

Tiger Tracks



A Newsletter for Parents • Ellisville Elementary School

JANUARY 2010

VOL VI ISSUE VI

January:

Word of the Month:
Cooperation

- 4 2nd Semester Begins
- 15 Early Dismissal 12:47 PM
- 20 Book & Breakfast
- 22 Ellisville Science Day
- 26 5th Grade Transition Night
- 27 Market Day Pick-up
- 28 Variety Show Try Outs
- 30 PTO Trivia Night

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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

Early Dismissal
Friday, January 15, 2010
12:47 PM

NO SCHOOL
Monday, January 18, 2010

Dear Ellisville Parents,

Happy 2010! I hope that all of you had a refreshing and relaxing winter break with your children. As you know, our family was blessed with a little boy on October 29th. It seems like yesterday that Lucas joined our family. He will already be 10 weeks old on Thursday. I had mixed emotions about leaving him this morning for the first time but after greeting the students this morning I knew I was where I'm supposed to be. I had many exciting "Dr. Loy, you are back!" along with many hugs! I have always been impressed with our students but the kindness they were showing today verified all the compliments we get from visitors at Ellisville.

Our newest Tiger Cub was born yesterday afternoon, January 3rd, to Michael and Lindsay Fleming. Caden Michael Fleming was born at 3:15 P.M. at Missouri Baptist Hospital. He weighed in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces. The family is doing well!

During January and the rest of the year, the teachers will continue to focus on Communication Arts and Math Problem Solving. Talk to your children about what they are learning each day at school. Ask them to explain to you how to create a quality answer when they are writing and to explain the scoring guide that is utilized in their classrooms. In Math, have them explain the strategy they used to solve a problem. Attendance each day and being prompt getting to school is vital to each student's success. Please make every effort to schedule doctor's appointments and other activities after school hours. In addition, please do not drop your children off at school prior to 8:45 A.M. when supervision is available.

I've really enjoyed having lunch with all of the second, fourth and fifth grade students during first semester. Starting Thursday, January 14th, I will begin dining with kindergarten, first and third grade students during their lunch break. I already had one student ask me today when it was their turn for *Lunch with the Principal*. This opportunity provides me an opportunity to make connections with each student and to develop important relationships throughout the school. It has been a rewarding experience to see how the students have grown and changed since last year. I will be meeting with half-day kindergarten students for a special snack since they do not have lunch at school. Kudos to the Ellisville PTO for sponsoring Lunch with the Principal!

Second quarter report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, January 8th. The report card offers a snapshot of your child's progress for the first semester. Please use it to evaluate areas where your child is demonstrating strengths and areas where she/he needs encouragement and support.

Please mark your calendars for our 2nd Annual PTO sponsored Ellisville Trivia Night on January 30th. It was great fun last year to spend an adult night out with parents and staff. If you weren't there I would encourage you to join us this year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Allison Loy

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

During December Kindergarten enjoyed reading many different versions of The Gingerbread Man. We completed a Venn diagram to compare and contrast two versions and made a class book. We are practicing our sound spelling in our Seasons Journals and Being a Writer Journals and working on leaving finger spaces between words and periods at the end. In math, we had fun using different objects to measure! The concept of addition as well as the calculator were introduced. Traditions were a focus as we learned about the things that each family does during the month of December. We had a great time on Special Centers Day making edible Gingerbread Houses, painting paper bag houses and making gingerbread ornaments.

In January traditions will continue to be a focus. We will also learn about the winter season, penguins, and celebrate the 100th Day of school.

First Grade

If you were able to spend any time in the first grade hallway during the month of December, you may have noticed the scent of gingerbread in the air. The hallway's walls are covered with gingerbread boys and girls. If you look close enough you can even get a sense of each one's personality. We have spent time working on cookie and gingerbread related activities throughout the month. Some of the math activities that were completed are patterning, working with ordinal numbers, and creating doubles equations. The cookie and gingerbread crumbs have even gotten into our reading, writing, and oral language projects. We have explored professionally published writings in order to create our own individual and/or class versions, create puppets in order to reenact and/or retell stories.

Our service project was a huge success! We were able to collect, wrap, and donate **215** individual pairs of socks. What a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn, discuss and put into action, our Character Education curriculum. We were also able to emphasize our needs and wants along with other things.

Second Grade

Our students' reading skills continue to grow in language arts as we work on various strategies including story elements, fluency, and comprehension. Please encourage your child to add minutes to their December reading log. RAZ-Kids and Think Central are excellent resources to help your child. We are working to enhance our math skills by exploring attributes of shapes, algorithms, and geometry. As second graders, we are studying history in social studies. Everyone had fun in creating a personal time line. Thank you for all of your help with the second grade service project, Support Dogs Inc. Your support was greatly appreciated.

Third Grade

Thanks to all of the Third Grade students who brought in donations for our winter service project. The donations were greatly appreciated. In math, students are working on place value through the millions and decimals to the hundredths place. Continue to work on multiplication facts with your child. Students have been working on writing friendly letters and age appropriate paragraphs. In social studies, students have worked on time lines and researched the changes in transportation and communication technologies.

Fourth Grade

As we finish the first semester, fourth grade students continue to work hard. In science they are completing the Earth unit. In December a geologist from St. Louis University gave a presentation on plate tectonics, volcanoes, and earthquakes. Everyday Math lessons include an emphasis on different multiplication strategies and estimation skills. Students have been learning about renewable and nonrenewable resources in Missouri history. The fourth grade December service project supported the Wolf Sanctuary. Students donated items from the Wolf Sanctuary Center Wish List. Special thanks to those who contributed to this service project.

Fifth Grade

We can't believe fifth grade is flowing by so fast! As teachers, we are especially proud of our new DARE graduates. All of the fifth graders have successfully completed this program and are now better informed about making good life choices, including saying NO! to drugs. Thank you for all the support you have shown our students in this endeavor.

In reading, we focused on cause and effect relationships, comparisons and contrasts, graphic organizers, and theme. We are also reviewing the three purposes authors have for writing a story. Ask your child if he or she can explain PIE to you! In math, we studied different fractional relationships. Students can name equivalent fractions, change fractions into mixed numbers, and compare fractions. We also explored bar graphs, circle graphs, and line graphs. In science, we finished up our ecosystems unit. Students can name animals that belong in different ecosystems, and they can name different adaptations that help animals survive. Our fifth graders loved exploring skulls of different animals! In social studies, we finished studying the 13 colonies and are gearing up for our big Revolutionary War unit.

In addition to growing academically, fifth graders are building character. For our service project, we donated items to Ranken Jordan, a pediatric hospital. Each class had a different age group to focus their gifts toward. We definitely enjoyed touching the lives of the children and families at Ranken Jordan.

Reading Intervention

Current best practice in reading instruction includes attention to five distinct aspects of reading which are often called the five pillars of reading instruction. True proficiency in reading requires that an individual be proficient in all five aspects and be able to access the skills required for each simultaneously. The five pillars are:

- Phonemic awareness—the ability to identify and manipulate sounds in words
- Phonics—knowledge of the relationship between sound and written symbol and the ability to use that knowledge to decode words (including breaking larger words down into decodable chunks or syllables.)
- Vocabulary—a grasp of word meanings and how to acquire them from text context
- Comprehension—accessing text for meaning
- Fluency—reading smoothly and expressively and at a fast-enough pace

Reading Intervention instruction addresses all five pillars of instruction since all are essential for the proficient reader. For example, a student who can decode words in a social studies text, but is unable to answer any questions afterwards, may be proficient in phonics, but needs to work on comprehension. Or a student who decodes the words in text very slowly and laboriously needs to improve fluency in order to access text more quickly, even though phonetic knowledge is adequate.

During the month of December, the RI teachers have been formally and informally assessing students in all five areas. Some stage and grouping adjustments have been planned for second semester in order to make sure that each child's instruction is the best fit for his or her needs. The RI teacher will have contacted parents, if such an adjustment is planned for their child. In January parents of RI students will receive a report in the mail that will address the various aspects of reading instruction and their child's relative strengths and weaknesses. Parents should not hesitate to contact their child's RI teacher with any questions about this report or their child's progress in reading.



COMMUNITY ED NEWS

The Rockwood School District Community Education Department is offering some brand new sports programs beginning in January! The Adult Women's Volleyball League is for ages 18 and older and the Mighty Mites Basketball Program is an instructional basketball program for kids in grades K-2. The registration deadline for both of these programs is Friday, January 8th. To register or for more information about these programs and other Community Education programs, please visit our website at www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/communityed or call our office at 636-938-2307.



Gym Shorts (Important Physical Education News and Updates)



The Ellisville Tigers just completed a cupstacking unit in P.E. class. Many students have asked about where to order cupstacking cups and supplies. Stores no longer carry cupstacks so the best place to find them is online. That website is: www.speedstacks.com

January Jog Jam dates are as follows:

January 8th

January 15th

January 22nd

Please be sure to drop off your child no earlier than 8:15 A.M. Jog Jam will begin at 8:20 and end at 8:45 A.M.



SPELLING BEE NEWS

During the month of December all fourth and fifth grade classrooms at Ellisville held classroom spelling bees. The top two spellers in each class will be participants in the Ellisville School Spelling Bee to be held on January 12 at 2:00 P.M. Since the bee will be in written format, it will not be open to guests or observers. The winner of the Ellisville School Bee will participate in the regional Scripps Spelling Bee to be held at Maryville University on Saturday, March 6. Congratulations to all classroom champs!!! The following are the students who will be participating in the Ellisville School-wide Spelling Bee:

Jackson Bartholomew
Sabrina Buhlinger
Alex Childers
Arpan Das
Hanna Kate Hartshorn
Aiden Henry
Nathaniel Ho
Claire Huff
Hamza Iqbal
Cheryl Lane
Jake Malven
Abby Murphy
Lina Qi
Sarah Rose
Skyler Sachtleben
Bailey Shollenberger
Jackson Van Iwaarden
Ashley Wier

PTO PAW PRINTS

DECEMBER 2009

An organization of and for the parents of Ellisville Elementary School—

ALL Ellisville Elementary families are members automatically and at NO cost.

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

We've celebrated the close of 2009 and welcomed 2010 with vigor – celebrating our families' triumphs. Now is our chance to celebrate your Ellisville triumphs too!

There were over 25 parents at the November Principal's Coffee and first ever PTO-sponsored Parent Education Session on Cyber Safety! Something is working! We encourage you to join us in the future or, if you have already, please encourage other parents to attend. Your PTO Board will host two more coffees this year (a February session on bullying and a May round table session where you'll have the opportunity to discuss multiple topics with your parent peers and elect the new PTO Board officers). The November cyber-safety session was so well-received that we're working on scheduling another evening session for late spring for both parents AND children to attend. Stay tuned for more information! What information would you like to hear about? Please share your ideas with the Board. We really want to hear what interests you most.

Trivia Night: The second annual Trivia Night is scheduled for Saturday, January 30th at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ellisville. Planning for this extremely popular adults-only event has been underway for months and will prove to be another GREAT evening of friendly competition, lots of socializing and memory-making fun. Don't miss out – register NOW!

Election of PTO Board Officers: January is a very exciting and busy time for the PTO board. We will begin looking for new Board Members and new Committee Chairs. Your Board represents all of you. Careful selection of its members is critical to Ellisville's success. If you're interested in chairing a committee or know of someone who would be a terrific leader, please contact me.

Kindergarten Registration: February means kindergarten registration and your PTO Board, the kindergarten teachers and your administration have been working diligently to rework our kindergarten round up/orientation event that's held in the spring. If you have an incoming kindergartener or know of someone who does, be prepared for a new, exciting approach to the orientation that will be more meaningful for EVERYONE!

Variety Show: Can you believe it's already time to celebrate an anniversary for this AMAZING showcase of Ellisville student talent? Your Variety Show committee has

been working for months on a special anniversary celebration that will reflect on past talent and perpetuate the tradition of providing a stage for the amazing skills of our very own students. Don't miss this wonderful evening on Friday, February 26th. More information to come about auditions, call backs and so much more!

Parent Helpers in the Classrooms: Countless parents have been volunteering their time and talents in the classrooms, supplementing our teachers' efforts. Thank you for your efforts for all of our children—your children LOVE to see you in the school and it makes a difference in every Ellisville student's day.

Thanks to all of you for an amazing school year so far. We look forward to the fun and challenges that 2010 will bring. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Jen Thomas
PTO President

SAVE THE DATES!



January 28th– Tryouts for Variety Show
January 30th– Trivia Night (Adults Only)
February 18th– Principal's Coffee
February 25th– Used Book Exchange

February 26th– Variety Show
March 15th-19th—Spring Break
April 16th– Ellisville Dads Movie Night
April 22– Donuts with Dads (A-L)
April 27th– Donuts with Dads (M-Z)
May 13th– Principal's Coffee

It makes Cents!!

Happy New Year!



Mara Ferguson and Lisa Hartshorn

We want to thank everyone who donated to the TIGER program. During the first semester of school, we raised \$4,064.50. 100% of those funds will be used to benefit our school! Congratulations to a generous anonymous donor who was the lucky winner of the \$100 Gift Card and special thanks for donating it back to Ellisville Elementary for the benefit of the Ellisville community. If you haven't donated to the TIGER Program yet, keep in mind that we accept TIGER donations throughout the year.

In the next few months, the PTO Treasurer, President and Vice-President will sit down and determine the proposed budget for the following school year. We will send out action forms to all the committee chairs and ask them to review their budget to determine if it is acceptable or needs additional action, such as an increase or decrease. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Finally, we are gearing up for our second annual Trivia Night. Don't miss out on your opportunity to attend the "Adult Social Event of the Year!" We hope it will be very successful and will share its results in the next It Makes Cent\$ article.

Coming Soon.....

Come join us at Trivia Night! It's a fun way to mingle with friends while supporting our school. Trivia Night is Saturday January 30th at St. Johns' Lutheran Church. Doors Open at 6pm and Trivia starts at 7pm. There will also be a Silent Auction featuring exciting baskets and autographed sports memorabilia, raffles and other fun games.



Trivia registration forms and details can be found each week in Tiger Folders and on the school website. Registrations must be turned in by January 20th. To get a discount, register by January 15th.

Feel free to contact Todd Godefroid, toddjulieg@yahoo.com or 636-405-2743 with general trivia night questions. For questions about trivia registration contact Shemain Kenney shemain.kenney@yahoo.com or 636-778-0599.

Looking forward to seeing you at Trivia Night!



1st-3rd Book and Breakfast will resume on the 3rd Wednesday in January.



Keep on Clipping!

Please continue to clip and save Box Tops, Campbell's and Tyson labels! The money raised can go towards buying books, computers and making improvements to our building. We will collect in February! The class with the most labels will win an ice cream party! Please contact Laurie Luther if you have any questions contact ljluther@charter.net



WE TAKE "PAWS" TO THANK YOU JANINE WHITE & TAMMY KIRTSEY

As we start off a new year, it is always WE THANK YOU!!

great to reflect on what made us successful in the previous year. Ellisville has a wonderful, supportive community of parents, staff, students and family that helps keep us strong. So to everyone who has supported the PTO's efforts with our fundraisers or ongoing committees, those who help in the classrooms with teachers, those who help create wonderful classroom parties, chaperones on field trips, parents who help read, lunchroom helpers, those who help create a great environment by donating items to school and everyone else who contributes in countless ways—

Special Thanks as well to ...

First Grade Parents for sending in materials for the 1st grade service project. We were able to collect 215 pairs of socks. They will be donated to Sunshine Mission here in St. Louis.

Syma Iqbal, Julie Harrell, Peggy

Puetz, and Theresa Peters for braving the weather, monitoring traffic, and assisting with the dumping so the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade members of the Character Congress can get to the dumpsters and help facilitate our

recycling program.

Lori Huff, Tammy Hardie and their children for their creative talents and time dedicated to making the Winter Wonderland scene in the ramp display area. It's added some beautiful color and a magical thoroughway for this often-sterile area.

Again, thank you for everyone's efforts to support the amazing environment that is Ellisville. Elementary School!



The Ellisville PTO's



USED BOOK EXCHANGE

is just a couple months away.
It's scheduled for

**Thursday,
February 25, 2010**

so start saving those used books!!!
If you'd like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact
Julie Stover @ ja.stover@att.net or
636-536-9643



Get Your Act Together for the Anniversary Show! 5th Annual Ellisville Variety Show February 26, 2010

Your acts can be vocal, instrumental, dances, skits, gymnastics, or more, but can be no longer than two minutes. Each person may participate in one act only. Cast members must be students of Ellisville Elementary

Try-outs will be Thursday, January 28th.

Entry forms will be sent home in the Tiger Folder the first Friday after the Winter Break.

Be looking for them!

If you have any questions, please call:
Wendy Finch 636-405-1535
or Nancy Armstrong 636-230-6795

District News

January 2010

World Language Expo

Mark your calendar for a Rockwood first!

Date: Saturday, January 30
Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Rockwood Summit High School
Address: 1780 Hawkins Road
in Fenton

Chinese
French
German
Latin
Spanish
American Sign Language



*Open Your Mind To The
World Of Possibilities!*

The World Language Expo offers families an opportunity to explore languages and cultures. This interactive event features presentations, as well as hands-on activities for all ages:

- test your cultural knowledge and play games that enhance language learning
- be immersed in a story told completely in another language
- explore artifacts and identify UFOs (unidentified foreign objects)
- speak with business partners who use a world language in the workplace
- discuss opportunities for advanced credit with local universities

Visit the Rockwood Foreign Language Curriculum to learn more:
www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/departments/curriculum.

2010 ROSE Awards



Recognizing Those Who Make
A Difference in Education

The **ROSE Award** stands for
Rockwood Outstanding Service
in Education.

This is one of Rockwood's highest honors and is given to individuals who show excellence of character, leadership, performance and service. Anyone can nominate an outstanding teacher, parent, administrator, community member or support staff member for this exclusive award.

Look for ROSE Award nomination forms in all Rockwood buildings beginning Jan. 4. The deadline for completing nominations is Jan. 27.

You can also nominate online:
www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/rose.

Board of Education Candidates

Rockwood residents who wish to file as candidates for the Board of Education should do so in person before Tuesday, Jan. 19. Candidates may file Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Rockwood's Administrative Center located at 111 E. North St. in Eureka.

Applicants need to submit a written statement of candidacy addressed to the secretary of the board of education. Candidates must be citizens of the United States, residents of the Rockwood School District, residents of Missouri for at least one year preceding the election and at least 24 years of age.

Two board director positions on the Rockwood School Board will be decided on the April 6 ballot. For more information, contact the **Superintendent's office at 636.938.2205** or visit the **Board online at www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/community/BOE**.

Rockwood Mission: We do whatever it takes to ensure all students realize their potential.



January 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 WINTER		 	 Happy New Year!		1 	2 
3 	4 Back to School 	5 	6 CCL Day 	7 	8 Report Cards Go Home	9 
10 	11  	12 Spelling Bee 	13 CCL Day 	14 	15 Early Dismissal 12:47 PM 	16 
17 	18 NO SCHOOL 	19 Variety Show Audition Forms Due 	20 CCL Day  Book & Breakfast 8:15 AM	21 	22 Ellisville Science Day 	23
24 	25 	26 5th Grade Transition Meeting Crestview 7 PM	27 CCL Day Market Day Pick-up	28 Variety Show Try Outs 	29	30 PTO Trivia Night St. John's Church 
31						