



O.W. Erlewine News

November
2015

www.erlewine.scusd.edu
Phone: 228-5870
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Dates to Remember:

November:

10: PTA Meeting 6:00 in Room 8

6: Family Dance

11: Veteran's Day no school

14: Garden Day

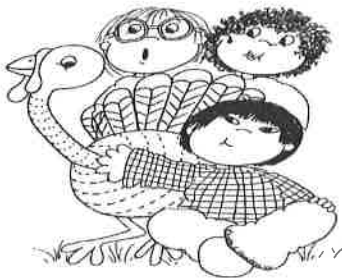
19-20: Rm 12 Angel Island

20: Crazy Sock Day

23-27: Thanksgiving break

30-December 8: Parent Conferences

This month's core value word is *Common Sense*. Please discuss this word with your children.



Reminders:

- * Our office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30p.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.

Parent Conferences Nov. 30th-Dec. 8th

The end of this month your child should be bringing home a letter from their teacher about a parent conference. Please make every effort to schedule and attend your parent conference, as this is an important means of staying informed about your child's progress in school.

In keeping with our school district's interest in making greater use of test data to maximize student learning, your child's teacher will be sharing the following test data pertaining to your child at the parent conference:

1. Reading Scores
2. Math assessment tests
3. Common Core Standards
4. Behavior

Kindergarten—No change

First grade—8:00 to 12:00

Second grade—8:00 to 12:00

Third grade—8:00 to 12:00

Fourth, Fifth, & Sixth—8:00 to 12:10

Lunch will be served as usual in our cafeteria following the above times.

Safety First!!!!

Parents, Please do not double park when letting your children out for school. It is very dangerous having children run between the cars. Please pull over next to the sidewalk so they can walk in safely.

Please also remember that the speed limit is 25 miles per hour around our school.



Kids Can Drive

Kids Can will begin October 12-November 13.

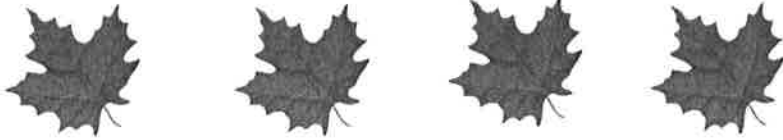
Please bring your cans to your child's classroom.

The Following are Kids Can Most Needed Food Items:

Canned fruits/vegetables, canned and dry soups, canned tuna, chicken, ham, ready-to-eat spaghetti, ravioli, pork and beans, stew, refried beans, dry rice, pasta, beans, macaroni and cheese, pancake mix, fruit cups, Cream of wheat, Quaker Oats, peanut butter and jelly, and baby food.

Thank you for your donations!



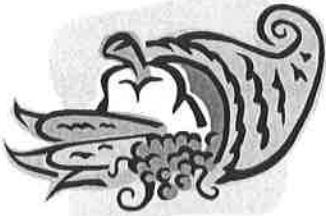


Parent to Parent: Cell Phones

Like most people I know, I tended to pull out my phone frequently to check email, text friends, or look at Facebook. One day, my daughter surprised me by complaining that I was "always" on my phone.

I realized that she was right and that my phone was distracting me from conversations with her and the rest of the family. Not only was this impolite, but it kept me from really hearing things they said to me. Plus, it occurred to me that when she gets a phone, I won't want her on it all the time.

Now I'm more aware of my phone use. I make sure to leave it in my pocket when we're out and to check it only occasionally at home. I'm hoping that she sees that she's much more important than my phone, which is, of course the truth!



Medication on Campus

If your child needs to take over the counter medication or a prescription, a medication form filled out by the doctor and parent must be completed. This form is available in the school office. All medication must be in the container that it is purchased in. This includes cough drops, ibuprofen, and cold medication. It must be delivered straight to the office and given to Terry, Stephanie, or Melissa. You can have the doctor fax the form back to us at 228-5872.



Library News!

Our school library is open every Thursday night from 6:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. Families may check out books, tapes, CD ROMs and videos. Computers are also available for use during these hours. Mrs. Nelson is available to help you find and check out books. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality family time together and encourage reading. The library is located in Room 8 on





O.W. Erlewine P.T.A. News

Thank you to everyone who became a member of our P.T.A. during our September-October Membership Drive. There is still time to join our P.T.A. membership is \$7.00.



The P.T.A. would like to thank all of those who participated in our Holiday Fundraiser. It was a great success!

Thank you also to everyone who helped with our Eagle Buck Store. We couldn't run the store without our volunteers.

The P.T.A. would like to wish all of our Erlewine Families and Friends a Happy Thanksgiving!



OUR SCHOOL IS PARTICIPATING IN THE
GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Box Tops for Education earns money for our school. Each Box Top coupon is worth ten cents. Our school can earn hundreds of dollars from this program. Hundreds of everyday products you purchase have the Box Tops for Education coupon on them: Various Cereals, Pillsbury products, Yoplait yogurts, Betty Crocker products, Fruit Snacks, Zip Lock Baggies, Kleenex Boxes and more. Save the Box Top coupons in your baggie or envelope. Send them to school with your children to turn into the classroom teacher or the school office. Please be sure to add your child's name to the front of the baggie or envelope. Thank You!

How can I help my child?

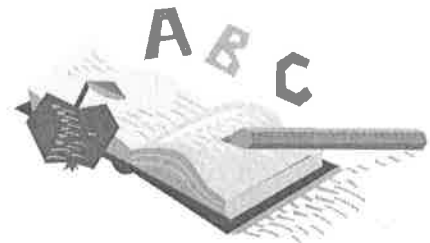
When helping your child with math skills:

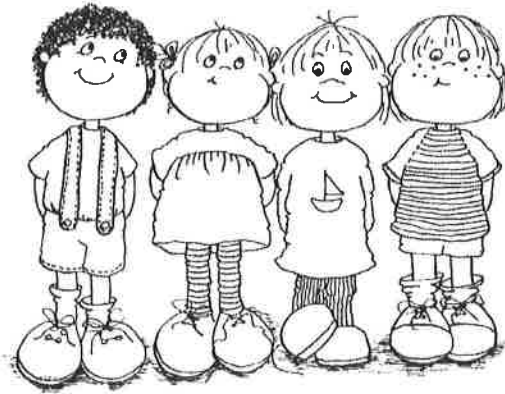
- Make sure your child knows and understands the math vocabulary. Have him/her define the new terms or use examples to demonstrate understanding.
- Encourage neat writing. Many errors are due to sloppy number writing.
- Drill basic math facts. Use flash cards until your child can answer in fewer than 3 seconds.
- Teach your child to read word problems several times. Cross out what is not needed.
- Have your child explain the steps they did to figure out the final answer.
- Make it fun! Play games such as dominoes.

Attendance

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please call our 24 hour attendance line at 228-5714.

If he/she will be absent for more than a day, you may want to call and have your child's teacher prepare a make-up packet. Please call for this service by 12:00p.m. and pick up no later than 3:30 from the school office. If your child will miss more than one week, please let us know so that we can prepare an individual study packet for your child.





Kids don't always behave as adults would like. Here are some rules to keep in mind to improve your relationship with your child while you improve her behavior:

1. Change misbehavior by setting positive goals.
2. Say what you mean ... and mean what you say.
3. Involve your child in solving problems.
4. Talk less; do more.
5. Ask what happened to cause misbehavior. Don't tell your child what you think happened.
6. Make clear what you want. Praise your child when she does it.
7. Impose logical consequences for misbehavior. For example, if your child can't get ready in the morning, she'll have to go to bed earlier.
8. Give choices—but be sure you can live with both options.
9. Focus on what's good about your child and expect her best.
10. Show your love.

Home & School

CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success

November 2015



SHORT NOTES

Take good notes

Help your youngster practice note taking with this idea. During a family discussion, appoint him as secretary. Explain that he doesn't have to write every word that's said, and he can use abbreviations and symbols. Instead of "We are going to Katie's chorus concert on Friday at 7 p.m.," he could write, "Katie's chorus Fri @ 7."

Dress for the weather

Your child will enjoy winter recess more—and get more exercise—if she's warm enough. Plan ahead by making sure she has a winter coat, mittens or gloves, a hat, and boots. *Note:* If your family needs assistance getting these items, let the school counselor know, and she may be able to help.

Make your own audio books

Would your youngster like a collection of audio books? Encourage him to record himself reading favorite stories aloud. He can practice using expression by trying a different voice for the narrator and for each character. Then, he'll be able to play back the recordings whenever he wants to listen.

Worth quoting

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." B.B. King

JUST FOR FUN

Q: When you lose something, why do you always find it in the last place you looked?

A: Because once you find it, you stop looking!



Parent-teacher conference FAQ

Whether this will be your first parent-teacher conference or you've already been to several, these answers to common questions will help you get the most out of your meeting.

Q: What should we expect at a typical conference?

A: The teacher will tell you what your child does well, show you work samples, and go over any problems. She may also explain how she's helping your child and suggest things to try at home. Plus, you can share information about your youngster.

Q: How can I prepare for our meeting?

A: It's helpful to write down questions ahead of time. You could ask about schoolwork, your child's behavior, and how she gets along with others. Also, include anything your youngster wants you to discuss.

Q: My child isn't having problems in school. Do I still need to attend the conference?

A: Yes! A conference lets you talk one-on-one with your youngster's teacher and hear how your child is doing. And



it strengthens your relationship with the teacher so it will be easier to reach out to her in the future.

Q: I'm nervous about going into the school and talking to the teacher. How can I feel more comfortable?

A: Keep in mind that the teacher wants you to be her partner in your child's education. Knowing that you are welcome—and needed—may help you feel confident. Arrive early so you're not rushed, and arrange child care (perhaps swap with another parent) so you can talk without distractions.♥

Explain your math thinking

"I know that $3 \times 26 = 78$ because 3 quarters = 75 cents, plus 3 more pennies = 78 cents!" When your youngster explains how he solved a math problem, it helps the process become more automatic for him. Encourage him with these ideas.

Talk. Let your child hear you do math out loud when you calculate a tip or estimate how long a car trip will take. He'll discover different ways of solving problems and learn that math thinking is an important part of everyday life.

Listen. When your youngster finishes his math homework, pick a random problem, and ask him to explain how he figured it out. Talking it through will deepen his understanding of math concepts—and it may help him correct any errors or find a more efficient method.♥



Steps to project success

School is full of projects, from science experiments to social studies reports and more. No matter what kind of project your youngster has, these steps can help him do his best.

1. Pick a topic. Your child will enjoy his project and learn more if his topic interests him. If the teacher assigns a project about the Middle Ages, a Lego fanatic could build a castle to use in his presentation, for instance.

2. Do research. Encourage your youngster to become an expert on his topic, whether he's experimenting with simple machines or researching state history. He should do this by



reading various sources, such as nonfiction books, textbook chapters, magazine articles, and websites.

3. Make visuals “pop.”

A bright background in his rain forest diorama or a colorful bar graph on his science project poster will catch his teacher's eye. But visuals must also be neat and accurate—for example, he wouldn't include an elephant in his rain forest.

4. Review and rehearse. Have your child look over his project carefully to make sure he addressed all the requirements. If he has to present it to the class, let him practice in front of you so he'll work out the kinks and feel confident.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER



My name, your name

Your child's name is a big part of her identity. Encourage her to explore it with these activities that help her learn about culture, history, and geography:

- Tell your youngster the story of her name—why and how you chose it. Perhaps she is named after a relative or the name is important in your religion. Then, let her look it up in a baby-name book or online.



- Have your child research relatives' and classmates' names. She will discover what the names mean and what countries they're from. Together, find the countries on a map.

- Visit ssa.gov/oact/babynames to see the most popular baby names by year. For example, John and Mary were number one a century ago, while last year it was Noah and Emma. Build thinking skills by asking “Why do certain names become popular?” or “Why do you think Noah and Emma are most common now?”♥

Q & A

In control of fears

Q: I have twin girls. Suddenly, one is scared of storms, and the other is afraid of dogs. What should I do?

A: Fears are normal for kids—typical ones include bugs, the dark, and doctors, as well as storms and dogs. The good news is that most childhood fears go away over time. Try talking to your girls about their fears and coming up with strategies so they feel more in control.

With your daughter who fears storms, discuss ways your family prepares for weather emergencies. Then, let her do a specific task like gathering flashlights and placing one in each room.

You could have your other twin check out library books about dogs. Often, being more knowledgeable about something can make it less frightening.

Note: If either girl's anxiety interferes with sleep or schoolwork, talk to her doctor.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

A bowl full of thanks

As we were discussing our Thanksgiving plans, my son Bradley remembered our tradition of going around the table and saying what we're thankful for. Then he asked a good question: Why do we only talk about being thankful one day a year?

His question led to what we hope will become a new year-round tradition. Once a week before dinner, we each get a slip of paper and write one thing that made us feel thankful

that week, such as a delicious lunch or seeing an old friend. We put the slips in a bowl. Then, we take turns pulling out a slip and reading it aloud—and everyone tries to guess who wrote it.

We have only done this twice so far, but Bradley said that now he regularly thinks about what he's thankful for so he has something to share at dinner. And it's fun to guess why others are thankful!♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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