

EAGLE EXPRESS

Phone: 413 423-3326

Internet – <http://www.erving.com>



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
(see attached flyer)
School Dismissal – 12:15 pm

December 26-January 2
No School – Holiday Vacation

Tuesday – January 3
Welcome Back!
Students return to school!

Wednesday – January 4
"Savings Makes Cents"

Giving Tree

A special Thank You to all who purchased gifts for our Giving Tree. It is greatly appreciated.

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.



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 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!

Holiday Bazaar

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Holiday Bazaar and making it a huge success!



News from the Principal's Desk:

Dear Families and Friends of Erving Elementary School,

A while back I wrote to everybody about the future of our PTO and how together we can revitalize the wonderful work that had previously occurred. I would like to thank all of the parents and guardians who signed up to support their child's class activity fund. In January we will hold an informational meeting to discuss how we are transitioning from PTO organized events to class events. Class events will generate income for each student/class account. Our goal is that each class supports the wider community, and in doing so supports their own fundraising. Following the holiday break a notice will be sent home inviting everybody to the 1-hour informational meeting. Those people who signed up for their class will receive a personal letter. I hope that the meeting will be overflowing with people; eager to offer their child's class a couple of hours of work/talent during the year.



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.



I can recall many years ago my youngest daughter Bethany smiling ear-to-ear and jumping with joy, took her turn to hand out the gifts at Christmas. Bethany had shopped at her school bazaar that year, and was so excited to get the chance to hand out gifts to everybody in our family. My turn came! I wonder if you can guess what Bethany got for me that year? I still have it. A small hint, it has yellow and pink stripes. At the time of writing it certainly looks like there will be some amazing presents under your tree this year. With the help of a few parents, our grade 6 students turned the conference room into Santa's Grotto. Every student in the school had the opportunity to visit the grotto, checking their list (twice!) to make sure they purchased gifts suitable for every member of their family. Grade 6 students acted as chaperones offering suggestions to younger students, wrapping their gifts carefully to make sure they would arrive safely home. By all accounts our students are proving to be bargain shoppers.



Students attending our Afterschool program have been exposed to a number of incredible, engaging, and fun activities. The new year brings a chance for students to enjoy some new exciting activities, including Martial Arts, Hula-Hoop making, Robotics, Yoga, Cooking, Academic Tutoring, and so much more. Thank you to Stephanie Mitchell and Collin Mailloux for making all of these opportunities available for the students. I hope your child will be able to take advantage of these wonderful programs.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Trill".

Jim Trill

News from After School:

School vacation week is almost here, and there is a lot of excitement at After School! With the holidays just a stone's throw away, we have lots of great things planned for this upcoming week! Check out the calendar below for details.

After School is excited to announce that a brand new Martial Arts class with Josh Hodges will be starting in January. This awesome 4-week program will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15-5 pm starting on January 24th and ending on February 16 (just before February break). There is no charge to students who register and pay the regular After School fees.

Please complete the attached registration form and return to After School by Tuesday, January 17th.

After School Academy is starting on Tuesday, January 10th and will run from 3:15-4:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays through February 16th. Registration forms and additional information coming soon!

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, 12/19: Make Your Own Reindeer Food

Tuesday, 12/20: STEAM Project: 3D Geometric Christmas Tree Build

Wednesday, 12/21: 12 Days of Christmas Relay Race

Thursday, 12/22: Cookie Exchange Cookie-Making

Friday, 12/23: No After School - Enjoy Your Holiday!

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. Such items tend to get soaked during daytime recess and are cold and wet by the time After School starts. We all thank you advance for sending them to After School with the proper winter gear.

After School wishes you all a very happy and safe holiday season! See you in 2017!

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	WHA1 – 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



The fourth grade students have been engaged in an ongoing lively discussion about the month of December being a part of the *Season of Giving*. The students shared their ideas about this topic. They agreed that one of the greatest gifts is being grateful for what you have. We hope you enjoy their thoughts, and we hope that it encourages you to take a moment to reflect on what is important in your heart. 😊

Life and Family
by Ella

One of the greatest gifts is life. If you didn't have life you would miss the greatest experiences. Another great gift is family because without family no one would teach you life's lessons.

Service Animals
by Ally

I think service animals are the greatest gift because they help people with disabilities. They help blind people and deaf people. They help them by leading them to doors and helping people know where they are.

Life, without service animals, would be pretty bad for people who need them because they wouldn't be able to see, hear, or know where they are.

Those are some of the reasons why I think service animals are the greatest gift.

Family
by Cordelia

I think the greatest gift is family. Family is the greatest gift because they are there for you and you love them very much. You should love your family because when you're hurt or sick they can help you get better. Your family keeps you safe, too. Those are a few of my thoughts of why I believe **family** is the greatest gift.

Money
by Jonathan

I think the greatest gift in the world is money because you need money to buy food, water, and a lot of other things. You need money to buy shelter, to go to school, to buy *Minecraft*, to pay bills, and to purchase important things like medicine. Money is the greatest gift in the world because you can use it to buy materials for your house and items that help people in their lives.

Holidays
by Emma

One of the greatest gifts is holidays because you can spend time with your family. On Christmas your family spends time giving presents to each other. So, I think you should be grateful for that holiday! On Thanksgiving your family makes good food!! Those are two of the holidays that people celebrate.

Life
by Rylee

I think the greatest gift is life because if you didn't have life you would not have a family, and you would not be able to live. If you did not have life, you would not be able to eat or you would not be able to play *Minecraft*!

Life is the greatest gift because you can have a family and play *Minecraft*!

The U.S. Army
by Madison

I think the greatest gift is the U.S. Army. The Army keeps us safe and they would sacrifice their lives for us even if we weren't their family. That's one of the reasons why they're the greatest gift.

Another reason the U.S. Army is the greatest gift is the people who choose to go into the Army just to protect us. For instance, maybe they had the dream as a kid to go into the Army and they decided to pursue that dream. They also don't have to enlist in the Army just because they wanted to as a kid. They could go in for other reasons. For example, maybe they wanted to take after one of their parents or an older sibling. They could enlist just because they want to fight for the right of freedom.

That is why I think the U.S. Army is one of the greatest gifts the U.S.A. could possibly have.

Life
by Audrianna

Without life we would be starving because we wouldn't have plants, such as apple trees and mint leaves. Without life we wouldn't have bees. If we did not have bees we would not have honey.

Without life you would not be here, you would not have anywhere to live, and you would not have a best friend to care about.

Those are some of the reasons why life is the greatest gift.

Family

by Jordan

If you didn't have family you wouldn't be alive. Your family takes care of you. My family spoils me.

My Life

by Landon

I think my life is the greatest gift. The great things in my life are my dad and mom. I also like spending time with my friend, Trevor. My life in fourth grade is so fun. Mrs. Nuttelman is spectacular. Those are some of the reasons why my life is the greatest gift to me.

Holidays

by Lainey

The greatest gift in the world is celebrating holidays with my family. I love my family. I play with my family.

Animals

by Isabella

I think the greatest gift is animals because animals are great things, and animals give us food. Some animals, like dogs and cats, make great pets. Animals, also, can help the environment. An example is that bats eat mosquitos and mosquitos bite us. Another example is that cows make manure and manure fertilizes the soil. Animals are a great gift!

Life

by Colby

The greatest gift is life. If you do not have life you wouldn't be alive.

Food + Water + Family = **Life**

Christmas

by Zoey

One of the greatest gifts is Christmas because you get to see a lot of family members. You also get lots of presents that you can play with. I think everyone should believe in the Christmas Spirit, magic, Santa, and all the other Christmas stuff.

I have an *Elf of the Shelf*.

Her name is Sally. I have a reindeer to go with her! He is a boy. His name is Snowball. Sally and Snowball are examples of why one of the greatest gifts is Christmas.

There are a lot of great things in the world, but my favorite is Christmas!

Family and Friends

by Linley

I think the greatest gifts are family and friends. Family is one of the greatest gifts because they keep you safe through hard times. Family is there for you when you are sad, mad, and even excited or happy. Another reason is they know how you feel when you are scared or mad. They love you as much as you love them, and family never ditches each other. Those are some of the reasons why family is one of the greatest gifts.

I also think friends are one of the greatest gifts because when you get hurt they're there for you. Friends are there when you need help with any school activities. They will play with you if you want them to, and you can do the same for them as your friends did for you. Friends are like family if you know them really well.

Those are the reasons why I think family and friends are the greatest gifts.

Life

by Alyssa

Two of the greatest gifts are food and water. If you didn't have food you would probably get too skinny and die. If you didn't have water you would get dehydrated and you would probably die, too.

Another gift is money. If you didn't have money you couldn't support your kid because you couldn't feed or give water to him or her.

Another gift you need to live well is protection. You can keep yourself and others safe even if you don't know them. You can even protect your pets. If you have children you need to protect them, too. It's a smart thing to do.

Oh!! And if you live near the woods, and you have no money, you can go into the woods and maybe find some things to eat and water to drink. Be careful not eat poisonous berries or drink unclean water.

That is what I think life is about and why it is the greatest gift.

My Family

by Jordan Grace

The greatest gift is my family. My family will love me not matter what! My family will always care about me. Spending time with my family is fun. My family will always be here for me.

Food and Water

by Darian

I think the greatest gifts ever are food and water because they keep you alive. Some food tastes really good and some food tastes really bad, but water has no taste! So everybody can drink water without having the water tasting bad. Also, you couldn't grow plants without water.

If you don't have food and water, you would not stay alive. So, if you die you can't play *Minecraft*. These are some of the reasons why food and water are the greatest gifts.



Erving Elementary would like to invite you to our:

Holiday Concert and Cookie Exchange

Friday, December 23, 2016

10am – gym

This year our Holiday Concert format is a school-wide concert; so all classes in grades PK-6 are participating in addition to a performance by our band and chorus students.

Following the concert our cookie exchange will take place. Our families and staff donate hundreds of homemade cookies. Because of this everyone, students and guests, can take home a special treat. What a sight it is to see!

Here is the schedule for the day's events:

10:00 – Concert

Note: Please remind your band student to bring their instrument.

Following the concert – Cookie Exchange

All guests will collect cookies at the table in the hall by the computer lab.

All students will go back to their classrooms, a volunteer will let classes know when to proceed to the appropriate cookie table.

11:45 – lunch for all students – bag lunches:

Ham & Cheese Sandwich

12:15 – Students dismissed

Please note: If you are dismissing your student directly after the Cookie Exchange and before lunch, please send a note to the office by Thursday, December 22. This will avoid lunches wasted in the café and provide an efficient dismissal experience.

Thank you for supporting this community event.

We hope to see you there!!



Dismissing your child after the Cookie Exchange and before lunch??

For your convenience, in an effort to make it easier to let us know you are dismissing your child early on Friday, Dec 23, we have provided a copy of our "Note to School". Please complete and return to school ASAP.

Here is the schedule for the day's events:

10:00 - Concert

Following the concert - Cookie Exchange

All guests will collect cookies at the table in the hall by the computer lab.

All students will go back to their classrooms, a volunteer will let classes know when to proceed to the appropriate cookie table.

11:45 - lunch for all students - bag lunches:

Ham & Cheese Sandwich

12:15 - Students dismissed



Please note: If you are dismissing your student directly after the Cookie Exchange and before lunch, please complete the "Note to School" and return to the office ASAP. This will avoid lunches wasted in the café and provide a well-organized dismissal experience.

A NOTE TO SCHOOL

To: The Office

From: _____

(parent's signature) Cookie

Date: Friday, December 23 - Exchange

Subject: _____

(student's name)

(Check Applicable)

is going to the Afterschool Program.

will be picked up by _____ at _____ AM/PM.

will be going home with _____ on bus# _____ address _____

is returning to school after an absence of _____ days due to illness.

(other) _____

Support The PTO

Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the Month at 6:15 p.m.

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

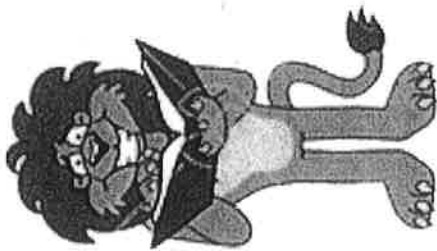
READING TIPS

from the LIBRARY

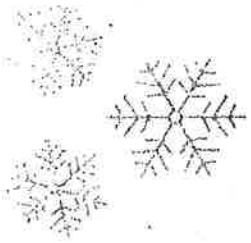
helpful ideas to make reading at home
even more fun

TIP #1--reading is truly a **FAMILY AFFAIR!** Parents & Guardians: let your children see you read your newspapers, magazines, novels, even recipe books. And if older kids want to read to younger ones, that can be fun for both, but only if it's something the kids **WANT** to do!

TIP #2--reading the same book more than once is a **GOOD** thing. For your child, it makes the book familiar, predictable, and more enjoyable each time it's read.



Laini the
Library
Lion says
Reading is
a
**FAMILY
AFFAIR!**



Holiday Concert and Cookie Exchange

Friday, December 23 at 10am

REMINDER:

BAND STUDENTS

Bring your instrument:

Thurs, December 22 – Rehearsal

Fri, December 23 – Concert



Martial Arts

Coming to After School!



A wonderful new Shotokan Karate class is coming to After School! The program will run from 4:15-5 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on Tuesday, January 24th. Remaining dates will be 1/26, 1/31, 2/2, 2/7, 2/9, 2/14, and 2/16.

If your child is interested, please complete the form below and return to the school by Tuesday, January 17th. The cost is free. Students must be registered in the After School program and regular daily After School rates apply.

MARTIAL ARTS SIGN-UP

My child, _____, will attend the Shotokan Karate class at After School on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (1/24, 1/26, 1/31, 2/2, 2/7, 2/9, 2/14, and 2/16).

My child is new to After School and his/her completed After School Registration Form is attached

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Holiday Health and Safety Tips

1 Wash your hands often.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and clean water are not available, use an alcohol-based product.



2 Stay warm.

Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems, especially in infants and older adults. Stay dry, and dress warmly in several layers of loose-fitting, tightly woven clothing. Check on children, the elderly and pets.



3 Manage stress.

The holidays don't need to take a toll on your health. Keep a check on over-commitment and over-spending. Balance work, home, and play. Get support from family and friends. Keep a relaxed and positive outlook. Get enough sleep.

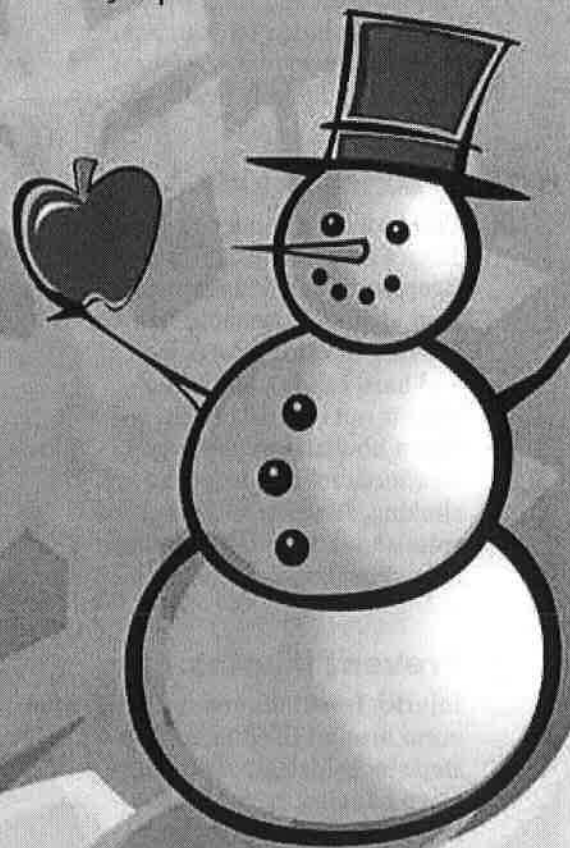


4 Travel safely.

Whether you're traveling across town or around the world, help ensure your trip is safe. Don't drink and drive, and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt according to his/her height, weight, and age. Get vaccinations if traveling out of the country.



The holidays are a time to celebrate, give thanks, and reflect. They are also a time to pay special attention to your health. Give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others by following these holiday tips.



5 Be smoke-free.

Avoid smoking and breathing other people's smoke. If you smoke, quit today! Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW, or talk to your health care provider for help.



inside your home or garage. Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home. Test and change the batteries regularly.

6 Get check-ups and vaccinations.

Exams and screenings can help find problems early or before they start. Vaccinations help prevent diseases and save lives. Schedule a visit with your health care provider for a yearly exam. Ask what vaccinations and tests you should get based on your age, lifestyle, travel plans, medical history, and family health history.



9 Handle and prepare food safely.

As you prepare holiday meals, keep you and your family safe from food-related illness. Wash hands and surfaces often. Avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs (including their juices) away from ready-to-eat foods and eating surfaces. Cook foods to the proper temperature. Refrigerate promptly. Do not leave perishable foods out for more than two hours.



7 Watch the kids.

Children are at high risk for injuries. Keep a watchful eye on your kids. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, choking hazards (like coins and hard candy), and other objects out of kids' reach. Learn how to provide early treatment for children who are choking. Develop and reinforce rules about acceptable and safe behaviors for all electronic media.



10 Eat healthy, and be active.

With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holidays the healthy way. Choose more vegetables and fruit. Select just one or two of your favorites from the host of tempting foods. Find fun ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite holiday music. Be active for at least 2½ hours a week. Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.



8 Prevent injuries.

Injuries from falls and fireworks often occur around the holidays. Use step stools instead of furniture when hanging decorations. Leave the fireworks to the professionals.



Most residential fires occur during the winter months. Keep candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees, and curtains. Never leave fireplaces, stoves, or candles unattended. Don't use generators, grills, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning devices

To learn more, including the holiday song *The 12 Ways to Health*, visit www.cdc.gov/family/holiday



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office of Women's Health