

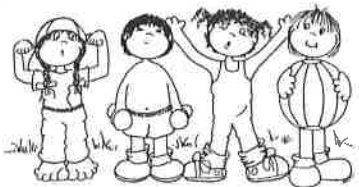


# O.W. Erlewine News

April 2016

**Erlewine Eagles!**  
Phone: 228-5870

- April:  
 Every Friday is Spirit Day. Remember to wear purple.  
 7 and 8: Eagle Store  
 13: Book Fair and Taco Truck  
 19: Possible Site Council Meeting at 6:00  
 20: Twins Day. Wear matching out fits.



Remember to bring only healthy snacks to school. Students may not have chips or sweets during their morning recess. Students may bring fruit, vegetables, or a granola bar.

### 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 with 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 Friday, April 22

Please join us for a fun afternoon of planting, nature craft projects, games, and learning. There will even be a bike that you will be able to pedal your own smoothie. It will take place from 1:18-3:30. Students not in START or 4th R must come with an adult.

## 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-chose 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 2016-2017 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 29, 2016. 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!

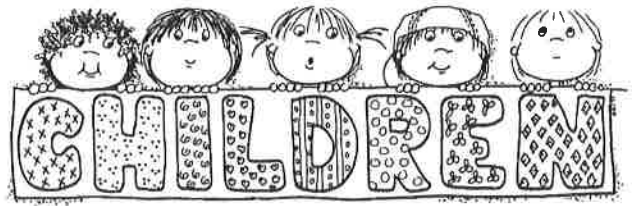
## Library Night Hours

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 (April 7 and 8), the Book Fair (April 13), and the Jog a Thon (May 20). Please call the office if you can help out.

The next PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 in room 8. Nominations for offices will take place at that meeting.

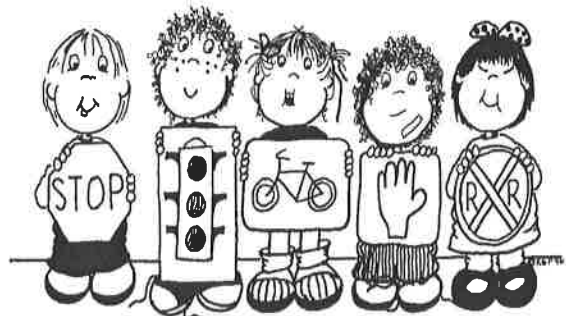


## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration for the 2016-17 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, 2016 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

## CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

April 2016

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



### SHORT NOTES

#### Solve the mystery

When your youngster reads a mystery, encourage her to pretend she's the detective. Can she solve the case before the book ends? Suggest that she jot down clues as she goes and try to predict the solution. She'll practice comprehension skills that will make her a better reader—and she'll enjoy the story more.

#### Treasure traditions

Every family has traditions, even if you don't realize that's what they are. Talk about activities you do regularly, such as eating a special brunch on birthdays or taking a walk on the first day of spring. Then, tell your child about traditions you remember from childhood. Your youngster may discover one he wants to try.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

About 10 percent of 12-year-olds say they've had alcohol at least once—a percentage that increases sharply in older kids. Help prevent your child from sampling alcohol now by making sure she knows it's illegal and may make her sick. Also tell her that people who start drinking before age 15 are more likely to develop alcohol problems than those who wait.

#### Worth quoting

"I would like to paint the way a bird sings." *Claude Monet*

### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** How many peaches grow on a tree?

**A:** All of them.



## Build background knowledge

Everyday activities, conversations, and outings have something in common: They can boost your youngster's *background knowledge*. This collection of information will help him to understand and analyze material in school. Consider these tips.

#### Experiences

Give your child opportunities to touch and handle new things. For instance, if you use a garlic press or a Phillips screwdriver, tell him what it's called, and teach him how to use it. Show him how you check the oil in your car or sew a button on a shirt, and let him try. He'll learn how things work and gain new vocabulary.

#### Conversations

When you have company, invite your youngster to participate in the grown-ups' discussions sometimes. He will learn about the world by listening to adults talk about current events, their jobs, or their daily lives. And if your guests are from a different cultural



background, he may also pick up information about their language or customs.

#### Field trips

A visit to the post office, the grocery store, or even a dentist's office can turn into a field trip. Before you go, help your child list questions he might ask or find answers to. *Examples:* "What's the newest stamp you have?" or "What does an eggplant look like?" Also seek out new or unusual places to visit, like a yarn store, garden center, or tack shop.♥

## How to prepare for IEP meetings

If your child has an IEP (Individualized Education Program), here is advice for the next meeting you attend to review and update her plan:

- You're an important part of the IEP team, so plan to share information and ideas. Write up a summary of your youngster's strengths and needs. Also, list questions you have, such as "How many students will be in her small group?" or "How will you help her calm down if she's upset?"

- If possible, take a spouse, relative, or friend with you. There may be a lot of people around the table, so having a support person could make you feel more confident.

- Have a positive attitude. Remember that every member of the team has the same goal: to help your child do her best.♥



# Bullying: Know the facts

Teaching your child about bullying can help her handle it better if she sees it and also make her less likely to bully others. Share these facts.

### Verbal bullying is more common.

Teasing and threatening happen more often than physical bullying like hitting or shoving. If your child is bullied verbally or physically, she should tell a grown-up right away.



**Bystanders make a difference.** Studies show that more than half of bullying incidents stop when a bystander steps in. Have your youngster think of things she could say if a classmate is being bullied. (“Want to play with me?” “Let’s go sit over there.”)

### Excluding others can be bullying, too.

When a child urges other kids not to be friends with someone, that’s bullying. Encourage your youngster to be kind to everyone and not to exclude others. She might say something like, “I decide who I’m friends with.”♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

### A family history quilt

Youngsters love hearing about relatives’ childhoods. Making this “quilt” together can teach your child about his family’s past.

1. Give each person an 8" x 8" square of poster board. Your youngster could mail squares to out-of-town relatives.
2. Ask everyone to draw a favorite childhood memory on one side. *Examples:* cooking with Grandma, a trip to the state fair. On the other side, they should write about the memories. (“While Grandma and I made chicken parmi-giana, she would tell me about growing up in her little village in Italy.”)
3. Help your child arrange the squares into a quilt and connect them with clear tape.
4. Use the quilt to enjoy your family’s history. You might take turns picking a square and talking about the memory, or make a family time line based on the squares.♥



## Q & A

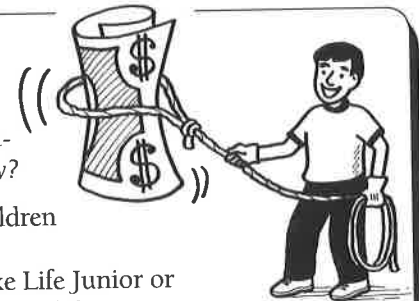
### Money managers

**Q:** We can’t afford to give our son an allowance. How else can we help him manage money and get off on the right foot financially?

**A:** Games and books are ideal for teaching children to make decisions about money.

Choose board games that involve money like Life Junior or Payday. When it’s your turn, talk about the financial decisions you make. (“I’m going to save money instead of borrowing more because I don’t want to pay interest.”)

Also, read stories with financial literacy themes and nonfiction books on the topic. Ask a librarian for suggestions, or try books like *Sam and the Lucky Money* (Karen Chinn) or *The Everything Kids’ Money Book* (Brette McWhorter Sember). Encourage your youngster to retell the stories or “teach you” the information. He’ll show what he learned about how to spend wisely or pay bills.♥



### Learn to take initiative

Do you want your child to do chores or fill out her reading log without being asked? Teachers and employers value initiative, too. Here are ways to help your youngster become a self-starter.

do. You could say, “Do you have everything you need for school?” instead of “Don’t forget your backpack.” Try this regularly, and you may find her asking herself the same questions!

#### Write a list

Making her own list can inspire your child to take initiative. Suggest she check off each item as she completes it—she’ll see how good it feels to accomplish everything on her list.

#### Recognize progress

When your child takes out the trash or starts homework without a reminder, point out that she’s showing initiative. Tell her how helpful it is that you didn’t need to prompt her, and she will be more likely to repeat the behavior in the future.♥



#### Ask questions

Rather than telling your youngster what to do, ask about what she should

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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