

Tiger Tracks



MAY 2010

A Newsletter for Parents • Ellisville Elementary School

VOL VI ISSUE X

May:

Word of the Month: Self-Control

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- 27 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

School News Moves Online!

The information in the *Tiger Tracks* is moving online **July 1, 2010**. To help keep parents in the communication loop – our monthly school newsletter is being replaced with the home page of the school Web site.

With the re-organization of our school Web site, parents can receive school news every day by logging on to the **Ellisville Elementary** Web site at www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/ellisville.

Instead of a once-a-month newsletter, parents can find the latest information online at their convenience: events, school announcements and news from the principal and more.

To remind parents of school news items, our principal will send out an email reminder each week. This reminder will provide links to our school calendar and announcement pages, as well as important news our parents need to know. Parents will be able to do the following:

- Print off the school calendar
- Link to the most recent school announcements
- Access curriculum and department updates.
- Find out what's going on with the PTO

If your family does not have a way to access the Internet and receive email messages, please let us know. Call **636-207-2548**, and we'll make sure you receive printed copies of these messages via your child's weekly take-home folder. **Ellisville Elementary School** understands that one of the keys to ensuring the best educational

experience possible for your child and family is great communication. Remember all the ways we work to keep parents updated on what your child is doing and what's happening at school.

Electronic

Teacher Web sites: To help build upon learning, teachers share important information about what's going on in the classroom.

Rockwood Web site: Learn about district-wide programs and resources for students, parents, community and staff.

AlertNow Messages:

Phone or Email: Parents will receive important information - such as emergency notifications, school closings due to inclement weather, and other school news.

Resources:

Take-Home Folders: Each child at our school has a folder, which your student will bring home on Fridays. It includes items, such as program flyers, artwork, notes from the teacher, etc.

PTO Communication: Our parent-teacher organization keeps parents in the loop through PTO newsletters and email notices.

Parent Resource Centers: Parent communication centers are located in the school of fice. This is the place to find community information that support education and families.

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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
Tuesday, May 4, 2010 12:47 PM

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Thursday, May 27, 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.

Reading Intervention

As we transition from the school year to summer vacation time, we want students to maintain the progress and strategy application skill developed throughout the school year. Ellisville families will receive a calendar of fun filled literacy activities created by the district's RI Teachers. You will also have a list of quality books recommended for primary and intermediate grade levels.

Social reading and writing activities can be effective summer reinforcement. For example:

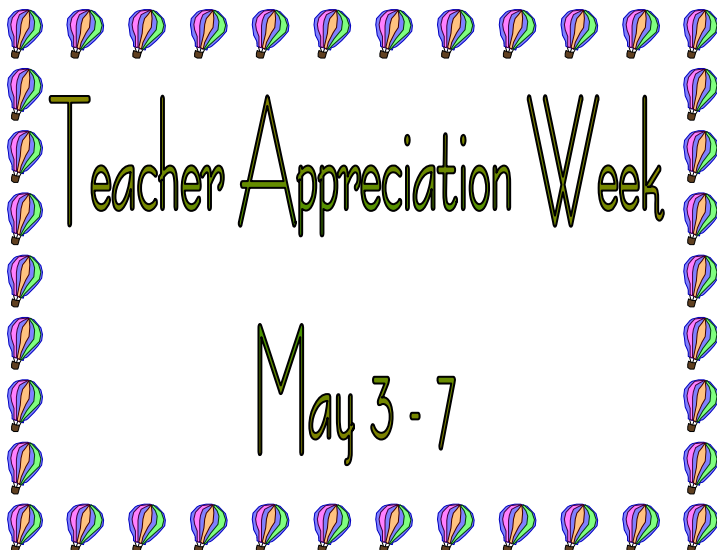
(1) Parents and children may read books on the same subject, but at their own reading levels. You can take turns choosing favorite topics and after reading a appropriate books, you can have some detailed dynamic discussions.

(2) An on going authentic writing activity could be the production of a family journal. You could place a pad of paper in a handy spot for jotting down sports information, pet milestones or funny antics and children's to do good to forget accomplishments, etc. After completion, the journal can be read at a pop corn party and shared with family and friends.



(3) It is fun to find, copy and share poetry. Poems can be found in books, web sites and songs. They can be copied and placed in a "poetry corner." At the end of a week or two, the poems can be read aloud. It might be fun to have a collaboration to compose and share poems in a performance event format.

Any reading/writing pursuit that can assume the form of a social interaction or a game can quickly engage children in enthusiastic productive effort.



ESOL News

Summertime in St. Louis can be a great learning experience. Exposing your children to all the wonderful free activities in our community can enrich their lives and learning.

Love That Library!

Your first stop should be to your local public library. Schedule a weekly trip to drop off and pick up books so your child can go anywhere in the world of imagination while keeping up reading skills. A 30 minute reading log break each day will help your child for the upcoming school year and be a peaceful break to your day. The library also offers free movies and children's shows! The County Library offers rewards through the Summer Reading Club <http://www.slcl.org/kids/>, and check the St. Louis City Library for their summer reading program <http://www.slpl.org/>.

Make a Visit to St. Louis Visitor Services

At this website <http://www.explorestlouis.com/kids/index.asp> you can connect to so many fun activities for a summer day. Many are free such as the St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Science Center, Missouri History Museum, Laumeier Sculpture Park, and the World Bird Sanctuary. Others may charge admission or parking fees like the Magic House, City Museum, Challenger Learning Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, Faust Historical Village with the Butterfly House and a 1920 carousel for the kids to ride. Another great resource for activities is St. Louis County Parks – <http://www.stlouisco.com/parks/>. Plan a weekly day to explore our wonderful city. There are many more adventures listed on the websites.

Computer Connections

Finally, the computer can be used to reinforce English as well as grade level academic skills. Remember to visit your school's web site for grade level specific websites. Good English reinforcement can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.eslkidsworld.com/>

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/>

http://www.everythingesl.net/in-services/elementary_sites_ells_71638.php

ESOL Summer Academy Classes

ESOL Summer Academy classes are available at Ballwin Elementary, Clarkson Valley Early Childhood Center and Crestview Middle School. Call the ESOL department at 636-938-2359 for dates and times at each location.

Contact: Lauren Strand

strandauren@rockwood.k12.mo.us

636-284-0095

SUMMER CAMPS AT MARQUETTE H.S.

Please go to www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/marquette/athletics/Pages/SummerCamps.aspx to see a complete listing of summer camp offerings at Marquette. You can find dates, times, fees, and registration forms at this link as well. Come and enjoy the fun and learn about your favorite sport or activity!

Fifth Grade Year-End Activities

Friday, May 14th

Students leave at 8:30am for the Lincoln Presidential Museum Trip and will return at approximately 5pm. Students should wear their 5th grade t-shirt

Tuesday, May 25th

5th Grade Recognition Ceremony and Reception 1:45pm in the auditorium.

Wednesday, May 26th

Day at Riverchase of Fenton

Thursday, May 27th

5th Grade BBQ and Yearbook Signing Party 1pm. Students should wear their 5th grade t-shirt

**Don't Forget!!!
5th Grade Video Pictures Needed!!**

Our 5th grade year is winding down and we need parents to send in all of the pictures/videos you have taken of our 5th grade students this year! Please email them to Dawn Anglin at 5thgradevideo@gmail.com! Thanks!

ATTENTION 4TH & 5TH GRADERS!

The Rockwood School District Community Education Department is offering a NEW Rockwood Track and Field Club this summer for boys and girls entering grades 5-9 in the Fall 2010 school year. The registration deadline for these programs is Friday, May 14. To register or for more information about the Track and Field Club or any other Community Education summer programs, please visit our website at www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/communityed or call our office at 636-938-2307.

END OF YEAR REMINDERS

All medications that are kept at school must be picked up before May 27, 2010, the last day of school. No medications can be sent home with students.



Attention 5th Grade Parents!

All students entering sixth grade are required to have a physical exam completed and turned in to the middle school nurse before the start of school in August 2010. If your child's physical exam is completed before the end of this school year, please send the form to our nurse, Mrs. Oberle. If you have the exam completed over the summer, please mail it to the nurse at Crestview. A copy of the Health Exam form is available on our Website www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/ellisville. From the Offices tab, click on nurse. Scroll down the page to Physical Examination form.

Are You Leaving Us?

If you know that your child(ren) will not be attending Ellisville Elementary next year, please let us know.

By providing us with this information early, you help us in our efforts to plan for next year. Many decisions are contingent on enrollment so your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

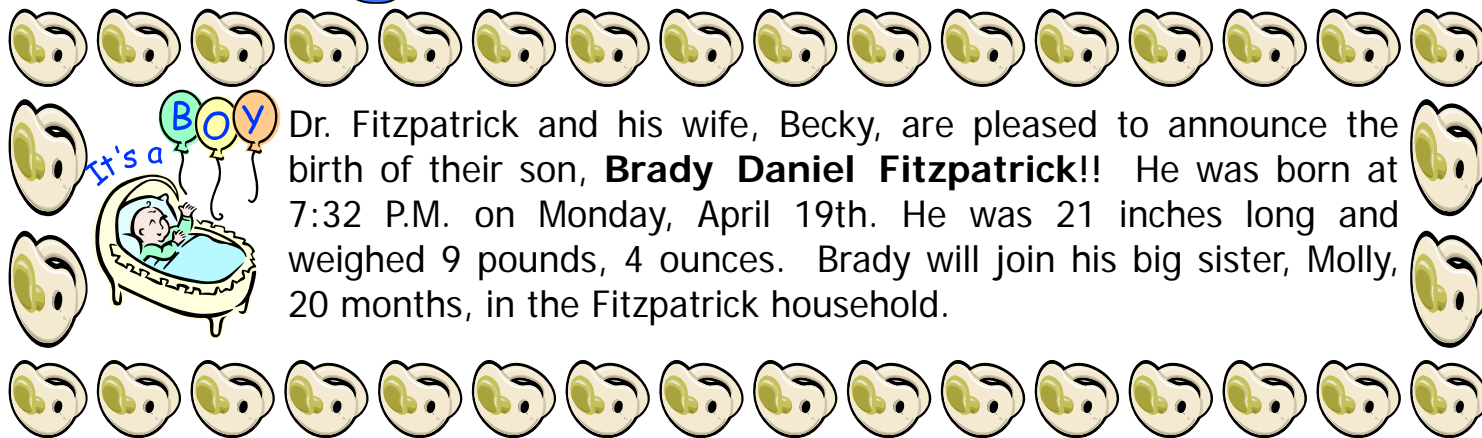
We also encourage you to call or visit with your new school and complete the necessary enrollment information prior to June 10th. This will enable your child's records to be forwarded to the appropriate school in a timely manner.

If you will not be returning to Ellisville Elementary for the 2010 - 2011 school year, please contact Regina before May 14, 2010 at 636-207-2548 X221 or email: napieregina@rockwood.k12.mo.us/ellisville.

While you are at school attending one of the many end of year activities, please take a moment to check out the **Lost & Found** area in the cafeteria. We have accumulated lots of sweaters, jackets, lunch boxes, etc.

Whatever is left at 4:30 PM on May 27th will be donated to a charity.

Congratulations to...



Dr. Fitzpatrick and his wife, Becky, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, **Brady Daniel Fitzpatrick!!** He was born at 7:32 P.M. on Monday, April 19th. He was 21 inches long and weighed 9 pounds, 4 ounces. Brady will join his big sister, Molly, 20 months, in the Fitzpatrick household.

Ellisville Winners at the Science Olympiad

1st PLACE SCIENCE BOWL

Josh Essman, Jacob Meadows, Adam Humrich & Zach Taylor

1st PLACE ROLLER COASTER

Christopher Ulrich

1st PLACE CAN RACER

Lauren Youngquist

2nd PLACE CAN RACER

Josie Sigwart

1st PLACE BOTTLE ROCKET

Hamza Iqbal

10th PLACE BOTTLE ROCKET

Julia Behlmann & Emily Yang

4th & 5th Grade Math Team Winners

The MCTM Regional Math Competition was held Saturday, April 10th at LaSalle Springs Middle School. Eight students participated from Ellisville; Luke Bader, Matthew Robinson, Jackson Van Iwaarden, Rithik Reddy and alternate Jake Malven represented 4th grade. Arpan Das, Josh Essman, Mehghana Bhadraraj, Vansha Kuchi and alternate Nathaniel Ho represented 5th grade.

4th grade Math Problem Solving

9th place - Rithik Reddy

6th place - Matthew Robinson

5th grade Concepts

4th place - Arpan Das

2nd place - Josh Essman

(will compete in state competition)

5th grade Problem Solving

6th place - Josh Essman

4th place - Arpan Das

Recycling Contest

QRS Recycling, one of the firms which collects recyclable materials for the Rockwood School District, is sponsoring a contest to recognize the Rockwood school which has improved the most this year in recycling efforts. Ellisville Tigers are eager to win this contest to celebrate their efforts toward saving the environment. Classrooms are recycling much more, and a program has been initiated in the lunchroom to recycle milk and juice cartons. At the beginning of the year, in one month, we recycled only 2.4 pounds of materials per student. To win the contest, we need to recycle at least 5 pounds of material per student for a one-month period ending May 17. Plus it has to be the biggest increase in poundage compared to any other Rockwood school.

YOU CAN HELP!!!!



Send in your old phone books, magazines, and newspapers! You can either dump them directly in the QRS dumpster which is located on the Ellisville back parking lot, or let your child bring them in to the front lobby to weigh with Ms. Hager and dispose of in the trash barrel in the front lobby. Our hard-working custodians will make sure that these things are placed in the QRS Dumpster.

Remember: the contest ends May 17.

ROCKWOOD 5TH GRADE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN TRIP By Emma Flinner

Thursday, March 4, 2010:

Ten Ellisville 5th graders along with 70 other 5th graders, left on a charter bus from the Eu reka Annex at 9:00 PM. We drove all night and arrived at Smoky Mountain national Park in Tennessee the next morning.

Friday, March 5, 2010:

Before we unloaded the bus, everyone hiked to Look Rock. It was an amazing view of the mountains. Afterwards, we went to Tremont Institute and moved into the campsite.

We divided into groups and went on a geology hike to a waterfall. Our favorite activity was painting our faces with rocks. A teacher in another group fell into the water while he was trying to take a picture.



After we had dinner at the lodge, we went to the Counsel House for a bonfire. We sang songs and learned some poems. It was such a great first day.

Saturday, March 6, 2010:

After breakfast, we packed our lunch for an all day hike. The best part was being able to hike on the trail by ourselves. We learned about different types of leaves and trees. We even ate a leaf that tasted like horseradish! We returned to the lodge in time for dinner.

After dinner, we had a square dance. It was more fun than we ever thought it would be.

Later, we went on a night hike without flashlights. We learned about owls and other animals and what we could do to help them survive. The best part was seeing the beautiful stars, the constellations of The Big Dipper and Orion, and even some planets. We returned to the pavilion for a night snack and then went to bed.

The boys saw a rat in their cabin and Mr. Polster had to use a broom to swat it out of the building

Sunday, March 7, 2010:

We woke up early and went on an ecology hike to a stream. We studied the stream's temperature and speed. We also learned about macro-invertebrates and their lifestyles. We even got to hold a slimy salamander.

We went to our final campfire, had s'mores and listened to ghost stories. Later, we packed our belongings and took our bags to the buses.

Monday, March 8, 2010:

We woke up at 4:00 AM to gather the rest of our gear and get on the bus. We slept on the bus for a couple of hours and then stopped for breakfast. Later, we stopped at McDonald's for lunch.

We watched movies on the bus until we arrived back at the Annex at 3:30 PM.

We had a GREAT time!

Ellisville Elementary School

2010 - 2011 School Supply Lists

KINDERGARTEN AM/PM

PLEASE, DO NOT WRITE NAMES ON ANY KINDERGARTEN ITEMS!

10 Small Glue Sticks	2	7" 12 Ct. Colored Pencils
1 8 Ct. Washable Thick Markers	1	8 Ct. Washable Watercolors
1 8 Ct. Washable Thin Markers	2	100 Ct. Box Tissues (A—M)
2 Red Pocket Only Plastic Folders	1	Roll paper towels (N—Z)
2 Blue Pocket Only Plastic Folders	1	Box Zipper Gallon Size 20 ct. Bags (A—M)
1 Yellow Pocket Plastic Folder w/Prongs	1	Box Zipper Quart Size 25 ct. Bags (N—Z)
12 Pre-sharpened #2 Pencils	1	4 oz. Bottle Glue
1 Blunt 5" Scissors	3	24 Ct. Crayons

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE NAMES ON ANY KINDERGARTEN ITEMS!

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

Supplies are provided through tuition money charged by the District.
Backpacks (without wheels) are not provided.

FIRST GRADE

NO BACKPACKS WITH WHEELS!		
3 Art Gum Erasers	2	8 Ct. Classic Thick Markers
1 Blunt 5" Scissors	20	24 Ct. Crayons
2 100 Ct. Tissues	1	Small Glue Sticks
4 2 Pocket Plastic Folders *	24	8 oz. Bottle School Glue
<i>*1 each of Red, Yellow, Green & Blue</i>	1	Sharpened #2 Pencils
1 4 Ct. Dry Erase Chisel Tip Markers	1	7" 12 Ct. Colored Pencils
1 Box Zipper Sandwich_Size Bags 50 ct (A—L)	1	Roll Paper Towels
	1	Box Zipper Gallon Size Bags 20 ct. (M—Z)

SECOND GRADE

1 Yellow Highlighter	1	70 Ct. Green Spiral Notebook Wide Rule
1 Sharp 5" Scissors	1	70 Ct. Blue Spiral Notebook Wide Rule
1 Pink Bevel Eraser	1	70 Ct. Yellow Spiral Notebook Wide Rule
1 100 Ct. Tissues	2	Red Felt Tip Pens
1 Dry Erase Eraser	2	Black Felt Tip Pens
4 Small Glue Sticks	1	Green Felt Tip Pen
1 8 Ct. Washable Thick Markers	1	Blue Felt Tip Pen
12 Sharpened #2 Pencils	1	7" 12 Ct. Colored Pencils
1 Roll Paper Towels	1	48 Ct. Crayons
4 2 Pocket Plastic Folders *	1	Box of Zipper Gallon Bags 20 per box (A—M)
<i>*1 each of Red, Yellow, Green & Blue</i>	1	Box of Zipper Quart Bags 25 per box (N—Z)
1 Purple Pocket Only Folder	1	Clear School Box w/Lid 12" x 7" x 3"
1 Orange Pocket Only Folder	1	4 Ct. Dry Erase Markers (Blue, Green, Black, Red)

1 Ellisville Assignment Notebook * to be purchased at school.

*** This item is included if you pre-ordered a Wrap Pac**

Ellisville Elementary School

2010 - 2011 School Supply Lists

THIRD GRADE

3	70 Ct. Spiral Notebooks Wide Rule (any color)	4	Small Glue Sticks
1	200 Ct. Wide Rule Filler Paper	1	1½" Poly Binder
4	Red Pocket Only Folders	1	4 Ct. Dry Erase Markers
1	Sharp 5" Scissors	1	Small Plastic School Box (8 ½ x 5 ½ x 2 ½ inch)
1	1/16" Wood Ruler 12 inch (Standard & Metric)	2	Red Grading Pen
1	24 Ct. Crayons	1	Yellow Highlighters
1	Black Permanent Fine Tip Marker	1	Roll Paper Towels
24	Sharpened #2 Pencils	2	100 Ct. Tissues
1	Black & White Composition Notebook	1	7" 12 Ct. Colored Pencils
2	Pkg. 5 Pocket Dividers (total of 10 pockets)	1	Dry Erase Eraser

NO Mechanical Pencils, PLEASE!!!

**1 Ellisville Assignment Notebook * to be purchased at school.
* This item is included if you pre-ordered a Wrap Pac**

FOURTH GRADE

1	24 Ct. Crayons	1	Small Plastic School Box (8 ½ x 5 ½ x 2 ½ inch)
1	8 Ct. Washable Thick Markers	1	7" 12 Ct. Colored Pencils
1	1/16" Wood Ruler 12 inch (Standard & Metric)	1	Roll Paper Towels
4	Small Glue Sticks	1	6" Protractor (clear plastic - no arm)
1	Sharp 5" Scissors	1	Black Permanent Chisel Tip Marker
1	4 Ct. Dry Erase Markers Chisel Tip	1	Dry Erase Eraser
2	200 Ct. Tissues	1	Yellow Highlighter
2	200 Ct. Wide Rule Filler Paper	4	Red Felt Tip Pens
5	70 Ct. Spiral Notebooks Wide Rule (any colors)	1	Black & White Composition Notebook
4	Pocket Only Folders (any color)	1	Vinyl Expandable 10 Pocket File Organizer
1	Pink Bevel Eraser	24	Sharpened #2 Pencils

NO Mechanical Pencils, or Pencil Sharpeners PLEASE!!!

**1 Ellisville Assignment Notebook * to be purchased at school.
* This item is included if you pre-ordered a Wrap Pac**

FIFTH GRADE

1	200 Ct. Wide Rule Filler Paper	3	Pocket Only Folders (any color)
1	Sharp 7" Scissors	1	Nylon Pencil Bag
5	70 Ct. Spiral Notebooks Wide Rule (any colors)	1	Package 7" 24 Ct. Colored Pencils
1	6" Protractor (clear plastic - no arm)	1	Roll Paper Towels
1	8 Ct. Washable Thin Markers	4	Chisel Tip Dry Erase Markers
1	Red Grading Pen	12	Sharpened #2 Pencils
1	Dry Erase Eraser	1	Set of Highlighters (yellow, green, blue, pink)
4	Small Glue Stick	1	Art Gum Eraser
1	1/16" Wood Ruler 12 inch (Standard & Metric)	1	Vinyl Expandable 10 Pocket File Organizer
2	100 Ct. Tissues	2	Black & White Composition Notebooks

*** This item is included if you pre-ordered a Wrap Pac**

2010-2011: Changes in Elementary School Schedules

Beginning next year, Rockwood parents will notice a few changes in the way elementary schools schedule the school day.

What is it?

All Rockwood elementary schools will have larger blocks of time scheduled for core curricular areas, such as language arts, math, science and social studies. In addition, each grade level will have sections for art, music, physical education, strings and technology.

Why the change?

Students have a lot to learn and enjoy in elementary school. By changing the schedule, students and teachers will benefit the following ways:

- 1) Focus on core curriculum:** Uninterrupted blocks of time allow for extended instruction in the areas of language arts, math, science and social studies.
- 2) Increased collaboration:** Teachers will have a common planning time and can share best practices that are innovative and successful in the classroom.

Do you have a question about the new schedule?

Please contact your school principal and ask what changes you and your family can expect and how they will benefit your child's education. For more information call (636) 938.2447.

What does it mean for my child?

Core Classes: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies

With more time for core classes, your child's teacher can provide more opportunities for hands-on, individualized learning. The new schedule provides larger units of instructional time - and this allows teachers to manage the classroom more effectively and meet the needs of all students in these important curricular areas. It allows for increased collaboration among teachers for students who receive services to support their education, such as those provided by Special School District and Reading Intervention.

Physical Education:

Rockwood is committed to providing health and physical education for all students. In previous years, elementary students had four days of physical education and one day of health in a classroom setting. With upcoming changes to the schedule, students will receive four days of physical education, with 30-minutes provided for health. The health curriculum is currently under committee review to determine the most effective way to deliver this instruction.

It is important to note the district exceeds the state requirements for minutes in physical education classes - now and with the new elementary schedule for 2010-2011. Students will receive four days of 30-minute physical education classes. In addition, remember that students have recess five days a week for 20-minutes sessions. Together, this provides our children more than 220 minutes of physical activity a week.

Strings:

Research shows that students enjoy and retain music education the younger they are exposed to this type of learning. Next year, strings classes will be required for 3rd-grade and 4th-grade students. After this initial phase-in, strings classes become optional for 4th- and 5th-grade students during the 2011-2012 school year. Students at this level may choose the electives of strings or technology.

Technology:

Rockwood incorporates technology into the classroom. Our curriculum focuses on integration so technology is an important component in the classroom learning. The district has increased its collaboration among teachers, library media specialists and instructional technology coaches to ensure students learn research skills and Internet safety inside the classroom as part of their core education. Additional technology classes are available for students, as an alternative to strings education.



ELLISVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ROCKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR 2010 - 2011

First Day of School for Student.....	Tuesday, August 17
No School - Labor Day.....	Monday, September 6
No School.....	Friday, October 29
No School - Thanksgiving Holidays.....	Wednesday, November 24 through Friday, November 26
No School - Winter Break	Thursday, December 23 through Monday, January 3
School Resumes; Second Semester Begins.....	Tuesday, January 4
No School - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Holiday.....	Monday, January 17
No School - Presidents' Day Holiday.....	Monday, February 21
No School.....	Friday, March 18
No School - Spring Recess.....	Monday, March 21 through Friday, March 25
No School - Spring Holiday.....	Friday, April 22
No School.....	Monday, April 25
Last Day for Students.....	Thursday, May 26
Records Day (Teachers on Duty).....	Friday, May 27

The school day begins at **9:02 AM** and ends at **3:52 PM**
 AM Kindergarten begins at **9:02 AM** and ends at **12:02 PM**
 PM Kindergarten begins at **12:52 PM** and ends at **3:52 PM**
 Ellisville students will attend CCL on WEDNESDAYS during the 2010—2011 School Year
ELLISVILLE ELEMENTARY 2010 - 2011 STAFF DEVELOPMENT
EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS
Dismissal at 12:47 PM Lunch WILL be served on early dismissal days!

- Tuesday, September 14
- Tuesday, October 12
- Tuesday, November 9
- Tuesday, December 7
- Friday, January 14
- Friday, February 18
- Tuesday, March 8
- Thursday, April 21
- Tuesday, May 10

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

MAY 2010

WE TAKE "PAWS" TO THANK YOU

Spring is here, the parents and students look forward to getting outside and enjoying the great weather and we, as a PTO, are constantly thrilled by our parents!

The time and energy you ALL put in to this school adds such value to the students' education and the faculty and staff's days.

Kudos to **Phil Higgins** for another successful Ellisville Movie Night. The cafeteria was full of enthusiastic Ellisville families and a good time was had by all. Others who added their talent to the evening were **Todd Godefroid**,

Mackenzie Sigman, Paul Sievers and Scott Robeson; and many thanks to **Darla & Mark Youngquist, Sandy Buren, Michelle Howard & Mike Taylor**, who answered our call for help but weren't needed. What a great night!

Also filling the cafeteria were Ellisville students and fathers for the always well-attended **Donuts with Dad** mornings. Special thanks to **Dana Altermatt and her entire committee** for hosting another wonderful event.

John & Bert Sigwart deserve our gratitude for providing a delicious assortment of home-baked muffins for our November & February Principal's Coffees. They were enjoyed by many and much appreciated!

Congratulations to **Lori Huff** and her partners, **Tammy Hardie** and **Tami Barnes** for coordinating and hosting the first Middle School Information Session. It was an incredibly informative event that definitely helped alleviate many soon-to-be middle school parents' concerns. Well done, ladies!

Thanks so much to AND from **Christa Richardson**, Copy Helpers Chair, to the following parents for being a part of the copy committee and doing an outstanding job this year: **Lisa Anderson, Karla Bennett, Jen Fitzgerald, Suzanne Meldrum, Upasana Nanda, Amy Robinson, Jamie Stovall, Jen Thomas, Kim Thrap** and **Darla Youngquist**.

Special thank you's to all of our Room Parent Team Leaders—**Jenifer Fitzgerald, Theresa Peters, Donna Mann, Phoebe Owenby, Janine White & Tammy Hardie** & all of our dedicated Room Parents—**Linda Jakob, Jessica Dawson, Dani**

Lansing, Kristina Perzan, Darla Youngquist, Jen Willis, Jenifer Fitzgerald, Jennifer Scott, Kelly Cross, Talie Manning, Greg Tayborn, Jennifer Osterloh, Stacie Scheiner, Casey Ulman, Jennifer Moore, Sandy George, Rachel Narsh, Mary Beth Mazzola, Dena Ferraro, Daedra Lohr, Megan Seeling, Dana Taylor, Jane Martin, Karla Bennett, Melissa Dubuque, Kim McDaniel, Amanda Ozer, Diana Bunch, Angel Jenkins, Chris Schultz, Kristi Locke, Marcia Countryman, Elizabeth Bourne, Jennifer Abbate, Sheree Flavin, Regal Green, Kris Sawyer, Linda Trost, Leah Anne Debold, Susan Reed, Maria Hieken, Margit Scott, Raishelle Day, Lori Huff, Rhonda Balducci, Kim Thrap, Melissa Golder, Shelley Kinker, Nancy Armstrong & Sue Snyder for their leadership this year in coordinating the many activities held in our children's classrooms.

To all of our PTO Committee Chairs & volunteers who have worked so diligently this year facilitating the numerous PTO-sponsored events, attacking our fundraising goals, coordinating the many great opportunities for our students, beautifying the interior & exterior of our children's "home away from home", and communicating endless information, we THANK YOU and couldn't have accomplished so much without the amazing partnership between the Ellisville families, faculty, staff & administration!

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



IT MAKES ¢ENTS

Some of you may be wondering what the PTO does with any excess PTO funds at year end. Every Spring, the Treasurer, with assistance from the PTO President and VP, puts together a proposed annual budget for the next school year. Of course, the budget is TOTALLY dependent upon the success of Ellisville's fundraisers. This year, the PTO was fortunate to raise enough money to fund all the PTO events and activities for our students, teachers and families with money to spare. Consequently, we have some excess

funds that we can invest on items requested by the staff, teachers and parents. The PTO refers to these items as a "WISH LIST".

How is this "WISH LIST" created and approved? Dr. Loy asks the teachers and staff to submit a list of items that will improve the students' educational experience. This list is then submitted to the PTO Executive Board for review. Remember, the Board is elected to represent the entire PTO -- i.e. YOU. With this in mind, the Board reviews the list and

Mara Ferguson & Lisa Hartshorn

determines which items to approve giving priority to those items that will benefit the largest number of students.

Did you know that parents and students can also submit items to be included on the "WISH LIST"? Simply send your wish to the PTO President. Be sure to state how your wish will benefit our children and our school. We look forward to hearing your suggestions.

WISH! WISH! WISH!

There's a Rascal Flatts song, My Wish, with lyrics of, "If it's cold outside, show the world the warmth of your smile, but more than anything, my wish for you is that this life becomes all that you want it to, your dreams stay big, your worries stay small, (and) you never need to carry more than you can hold."

Much like these lyrics, unlike so many schools beleaguered by these difficult economic times, because of responsible money management and

the generosity of Ellisville families, the PTO continues to be in the position to grant wishes by giving a year-end financial gift to the school that fulfills specific wishes identified and proposed by the administration, the PTO Board, the faculty & staff, and by YOU, the families of Ellisville!

Contribute YOUR ideas to the WISH LIST to benefit your student & the Ellisville school community. Check out the It Makes Cents article above to learn how you can help keep our

school's dreams big, the worries small and tackle whatever comes our way!

Jen Thomas



PTO BOARD SLATE OF CANDIDATES

With only four weeks left of this school year, your PTO Board and the Nominating Committee have been very busy planning for the new school year. An important part of this planning includes the nominations of officers for the incoming PTO Board.

We're pleased to present to you the Slate of Candidates for the 2010 - 2011 school year:

President-Elect/Secretary—Lisa Hartshorn

Treasurer—Megan Seeling

Communications Coordinator—Julie Harrell

Fundraising/Grants Coordinator—Lisa Anderson

Parent Involvement Co-Coordinator—Dana Taylor

Returning to the Board for a second term are Jennifer Thomas, President; Shemain Kenney, Events Coordinator; and, Tammy Kirtser, Parent Involvement Co-Coordinator.

The election will take place at the final General PTO Meeting of the year, during the May Principal's Coffee, on Thursday, May 13th at 9:30am. Please plan on attending to meet the nominees and to cast your vote for the slate for the new year.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK - MAY 3RD-7TH

Let's Celebrate Our Wonderful Teachers!



Monday, May 3rd—Flower Showers—Brighten your teacher's day by bringing a flower for their desk. Teachers will have a vase to hold their flowers. Feel free to send these in all week.

Tuesday, May 4th—Shine a Light—Present your teacher with a candle of any kind and a handwritten note telling them how they have enlightened your learning experience this year.

Wednesday, May 5th—Candy/Snack Grams—Bring your teacher chocolate or a healthy treat to "sweeten" their day (*see below for ideas*)

Thursday, May 6th & Friday, May 7th—The PTO and the Hospitality committee will host a Cinco de Mayo lunch (Thursday) and an Ice Cream Social (Friday) for the teachers.

Candy Gram Ideas:

Milky Way—You're OUT of this world!

Snickers—I love your sense of humor!

Hershey's Kiss—You make learning sweet!

Lifesavers—I appreciate you a "Hole" lot!

M&Ms—I appreciate you **M**ore & **M**ore as this year goes by!

Tootsie Roll—You've played an important **ROLL** in my learning this year!

Mints—I "**MINT**" to tell you that you're a GREAT teacher!

Gummy Bears—You are the "**BEARY**" best teacher ever!

Pay Day—You deserve an extra "**Pay Day**"!

100 Grand—You're worth "**100 Grand**"!

Healthy Snack Gram Ideas:

Animal Crackers—I'm wild about you!

Popcorn—I'm bursting with appreciation for you!

WON'T YOU JOIN US FOR A DAY OF CELEBRATION?



As you probably already know, all Ellisville families are members of the PTO and we rely on your input, feedback, support and time to continue to make Ellisville the great place that it is.

In celebration of ALL of you wonderful volunteers, please join us for a **DAY OF CELEBRATION on Thursday, May 13th** for the final Principal's Coffee of this year, the 2010 - 2011 PTO Board Slate of Candidates Election & the delicious Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, hosted by the wonderful faculty, staff and administration of our great school.

Principal's Coffee/Round Table Sessions: 9:30 - 11:00am (Library) - come enjoy some delicious coffee, vote

THURSDAY, MAY 13TH (STARTING AT 9:30AM)

for the 2010 - 2011 PTO Board Slate of Candidates, and participate in one of three different Round Table sessions:

- **Character—How Can We Teach Character to Our Children?** Led by Robin Adkinson, an RSD Caring School Community Coach and an expert in character education. Discuss why this is important and how a strong partnership between the family & school is essential to it's success.
- **Encouraging Your Kids to Be Self-Starters/Helicopter Parents—Are We Doing Too Much for Our Children?** Led by Margaret Maffit, retired RSD School Counselor, Marine, Private Counselor and Tutor.

- **Parent/Child Communication—How Do I Talk With My Child and Have Them Actually Listen?** Led by Michelle Shaw, Ellisville Elementary School Counselor. Discuss ways of communicating that involves more listening & less problem-solving; role modeling & acceptable role models.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
11:00am - 1:30pm
in the Library

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DEN

Jen Thomas

As many of you may know, funding for education is taking a significant hit due to the difficult financial times we are living through right now. Rockwood is being proactive in dealing with known reductions in state funding and the School Board and administration have been carefully reviewing all programs and expenditures to identify where adjustments are possible.

Your PTO Board is being equally diligent. We are partnering with Ellisville's administration to anticipate these reductions to our school's budget and working closely with them to ensure continued support for those services, programs, etc. that the PTO has consistently provided for so many years. Although the budget has not been finalized, we do anticipate making reductions to our expenditures and to our budgeted income without significantly sacrificing the support we provide. That said, it's important that you understand why the PTO needs a budget and conducts fundraisers.

One common misconception is that your

tax dollars are enough to pay for all that the PTO does to enrich your children's elementary school education. This is simply not so. The PTO provides substantial funds to ensure that things like DARE, assemblies, blank books (for all those great stories written by our children), educational products for teachers, Lunch with the Principal, and testing incentives can occur.

Additionally, the PTO contributes money for grade-level activities, room parent expenses and field trips.

The PTO also has its own operations to fund including Kindergarten Round Up, New Family Night, Principal's Coffees, Back to School events, Fall Carnival, Variety Show and Trivia Night. We also must pay annual PTO dues, CPA services, and printing expenses just to name a few. Many PTO committees also utilize your fundraising dollars in support of their activities including:

- Interior/Exterior
- Adopt-A-Tiger
- Dad's of Ellisville events

- Donuts with Dad
- Hospitality
- Tiger Folders
- Yearbook

So, as you can see, it is imperative that we all do our part to be financially responsible and we do not take this job lightly. We want our continued focus to be on making our school great. If you have any specific questions about the PTO budget or use of its funds, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of your PTO Board.

Thanks, Dad!

Thank you to all the wonderful and supportive dads that took time to give us their feedback during Doughnuts with Dads. This feedback will help the PTO Board as we plan future events. Congratulations to Ron Wolf, father of Sydney and Sadie Wolf, for winning the \$10 Best Buy gift card raffle prize.



The final proposed 2010 - 2011 budget will be presented to the PTO Board for approval during the June Board meeting and presented to the general membership during the September 2010 Principal's Coffee. Check out the school website in August to familiarize yourself with the proposed budget and to learn how the money is spent.

Your VOTE counts! Please attend the first Principal's Coffee in September to participate in the quorum vote



Check out Rockwood School District's approach to the current economic situation and learn of its financial plans for the future by reviewing the Rockwood Fiscal Responsibility page over the summer at <http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/aboutus/annualreport/Pages/FiscalResponsibility.aspx>.

Any questions? Call the RSD Finance Department at 636-938-2200.

SAVE THE DATE!



Next year's Back to School event will once again be an Ice Cream Social on

Thursday, August 12th but we've tried to make it easier for you and have consolidated the times & information so that you'll only have to hear things once!

Mark your calendars now:

- Grades 2 & 4 3:00 - 3:30
- Grades 1, 3, & 5 3:45 - 4:15
- Kindergarten 4:30 - 5:30

And stay tuned over the summer for more details!

Thanks

FIFTH GRADE NEWS!!!



A Huge Thank You to all of my room parents in 5th grade this year! It's been a great year, with more work to come. On May 27th, we will have new middle school children! Thanks also to all the 5th grade parents who have stepped forward to help out this last year of elementary school!

We still need parent volunteers to round out the year end activities. Those activities include: May 25th Recognition Ceremony and Reception, May 26th Riverchase of Fenton, and May 27th BBQ and Yearbook Party. Parent help is still needed for these activities! Please contact your teacher, room parent or me to volunteer...it can't be done without you!

Thanks again!
 Tammy Hardie
 5th Grade Room Parent Team Leader
 tammyhardie@charter.net



Mark Your Calendars!

May 3rd at 7pm ~ Strings Concert (gym)

May 14th ~ Springfield, IL Field Trip

May 25th at 1:45pm ~ Recognition Ceremony (gym) & Reception (cafe)

May 26th ~ Riverchase Gym & Swim Day

May 27th ~ BBQ Lunch for students

Be sure to check your weekly Tiger Folders for additional updates and information. Feel free to contact your teacher, room parent or Tammy Hardie with any questions. See you there!

BLOOMIN' THANKS! Jen Abbate



A huge thank you to Rachel Narsh and Amy Robinson's Brownie Troop #351 for our Spring School Clean Up! The troop worked very hard cleaning entry mats, picking up trash and leaves and planting pansies in all of our school flower pots. Thank you girls, our school looks fantastic. A Job well done!

1st Grade Daisy Troop #2988 recently planted daffodil bulbs at the school to help fulfill their "Protect a Natural Treasure" requirement. They, and we, are eager to see the yellow beauties pop up next Spring! Thank you girls!

A TIGER'S ROAR! Lisa McKenna & Jen Willis



Thank you so much to all for supporting your Ellisville Elementary School Store! We had a great year and can't wait for you to see all the great new merchandise we'll have next year! Also, thank you so much to our parent volunteers. We appreciate you being there for us and the students.

We are looking forward to a great year next year and can't wait to see you all in 2010- 2011. Be sure to stop by to see all of the new merchandise and, of course, the old favorites. Have a wonderful, safe summer and good luck & best wishes to the 5th graders moving on to Crestview!



We have several openings for committee & subcommittee chair and co-chair positions for the 2010 - 2011 school year. Many positions include work to be done from home, on your own schedule, or allow younger siblings to be included.

- Book Fair Co-Chair (Fall & Spring commitment)
- Fall Fundraiser Co-Chair (Fall)
- Tiger Folders Co-Chair (ongoing—requires technical skills)
- Fall Carnival Inflatables (day of Carnival)
- Fall Carnival Games (day of Carnival)
- Trivia Night Marketing (late fall/early winter—requires graphics skills; all work can be done from home!)

For more information or to learn about other volunteer opportunities, contact your PTO Parent Involvement Coordinator: Tammy Kirtser at geneandtam@aol.com or 636-273-5414.

DON'T MISS THE FINAL MARKET DAY SALE EVER AT ELLISVILLE ELEMENTARY!



Yes, it is the end of the school year and our final Market Day sale. Ellisville Elementary will not be hosting Market Day sales next year—so stock up while you can!

- **FREE 4-Pack 1/4 lb Burgers** with any \$50 purchase this month.
- **Great Items for the Grill**—hotdogs, burgers, chicken, steaks, kabobs, seafood, baby back ribs, pork, rubs...
- **Great Lunches and Snacks** for those hungry little ones that are out of school—snack packs, cheese sticks, sliced ham & turkey, sandwiches, prepared appetizers, pizzas...
- **East Sides, Vegetables and Desserts** to round out any meal.

Watch your child's Tiger Folder for complete details and order form.

Order Sheets Due: Tuesday, May 18th
Internet Orders Due: Thursday, May 20th by 11pm
Pickup Date: Wednesday, May 26th 4:00 - 5:30pm in the cafeteria

Thank you for supporting your Ellisville Elementary PTO though this fundraising event over the past years. We hope you have a wonderful summer. If you have any questions, please contact Janine White at 636-751-8966, tjvwhite@yahoo.com.



District News

May 2010



The Rockwood School District and the Drug-Free Coalition invite parents to be a part of the Neighborhood of Excellence award program. Earn distinction for your neighborhood by giving youth a voice in your community.

Children and teens who feel valued, connected and accountable are less likely to indulge in risky behaviors. Join us in an effort to empower youth and enable them to reach their potential.

- Register your neighborhood.
- Plan and implement your ideas.
- Share your success stories.

Working together, we can build relationships, provide youth with opportunities for growth, and make a difference in the Rockwood community.

For more information contact the Rockwood Drug-Free Coalition at 636-938-2363 or visit www.rockwoodcoalition.org.

Rockwood Relay for Life

Join your friends and neighbors:

American Cancer Society
Relay For Life for Rockwood
June 4, 2010 from 6 p.m. – 6 a.m.
Eureka High School

Bring your family to this districtwide event and be a part of our community's commitment to celebrate cancer survivors, to remember those who have battled the disease, and to fight back for a cure.

Eureka High is located at 4525 Highway 109. Find more information on the Web site:

www.relayforlife.org/rockwoodmo.

Thank you Rockwood Voters! Prop 5 Passes ~ What's Next?

Nearly 11,000 Rockwood voters endorsed a check for \$55 million when they approved Prop 5 during the April 6 elections. Here is what stakeholders can expect to see during the next two years of this bond issue cycle:

In June 2010, Rockwood's bond advisors will sell the bonds competitively. Since these are AAA bonds, they are very attractive. A list of prospective bidders is formed and the bidder with the lowest interest rate will be awarded the bonds.

Once the bonds are sold, Rockwood has the funds needed to begin working on the school project list with contractors.

Rockwood's construction management company works with the district's facilities department to plan and design the work; facilitate the competitive bidding process; and award contracts for the various projects.

A schedule for projects is being developed. You can follow the progress of the bond issue projects and see when they are completed by visiting this site: www.rockwood.k12.mo.us.

Administrative Center: 733-2000

On April 29, the Rockwood Administrative Center is replacing its aged phone system, which means the school district's main office will change its phone number to (636) 733.2000.

The district's central office and related departments located at 111 E. North Central will replace the aged/at capacity telephone and voice-mail system with Voice over IP technology that includes 911 service.

Rockwood patrons can find an updated directory of administrative staff at this location on the Web site: www.rockwood.k12.mo.us.



May 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Strings Concert 	4 Early Dismissal 12:47 PM	5 CCL Day 	6	7 Jog Jam 3rd Grade to Riverfront	8
<i>Teacher Appreciation Week</i>						
9	10 	11 Kindergarten Musical 	12 CCL Day School Nurse Day 	13 Principal's Coffee 9:30 AM Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon <i>Surf Into Summer Spirit Day</i>	14 Jog Jam 5th Grade to Springfield, IL	15
16	17 	18	19 CCL Day 	20 3rd Grade to Grant's Farm 	21 Elementary Track Meet @ MHS 	22
23	24 	25 5th Grade Recognition 1:45 PM 	26 Market Day Pick-up 5th Grade to Riverchase	27 Red, White & Blue Day Last Day of School	28 	29
30 	31 					