

# Tiger Tracks



A Newsletter for Parents • Ellisville Elementary School

APRIL 2010

VOL VI ISSUE IX

## April:

Word of the Month:

Patience

- 1—15 MAP Testing
- 2 NO SCHOOL
- 5 NO SCHOOL
- 7 Librarian's Day
- 9 FDK Field Trip
- 16 Movie Night
- 20 1st Grade Musical
- 21 Book & Breakfast
- 22 Donuts with Dad (A—L)
- 24-25 RSD Art Show
- 27 Donuts with Day (M—Z)
- 28 Market Day Pick-up

# VOTE

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# April 6th

## Ellisville Elementary

- Missouri Gold Star School
- Ellisville has been recognized for Exemplary Gold for Physical Education by the Missouri Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MOAHPERD). (1995, 2000)
- Recognized in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as a school which exceeded expectations on standardized test results in 2001

For more information, please visit our Web site at:

[www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/ellisville](http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/ellisville)

Early Dismissal: Thursday, April 1, 2010 12:47 PM

NO SCHOOL

Friday, April 2, 2010 and Monday, April 5, 2010

## Recipient of the Missouri Gold Star School Award

1425 Froesel Drive • Ellisville, Missouri 63011-2132 • 636.207.2548

Dr. Allison Loy, Principal



Growing Together,  
Learning for Life

## How is Ellisville Supporting our School Improvement Plan Goals?

### Kindergarten

Reading week started March off with a bang. We enjoyed learning about Dr. Seuss. Frogs were a focus for science this March. Spring was a big focus as we learned about the weather and the seasons.

The children used their math slates to practice number stories. We introduced counting by 2's and our calculators were fun to practice with. The children continue to practice identifying coins and making change with games—all four coins have been introduced. The concept of  $\frac{1}{2}$  has been introduced through games and sharing snacks too!

April will focus on Earth Day, ladybugs, and ants.

### First Grade

We all enjoyed spring break and we have no doubt that the rest of the year will just fly by. Our first graders will be doing a lot of writing during the remainder of the school year. We are using the prompts in our BEING A WRITIER program to write stories containing more detail. We are also using our "Take A Look At My Own Work" editing guide to proof our own work for capitals, punctuation, the use of word wall words, and overall sense of checking to see that I did my best. We are also working on animal research in the library in preparation for writing our hardcover animal book.

In math, we are learning about three dimensional shapes. We are identifying and exploring the properties of spheres, cylinders, rectangular prisms, cones, and cubes. We have also been looking for symmetrical objects around us.

First graders have been learning about the properties of magnets and have fun doing various activities in order to make discoveries through explorations. We have even learned that the earth itself is one giant magnet.

In April, all of our classes will be going on a field trip to Powder Valley Nature Center in order to learn more about the process of pollination and the animals and insect who play such an important role in it. Mrs. Anderson and Ms Kraus will attend on Tuesday, April 20 and Mrs. Firestone and Mrs. Shroba will attend on Thursday, April 22. Please be sure to put this exciting day on your calendar!

### Second Grade

We enjoyed sharing all of the second grade successes with parents at conferences last month.

In communication arts the students read all about the adventures of Flat Stanley and now are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their own adventures. Please look for information in April about volunteering to help put the projects together. Each day our students' communication arts skills improve by reading to self, listening to reading, writing, and word work.

This month in math we have focused on fractions, measurements involving length, distance, capacity and weight. We are also studying perimeter and area along with problem solving. Daily practice of math facts is a must for all students.

In social studies, every child was assigned an American Hero to research. We enjoyed going to the library to research and learn many interesting facts about our famous American.

Reading Week was a huge success. The students enjoyed all of the wonderful guest readers, assemblies, and Read Around the Library Challenges.

Thank you so much for making our week so special.

Fourth quarter promises to be filled with special learning events and activities. All classes will begin Junior Achievement lessons soon. Keep up the good work at home. Your support is always appreciated.

### Third Grade

Third grade recently had the privilege of hearing two guest speakers provided through the PIE program. Judge Ivan Scheadler spoke to the students regarding officers of the court and briefly went over how our judicial system works. Franz Kohler from Congressman Akin's office gave an overview of our federal government. We are continuing to prepare for the upcoming MAP tests in class. Each class will begin learning about immigration in the coming weeks. One way to connect classroom instruction to their lives is to discuss where your family roots began. As always, remember to practice multiplication facts.

### Fourth Grade

Fourth grade students are working hard as we move into the fourth quarter. Students continue to review and practice essential skills for MAP testing in language arts and math. Two main focus areas in language arts have been writing friendly letters and writing quality answers. Students have been learning about weather forecasting, weather instruments used to measure weather, and different cloud types. In Missouri History, fourth graders have been learning about early pioneers and the Missouri Compromise which led to Missouri becoming a state. Please encourage your student to review daily lessons to reinforce learning. Thank you for your continued support.

### Fifth Grade

5<sup>th</sup> graders have been out of this world! We are studying the various elements of our solar system, including Earth's rotation and revolution, moon phases, space tools, and the planets. Back on land, we are fighting the Revolutionary War. After hearing several Loyalist and Patriot views of the time, we are glad to finally see some action on the battlefield.

In math, we mainly focused on geometry. We reviewed formulas for the perimeter, area, and volume of different shapes. We also have created translations, rotations, and reflections of polygons on coordinate grids. In reading, some of the strategies we learned were asking and answering questions while reading, summarizing text, and rereading for details. Finally, some of our reading skills were identifying literary devices, analyzing character traits, and understanding the author's purpose and perspective.

## Reading Intervention

An effective way for readers to increase fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension is to read as much as possible (in text that is on the just-right level) and to reread familiar text. Rockwood School District provides several resources for students to access leveled books and familiar text at home, if internet access is available. While this is helpful for all students, on-line books can be particularly motivating for struggling readers. Although your child's classroom teacher has probably shared these resources with you earlier in the year, this may be a good time of year to reconsider using them, to entice reluctant readers to keep on reading as the school year draws to a close.

1. ThinkCentral is the on-line version of Rockwood's reading series, Storytown. One of the features of the on-line version that is particularly helpful for struggling readers is the option to have the story read aloud. To access the on-line books, go to:

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

Select Reading and Language Arts.

Select Storytown.

Enter your child's username (lastnamefirstname).

Enter your child's password (student number—no leading 000).

Click on the computer screen where it says: "Start Here/View Resources."

Select from the basal reader, the Strategic Intervention Reader, or the Leveled Books. Your child's

teacher or RI teacher can let you know which are the current stories and which are appropriate for your child's reading level.

2. Raz-Kids is an on-line library of leveled books that are both fiction and non-fiction. It is available to all kindergarten, first, and second graders in Rockwood. It is also available for many RI students in grades 3—5. Your child can listen to the book, record the text in his or her own voice (if your computer meets the system requirements), and take a quiz over the book. As additional motivation, points can be earned toward purchasing items to outfit your child's personal Raz Rocket. To access this on-line library go to:

[www.raz-kids.com](http://www.raz-kids.com)

Click on Log In.

Enter your child's teacher's username. (You will need to get this from your child's classroom teacher in grades K—2, or from your child's RI teacher in grades 3—5.)

Select your child's name or symbol on the chart.

Enter a password. (You can also get this from your child's teacher, if your child does not know it.)

Enjoy Reading!



### A note from the cafeteria...

As the end of the school year approaches, Child Nutrition Services is implementing procedures for negative meal account balances. Students and staff will not be allowed to charge a meal after Friday, April 30, 2010. Beginning Monday, May 3, if a student does not have adequate funds or has a negative meal account balance, an alternative entrée of a cheese or tuna sandwich will be offered to the student.

All balances left at the end of the school year will automatically be carried forward for students continuing in any Rockwood School. If a student moves out of the school district, a refund can be requested. The parent/guardian may request a refund by phone call or a written note to the cafeteria managers. If the parent/guardian chooses to have a student pick up a cash refund for an amount less than \$10.00, a signed note must be sent to the cafeteria manager giving the student permission to receive the refund. Refunds over \$10.00 will be issued by check from the Rockwood School District.

Thank you for your assistance.

### We are pleased to announce the grand prize winners of the Guess the Book Title Contest:

Kindergarten-Mikey Sapienza in Mrs. Shockley's class  
 First Grade: Ava Mantle in Mrs. Firestone's class  
 Second Grade: Anna Owens in Mrs. Sturman's class  
 Third Grade: Matthew Countryman in Mrs. Smith's class  
 Fourth Grade: Alyson Howard in Mrs. Bundren's class  
 Fifth Grade: Deevi Vaishnav in Mrs. Curtis's class

### *Congratulations to:*

Aylin (3rd grade) and Onur (Kindergarten) Taysi competed in the March 20, 2010 Missouri Federation of Music Clubs Competition. Both earned "Superior" ratings and won gold medals for their piano solos.

*Thank you to our wonderful PTO for the delicious pasta dinner on Conference Night.*

# Ellisville Elementary School Student Profile Sheet for Class Placement 2010 – 2011

Please complete this profile sheet to provide our team with information regarding your child’s learning profile. **PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST A SPECIFIC TEACHER.** This form must be returned to the office by Friday, April 9, 2010. Please know that your letter is but one factor in determining class placement.

NOTE: Completion of this profile sheet is optional.

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Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your child’s special needs or learning style:

Describe the classroom environment that best supports your child:

Characteristics of a “good match” teacher for your child:

Share any special concerns, health considerations, or peer relationships, which you believe are important for our team to know about your child.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

An organization of and for the parents of Ellisville Elementary School—  
ALL Ellisville Elementary families are members automatically and at NO cost.

WHERE SCHOOL  
NEWS & PTO INFO  
INTERSECT

# PTO PAW PRINTS

APRIL 2010

## Your 2009-2010 PTO Board

Contact the PTO at  
EllisvillePTO@  
Rockwood.k12.mo.us

- President: Jen Thomas  
636-527-0058  
jaycethomas1068@yahoo.com
- Vice President/ Fundraising & Grants  
Coordinator: Lisa Hartshorn  
636-527-3875  
lisahartshorn@sbcglobal.net
- Treasurer: Mara Ferguson  
636-458-4432  
mbfergee@charter.net
- Secretary : Chris Robinson  
636-207-0851  
christinarobinson@charter.net
- Communications Coordinator :  
Sara Robeson 636-458-1535  
serob23@msn.com
- Events Coordinator : Shemain Kenney  
636-778-0599 shemain.kenney@yahoo.com
- Parent Involvement Co-Coordinator:  
Tammy Kirtser 636-273-5414  
geneandtam@aol.com
- Parent Involvement Co-Coordinator:  
Janine White 636-751-8966  
tjwhite@yahoo.com
- Teacher Representative: Diane Werges  
636-207-2548  
wergesdiane@rockwood.k12.mo.us

Welcome back, everyone! I hope that you had a relaxing and fun time with your families during Spring Break and are ready to take on what's left of this school year—only two months! Despite there being such a brief amount of time left during this school year, there is still time to share some Ellisville events with your children. There are several musicals, strings concerts, and field trips left for different grade levels. And, May brings field days and a much-anticipated week of celebrating for our 5th graders before they leave for middle school. And to help you parents who are also facing middle school for the first time, plan on joining us for the first-ever "What You Need to Know Before They Go: A Parent-to-Parent Guide to Middle School," on Tuesday, April 20th, 9:30-11:00am in the Ellisville School Library.

You also have two upcoming opportunities to have your voice heard—the general election on Tuesday, April 6th and the final PTO-sponsored Principal's Coffee on Thursday, May 13th. Don't miss the opportunity to make an impact in both our community and our school with your important opinions. Cast your votes!

**Tuesday, April 6th**—General Election for school board candidates and the Prop. 5 bond issue; keep an eye on your mailbox for your Voter's Registration Card which will indicate your polling place.

**Thursday, May 13th**—Principal's Coffee to cast your vote for the slate of candidates for the open PTO Board positions, Ellisville Elementary Library, 9:30am. With a simple show of hands, the new officers will be installed for the 2010-2011 school year. Please join us to support the new Ellisville PTO board members for the upcoming year and to share your thoughts & ideas for the 2010-2011 school year.

Thanks for your support...Happy Spring!

Jennifer Thomas  
PTO President

## SAVE THE DATES!

April 1st - Early Dismissal Day

April 2nd - April 5th— No School

April 6th - Election Day for Prop 5

April 16th - Ellisville Dads Movie Night\*\*

April 20th - Parent to Parent Guide to Middle  
School ☺ \*\*



April 22nd - Donuts with Dads (A-K) - Thursday\*\*

April 23rd - Kindergarten Round Up ☺ \*\*

April 27th - Donuts with Dads (L-Z) - Tuesday\*\*

May 13th - Principals' Coffee and Volunteer  
Luncheon ☺ \*\*

\*\* -please look on pages 6 & 7 for more details

☺ -please RSVP to Charlotte Brown if you plan to attend at  
636-207-2548 or [browncharlotte@rockwood.k12.mo.us](mailto:browncharlotte@rockwood.k12.mo.us)



**Join us for a Night at the Movies!!**  
**Dads of Ellisville Movie Night**  
**Friday, April 16th at 7pm**

Come and join your Ellisville classmates for some R & R... that's Relaxation and Refreshments and enjoy UP, the movie.

This funny, poignant PG movie follows 78-year-old balloon salesman Carl, who ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies away to the wilds of South America for a great adventure. But he discovers all too late that his biggest nightmare has stowed away on the trip: an overly optimistic 9-year-old Wilderness Explorer named Russell.

This event is open to kids and Dads, Uncles, Grandpas— just bring your favorite adult guy! Keep an eye out for more info to follow in your Friday folders.

**See you at the MOVIES!**



**WE'VE GOT SPIRIT,  
 YES WE DO...  
 ELLISVILLE SPIRIT  
 WEAR... HERE FOR  
 YOU!**

We're still requesting all suggestions for 2010-2011 Spirit Wear graphics...let those creative juices flow and you or your child could be the inspiration for a new Ellisville graphic...it can be as simple or elaborate as your heart desires...e-mail to

[getandersons@yahoo.com](mailto:getandersons@yahoo.com) .

As always, **thank you** for supporting your school with Ellisville Elementary Spirit Wear

---Your PTO Spirit Wear Committee.

**Our Last Principal's Coffee**  
**May 13th at 9:30 am**

We'll have an interactive round table workshop and hear a teacher presentation. This is also your chance to vote on the slate of candidates for the 2010-2011 PTO board. Then, please stay for the ....



*Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon*  
*May 13th at 11:30 am*

Hosted by Ellisville's wonderful staff and administration and be recognized for all of your commitment to Ellisville. Please RSVP to Charlotte Brown in the school office if you plan to attend.

**KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP!!**  
**Friday, April 23rd 9:30 - 10:30 AM OR 2:30 - 3:30 PM**

This fun hour is a great way for Kindergarteners who will be joining Ellisville during the 2010 - 2011 school year and their parents to meet teachers and become familiar with Ellisville including a tour.

If you plan to come, RSVP to Charlotte Brown in the school office by April 19th which session you will be attending so we can make sure that we can roll out the welcome mat!





# DOUGHNUTS WITH DADS!!

Dads, keep watch in your child's Tiger folder for the sign up sheet for Doughnuts with Dads! It is a fun morning where you can share juice, doughnuts, and time with your child prior to school! Due to the popularity of this event, we will have different days based on last name.

**Last name A-K  
plan on joining us on Thursday, April 22nd  
Last name L-Z  
plan on joining us on Tuesday, April 27th.**

If you have a conflict on your assigned day, but want to attend, please make a notation on the registration form that will come in Tiger Folders.

Your kids are excited about the end of school and moving on to middle school.

Are you?



*If you are feeling anxious about middle school, then you should attend "What You Need to Know Before They Go: A Parent-to-Parent Guide to Middle School", on Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup> 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in the Ellisville School Library. You can talk with experienced parents, get questions answered, and get insight into middle school issues, events and fun!*

*Please RSVP to Charlotte Brown by Thursday, April 15th 636-207-2548 or [browncharlotte@rockwood.k12.mo.us](mailto:browncharlotte@rockwood.k12.mo.us).*



## 2010 - 2011 SCHOOL SUPPLIES - ALREADY?!?!?!?!?

Watch your upcoming Tiger Folders for your 2010 - school supplies Wrap Pac order form - a PTO service for all Ellisville families. You can save yourself the trouble of running all over town and order all of your student's supplies for next year and have them waiting in their classroom on the first day of school. **Order Deadline is April 23rd.**

# WE "PAWS" TO THANK YOU!!

Things just keep happening at Ellisville! Your commitment to a great school is what makes Ellisville a fun place to be for our students and staff.

Special thanks go to: **Debbie Schelp, Robin VanIwaarden, Dena Ferraro, and the entire Spring Book Fair committee** for coordinating another well-attended book fair.

**Chris Robinson, Linda Trost and the hospitality**

**committee** for helping provide the dinner to make our teachers more comfortable during Parent Teacher Conferences.

**Karen Rohrbach and Michelle Giordano** for sprucing up the staff bathrooms! What a difference!

Our continued thanks to **all the lunchroom volunteers** who help out our kids everyday!





## Librarians' Day — Wednesday, April 7th

**GRATITUDE** Pronunciation: \ˈgrɑ-tə-  
ˈtʊd, -ˈtyəd\ Function: *noun*  
Etymology: Middle English, from Anglo-  
French or Medieval Latin; Anglo-French,  
from Medieval Latin *gratitudo*, from Latin  
*gratus* grateful : the state of being  
grateful : **THANKFULNESS**  
With heartfelt gratitude to **Debbie  
Schelp and Robin Vanlwaarden** for  
their devoted attention to our children  
and school library. You are the best!

## School Secretaries' Day - Wednesday, April 21st



An enormous “thank you” to **Charlotte  
Brown, Barb Hough and Regina Napier**  
for being the backbone of the  
administrative functions of our school.  
We don't know what we'd do without  
your smiles, support and patience!



Congratulations to Reading Teacher, Terry Brown, for being awarded a \$225 Matching Grant from the Rockwood Schools Foundation & Ellisville PTO for a grant titled, *School Club Connections*. The grant will be used to fund a reading program geared toward encouraging fourth-grade boys to develop a love of reading.



The Rockwood Schools Foundation will be hosting a Golf Tournament at the Country Club at the Legends in Eureka on Monday, April 26th. Golf teams are forming now and registration for the tournament begins at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at noon. An entry fee is required.

Participants will enjoy the following:

- Lunch
- Cart
- Round of golf
- On-course refreshments
- Banquet dinner at 6 p.m.
- Silent and live auctions

“This annual event benefits our students and teachers by generating funds to award students Dream Catchers Scholarships and teachers Innovative Grants,” says Executive Director of the Rockwood Schools Foundation Debbie Fluchel. “Tournament proceeds help the Foundation in its mission to invest in innovations that enhance educational opportunities for Rockwood students and enrich the communities we serve,” Fluchel adds.

For more information about the tournament, contact Debbie Fluchel at (636) 207-6800 or visit [www.rockwoodfoundation.org](http://www.rockwoodfoundation.org) to obtain a registration form.

# District News

April 2010



Safety • Maintenance • Additions  
Renovations • Technology

A \$55 million, no-tax increase bond issue is on the April 6 ballot. The Board of Education voted unanimously to seek voter approval for the proposition.

The decision followed months of study and recommendations from the Bond Issue Committee, a 50-member group comprised of a parent representative from each school, along with community members and staff. The committee reviewed school building needs throughout the 150 square miles of the district.

## When is the election?

Tuesday, April 6, 2010. Polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Where can I vote?

Registered voters will receive postcards from the Election Office designating the polling place for the voter. In addition, you can find your polling place at [www.stlouisco.com/scripts/elections](http://www.stlouisco.com/scripts/elections).

## How many "Yes" votes are required for the passage of the bond issue?

The Constitution of the State of Missouri requires a four-sevenths (57.14 percent) majority for passage.

## Where can I find Prop 5 information?

Visit the Rockwood Web site or your school Web site:  
[www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/prop5](http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/prop5).

## How will Prop 5 appear on the ballot?

Shall the Rockwood R-6 School District, St. Louis County, Missouri, issue its general obligation bonds in the amount of Fifty-five Million Dollars (\$55,000,000) for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, repairing, improving, furnishing and equipping school sites, buildings and related facilities in the District, including (1) safety measures and infrastructure, (2) maintenance of current facilities by continuing to fund major capital repairs and improvements, (3) additions for classrooms, (4) renovations for instructional areas, and (5) technology infrastructure and classroom technology, resulting in no estimated increase in the debt service property tax levy? If this proposition is approved, the adjusted debt service levy of the school district is estimated to remain unchanged at sixty-eight cents (\$0.68) per one hundred dollars assessed valuation of real and personal property.

## Rockwood District Art Show

You are invited to the Rockwood Art Show:

Date: April 24-25

Time: Noon to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Wildwood Middle School located at  
17401 Manchester Road

At the exhibit, more than 6,900 student artists will demonstrate their skills. While exploring the artwork on display, children are encouraged to get their face painted, participate in chalk painting and enjoy the fun!



# April 2010



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Early Dismissal 12:47 PM	2 NO SCHOOL	3 
4 Easter 	5 NO SCHOOL	6 	7 No CCL Librarian's Day	8 	9 Jog Jam FDK to Museum of Transportation	10 
11 	12 Randy Nadler presents AUSTRALIA!	13 	14 CCL Day	15 	16 Jog Jam Spring Photos Power of Purple Day	17 Dads of Ellisville Movie Night 
18 	19 	20 1st Gr. Field Trip Anderson & Kraus  1st Grade Musical	21 CCL Day Book & Breakfast 8:15 AM 	22 Donuts with Dad A - L 	23 Jog Jam Kindergarten Round-up 9:30 AM and 2:30 PM 	24 RSD Art Show
25 RSD Art Show 	26 	27 Donuts with Dad M - Z 	28 CCL Day Market Day Pick-up	29 	30 Jog Jam	May 1

MAP Testing

MAP Testing