



# O.W. Erlewine News

**Erlewine Eagles!**  
Phone: 395-4660

December dates:

- 1-9 Parent Conferences
- 1-9 Shortened day schedule for grades 1-6:
- 1st-3rd 8:00-12:05
- 4th-6th 8:00-1:07
- All students must be

## Holiday Family Fun Night

Dec. 14

Book Fair 5:00-7:30 in room 19

Holiday Activities 6:15-8:00

Santa elves will arrive at 6:30

Santa will arrive at 6:45-8:00

Chick-fil-A sandwiches will be sold.

### Reminders:

- \* Our office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 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.

## The Gift of Time

During the holiday season, it is very easy to get caught up in all the hustle and bustle of this time of year. It is very important that we not forget to spend enough time with our children. Be sure to take time every day to listen to your children. This will let them know you care about them and also allow you to learn about what is on their mind.

This is also the time when you can learn about what they are interested in and maybe develop common interests. These interests will form the bonds that will keep you together during their adolescence years and into adulthood. As you do your holiday shopping, you might wish to consider gifts that will help promote the development of those interests.

## Kids Can!!!

Thank you for helping feed the hungry families in our community by sending in a can or non-perishable food item. We appreciate your help in teaching our students about being involved in community service.

## 14 Ways to Show Kids They Count

1. Listen to a child
2. Read a book to a child
3. Teach children nonviolent ways to resolve conflict
4. Promote youth leadership.
5. Be a mentor
6. Support successful children's programs.
7. Educate yourself about issues facing children.
8. Encourage your employer to support family-friendly policies at the work place
9. Work to ensure safe schools and neighborhoods.
10. Praise a child for a job well done.
11. Use positive discipline rather than physical punishment.
12. Teach your children to understand consequences of their actions.
13. Tell your kids you love them through words and actions.
14. Be a good role model.

Source: Wisconsin Council on Children and Families



## Safety First!

Dear Parents,

We are having traffic problems around the school drop off areas. Please follow the safety rules so that everyone one will be safe and calm.

Please **do not**:

- A. double park to let your students out of your car to attend school.
- B. do U-Turns in front of other cars.

Please:

- A. have your children use the crosswalks.
- B. go the speed limit.
- C. come to a complete stop at the stop signs.
- D. have your child wear a helmet if they ride their bike.



## Erlewine Box Tops

Our school is participating in the General Mills Box Tops for Education program. You can help us earn cash for our school every time you shop for groceries. All you have to do is clip the box top coupons from hundreds of your favorite products found at your local grocery store. Each coupon is worth ten cents when our school redeems them from General Mills.

Some of the products include: Pillsbury products, Yoplait yogurt, various cereals, Betty Crocker products, Nature Valley bars, Hamburger or Chicken Helper' dinners, and many others.

Please send these box tops with your children and have them turn them in to their classroom teacher or the school office. Students will receive Eagle Bucks for their box tops. Thank you!



## Socks and Undies Drive

We will be collecting new socks and underwear for needy students in our school district. This drive will run from now to December 23. Please bring your donation to the school office or your child's classroom.

## Book Fair

The book fair will be open the following days and times:

Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 2:00-3:00

Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 5:00-7:30

Thursday, Dec. 15 from 5:00-6:00

## Snacks

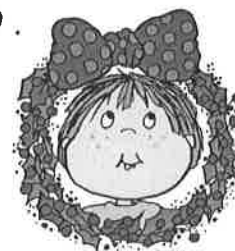
Please send only healthy snacks to school. Students will not be allowed to take out desserts or chips at recess time.

## P.T.A News

Holiday greetings from the P.T.A.!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Holiday Fundraiser. Thank you also to everyone who helped with the Family Dance.

Don't forget to attend the Holiday Family Fun Night to be held on December 14th in the cafeteria from 6:15 to 8:00p.m. Santa and his elves will be there. We will also be having a Scholastic Book Fair from 4:30-8:00 in room 19 .



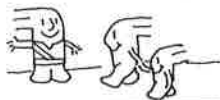
# Home & School

## CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

December 2016

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



### SHORT NOTES

#### Weather emergency kit

Let your youngster help you prepare for winter emergencies. Brainstorm what you might need if the power goes out or if you're stuck inside during a snowstorm. *Examples:* Flashlights, batteries, bottled water, canned goods, first aid kit. Together, put the items in a box and find a safe place to keep it.

#### Thinking games

Stretch your child's thinking skills by playing Fortunately, Unfortunately. One person states a good event ("Fortunately, all the stoplights have been green"). The next player says a silly, but related, "bad" event ("Unfortunately, the law changed, and green means Stop"). Continue until you get stuck—then start over.

#### Your child's digital footprint

It's tempting to post cute pictures of your youngster or tell funny parenting stories on social media—but first consider his feelings. And since his online trail will stick with him forever, think about how he'll feel when he's older. Get his permission before posting, or let him decide who will be able to see it (say, only relatives).

#### Worth quoting

"Wishing to be friends is quick work, but friendship is a slow-ripening fruit." *Aristotle*

### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Why did the girl wear one mitten and one boot?

**A:** Because she heard there was a 50 percent chance of snow.



## Connect reading and writing

Reading will make your child a better writer—and vice versa. That's good news, because both will help her do well in every subject. Here are ways she can explore the link between reading and writing.

#### Try genres

Introduce your youngster to a wide variety of books, from fairy tales and science fiction to graphic novels and biographies. Reading different genres will give her more options to think about—suggest that she branch out and try writing in one of those new genres.

#### Collect "gems"

Have your child keep a notebook of her favorite parts of stories. She could choose interesting words or lines. She'll get in the habit of paying close attention



to the language that writers use, which will give her ideas for her own writing.

#### Review books

Your youngster could be a budding book critic and write reviews about what she reads. She'll practice opinion writing and deepen her reading comprehension as she summarizes the plot. Encourage her to include details and quotes from the book to back up her opinions. ("The main character showed empathy when he said, 'I know what it's like to be the new kid in school.'")♥

### Volunteer success

Whether you're volunteering in your youngster's school or from home, consider these tips.

**Contact the teacher.** Let him know you'd like to help, tell him when you're available, and find out what he needs.

**Follow the rules.** Ask questions if you're not sure what's expected. For instance, are home-baked goods acceptable, or do treats have to be store-bought and sealed, with ingredients listed? Are younger siblings allowed to come along? What are the guidelines for keeping student information confidential?

**Enjoy the experience!** Volunteering is rewarding for parents, teachers, and students. Know that you're making a difference, and talk to your child about how you're helping out.♥



## A dependable child

Kyle's parents count on him to walk his little sister home from school. And Jamal's parents know he'll remember to set the table without being asked. These parents are raising dependable youngsters—and you can, too, with these suggestions:

- Talk to your child about who depends on you. You could say, "My company relies on me to be on time, so I have to leave for work now." Your youngster will see that being dependable is a part of life.



- When you need your child to do something, let him know you're counting on him. He'll be likely to meet your expectations if you say something like "I know I can depend on you to feed the dog."

- Show your youngster how good it feels to follow through when someone is relying on him. You might have him sign up to

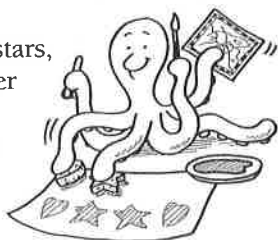
work with a student who is learning English or who needs extra help with math. Use encouraging comments such as, "I know Julian looks forward to seeing you every day," or "I bet David is learning a lot from you."♥

### ACTIVITY CORNER

## DIY wrapping paper

Let your child design homemade wrapping paper—and show thoughtfulness by personalizing each person's package. Try these ideas.

**Sponge stamps.** Help your youngster cut apart large brown paper bags. Then, she could cut sponges into stars, hearts, or other shapes, and dip them into paint. Suggest that she stamp them onto the paper in a pattern (heart, star, star, heart, star, star).



**"Mapping" paper.** Have an old atlas? Your child might cut out maps and tape them together to make sheets of wrapping paper. If she's sending a gift to a relative in another state or country, she could select a map of that place.

**Artwork.** Who wouldn't love to receive your youngster's original artwork? Ask her to wrap a few gifts in her own paintings or sketches.♥

## Navigating group projects

Learning to work on assignments as a group is an important part of school. Share this advice for helping your youngster succeed with projects and presentations.

### Get input

Everyone in the group should give input. Your child might get quieter members to express their opinions by asking, "Which format do you like for our presentation?"

### List duties

At the first meeting, one person can write and distribute a list of responsibilities, including due dates for each task. That way, everyone will remember what they're supposed to do.

### Update each other

During follow-up meetings, group members should give updates on their progress and brainstorm solutions to any problems. If anyone is falling behind, other members could offer support or ideas.♥



## Q & A Be your own "CEO"

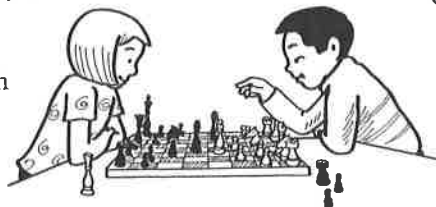
**Q:** I've been hearing a lot lately about executive function skills. What are they, and should I be helping my son work on them?

**A:** These skills let your child manage himself, like an executive overseeing the operations of a company or an air-traffic controller directing flights for landing. A student with good executive function skills is able to juggle tasks, plan

ahead, stay organized, and make decisions about his actions.

You could help your son sharpen these skills with strategy games. For example, chess is ideal because players must plan several moves in advance and consider multiple possibilities. Or try 20

Questions, since players have to keep in mind answers to all previous questions as they decide what to ask next.♥



### OUR PURPOSE

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

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