

# EAGLE EXPRESS

Phone: 413 423-3326

Internet – <http://www.erving.com>

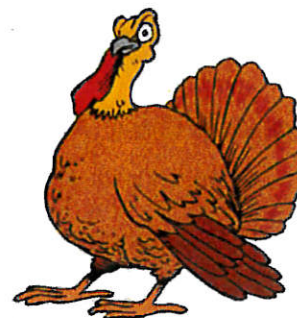


**Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
PTO Meeting 6pm  
in the conference room

**Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Pre K Math Night  
5:15pm - 6:15pm  
in the Café

**Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Night  
5:15pm-7:00pm  
in the Math room

**First Week of November**  
Newsletter will be sent via email  
Please see insert attached



## Erving Elementary School Turkey Raffle

Thanks to a generous donation from Don Mailloux, we will be raffling off 3-Gift Certificates for a 15 lb Turkey at Diemand Farm.

All proceeds from our raffle will help to support education activities at Erving Elementary.

Please be sure tickets are returned to the school no later than: Thursday, November 2nd

Three winning tickets will be drawn on:  
Friday, November 3rd

Thank you and good luck!!



## SCHOOL PICTURE RETAKES

October 31, 2017



Thank you to all those who participated in the  
100-Mile Club  
Halloween walking event





## News from the Principal's Desk:

Dear Families and Friends of Erving Elementary School,

This week, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (D.E.S.E.) released the Spring 2017 MCAS test results. The paperwork is scheduled to arrive at schools by the first week of November. I have asked teachers to present your child's MCAS test results during your Parent/Guardian Teacher Conference. In preparation, I have attached two documents to this newsletter, a parent letter and FAQ sheet, which should provide you with specific details as set out by D.E.S.E. Acting Commissioner Jeff Wulfson. Please check in with me if you have any questions.

I had a surprise visit from some budding principals! Silas and David came to visit, wearing the obligatory tie of course. It was great to see how comfortable both of the boys felt, sitting in the chair and conducting business. Silas commented that the job was too busy, and that the phone never stops ringing ☺.

All staff across Union 28 will be meeting at Leveret Elementary School tomorrow (Friday) for a full day of professional development. This means there is no school for students!! Enjoy the gorgeous weather and have a lovely weekend.

Sincerely,

Jim Trill



Principal David

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**IF YOU READ 15 MINUTES PER DAY YOU WILL READ OVER 1,000,000 WORDS IN ONE YEAR!**

United Way of the Midlands United Way



Principal Silas



**Tuesday October 24, 2017**  
**5:15 - 6:15 PM**

**Come for dinner ~ Pizza, salad, and drinks**  
**Enjoy reading a good book and engaging in a fun math activity with your preschooler**

**Childcare will be provided for siblings!!!**

Please RSVP by October 19th!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of children in need of childcare : \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of people for dinner: \_\_\_\_\_





# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000  
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

Jeff Wulfson  
Acting Commissioner

October 18, 2017

Dear Parent,

You have just received your child's MCAS scores, which include results from the next-generation MCAS tests that were given in English language arts and mathematics to students in grades 3-8 in spring 2017. Due to the new testing format and scoring, the department writes to share some important information for parents and students to understand the scaling and context of the results.

The new MCAS assessment was created with input from teachers following a thorough review and update of our curriculum frameworks. Both the frameworks and the next-generation MCAS were developed with the active involvement of hundreds of experienced Massachusetts teachers and educators from all over the Commonwealth to ensure we provide every child with the opportunity they deserve to graduate high school ready for college or career. We are deeply grateful for their participation and expertise.

Even though Massachusetts has the highest performing public education system in the nation, we have to keep improving to remain globally competitive. Equally important, too many of our high school graduates are not fully prepared for post-secondary education or training. That's why we embarked on this vital project to take responsibility for improving our own standards and assessments.

The next-generation MCAS is a reformatted test from the old MCAS, and the scores are not comparable to the prior tests your child has taken. On the legacy MCAS, the four scoring categories were Advanced, Proficient, Needs Improvement, and Warning/Failing. On the next-generation MCAS, the four scoring categories are Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, and Not Meeting Expectations. The new categories emphasize readiness for higher-level work at the next grade level.

Roughly half of Massachusetts grades 3-8 students are already scoring in the Meeting Expectations category or above, but many students will find that they scored in the Partially or Not Meeting Expectations categories. As you look at these scores and help your child understand them, please note:

- The next-generation MCAS establishes high expectations to better reflect whether students are on track for the next grade level and ultimately for college and a career.
- 2017 is the baseline year — the first year of a new assessment — and we expect that over time, more students will score Meeting Expectations or above. (When the original MCAS

debuted in 1998, relatively few students scored Proficient, but that changed as students and teachers adjusted to the new expectations.)

- Students in grades 3-8 do not face any negative consequences as a result of their scores.
- Students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade will not begin taking the next generation MCAS until 2019, so they are not affected by any of these changes.
- The next-generation MCAS is a new test with a different approach to assessing student performance in grades 3-8, and this year's results cannot be compared to last year's.
- MCAS results are only one measure of your child's growth and achievement. Your child's teacher can also talk to you more broadly about your child's academic growth and about his or her social and emotional development.
- In some subjects and grades, fewer students scored Meeting or Exceeding Expectations this year than scored Proficient or Advanced in previous years. This does NOT mean that students learned less; it reflects the fact that the next-generation MCAS measures more rigorous standards in a different way.

Massachusetts has the best public school system in the country, and giving students a clearer signal of their readiness for the next grade level is an important part of that. Please see the attached FAQ sheet for more details on the tests.

To learn more about the next-generation MCAS and your child's score, go to:  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents/>.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's results, I encourage you to talk with his or her teacher or principal. General questions about MCAS results and supplemental resources can be directed to the Office of Student Assessment at [mcas@doe.mass.edu](mailto:mcas@doe.mass.edu) or by phone at 781-338-3625.

Sincerely,



**Jeff Wulfson**  
**Acting Commissioner**



## Frequently Asked Questions on Your Child's MCAS Scores

### **Why have I received this letter?**

You have just received your child's MCAS scores from the test he/she took in spring of 2017.

- These include results from the new version of MCAS, called next-generation.
- These were given in English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8.

### **Why does my report look different?**

Since the test has been updated, so has the report, both in the way it looks and in the information it contains.

As you know, your previous report had four categories for the level of the score:

- Advanced
- Proficient
- Needs Improvement
- Warning/Failing

Again, because the test changed, we have created new categories to help you better understand your child's readiness for the higher level of work in their next grade. They are now:

- Exceeding Expectations
- Meeting Expectations
- Partially Meeting Expectations
- Not Meeting Expectations

### **Why did the test have to change?**

- Even though Massachusetts has the highest performing public education system in the nation, too many of our high school graduates are not fully prepared for higher education or training.
- The goal is to improve student achievement through better standards and tests.

### **How were these changes made and who was involved?**

Hundreds of experienced educators from all over the Commonwealth were actively involved.

- They reviewed grade-by-grade academic standards and updated curriculum frameworks to guide classroom teachers in developing courses and lesson plans.
- Those updates helped to design a test that measures more accurately to provide every child with the opportunity to graduate high school ready for college and career.

We are deeply grateful for their hard work and expertise.

### **Is the new MCAS harder?**

- In general, the new standards for Meeting Expectations are **more rigorous** than the standards for reaching the Proficient level on the legacy MCAS. The goal is to set expectations higher to make sure students are on track for the next grade level and ultimately for college and a career.

- The new tests focus on student's ability to think critically about what they are learning and on apply their knowledge to make clear connections between reading and writing and to develop problem-solving skills.

### **How does this compare to my child's scores from last year and years before?**

2017 is the first year for this new MCAS.

- This "next-generation" test will set the level for the coming years. Therefore, your child's scores are not comparable to their previous scores. We feel this is an exciting opportunity to look forward and to provide every child with the opportunity to graduate high school ready for college and career.
- We expect that over time, more students will score in the **Meeting Expectations** category or above.
- It's important to remember that when the original MCAS debuted in 1998, relatively few students scored **Proficient**. The results improved as students and teachers adjusted to the new expectations. We are confident that that will also be the case here.

### **How do I explain these scores to my child?**

Here are some simple points to help you communicate:

- First, it's important to note that students in grades 3-8 do not face any negative consequences as a result of their scores.
- (If your child is moving on to 10<sup>th</sup> grade, please note that he/she will not begin taking this new MCAS until 2019.)
- Roughly half of grades 3-8 students are already scoring in the **Meeting Expectations** category or above.

However, many students will find that they scored in the Partially or Not Meeting Expectations categories.

- If your child is in one of these categories, it does not mean that they learned less. It is just a different way of measuring these new expectations.
- We want to stress again, this is the first year of this new test. We have full confidence that the scores will improve over time as students and teachers become accustomed to the new standards.

Remember! MCAS results are only one measure of your child's growth and achievement!

### **What do I do if I have more questions?**

We encourage you to talk with your child's teacher or principal.

- They can help you understand how these test results relate to your child's academic growth, and they can also talk to you about your child's social and emotional development.

If you still have questions about the test itself you can:

- Email us at: [mcas@doe.mass.edu](mailto:mcas@doe.mass.edu).

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Second Graders in Mrs. Barry's class are learning about **GEOMETRY**. You'll be impressed with all the new math vocabulary we are learning about **SHAPES!** Check it out!



Ava: "A **CONE** is a three-dimensional shape. **CONES** have a face that is a circle. They look like an ice cream **CONE**."

Brooke: "A **CUBE** is a three-dimensional shape with faces the shape of a square."

Cadance: "**THREE DIMENSIONAL** is something that pops out.. It takes up more space than a two dimensional shape."

Emmett: "A **POLYGON** is a shape that has straight sides that don't stay open. They connect."

Everett: "**TWO-DIMENSIONAL** shapes are flat. They have no faces."

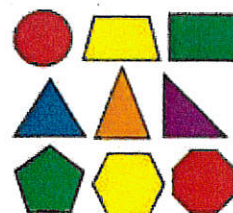
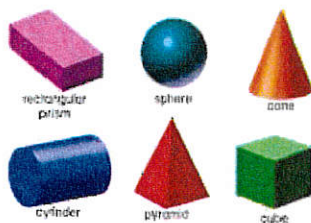
Jaiden: "When two faces come together, it makes an **EDGE**."

Keith: "A **YOU** is a 3-D shape that has triangle flat faces."

Silas: "A **FACE** is a flat part of a three dimensional shape."

Sophie: "A **VERTEX** is where two edges on a 3-D shape meet."

Tori: "A **PYRAMID** has a vertex that rises up to make a point. It has faces that clump together to make an edge. It's a three-dimensional shape."



## *We will be sending your student's Eagle Express via email*

Here at Erving Elementary we work hard to get all of the necessary information about school goings-on out to you every Friday. Looking to the future, we will be transitioning the Eagle Express paper copy out of circulation and sending it via email. This process will allow you to view the news in **COLOR**☺. You will still have a hard copy available when you need it. Changing our process will also be better for the environment and move our school forward in going green.

Implementing **green** practices into our school, your home or office can help reduce waste, conserve natural resources, improve both air and water quality, and protect ecosystems and biodiversity.

This change will happen over the next month. Hard copies will still be available to if you do not wish to receive the news letter via email.

Thank you,

Tear off and return to the office by October 27<sup>th</sup> 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Paper Copy Request

Yes      or      No

(Only fill out the below section if you are requesting a paper copy)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Grade/Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_





Erving Elementary School will be holding our annual Veterans Day Celebration on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2017  
Please call the school at

413-423-3326 EXT 222 if you're interested in attending



### EES PTO MEETING

Monday, October 23rd  
6:00pm  
EES conference room

Please join us to hear all about the EES PTO.  
No experience necessary!  
This is a very relaxed group of parents and teachers meeting to have fun and help the school.

We would love to see you at the meeting.

\*A light dinner will be served\*  
\*Childcare is available\*

## After School Program



Hello Everyone,

My name is Michelle Fisher and I am the new After School Director. Some of you already know me but for those of you who do not, I come to the program with enthusiasm and a large amount of experience with elementary school age children.

My vision for the After School Program is to explore your student's creative side as well as giving them the time they need to complete homework assignments. When your student attends After School they will have time to decompress from their day at school with a fun outdoor activity, weather permitting and a structured setting for time to complete homework. I will be working in collaboration with the teachers here at school to make sure we are working together to facilitate each student's needs. I will also be working with the teachers to incorporate programming that is teacher facilitated or structured around activities classrooms are doing.

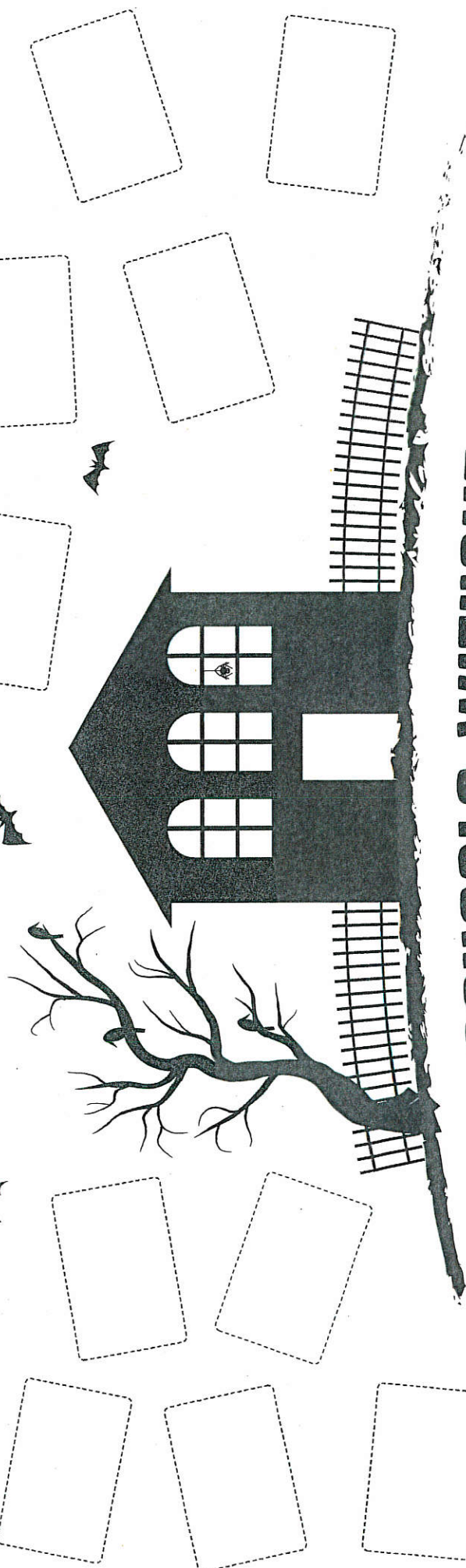
What's important to me,

- Fun and friendship
- Recreational activities
- A safe, nurturing and structured environment
- Creativity & discovery
- Homework support
- Opportunities to develop social skills
- Positive adult relationships
- Exploration of individual interests

Please feel free to send me an email [fisher@erving.com](mailto:fisher@erving.com) with any suggestions, comments or concerns. I look forward to the opportunity to work with your student.

*Thank you,  
Michelle Fisher*



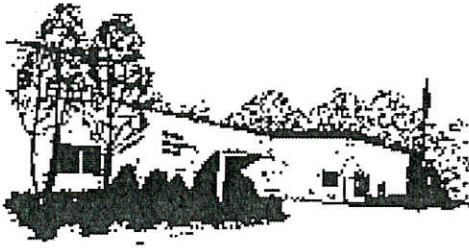


**SCHOOLS WITHOUT  
BOX TOPS ARE  
DOWNRIGHT SCARY!**

Thank you for helping! Clipped Box Tops are each worth 10¢ for your child's school. Bonus certificates should not be attached to this sheet - please submit them separately. To see more ways to earn cash for your child's school, go to [BTFE.com](http://BTFE.com). See more collection sheets at [BTFE.com/collectionsheets](http://BTFE.com/collectionsheets).



# ERVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



JAMES D. TRILL, Principal  
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## 100 Mile Club® Wednesday Afternoon Walking Club

Every Wednesday through November the Erving Recreation Committee is offering an opportunity for students to gain miles for the 100 Mile Club®. Every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30-2:30 will be designated to allow kids to walk and log miles toward their incentives! Families are also strongly encouraged to join their student and log their own miles. Remember that incentives are given for walking 25, 50, 75 and 100 Miles.

If your child is interested in walking on Wednesday afternoon, please complete the permission slip below and have your child turn it in to the office no later than Wednesday morning. Children cannot participate without a signed permission slip. Participants will meet in the gym at the end of the day for instructions from the adult responsible for the group. The plan is to walk outside whenever possible so please be sure that your child comes dressed appropriately. A water bottle is strongly encouraged. New this year, students can be picked up at 2PM or 2:30PM. Students must remain with the walking group until an adult picks them up. They will not be allowed to play on the structures or blacktop due to limited adult supervision in these areas.

If you have any questions please contact Gail Dubreuil, School Nurse at (413) 423-3326.

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I give permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_ (please print student's name), to participate in the 100 Mile Club® Wednesday afternoon walking group on October 25, 2017 from 1:30-2:30PM.

I will be joining my student in the afternoon walking.

My student will be picked up at by \_\_\_\_\_ (name of adult) at  2:00PM or  2:30PM (please choose a time)

Parent Signature:

