



# O.W. Erlewine News

March 2016

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

March 2016:  
8: PTA 6:00 Room 8  
11-18: Parent Conferences  
Shortened days  
17: Family Reading Night  
6:15 in the cafeteria  
29: Award Assemblies  
30: Award Assemblies



## 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!

## Statewide Testing

Our statewide testing this year will take place from April 4 through April 29. Please do not schedule doctor or dentist appointments during school hours in this window of days.

Only grades 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th will be taking the test.

During this time, please make sure your child gets to bed on time and eats a good breakfast before they come to school. Please encourage your child to "Do their best and reach their Goal!"

## Awards Assemblies

We will be holding our second trimester awards assemblies on March 29 and 30.

Remember to bring your cameras to catch this precious moment!  
Tuesday, March 29:

- 8:10- Room 1 and 2
- 8:45-Rooms 3,4, and 15
- 9:30- Room 9 and 7

Wednesday, March 30th:

- 8:10-Rooms 11, 14 and 16
- 8:45- Rooms 6, 10 and 12

## Erlewine's Values (Character Education) word for the month is Responsibility

### 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.



## PTA News

Thank you to everyone who helped with our last Eagle Buck Store. We couldn't do it without your help!

Our next PTA meeting will be held on March 8th at 6:00.



### 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, photo id. and proof of your address ( SMUD, PG&E, or Water Bill). Children must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2016, to be eligible to register. There are no waivers, this is a state law. Please register your child as soon as possible.

## P.T.A. and Site Council Elections

If you are interested in being on our P.T.A. Board or Site Council Board, please call the school office or be sure to fill out the flier that will be coming home soon in your child's purple folder.

P.T.A. meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. We are looking for people to run in these positions: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, Room Parent Representative and Ways and Means (fundraisers).

Site Council will be electing three primary parents and two intermediate parents. Site Council addresses curriculum, programs, and consolidated funding. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month if needed.

## Responsible for Myself

Who can John count on to make sure his school-work gets turned in? John! That's because his parents taught him that he's responsible for his own learning and for the choices he makes. Consider this advice for raising a responsible youngster.

**Learning:** It's up to your child to listen to his teacher and complete assignments she gives him. Ask him to think of other ways he could take responsibility as a student. He might say he should bring home school library books for a project or let you know if he is struggling with math.

**Decisions:** If your youngster makes a mistake, encourage him to own up to it. Kids sometimes get into the habit of blaming others. ("Indoor Frisbee was her idea?") You'll help him see the connection between his decision and the consequence by saying something like, "You decided to take your sister's advice, and you broke a vase." Tip: When he does admit responsibility for a mistake, try not to get angry. Instead, as, "What did you learn from this?"

## Our School Library

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.

## Pennies for Patients

Erlewine students will be participating in Pennies for Patients. This fundraiser collects money for those with leukemia and lymphoma. Students in room 17 and Ms. Bartlett will be heading up this fundraiser. The fundraiser will take place from Feb. 22nd to March 11. Thank you for supporting our community fund raiser. Remember, every penny counts!

**Remember to bring a healthy snack to school!**

## O.W. Erlewine Student Study Team



### **Purpose:**

The Student Study Team (SST) is a school-based process to review individual student needs. It is a solution focused team which analyzes current data regarding the student and makes recommendations for additional instructional strategies or interventions to support the student in the general education classroom.

### **Process:**

An SST can be requested by any member of the educational team, including the parent. Parents may request an SST meeting by putting the request in writing to the principal. A meeting will be set and parents will be notified of the date by mail. Two meetings (one primary and one intermediate) are held every other Thursday on a first come, first serve basis. A teacher may request a SST by meeting with the teacher the child had the previous year, the principal or another grade level teacher. Teachers must also fill out the intervention paperwork and turn it in to the principal.

The SST team can or may be comprised of the principal, teacher, nurse, resource teacher, language, speech and hearing specialist, and school psychologist.

The SST process is a fluid one where intervention strategies are recommended, implemented for an extended period of time (6-8 weeks), and reviewed by the team in a follow-up SST meeting. Data is collected so that analysis of progress can be reviewed over time.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRAL PROCESS INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS (IEP)**

A referral for a special education evaluation occurs only after all interventions within the general education program have been exhausted. Special education programs for eligible students consist of specially designed instruction to meet the students' individual needs. Students receiving special education must meet federal and state guidelines for eligibility.

A parent, teacher or other concerned party may refer a student for special education. A written request for evaluation must accompany the request for special education testing. Once a request has been made in writing, the IEP team has 15 days to either act on the request for assessment by holding an SST and recommending appropriate interventions or by providing the parent with an assessment plan which outlines the assessment for the student. If appropriate interventions are recommended at the SST, the parent shall rescind their request for assessment in writing and the SST recommendations will be implemented and evaluated for effectiveness.

Once the parent or legal guardian has signed the assessment plan, there is a 60 day timeline for the team to conduct and complete the assessments and hold the Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting. The IEP team will review the results of the assessments, consider strengths and concerns and determine if the student is eligible for special education services. Appropriate goals and objectives in areas of need will be developed and a special education program recommendation will be made. If the student is placed in special education, the IEP and student's progress will be reviewed at least annually by the IEP team.

# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

March 2016

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



## SHORT NOTES

### Car chats

If you carpool, your child's conversations with the other kids can shed light on what's happening at school or with activities. Later, use what you heard to start a conversation. ("You mentioned something about a new science club. Is that an activity you'd be interested in?")

### Double-check homework

Looking over completed assignments carefully will help your youngster turn in her best work. She should check for skipped questions and math errors like adding numbers instead of subtracting them. Suggest that she pay attention to mistakes she often makes. Then, she could write reminders ("Put my name on my paper!") to post in her homework area.

### Which group am I in?

As your child gets older, you may notice him placing more emphasis on how he fits in with peers. Explain that it's natural for youngsters to form groups, but it's nice to be friends with a wide variety of people. For example, he might have friends in class, friends from soccer, and neighborhood friends.

### Worth quoting

"You can observe a lot just by watching." Yogi Berra

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

**A:** Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump!



## In real life: Beyond screen time

Today's children—and parents—are spending more and more time in front of computers, tablets, smartphones, and TVs. And that means fewer opportunities to interact as a family. Try these steps for cutting back on screen time and increasing the amount of time you enjoy together.

### 1. Track habits

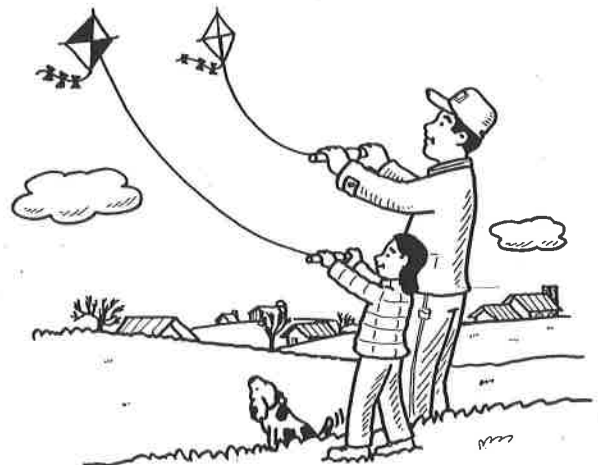
A little screen time here and there really adds up. For one week, have each person carry a small notebook to log usage. Every bit counts—your youngster might write "Music video on laptop, four minutes," and you could write "Facebook on phone, two minutes."

### 2. Set ground rules

Share your logs to see how you spent your screen time. Then, come up with rules to help you cut back, and ask your child to write them down. Her rules might include doing homework first, turning off screens an hour before bed, and not using devices in the car. A whole-family rule could be no screens during meals.

### 3. Brainstorm alternatives

Together, think of screen-free activities for home and on the go. *Examples:* Fly kites, play hangman on restaurant napkins, read aloud to each other from magazines in the doctor's office. *Tip:* Post the list. Have your child refer to it regularly—and add ideas to it, too.♥



## RE + MANIA


Encourage your youngster to explore word parts and sounds by making his own rebuses, or puzzles that use pictures, symbols, and letters to represent words and phrases.

Take turns making rebuses for each other to figure out. For instance:



 +  = tree house

 +  + U = I love you

Suggest that your youngster say words aloud to get ideas. He will hear word parts that may help, such as *arrow* in *wheelbarrow*:

 + B + →

Mention that he can subtract letters, too! What does he think this one means?

 - s + 

Answer: unlock



# How to talk about report cards

Report cards are one way that teachers communicate with parents about how their youngsters are doing. Use these ideas to discuss grades with your child.

**Start out positive.** First, ask your youngster to tell you about his report card. Have him show you something he is proud of, such as maintaining a good grade in writing or bringing up his social studies mark. Then, point out something positive you noticed.



but his effort grade went up. He'll appreciate hearing, "You're really trying in math. Keep up the good work."

*Note:* Avoid paying your child or giving him prizes for grades. Instead, help him focus on the built-in rewards of doing his best. ("Your reading grade improved—soon you'll be able to read that new series you saw at the library!")♥



## Q & A Understanding state tests

**Q:** My daughter will be taking "performance-based" tests this month. What are these, and how can I help her prepare?

**A:** These tests ask students to perform tasks based on information they're given. For instance, your daughter may have to read a graph, answer questions about it, and then create her own graph. Or she might need to read two nonfiction articles on the same topic and compare the facts in them.



The best way for your child to prepare is by working hard in school each day and by reading regularly for pleasure. If the teacher sends home a test review packet or a practice test, look it over together when your youngster has finished—this will give both of you an idea of what to expect.♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER Pin the magnet on the map

Where in the world is Iceland? How about South Africa? This version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey will help your youngster learn locations on a map.

Hang a world map on the refrigerator, and stand with your backs to it. One person names a continent or an ocean. Each player takes a turn closing her eyes, spinning around, and trying to place a refrigerator magnet on the correct location. *Variation:* Call out countries or states, and have players "pin" small sticky notes onto them.

Who came the closest? Let your child use a length of string or a ruler to measure the distance from each person's magnet to the place. Older students could use the map's scale to calculate how many miles away it is. The person who wins that round picks the next spot.♥



## PARENT TO PARENT Parent volunteering: A first-time experience

I recently changed to the second shift at work, and the first thing my son Tony said was that now I could be a classroom volunteer like some of his friends' parents. I figured it was too late in the year, but I sent a note to the teacher anyway. I was glad when he called and said he'd love to have my help.

It turns out that my ability to speak Spanish and my sewing skills have come

in handy. First, I worked with a group of Spanish-speaking students who are learning English. Now I'm sewing costumes for the class play.

Mr. Brown told me that even if my hours at work change again, he has ways for me to lend a hand. Tony was happy to see me at school, and he and his classmates are excited about wearing the costumes in the play.♥



### OUR PURPOSE

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

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ISSN 1540-5621