



O.W. Erlewine News

January 2016

Erlewine Eagles!
Phone: 228-5870

January:

- 1: No school
- 2: 4- School re-
sumes
- 14: Family Night:
Topic—Social Emo-
tional Learning
- 18: No school—Martin
Luther Kings BD.
- 27: Winter Read for
parents
- 29: Wear a sweat
suit



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.

Child Safety

Parents, your children's safety starts with you. Like any other area of their life, they must be trained and made aware. Talking to children about certain dangers makes many adults uneasy. By educating your children you give them confidence because they will know right from wrong and they'll know how to respond.

There are three basic rules: "Say No", "Get Away", and "Tell Someone". These three basics can be applied to almost any situation your child may encounter. Encourage your children to listen to their intuition. Explain that intuition is the feeling they get inside that tells them something's wrong. Then, when they think something isn't right, they can say no, get away, and tell someone.

Feeling Blue? It's Time for an Act of Kindness

If life is getting you down, and you're wondering what the point of all the madness is, it might be time for a quick fix. A sure way to change negative feelings is to set your sights on somebody else.

Pick a person and make him/her the recipient of a random act of kindness. Small acts often work wonders. Pay a compliment, offer help to someone struggling with some work, or give an inexpensive gift or treat. You'll lift your own spirits as well as the other person's.

How to Set Goals

Setting goals is important, but setting good goals is what really counts. What is a good goal? A good goal has several definable characteristics:

- It's specifically focused.
- It's neither too hard, nor too easy.
- It's shared and agreed upon with others who will be working on it.
- It's written down and visualized.
- Have you asked your child what their goal is for their second trimester?



New Year's Resolutions

As the new year begins you may want to consider some new year's resolutions to enhance your children's education.

1. Attendance and prompt arrival to school.
2. Homework done daily and turned in on time.
3. Read daily and record on your log.
4. Eat healthy and get a good night sleep.
5. Be kind to others.
6. Work on your student goal every-day for 10 minutes.

Talk About a Book!

No matter what age your students are, they can enjoy talking about books. For the youngest elementary students, consider talking about a book before you read it to them, or they read it to you. Look at the cover's illustration and ask what they think the story may be about before they begin reading. With more mature students, point out the name of the author and illustrator on the jacket and confirm that students understand what each one contributes to the finished product. You also could lead into an educational lesson on how this particular book was acquired--from tree to paper to author and illustrator to publisher to marketing, all prior to reading the story.

After the story is read, ask a few simple, entertaining questions to check the accuracy of students' comprehension. Once they have answered basic questions to your satisfaction, press on for a more detailed study of the contents or characters with complex, stimulating questions. Encourage children to re-read their favorite part of the book and explain why that particular passage is of interest to them. Ask them to show you an illustration that appeals to their individual senses then lead the conversation into an accompanying lesson focusing on art and artists. Select another book and compare the various artistic styles and media used by the two books. If the student continues to talk, continue to teach through light conversation. When you share your enjoyment in reading and talking about books, students will benefit from subconsciously absorbing important lessons.



School Lunches

The cafeteria would like all prepaid lunch money to be brought to the school office. If you are paying by check, please be sure your child's name and room number are on the check. If you are paying with cash, place the money in an envelope with your child's name and room number on the outside of the envelope. Thank you!



Target Cards

Parents please remember to keep using your Target Card to support our school. Target Cards are good at any Target store or online, in any state so enroll as many families, friends, or neighbors as you can. The more we enroll, the more we earn. If you have any questions, please call the office at 228-5870. Also, if you use a TARGET charge card, please remember to designate us as your school. To designate a school call TARGET at 1-800-659-2396 or go to www.target.com/tcoe. Our school ID is 34921. They donate 1% of all purchases made. Invite family and friends to also enroll. Thank you for your support!!!

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

January 2016



SHORT NOTES

Resolution: Success!

This year, have your child make resolutions that will motivate him to do his best in school. For instance, he could pick a subject to improve in or a challenging book series to read. Encourage him to draw a picture of himself meeting his goal and share the drawing with his teacher.

Hands-on history

Let your youngster take white paper and an unwrapped crayon on a walk around town. She can place the paper over engravings on historical markers or plaques and rub lightly with the side of the crayon. At home, suggest that she write a caption for each rubbing to tell a "local history" story.

Sick time

When your child is sick, notify the school as soon as possible that he will be absent. Then, follow school policy about how long he must be symptom-free before he may return to class. *Note:* He could ask a sibling or friend to bring home his work. Or when he goes back, he can talk to his teacher about making up the work.

Worth quoting

"Every time you tear a leaf off a calendar, you present a new place for new ideas and progress." *Charles Kettering*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Can you name three consecutive days without saying *Sunday, Wednesday, or Friday?*

A: Yes! Yesterday, today, and tomorrow.



The three Cs of group work

Three kindergartners work together on a mural in art class. Several fifth graders discuss a novel they read in reading group. No matter how old your child is, being able to communicate, collaborate, and compromise is important when she works with others. Consider these ways to practice at home.

Communication

Group members communicate better when one person speaks at a time. Let your youngster create a "talking stick" by covering a ruler with aluminum foil or decorating a paper towel tube. During a family discussion, pass the stick around—only the person holding it may speak. This will remind your child to wait her turn and listen to what others say.

Collaboration

Show your youngster that when people combine ideas, they often come up with new or better ones. Pretend you're a restaurant marketing team in charge of designing a pizza or burger. Start by looking at menus for interesting twists (barbecue pizza, burger with fried egg), and create something differ-



ent (blue cheese pizza, Caesar burger). Then, work together to make your new menu item for dinner.

Compromise

When group members disagree on a topic for their presentation or on who will take what role, it's important to compromise. That means stating what you would prefer—and what alternatives you're willing to accept. Your child can try this at home when your family makes a decision. For example, maybe one sibling wants to go sledding while another would prefer ice skating. They could agree to sled first—but the one who wanted to ice skate gets to choose the hill they'll sled on.♥

Keep track of progress

By staying on top of how your youngster does in school, you can support his achievements and nip any problems in the bud. Try these strategies.

● **Go over papers.** Look at each graded assignment your child brings home. This is an easy way to see what he's doing well and what he needs to work on.

● **Use electronic tools.** If the school posts grades online, check them regularly.

● **Communicate with the teacher.** Contact her if your youngster says a subject is difficult or brings home low grades. You could ask about ways to help him.♥

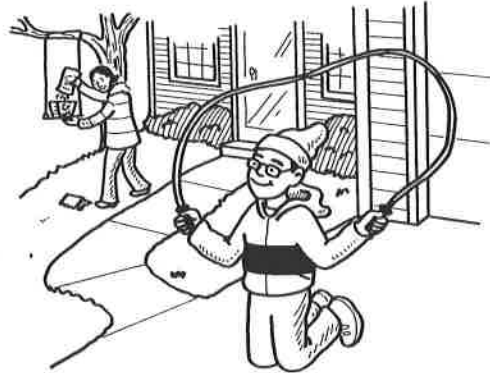


Behavior “mysteries”

Is your youngster's behavior sometimes baffling? Here are solutions to common scenarios parents face.

My child behaves in school but acts out at home. Your youngster probably feels more relaxed at home and can let his guard down more with you. Rest assured this is normal. Remind him of the consequences for misbehaving at home, and follow through when he acts out. (And be glad that your child behaves at school!)

After school, my youngster doesn't want to talk about his day or start homework. Your child may be



struggling to switch out of “school mode.” Try giving him a break first—he may appreciate a few minutes to unwind, just as some adults do after work. Suggest a snack and exercise, such as riding his bike or jumping rope.

My child only obeys me when I raise my voice. If your youngster knows he has

to do what you ask only when you shout, he'll probably wait for your raised voice before he listens. Tell him that you'll ask nicely once, and after that, there will be a consequence for not listening.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Experiment with evergreens

Your child may wonder why some trees stay green throughout the year (*evergreens*) and others lose their leaves (*deciduous*). With this activity, she can find out.

Let your youngster cut out two green construction-paper “leaves” and sprinkle them lightly with water. She should wrap one in waxed paper and lay both leaves in the sun for at least two hours. What happens? (The bare leaf stays dry, but the protected one remains moist.)



The science: A deciduous tree loses water through its leaves' tiny pores, so it gets rid of the leaves to conserve water in harsh weather. But evergreen leaves have a waxy *cuticle*, or covering, kind of like the waxed paper that protected your child's paper leaf. This coating keeps the water from evaporating, so leaves can remain on the tree through the winter.♥



Q & A

Spell-check pitfalls

Q: My daughter says spelling is no big deal because we have spell-check and autocorrect. How can I convince her that spelling still matters?

A: Spell-check and autocorrect are handy tools. But they're not foolproof, and they're not always available.

When your child writes a school report, sit with her while she runs spell-check. Together, look for examples of mistakes caused by relying on the computer. This often happens with homophones (*it's* and *its*, *you're* and *your*), for instance. She'll need to know the difference to use the correct word.

Also, help her think of situations where she won't have spell-check or autocorrect, such as taking a test or using special software that doesn't include the feature. And if she can't spell a word, she may not recognize it when she reads, which can interfere with her comprehension.

Finally, point out that if she studies her spelling words, thinks carefully about how words are spelled, and proofreads her work, she'll find that the best spell-check is in her own head!♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Helpful strategies for ADHD

My fourth-grader, Ryan, has ADHD, and he often loses books and papers and forgets to turn in assignments or to bring home slips for me to sign.

I talked to a fellow PTA parent whose oldest son has ADHD. She said her son puts sticky-note reminders everywhere—on his desk and binders and beside the front door. He also does better in school if he gets 11 hours

of sleep, about two hours more than his siblings need.

I got colorful pads of sticky notes for Ryan, and he came up with a system for color-coding his reminders. Also, we are moving up his bedtime by a few minutes each night until we notice a difference. I know Ryan

will still forget things from time to time, but it's helpful to know that we have strategies to try.♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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