



O.W. Erlewine News

April 2015

Erlewine Eagles!
Phone: 228-5870

March-30-April 3 Spring Break

April:

April 14: PTA 6:00 Rm. 8

April 17: Earth Day Celebration at Erlewine 1:18-3:30

April 21: Site Council
6-29: State wide testing for grades 3-6

May:

12: PTA 6:00 Room 8

15: Jog A Thon

25: Holiday- No school

27: Open House and Science Fair

29-June 2: Eagle Store

June:

1-2 Eagle Buck Store

3: Early days begin

5: Promotion Dance

8: Awards Assemblies

9: Awards Assemblies

10: Play Day

Reminders:

- * Our office hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- * Students are not to arrive at school prior to 15 minutes before they are going to attend class unless they are having breakfast on campus.

Improving Comprehension

Comprehension is understanding what was read. If a child can read words but does not understand what is being read, it is really just word calling. The reading has no meaning to the child. So, it is important that you check your child's comprehension as he reads.

One thing you can do is teach your child to question himself while reading. For example: Who are the main characters? What is the problem? What is going on?

Also, encourage your child to predict what he thinks is going to happen next. When you are reading with your child, you can model making predictions them and then check to see if you are correct. Good readers are always predicting and revising their predictions based on what is read.

Good readers are able to summarize and retell what was read. So, ask your child to tell you about what he reads each day.

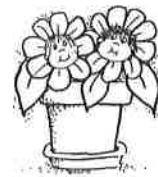
Earth Day Celebration

Please join us for a fun afternoon of planting, nature craft projects, games, and learning from experts from SMUD and Health Corps. There will even be a bike that you will be able to pedal your own smoothie.



Save the Date: Open House

Open House will take place on Wednesday, May 27 from 6:00 to 7:30. The 5th Grade classes will be selling Eagle Meals, hot dogs, chips and punch, for \$3.50 from 5:30 to 6:30. We hope that you can attend!



Chores Can Teach Your Child a Lot

If you have primary school-age children in your home, then you might want to teach them a lesson or two about money. One great way to do this is to assign your child chores and agree on a per-chores price that you will pay at the end of each week. Then make it your child's job to keep track of the chores he or she completes. You can help your child do this by coming up with a chores sheet with a tabulation column. Then have the child do the math and figure up how much you owe him or her at the end of the week.

Setting up this type of lesson can teach your child several things, including the value of work, the importance of math, and how to take care of personal finances.



Teacher Requests for the 2015-2016 School Year

Every year classrooms are made up by equally balancing different categories such as gender, ethnicity, behavior, academics, and special needs. This year all teacher requests must be turned in to the principal no later than April 24, 2015. Parent requests are considered, but all factors must be weighed when making up classes. Requests are not guaranteed.

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding staff at O.W. Erlewine!

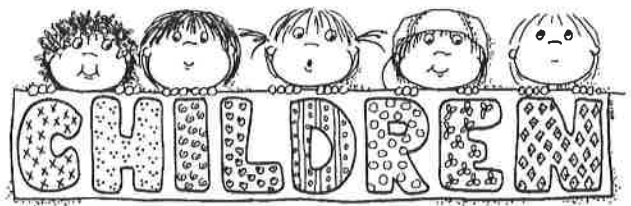
Library Night Hours

O.W. Erlewine's School Library is open every Thursday night for family use. The hours are from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Families may check out books, videos, and cassettes. Computers are also available for doing student research or working on the Reading Counts program.



PTA News

The PTA is looking for parents to help with our Eagle Buck Store (May 29-June 2) and Jog a Thon (May 15). The next PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 14 at 6:00 in room 8.

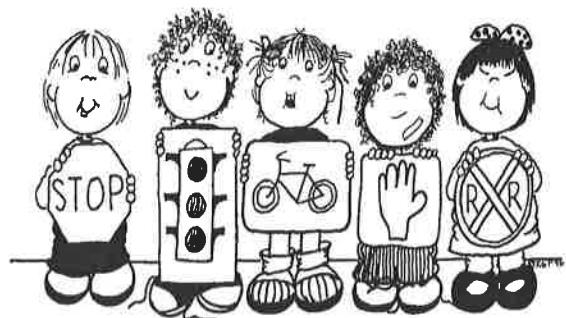


Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration for the 2015-16 school year is now taking place at the Serna Enrollment Center. Please bring your child's shot records, birth certificate and proof of your address (SMUD, PG&E, or Water Bill). Children who will be 5 years of age by September 1, 2015, are eligible to register. Please register your child as soon as possible.

Safety First!!!!

The speed limit on residential streets around our school is 25 m.p.h. During congested traffic times speed should be reduced and extreme caution observed. Both parents and staff have reported unsafe driving behavior during drop off and pick up of students. **Please remember that the safety of our students is first and foremost.** Please avoid U-turns, double parking, dropping off in the street, and opening car doors facing the street. Please also have your child use the crosswalk rather than running across the middle of the street.



Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

April 2015



O. W. Erlewine Elementary
Do Your Best! Reach Your Goal!

SHORT NOTES

Stretch your memory

Try this on-the-go game to sharpen your child's memory. Pick something you see out the car window, and describe it using one adjective. ("Red barn.") Your youngster repeats your words and adds another object with a different adjective. ("Red barn, big bulldozer.") Keep going until someone can't remember the list.

Pretend play

Imaginary play boosts creativity and lets children practice adult roles. Offer props that inspire your child to pretend, such as old clothes and shoes for dressing up or a chalkboard and chalk to play school. You could suggest ideas that will spark her imagination, too. ("How would you teach your favorite subject?")

DID YOU KNOW?

Asthma leads to more school absences than any other chronic condition—and spring allergies can trigger attacks. If your child has asthma, talk to his doctor about ways he can stay healthy. You might help him keep a diary of attacks, with the date, time, and weather, and what he was doing beforehand. Together, look for patterns to identify triggers.

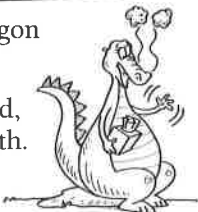
Worth quoting

"You cannot use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."
Maya Angelou

JUST FOR FUN

Q: How did the dragon burn his hand?

A: When he sneezed, he covered his mouth.



Develop strong communication skills

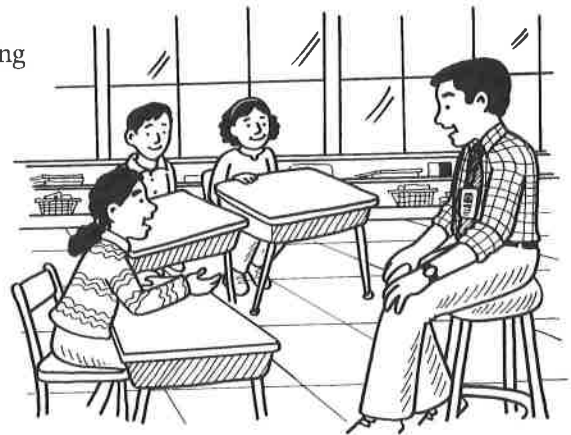
Whether your child is participating in a class discussion, chatting with a friend or relative, or answering a teacher's question, she'll need to be a good communicator. Here are strategies to try.

Get started

Good communicators know how to start a discussion and keep it going. Let your youngster ask you a yes-or-no question. ("Do you have a pet?") Then, tell her to pose an open-ended question—one that can't be answered with yes or no. ("Why do you think most people have dogs or cats rather than other pets?") She'll see how open-ended questions can lead to more interesting discussions.

Jump in

Your child can join a classroom discussion or everyday conversation by "piggy-backing." First, she should listen closely to what someone says. Then, she can build on it, adding her own ideas. For example, after a classmate speaks, she could say, "That's true. I was thinking..."



Or your child might restate in her own words what the person said and then share her idea or ask a follow-up question.

Explain reasoning

When your youngster expresses her thoughts, encourage her to back them up with facts or opinions. As she answers a teacher's question, she can refer to something she learned in class or read in a textbook to support her statement. If she's responding to a classmate during a discussion, she could say whether she agrees or disagrees and tell why.♥

Spring volunteering

It's not too late to be a parent volunteer! As the school year comes to a close, your youngster's teacher will appreciate a hand. Ask if she needs help with any of these tasks.

● Organizing or assisting with a class party.

You could email other parents, bring healthy snacks, plan games, or take photos.

● **Packing up the classroom.** The teacher may want someone to put books and supplies in boxes or to take down bulletin boards and other decorations.

● **Wrapping up projects.** There might be things you can do from home, such as binding student books or framing children's artwork.♥



Siblings who get along

Consider these two ideas for building bonds between your children. They'll gain friends for a lifetime—and life will be more pleasant for everyone now.

1. Be a team

Show your youngsters how much fun it can be to team up. Play board games in teams—kids vs. parents. Or consider getting a cooperative board game like *Race to the Treasure* or *Castle Panic*. You could also suggest that they collaborate on a project, such as building a birdhouse or creating a website.



2. Find common ground

Having shared hobbies gives siblings something to talk about and to do together. Notice activities that your children both like, and encourage them to enjoy them with each other. For instance, you might sign them up for cooking lessons, get

them new packages of trading cards to share, or send them out to play catch. *Tip:* Even though you might want to join in the fun, try to give them time alone to share their passions and build their relationship.♥

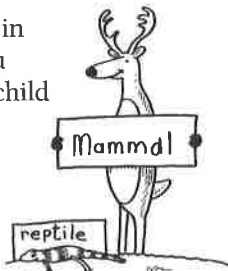


Explore nature

Observing the busy animals and blooming plant life during spring can help your youngster learn about and appreciate nature. Try these activities.

Classify animals.

Which creatures live in your area? When you spot one, have your child name it and say the category it belongs in. You may see frogs (amphibians), lizards (reptiles), robins (birds), deer (mammals), and butterflies (insects). Suggest that she draw and label pictures of the animals.



Chores: Good for everyone

Q: *I know it's a good idea to give children chores. But by the time I listen to my daughter complain and show her what to do, it seems easier just to do the work myself. Any advice?*

A: Chores are important because they teach responsibility and encourage your child to be a contributing member of the household. Initially, it may take extra time to have your daughter do chores, but once she gets into the habit, her will save you time.

Start by giving her jobs that she can feel confident about, such as clearing the table after meals or watering plants.

Once the chores become part of her daily routine, assign more challenging ones like vacuuming the car or mopping the kitchen floor. You'll have fewer tasks on your list, and she'll become more responsible.♥



Watch for blooms. Encourage your youngster to look for trees or flowers with closed buds, buds that are beginning to open, and blossoms. Talk about why some bloom before others. For example, they may get more or less sunlight, or they may have different rates of growth. Let her check back in a few days to see how the plants have changed.♥

A reading challenge

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. He'll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader. Share these suggestions:

- Provide context. Knowing something about the topic or setting will make a tougher book easier to comprehend. If your youngster is reading a novel set in China, he could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online (try a children's site like kids.nationalgeographic.com).

- Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject. A picture-book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your youngster better understand a textbook chapter on the civil rights movement, for instance.

- Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand. He can jot down questions, words to look up, or facts he wants to learn more about.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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March 26, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP, which has replaced the Standardized Testing and Reporting, or STAR Program, is the new state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career. This year, CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English-language arts and mathematics as well as paper-based tests for science.

Last year, most students participated in a computer-based field test. This practice run of the test, though no scores were provided, allowed students to experience computer-based testing and new types of questions. In addition, the field test also helped evaluate how well districts technology systems could meet the demands of computer-based tests, and determine what resources teachers and schools would need to better prepare students for future assessments.

Lessons learned from last year's field test will help ensure a successful, full launch of the CAASPP system this school year. In moving forward, students will take the test from April 6th to 29th. To learn about the types of questions on the computer-based test, you and your child can view the practice test online at the California Department of Education (CDE) Smarter Balanced Practice Test Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>.

Following the spring 2015 testing, students will receive individual score reports. Student score reports will be sent home to parents and will include an overall score, a description of the student's achievement level for English-language arts and mathematics, and other information. It is important to note that these scores cannot be compared to scores that your child previously received on the STAR Program tests because this test is based on the new Common Core State Standards, involves different types of test questions, and will not be reported using the STAR Program reporting categories.

If you would like more information, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE CAASPP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>.

Sincerely,

Terry Smith
Principal



Erlewine School needs your help!!!!

Erlewine is looking for new Site Council Board Members and P.T.A. Officers. Please nominate yourself for any of the positions below. Please return this form to the school office by Friday, March 27, 2015.

_____ I am interested in being on the Site Council Board. (Meetings are held approx. one time a month. This group deals with curriculum issues and budgets.)

_____ I am interested in running for P.T.A. President. (Duties include coordinating the work of officers and committees, presiding at meetings, having flyers/notices, newsletters approved by the principal before distribution.)

_____ I am interested in running for P.T.A. Secretary. (Duties include taking notes at all meetings, drafting letters and notices.)

_____ I am interested in running for P.T.A. Treasurer. (Duties include issuing checks, making deposits, balancing bank statement, submitting reports)

_____ I am interested in running for Ways and Means. (Duties include organizing fund raising events (cookie dough sales, jog-a-thon, holiday sales)

_____ I am interested in running for Membership. (Duties include keeping track of the membership drive and collecting dues.)

_____ I am interested in running for Room Rep. (Duties include organizing a parent representative for each classroom to help with cupcake sales, class parties, eagle buck sales schedule, etc.)

Please join our effort in making O. W. Erlewine the best school for our children. Become a board member of one of our committees or share your ideas at one of our monthly meetings. P.T.A. meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in Room 8 at 6:00 p.m. Site council meetings are held the third Tuesday of most months at 6:00 p.m. in Room 8.

Name: _____

Telephone # _____

Math+Science Connection

Intermediate Edition

Building Understanding and Excitement for Children

INFO BITS



Open-door angles

Doors in your house are the perfect place for hands-on practice with angles. Take turns opening or closing a door and asking, "Acute, right, or obtuse?" Partially open a door, and it's an acute angle. Open it straight out, and it's a right angle. Open it wider, and it's obtuse.

Habitat for rent

Help your child think about what animals need to survive (shelter, food, water). Then, have her choose an animal (monkey) and write a classified ad for a home that will meet its needs. *Example:* "Tall tree in a tropical rain forest. Large river nearby for drinking. Plenty of leaves, fruit, and insects to eat."

Book picks

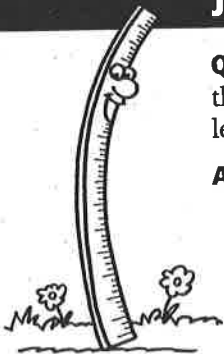
■ *The Man Who Counted: A Collection of Mathematical Adventures* (Malba Tahan) combines an adventure story with interesting math puzzles.

■ Learning about the solar system is fun when planets tell the story themselves. Dan Green's *Astronomy: Out of This World!* contains fascinating facts and details along with cartoon illustrations your youngster is sure to love.

Just for fun

Q: What has three feet but no legs or arms?

A: A yard.



Fractions of fun

Understanding fractions is much easier when your child can visualize them. Here are ideas to help her see—and use—fractions.

Keep a diary. Show her that fractions are a part of everyday life. For a week, have her record and illustrate each one she notices. For instance, she might write, "We had a half day of school today," or "Mom asked for $1\frac{1}{3}$ pounds of turkey at the store." How many examples can she find and draw?

Play a game. Have each player cut a sheet of construction paper into six horizontal strips. She should leave the first one whole and then cut the second one in half (fold it, and cut along the fold), and the others into thirds, fourths, sixths, and eighths. With bits of masking tape, label a die: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, and "wild." To play, roll the die, and lay the matching



piece of paper on your whole strip (for "wild," choose any piece). The goal is to be the first one to fill your strip without overlapping any pieces (*example:* $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = 1$ whole strip).

Put in order. Together, make a set of fraction cards, with one fraction per index card ($\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{4}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{3}{4}$, 2). Shuffle the cards, and see how quickly your youngster can put them in order. Then, while she closes her eyes, lay the cards in order but leave out a few. Give her the missing cards, and have her put them where they go. 📦

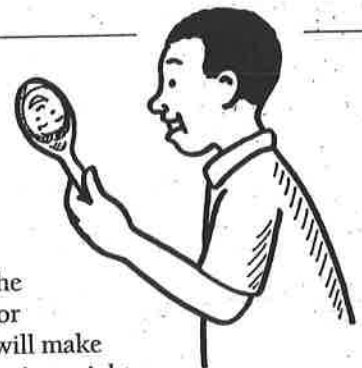
Look at me!

Help your youngster learn about the science of optics with this mealtime activity.

Have him look at himself in a clean spoon. What happens if he looks in the bowl of the spoon? (He's upside down.) What happens on the other side? (He's right side up.)

Next, have him bring his finger toward the spoon and watch what happens on each side. The bowl (the *concave* side) will magnify his finger, or make it look larger. The back (the *convex* side) will make his finger look smaller. Ask your child how scientists might use this information to make eyeglasses, cameras, or telescopes.

Tip: He can remember which side is which by thinking of concave as "caves in." 📦



Multiply and divide


Learning to multiply and divide can be more about *thinking* than memorizing. Strategies like these can help your child practice.

Make it fun

Practice using toys or food. If your child collects toy animals, you might ask, "How many legs do 4 horses have?" He can "skip count" the legs by 4s (4, 8, 12, 16) to see that $4 \times 4 = 16$. If he has 17 pretzels and wants to give 3 friends an equal amount, he can "deal them out." He'll see that each person gets 5, and there are 2 left over. ($17 \div 3 = 5$, remainder 2)



Use what you know


Encourage your youngster to look for clues to help him solve problems. For 8×7 , he could consider other facts he knows. "I know 4 groups of $7 = 28$. I need 8 groups, so I can double that answer. If $28 + 28 = 56$, then $8 \times 7 = 56$." For $30 \div 5$, he might say, "I know $10 \div 5 = 2$. There are three 10s in 30, and $3 \times 2 = 6$. So $30 \div 5$ must be 6." 

Q & A Ask math questions

Q: *I've never felt comfortable with math. How should I talk to my children about what they're learning in math class?*

A: Try to show enthusiasm for what your youngsters are doing in math. You might ask them each day at dinner or homework time what they studied in math that day. Let them explain the concepts they're working on, and follow up with questions. For instance, if they're learning about decimals, you could ask how decimal points are used in money (they separate the parts of a dollar from the whole dollar).




Then, when your children finish their homework, have them show you how they solved a few problems. As they explain their methods to you, they'll be reinforcing their own skills. And they'll be proud to be teaching you something! 

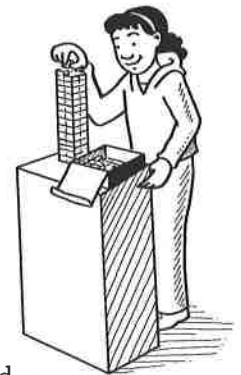
MATH CORNER

Find, build, compute

What do a shoebox, book, and refrigerator have in common? They are all rectangular prisms, or solid shapes with rectangles for their faces (sides). Encourage your child to explore geometry with this common shape.

Volume. Let her build a rectangular prism out of dice, sugar cubes, or same-sized Legos. Her model should be solid, with no hidden spaces. When she finishes, have her figure out the volume (count the cubes along the height, width, and length, and multiply the three numbers together). To check her math, she can take apart her structure and count all the cubes.

Dimensions. Give your youngster 36 blocks, and see how many different sizes of rectangular prisms she can build. Have her record dimensions of each one. *Examples:* $2 \times 2 \times 9$ and $2 \times 3 \times 6$. What do the sets have in common? (Each product equals 36.) 



SCIENCE LAB

Save your breath


Your youngster can inflate a balloon without using his breath. A chemical reaction will do the job for him!

You'll need: empty plastic soda bottle (20 fl. oz.), $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water, 1 tsp. baking soda, uninflated balloon, lemon juice

Here's how: Have your child add the water and baking soda to the bottle, close the cap, and swirl it around until the water is cloudy. Then, help him stretch out the

balloon and place the opening over the top of the bottle, leaving a small space. He should very quickly add a little lemon juice, seal the balloon completely over the bottle, and shake lightly.

What happens? The balloon inflates.

Why? When you mix an acid (lemon juice) with a base (baking soda), they create carbon dioxide. The molecules spread out as the gas forms, pushing against the walls of the balloon and causing it to inflate. 



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