

EAGLE EXPRESS

Phone: 413 423-3326

Internet – <http://www.erving.com>



Saturday – December 10

Erving Recreation sponsored Holiday Party
see attached flyer

Wednesday & Friday – December 14 & 16
Holiday Bazaar

Friday – December 16

Turkey Raffle
see attached flyer

Monday – December 19

School Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm

Tuesday – December 20

School Council Meeting – 3:30 pm

Wednesday- December 21

“Savings Makes Cents”

Friday – December 23

Holiday Concert/Cookie Exchange – 10:00 am
School Dismissal – 12:15 pm

Monday-Monday – December 26-January 2

No School – Holiday Vacation

Tuesday – January 3

Welcome Back!
Students return to school!

Holiday Bazaar

Wednesday, December 14 and
Friday, December 16
(See notice sent home Friday, December 9)

Reminder

If you purchased a gift for the Giving Tree
please return it to the office by
Friday, December 16th.

Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed to help
with our Cookie Exchange on
Friday, December 23rd. If you
are interested, please
contact the school office at
423-3326.

Turkey Raffle

We will be raffling gift certificates
for a 15 lb. turkey from Diemand
Farm. We will have 3 drawings and
the lucky winners will be drawn on
Friday, December 16th.



Tickets are still available, please contact the
school office at 423-3326 if you would like more
tickets

**Tickets are due no later than Thursday,
December 15th.**

LOST AND FOUND



We urge you to stop in
and check the lost and
found for items that
students may be missing. We will
be donating the lost and found items
to charity on December 23rd.



News from the Principal's Desk:

Dear Families and Friends of Erving Elementary School,

Thank you for turning out in record numbers during our three days of conferences to discuss the progress of your child. As you can imagine, the conference meetings are an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the areas in which your child is doing well, may need additional support, and how we as a team (student, parent/guardian, teacher) will plan for continued growth during the coming months. I am sure that you have sat down with your child and talked about their conference, maybe even going as far as to make plans to use the coming vacation time to keep up their good work. The holiday season generally brings with it an increased amount of unstructured time for children. I would like to suggest that part of this unstructured time be devoted to reading a book. We often hear our children talk about the shows and movies they watch on TV. I have attached a 'Dear Parents' article to the newsletter. The article discusses the affect of media (TV) on child development. I have four children, and often ask myself, did I take note of some of the things they were exposed to? Now that would be an interesting conversation, especially over the turkey dinner!

On December 23rd, we get to celebrate our Winter Concert and Cookie Exchange. With departure scheduled for 12:15pm, please notify the school in advance if you plan on dismissing your child prior to lunch. Early notification will help us plan sufficient lunches without wasting valued resources. The form will be sent home again on the 16th.

Lisa Bartlett-Nuttelman, Laura George, Ben Rubin and I attended a Leading Together workshop last Friday. During the workshop we were given time to reflect on the poem "Mindful" by Mary Oliver, (attached to this newsletter). After taking the time to read the poem and reflecting for a couple of minutes, we were each asked to speak about what 'kills me with delight'. I have to say that every single day at Erving Elementary School 'kills me with delight'. Seeing the children bound into school, laughing, excited, eager to share their time with each other. Family members stopping in the hallway to greet each other, and genuinely happy their child attends such a beautiful school. This week I had the opportunity to experience some special 'delights' with guests. One guest, Superintendent Jennifer Haggerty is familiar to staff and students. How many times do you get to see a superintendent being told by a preschool student to "sit" in the middle of the hallway and read a book together? As Ben patted the floor, Jennifer immediately sat down and promptly started reading the book to the student. Oh for a camera, the delight in the face of the student, and our superintendent. On Thursday we received a visiting principal and teacher from a school system in Vermont. They heard great things about our school and wanted to find out the special ingredients. I was so very proud when they exclaimed, " Erving has such a warm, caring, and respectful culture, no wonder the students are relaxed, successful, and engaged in their own education". Our community supports this culture by providing for the education of every child. At this time of the year I would like to thank every member of the Erving community for filling our small world with delight.

Stay warm over the weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Sincerely,



Jim Trill

News from the Fifth Grade

The students from 5th grade are selling raffle calendars until Friday, December 23. The cost of the calendar is \$5.00 and all proceeds go to the fifth grade classes. Thank you for your support!

Erving Elementary School Cancellations and Delays

In the event of a school cancellation or delay, in addition to radio and television news stations, automated phone calls will be sent to your home and/or cell phone. If you have a question about a school closing, but have not received a call, use one of these other options:

Please note: Erving Elementary School is part of Erving School Union #28. School closings, delayed openings, or early dismissals can be found under School Union #28 or Erving Union #28 and not under Erving Elementary School.

Radio Stations:

Greenfield WHAI – 98.3 fm WPVQ – 95.3 fm
Northampton WHMP – 96.9 fm WRSI – 93.9 fm
Orange WJDF – 97.3 fm
Springfield KIX 100.9 fm

Television stations:

WWLP – Channel 22 – www.wwlp.com
WGGB – Channel 40 – www.wggb.com

News from After School:

It's been an amazing Conference Week here at After School! We've been having fun playing with our regular After School friends as well as spending time with new students who joined us for Conference Week. We have been busy making toothpick people, creating our own marble mazes, designing tissue paper nightlights and much, much more!

After School would like to extend a giant THANK YOU to all those who have been making very generous donations to our program, both monetarily and with craft items. We are very grateful and have put the funds and new materials towards lots of new and exciting projects. Your continued support is always appreciated!

New in 2017! After School is excited to announce that several new programs will be starting in the new year including a brand new Martial Arts class with Josh Hodges. Registration forms and additional details coming soon.

Come join the Erving Rec event on Saturday, December 10th to meet the instructor and learn more about the class and this form of martial arts!

After School is now collecting recipes for our upcoming Cookbook Fundraiser (to be released in 2017). Please submit your favorite family recipe by Friday, January 13, 2017. Thank you in advance and happy cooking!

Cleaning out your closets in time to prepare for the holidays? If so, donate your unwanted items to After School! We love games, arts and crafts and would especially welcome fabric and non-stitch-able fabric adhesive.

Here's are the highlights for next week:

Monday, 12/5: Glow-in-the-Dark Sand Art
Tuesday, 12/6: STEM Experiment: Dissolving Candy Canes
Wednesday, 12/7: Human Letter Game
Thursday, 12/8: Paper Christmas Trees
Friday, 12/9: Decorate Your Own Ornament

REMINDER: At After School, we love outdoor play! Please be sure your student is well-equipped for the snow and cold weather with multiple pairs of gloves, snow pants, hats, etc. We all thank you advance for sending them to After School with the proper winter gear.

See you at After School!

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

WHO IS WATCHING THE WEATHER?

The Superintendent and school administrators carefully watch the weather conditions during the snow season.

WHERE DO THEY GET THEIR INFORMATION?

Our school district staff listens to the weather forecasts. The Superintendent of Schools and Town Road Superintendent test the road conditions on our bus routes. We also contact the local police about road conditions. We must give careful consideration to the most dangerous bus routes in the district. So, even if it looks clear on your street, dangerous conditions may exist in other parts of our district.

WHAT FACTORS ARE CONSIDERED WHEN MAKING THE DECISION TO CLOSE SCHOOL?

The safety of all district children is our primary concern in making our decision. In deciding whether children will be safe, we look at the following factors:

- Information on road conditions from the town's superintendent of roads and from the police, including whether roads are icy
- Time snow starts and the amount of snow
- Weather predictions
- Building conditions (e.g. whether we have power and heat)
- Parking lot conditions
- Temperature and wind-chill

WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and recommendations from the road crews and police.

WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

The Superintendent must make the decision at the earliest possible time so that radio and TV stations can be notified.

HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?

Radio is the official medium for notifying all students and parents as to whether or not schools are closed because of weather conditions. Tune to the following stations for up-to-date information on school closings. Do not call the school unless it has an emergency weather extension.

WHAI (98.3 fm) - Greenfield

WPVQ (95.3 fm) – Greenfield

WJDF (97.3 fm) – Orange

WGAW (1340 am)(wgaw1340.com) – Gardner

WHMP (96.9 fm) & WRSI (93.9 fm) Northampton

KIX (100.9 fm) - Springfield

WWLP Channel 22 –www.wwlp.com

WGGB Channel 40 – www.wggb.com

NECN www.necn.com/weather/school-closings

WHAT IS THE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY?

The safety of your child is first and foremost! The Union #28 school district covers an enormous amount of geography with many terrain variations. Conditions can change suddenly. **On days of questionable weather, you are empowered as a parent to make decisions on what is best for your child.**

Dear parents,

During school vacations children watch more TV and see more movies than usual. We thought it might be helpful for you to understand how this media affects your children and be useful to you as you make decisions about what is appropriate.

Super heroes, TV Violence, and Power Play : the impact on learning

" Children need symbols of power and gender in their play for specific developmental reasons. As children work on the issue of psychological separation they feel vulnerable and want to identify with characters that are in control and invincible. As they get into preschool years, children are initiating more and learning to stand up and get what they need for themselves. They're very interested in intrusive and powerful characters that succeed in their endeavors. Feeling very fearful at times, young children want to identify with characters that can always 'beat the bad guys.' And, as children develop a sense of what it is to be male and female, they become very attached to 'exaggerated symbols' of masculinity and femininity. For these reasons, children are often attracted to super hero and fashion doll characters." Miller Austin, Ed.D, Psychologist and Parent Educator, "Beyond Barbie and Batman"

Understanding children's need for control and power in their play helps to explain many of their interests. The challenge is to find activities and materials to satisfy those interests without encouraging play that is hurtful and disrespectful. Unfortunately the TV and movie industry also understand children's interests in powerful characters and reaps enormous profits from satisfying that need. Unfortunately no responsibility is taken by the industry to consider the impact on children's emotional and psychological health. Consequently this is a very important role for parents who must give careful consideration to TV and movie exposure.

When considering your child's TV and movie experiences, consider the process that is required for your child to *understand* violent experiences and images. It is a process that absorbs energy, detracting from your child's critical learning time. First, your child views something violent or scary, resulting in intense feelings of fear and anxiety. Second, your child must try to understand what happened in these experiences in order to get rid of these intense and stressful feelings. Third, because children can only understand things by concretely experiencing them, your child must use these violent and scary ideas in his or her play in order to express these feelings and explore the resulting confusion. Fourth, your child repeats these themes over and over, often appearing to be almost obsessive about certain characters or actions because the themes have overloaded his or her sensitivities and capacity to understand. (Adults often misinterpret this as the child liking this character.) In addition, your child may now believe the best way to solve problems is to do it physically, as the violent characters do. Finally, the constant processing of these TV and movie experiences is now wasting time and energy needed for learning to relate positively to others. It is important for parents to take a thoughtful role in selecting children's TV and movie experiences. Every family must decide what nonviolent and non sexist values they want to encourage when deciding what is appropriate. Also children's reactions to TV and movies varies. Some children have such intense reactions that you could describe them as " allergic ", even limited exposure to violent images creates a reaction. Some children appear to have no interest in violent themes. When considering your child's tolerance, it is important to look not only for the obvious ' acting out ' of these themes, but also for more subtle anxiety and/or behavior problems. TV and movies provide tempting entertainment that can give parents a needed break. However, if the content is not carefully selected, the effect of this content can cause a great deal of long-term stress for the parent as well as the child. The result can be a child who is distracted from learning and may experience social difficulties - a high price for a few minutes of peace and quiet.

Mindful

Every day

I see or hear
something
that more or less

kills me

with delight,
that leaves me
like a needle

in the haystack
of light.

It was what I was born for—
to look, to listen,

to lose myself

inside this soft world—
to instruct myself
over and over

in joy,

and acclamation.

Nor am I talking
about the exceptional,

the fearful, the dreadful,

the very extravagant—

but of the ordinary,

the common, the very drab,

the daily presentations.

Oh, good scholar,
I say to myself,
how can you help


but grow wise

with such teachings
as these—
the untrimmable light

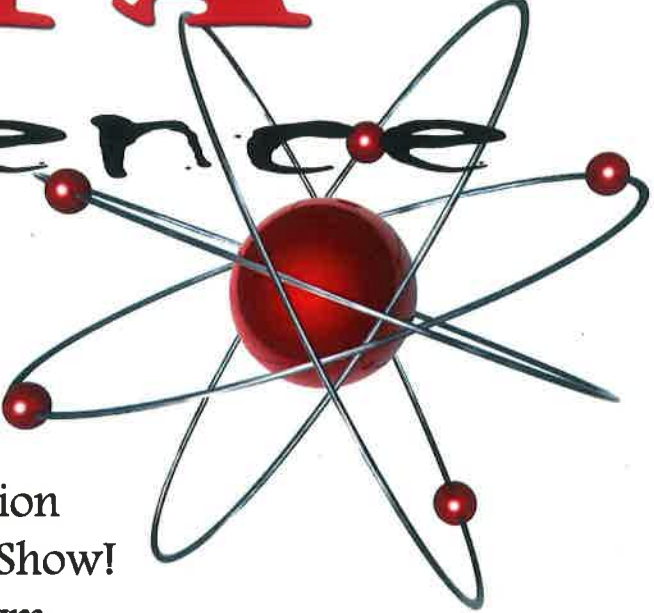
of the world,

the ocean's shine,
the prayers that are made
out of grass?

—Mary Oliver,
Why I Wake Early, 2005



SANTA & Science



DECEMBER 10, 2016

Join the Erving Recreation Commission
for the **Mad Science Holidaze** Show!
At the Erving Elementary School Gym
INDOOR FIREWORKS, DRY ICE AND MUCH MORE!!



Come early for a Karate demonstration
by Josh Hodges and to learn about
our new Karate program starting in January.

Stay after the show for Holiday snacks
and goodies and a photo op with Santa!



9:30 Karate

10:00 Mad Science

11:00 Santa



Erving Elementary School Turkey Raffle

Erving Elementary School is having a Turkey Raffle!

We will be raffling off 3 gift certificates, each for a 15 lb. turkey from Diemand Farm. All proceeds from our raffle will help to support educational activities at Erving Elementary.

Attached please find 6 raffle tickets for you to buy or sell. Just fill out the tickets with the name and telephone number of the person buying the ticket and return them to the school with the money.

Ticket Price: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

Please contact the school at 413-423-3326 if you would like additional tickets.

Tickets need to be returned to the school no later than Thursday, December 15th.

Three winning tickets will be drawn on Friday, December 16th.

A special thank you to Don Mailloux for this generous donation.
Thank you and good luck!

Erving Elementary School Turkey Raffle



We will be raffling gift certificates for a 15 lb. turkey from Diemand Farm. We will have 3 drawings and the lucky winners will be drawn on Friday, December 16th.

Ticket Price: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

All proceeds will help support educational activities at the Erving Elementary School.

Tickets are due no later than Thursday, December 15th.

Erving Fire Victims Benefit Luncheon

Location: St. Kazimerz Society, Avenue A Turners Falls

Date: December 18, 2016

Time: 1:00 -4:00 pm with lunch served at 2:00pm

Cost: \$12/pp Adults \$7/children under 12

Buffet Luncheon includes:

New England Macaroni & Cheese

Baby Baker potatoes

Herb-roasted Chicken with lemon sauce

Broccoli

Rolls

Cash Bar is available for beverages

Raffles will be drawn at 3:45pm and include a 50/50 themed baskets with donations from area businesses and silent auction items for higher-priced donations.

All proceeds will benefit the Clark family of Erving.

Only 250 tickets will be available for the luncheon but walk-ins to purchase raffle tickets will be more than welcome!!

Music will be provided by Bobby C and catering is courtesy of Rebecca and Tom Easton of Historic Catering

**For more information and updates see Facebook under
Erving Fire Victims Benefit Luncheon**

**To make a personal or business donation contact:
Marisa Dalmaso-Rode 413-522-5328**



AFTER SCHOOL COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER!

As you prepare family meals this coming Thanksgiving and holiday season, please share your favorite recipe(s) with After School for our future Cookbook Fundraiser!

Complete the info below *by Friday, January 13, 2017*, and attach your favorite recipe. Be sure to include a brief family history with each recipe submitted!

Your Name: _____

Recipe Name: _____

History of this recipe (feel free to use the backside of this flyer for more space, if needed):

Remember to attach a typed copy of your recipe!

THANK YOU!

Cookies Needed For Our Annual Cookie Exchange



**We would like to invite you to our annual
Holiday Concert and Cookie Exchange.**

Erving Elementary School - December 23 at 10:00

All students - Preschool - 6th grade will perform
in the Holiday Concert.

Following the concert, our cookie exchange will take place and our
students and guests can participate.

Our families and staff donate hundreds of homemade cookies,
because of this, everyone can take home a special treat.
What a sight it is to see!

Please cut and return.

COOKIE EXCHANGE DONATION

We are asking for each family to donate two-dozen homemade
cookies for our celebration

YES- my family will donate two-dozen homemade cookies for the
cookie exchange on December 23.

Family Name

Please return the slip by Friday, December 16th