

EAGLE EXPRESS

Phone: 413 423-3326

Internet – <http://www.erving.com>

December

Tuesday, December 15

School Council Meeting 3:20pm
School Committee Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 16

"Savings Makes Cents"

Wednesday, December 23

Holiday Concert & Cookie Exchange 11:10am

Thursday, December 24-January 1

Holiday Recess- No School



Laina the Library Lion says

**ROARRRR
Ms. Urban really
Needs some help
in the Library!**

If there is anyone who is available
Tuesday or Thursday afternoons
and would like to volunteer in
the library, please contact me:
423-3326 ext. 103 or
urban@erving.com
even if you only have an extra
hour, I could use the help with
some very simple tasks!

Inclement Weather

Please see attached information for
inclement weather and school closing
information.

Reminder

**If you purchased a gift for the Giving Tree
please return it to the office by
Monday, December 14th**

News From the Principal's Desk

Dear Families and Friends of Erving Elementary School,

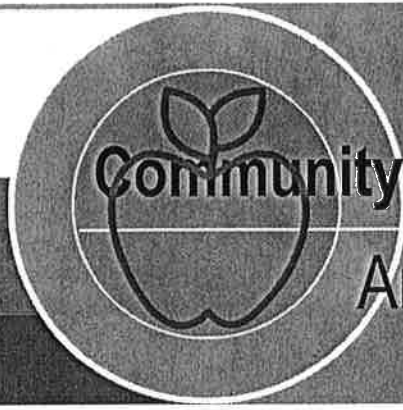
I would like to remind all parents and guardians that our **FREE breakfast and lunch program** begins on January 4, 2016. Thank you if you have already completed our survey and returned it. All children attending Erving Elementary School will be able to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost. We will have a la carte items such as smoothies, snacks, milk, and extra lunches available for purchase by cash only. Our planned meals will be both nutritious and healthy, conforming to federal health laws and guidelines.

All of our students have been busy preparing for the Holiday Concert and Cookie Exchange that is being held here at Erving Elementary School on Wednesday December 23rd, beginning at 11:10am. As in years past, this is a concert you do not want to miss, and this year promises to be extra special. Every class will be performing, thanks to the inspiration of Ms. B.C. Rumor is there may be a part of the concert when the community will be invited to sing along with our younger students; so have your voice ready. Oh! and by the way... there are some incredible cookies available as a special treat for all members of our community. I look forward to catching up with you all on the 23rd.

It is looking like the weather will continue to be on the warmer side for our holiday season. Not so sure if this is a good thing? No snow days ☺. Have a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable weekend.

Sincerely,


Jim Trill
Principal



Community Eligibility Provision

An Amazing New Opportunity

The new Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows schools to:

- Offer both breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students at participating schools
- Eliminate the traditional school meal application process
- Increase participation in the school nutrition programs

Community eligibility is a win-win for schools and students by ensuring that children have access to healthy food at school. It reduces administrative costs and allows schools to focus more on learning.

“Community eligibility” will be available to your child(ren) at Erving Elementary School

Benefits of CEP

- You can rest assured that your child(ren) are getting two healthy, nutrient-dense meals a day at school.
- No need to worry about the financial burden of your child(ren) eating at school.
- No need to fill out a school meal application or paperwork to sign up! All children eat free automatically.
- Your child(ren) have access to healthy nutritious meals every day.

Adapted from the Food Research and Action Center's FRAC Facts: Community Eligibility Provision, An Amazing Opportunity.

Exciting Preschool News!

The preschoolers have been spending a lot of time in their outdoor classroom. They have developed a deep connection to the forest and want to protect it. Our class has learned that paper is made from trees, but can also be made from different types of plants. We learned that we help protect trees by making paper from plants. The preschoolers worked together to make paper from cotton fibers to use for holiday tags.

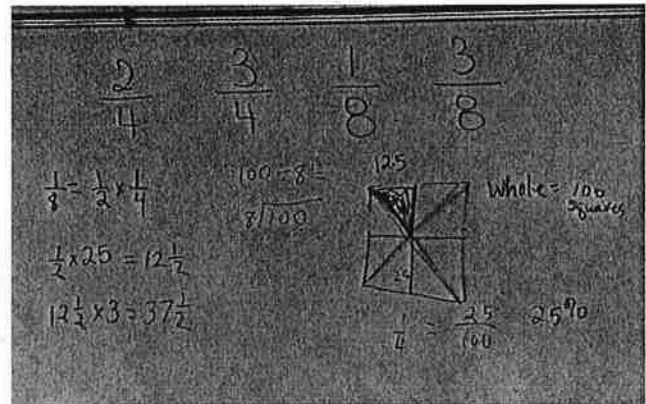
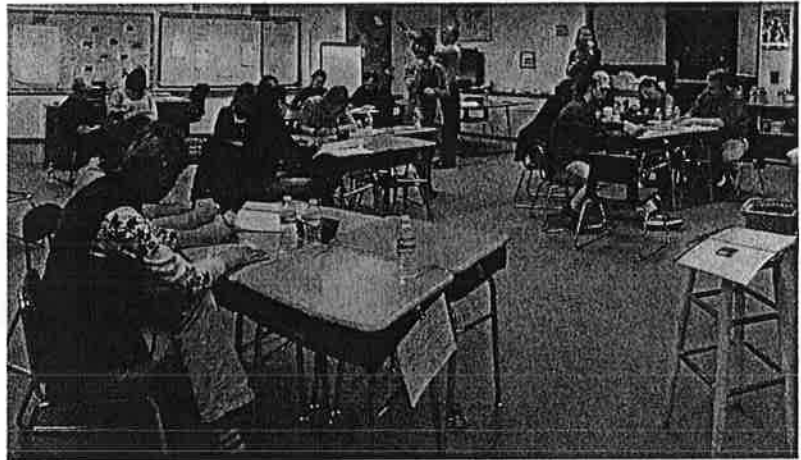


Our class is also learning about princess pine. We know that it grows in our forest and is plentiful. We learned that it is okay to harvest princess pine as long as we are careful not to clear out an entire crop and that we don't harvest from the same area the next year. Our class gathered princess pine and used it to make holiday wreathes.



Fifth Grade Community Mathematics Evening!

Last Wednesday, Ms. DeSorgher and Ms. Wagner hosted an engaging, fun evening of math education for families. We were thrilled to host dozens of parents, guardians, and our superintendent. The two-hour session had us laughing, thinking, taking risks, and learning a whole lot along the way. First, we observed our brave fifth graders working hard to discuss their methods to solve two complex problems. Later, families asked sophisticated, important questions about how our math program is evolving, and the importance of our focus on problem solving and reasoning, instead of procedural memorization. Finally, we did fifth grade math together, and it was fun! Whether people went into the evening with a sense of wonder, or a bit of nervousness, we all left with new ideas and a smile. It was a wonderful experience that we will offer to all families beginning in early 2016. Keep an eye out!

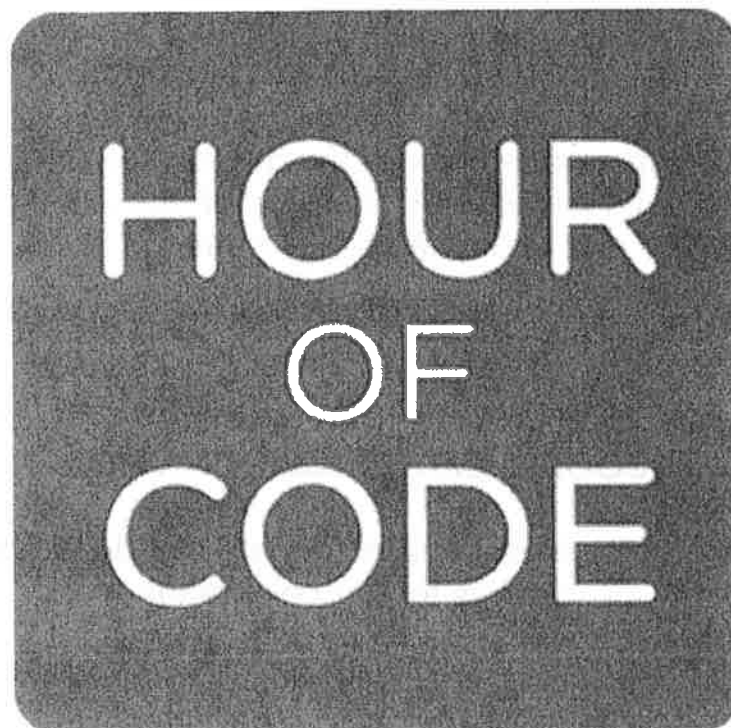
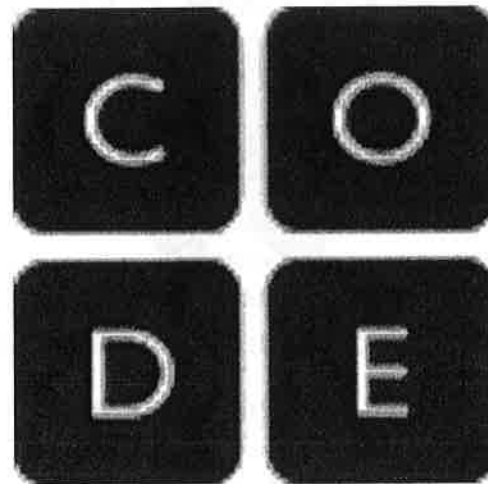


It had been a while since most of us had explored fractions and percent in math class! We got a chance to make connections between these two concepts in a way that made sense, providing us an opportunity to explore something we've learned in the past in a whole new way. It was an excellent example of our community coming together to learn cooperatively.



A huge THANK YOU to Erik Semb for donating pizza for our enjoyment and to the PTO for providing much needed childcare. This couldn't have happened without you!

News from Mr. Smith's K – 6 Technology Classes



It is here again. Mr. Smith's Tech Classes started the worldwide-participated "Hour of Code" through Code.org this week. After such a huge success last year, we are doing it again this year.

With new puzzle themes and new challenges. Hour of Code promises to be bigger and better than ever. Students have been thrilled to participate in this historic worldwide event.

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 11:10

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

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

Hundreds of homemade cookies are donated by our families, and
staff. What a sight it is to see! Because of this everyone can take
home a special treat.

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 18th

The largest learning event in history

During Computer Science Education Week,
December 7-13, 2015

The Hour
of Code
is coming,
again!



Computer science is a foundation for every student. Join us to help millions of new learners start with one Hour of Code. Sign up at hourofcode.com

What is the Hour of Code?

A one-hour activity. Students of all ages can choose from a variety of self-guided tutorials, for kindergarten and up. Tutorials work on any modern browser, tablet, smartphone, or even with no computer at all.

Code.org's own tutorials feature Disney's Frozen, Scrat from Ice Age, Angry Birds, and Plants vs. Zombies. New tutorials are coming to kick off the 2015 Hour of Code!



A spark to keep learning computer science. Once students see what they create right before their eyes, they're empowered to keep going.

No experience needed from teachers and students.

A global movement with more than 100 million learners in 180 countries. Anyone, anywhere can organize an Hour of Code event. Tutorials are available in 40 languages.



Why computer science?

Every 21st-century student should have the opportunity to take part in creating technology that's changing our world. The basics help nurture creativity and problem-solving skills, and prepare students for any future career. But most schools still don't teach computer science.



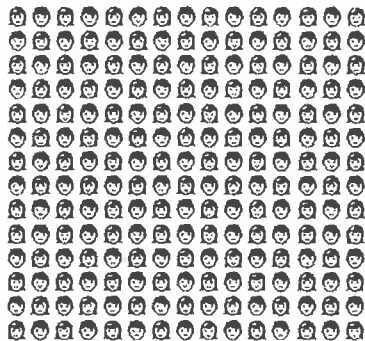
"I challenge girls in every single country to learn one Hour of Code"

— Malala Yousafzai
Nobel Peace Prize winner

Get involved
Host your own Hour of Code.
Spread the word with #HourOfCode!

The incredible Hour of Code movement:

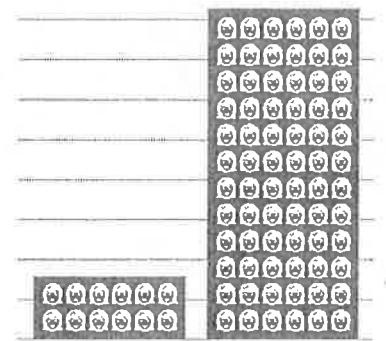
1 in 3 students in US schools have tried an Hour of Code.



Over 100M students have participated at 77,000 events worldwide.



More girls have tried computer science than in the last 70 years.



Celebrities, tech visionaries, and even the President

- Every Apple Store in the world hosted an Hour of Code.
- President Obama wrote a line of code with students at the White House.
- The movement has been featured on Google, YouTube, Yahoo!, Bing and Disney homepages.
- Celebrities Ashton Kutcher and Jessica Alba and tech leaders Sheryl Sandberg, Bill Gates and Jack Dorsey talked with classrooms in live video chats.



"I have never, ever seen my students so excited about learning."
— Michael Clark
Teacher

Together, we can fix the diversity gap in computer science

By exposing both girls and boys to fundamental computing concepts on a level playing field, starting with the earliest learners, we can inspire today's generation of students to build technology.

Almost half of all Hour of Code participants are girls. 35% of participants are black or Hispanic*

VS

On average, computer science classes are only 18% female and 8% black or Hispanic

Over 300 partners have come together to support this grassroots campaign, including DonorsChoose.org, The College Board, Microsoft, Google, Salesforce, The Walt Disney Company, Target, Teach for America, Khan Academy and more.

Prizes for EVERY organizer

- Every organizer will receive \$10 to Amazon.com, iTunes or the Windows store as a thank you gift!
- One lucky school in every US state (+ Washington, D.C.) will win \$10,000 worth of technology.

More prizes coming soon!

Mark your calendars for December 7-13, 2015!

Start at hourofcode.com

The Hour of Code is organized by Code.org, a public non-profit dedicated to expanding access to computer science and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. The Hour of Code is celebrated during the annual Computer Science Education Week in December.

Code.org, the CODE logo and Hour of Code are trademarks of Code.org

*demographic estimates are sourced from surveys sent to registered Hour of Code organizers in December 2014



please join the Erving Recreation Commission for

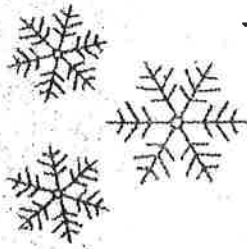
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA DECEMBER twelfth

ERVING SENIOR &
Community Center

drop in 9 AM to 11 AM
from

PANCAKES
hot COCOA
PICTURES

Your donation will support
Erving Families in need!!



Holiday Concert and Cookie Exchange

December 23 at 11:10am

REMINDER:

BAND STUDENTS

Bring your instrument:

Tues, December 22 - Rehearsal

Wed, December 23 - Concert



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.**



Holiday Bazaar

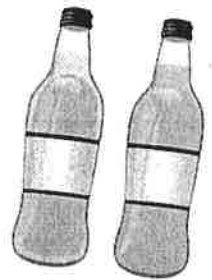
Next week, on Wednesday, December 16th, and Friday, December 18th, the second annual Holiday Bazaar will be underway. This bazaar offers an opportunity for your children to do their holiday shopping of gently used, like new, and new items for family members at a low cost, with items ranging from \$.25 and up. Notices will be sent home with your child, noting which day their class will be shopping. This event is operated by the sixth grade and monies raised benefit their trip to New York City.

We look forward to seeing all those little holiday shoppers!

Can & Bottle Drive



Help support
The Erving Elementary 6th Grade
NY City Trip in June 2016



The 6th grade will be running an ongoing
can & bottle drive throughout the school
year.



Anyone wishing to donate their cans &
bottles to this cause can call:

Eric Myren at 413-423-3755



He will arrange for drop off or pick up.
Please do not drop off at the school.



HOORAY FOR SNOW DAYS!



Paste in a flurry of Box Tops and earn cash for your school!

NAME _____

GRADE _____

TEACHER'S NAME _____

