to support our school community. To date, we have just over 300 approved parent, community and youth volunteers who have volunteered almost 1200 hours of time to our school this year. We appreciate your help and support with school events and classroom projects as well as PTO sponsored events.



### 2018-19 VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS

Anyone wishing to volunteer at school – attending field trips or class parties, helping with projects, assisting in a classroom, etc. — must have a current volunteer application on file. Pick one up in the office, print one from the school website or email me – get your application turned in now so you're all set when that perfect opportunity comes up! Again, thank you for volunteering at school this year – Elm Creek appreciates all that you do for our students and staff!

Sandy Lindberg

Elm Creek Volunteer Coordinator

(763) 315-7354 / [lindbergs@district279.org](mailto:lindbergs@district279.org)

Dates to note cont.:Dec 191<sup>st</sup> grade Holidazzle Craft FairDec 20

Birthday Lunch w/Mrs. Ness

Dec 21

Hat Day

Dec 24 - Jan 1

NO SCHOOL Winter Break

Jan 2

Student Council Meeting

Jan 7 & 9

EC Musical Auditions

Jan 11

5th grade DARE graduation

Jan 155<sup>th</sup> grade Band Concert at OMSJan 21

NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 23

5th grade Orchestra Concert

Jan 28 – Feb 1

The Great Kindness Challenge Week

Jan 301<sup>st</sup> grade field trip to Stages Theater

January Birthday Lunch w/Mrs. Ness

Jan 31

July Birthday Lunch w/Mrs. Ness

Feb 4

NO SCHOOL Teacher Workshop Day

Feb 5, 7 & 13

Parent/Teacher Conferences &amp; Scholastic Book Fair

Feb 6

Student Council Meeting

Feb 15

NO SCHOOL Conference Release Day

## Media Center News

Overdue books - If you receive a notice that your child has an overdue book and you think it has been returned, please email Joan Magnuson at [magnusonj@district279.org](mailto:magnusonj@district279.org) so we can check it for you.

Digital Citizenship - Going online requires learning about being a responsible digital citizen. Students at all grade levels are learning about digital citizenship and the learning continues at home. If you are looking for good resources to use as a parent, you can go to <http://www.commonsemmedia.org>. If you click on the link "Advice for Parents", you'll find information by age level as well as by topics such as screen time, privacy, cyberbullying and social media.

Save the date for Family Night at the Library on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Joan Magnuson*  
*Library Media Specialist*

## S.O.A.R.

Elm Creek Eagles S.O.A.R. That means here at Elm Creek we

**Strive** to do our best.

**Own** our actions.

**Act** respectfully.

**Ready** to learn.

S.O.A.R is our acronym for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. (PBIS) The goal of PBIS is to

1. Promote high student achievement
2. Enhance student teacher/relations
3. Reduce behavior problems.

Research shows that schools that implement PBIS are safer and their learning environments are more productive and enjoyable for both students and teachers. Students at Elm Creek receive positive recognition for exhibiting behaviors that fit with S.O.A.R. Students receive an orange S.O.A.R. ticket. One side is put in the classroom bucket for a drawing for Outstanding Eagle. (Pictures are taken, certificates are made, and the group picture is in the Osseo/Maple Grove Press) The other side of the ticket should be coming home. We encourage you to collect, count, and praise your child for their S.O.A.R tickets. Classrooms can also earn S.O.A.R. tickets for when the whole class is spotted "S.O.A.R.ing."

Generally, 80-90% of kids will respond to this positive proactive approach. For approximately 5-15% this positive approach is not enough so PBIS has Tier 2 supports to help these students. Tier 3 supports would impact approximately 1-5 % of our student population. For additional information on PBIS please check out the Elm Creek website under the About Us tab and Positive Behavior.

## Dates to note cont.:

Feb 19

NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day

Feb 19

School Supply Drive for Mexico Project

PTO General Meeting

Feb 22

PTO Family Fun Night

Feb 25

August Birthday Lunch w/Mrs. Ness

Feb 26

February Birthday Lunch w/Mrs. Ness

## Recess/Winter

Winter weather has arrived! ALL students will go outside each day for recess unless the temperature, or wind chill, is below zero, or it is raining. Please have your child dress appropriately with the knowledge that they will be going out to recess daily.

Please contact Kelly Deines, our School Social Worker, if you need resources for winter outerwear. You can reach her by calling the school office at 763-425-0577 or email [deinesk@district279.org](mailto:deinesk@district279.org).



## Counselor's Corner



My name is Tina Czech and I'm the new counselor at Elm Creek this year, working on Wednesday afternoons and Fridays. I have worked in the district for 10 years at a variety of elementary schools. I have had a wonderful start to the year and am excited to continue to help students, staff, and families this year at Elm Creek.

The month of December is a perfect time to focus on the things we are grateful for. Focusing on the positive things in life and writing them down has several benefits:

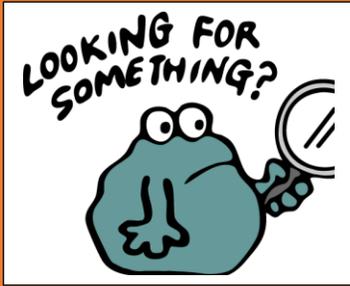
- It improves physical health (studies have shown it reduces common cold symptoms, reduces feelings of aches and pains, and increases cardiovascular health)
- It improves psychological health (it increases feelings of happiness and reduces feelings of depression)
- It enhances empathy and reduces aggression
- Leads to better sleep
- Improves self-esteem

This month I challenge you to start a gratitude/happiness jar or journal with your family. Each day have every family member write down one thing that made them happy that day or one thing they are grateful for. If you need help thinking of things, here are some question prompts:

- What smell are you grateful for today?
- What technology are you grateful for?
- What color are you grateful for?
- What food are you most grateful for?
- What sound are you grateful for today?
- What in nature are you grateful for?
- What memory are you grateful for?
- What book are you most grateful for?
- What place are you most grateful for?
- What taste are you grateful for today?
- What abilities are you grateful for?
- What season are you grateful for?
- What piece of art are you grateful for?
- What knowledge are you grateful for?

See the full Counselor Corner article with more challenge details in PeachJar titled Counselors Corner.

Tina Czech  
 School Counselor  
 763-561-1374, ext. 71480  
[CzechC@District279.org](mailto:CzechC@District279.org)



## Lost & Found

The lost & found is over flowing with lots of sweatshirts, jackets, hats and gloves. Please encourage your student to check the lost and found if you are missing items. Parents are welcome to come in and check the lost and found during regular office hours 7:30 - 4:00pm. **Unclaimed items will be donated on December 21st at 3:30pm.**

## Community Support

Thank you to Crossroads Alliance Church for back pack and school supply donations, CROSS and Advent Lutheran Church for the weekend food packs, Knights of Columbus for Winter coats and snow pants, Osseo Lions for dictionaries for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and to all the individual community members that donate various items to Elm Creek!

Thank you to Boston Scientific and MG Police for supporting Elm Creek families during the holidays!

## Greetings from the Elm Creek PTO!

We have been hard at work planning and hosting events and fundraisers this school year. Curious about a specific event or fundraiser? Check out the event updates below for details.

### Event Updates

Tears & Cheers (Event Coordinator- PTO Leadership Team)- Families of kindergarten students shed some “tears” and shouted a few “cheers” in the EC Media Center after dropping students off at their classrooms on the first day of school. Families were provided refreshments and had the opportunity to meet and mingle with other kindergarten families. Eric H. was the lucky winner of the Facebook selfie contest and received a copy of the book *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!*. Thank you to all that attended the event and those that participated in the contest!

Dine 2 Donate (Event Coordinator- Emily M.)- We have hosted three successful Dine 2 Donate events since the beginning of the school year. EC PTO is appreciative of our amazing food truck and restaurant partners for helping us raise funds for Elm Creek. Thank you to everyone that came out to support the Dine 2 Donate events!

- Kona Ice (8/29/18): \$57.10 donated to Elm Creek
- Red’s Savoy Pizza (9/11/18): \$129 donated to Elm Creek
- Famous Dave’s (9/17/18): \$590.47 donated to Elm Creek
- Buffalo Wild Wings in Champlin (ongoing): A percentage of meal totals is donated to Elm Creek all year long. Mention you are supporting Elm Creek before paying for your meal.

Kindness in Chalk (Event Coordinator- Mrs. Uecker)- Students and adults decorated the pavement in and around Elm Creek Elementary with positive and inspiring messages. Students were greeted with the uplifting messages when arriving at school on Unity Day (10/4/18). Thank you to everyone that volunteered their artistic abilities to make our students feel loved and supported!

Apex (Event Coordinator- PTO Leadership Team)- We wrapped up the Apex Fun Run, our ONLY major fundraiser of the year, in October. Elm Creek students not only learned how to be Apex STRONG through daily character lessons, they also raised a whopping \$25,517.22 for our school! Thank you so much for your support!

For more information regarding the Apex Fun Run results, including how the funds will be used, please review the flyer that went out in Peachjar on 10/31/18.

Fall Teacher Conference Meals (Event Coordinator- Emily M.)- Did you know that on conference days, teachers can spend 12+ hours at school? To make conference days less stressful, the EC PTO provided EC staff members with a warm home cooked meal on all three conference days. Thank you to our EC staff members for being so amazing!

See the full PTO article in PeachJar titled PTO Newsletter.