

EAST SYRACUSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DECEMBER 2020

From the Principal

As we enter the Festive Season this year, it is a good time to reflect on the many blessings bestowed upon us despite our difficulties with the pandemic. I am very thankful to be a small part of a vibrant, professional, and loving school community. Our staff is totally dedicated to our students and to student learning whether in-person or remote. I am grateful to our families who are working so hard to support student learning at home. We know it is not easy but you are doing it. I miss all of the events that we normally enjoy at school – concerts, plays, book fair, etc. We continue to strive to bring those events to you albeit in a different format. Hang in there and remember that at ESM We Are Stronger Together.

Our school continues to practice our safety procedures. We have performed eight Fire Drills thus far. We must do four Lock-down Drills over the course of the year. These drills will look much different this year. We will take into account all of the Covid-19 safety protocols when we do these drills. We will maintain six feet distancing and we will wear our masks. We will send a notice home after each lockdown drill. A lock-down occurs when there is a serious concern about safety inside the building. While we do not ever expect to use this safety procedure, it is wise to be prepared. Our students and staff are prepared. During a lock-down drill, our students and staff normally hide themselves behind locked doors. Everyone must remain silent. As stated previously, we will not be able to conduct our drills in the usual manner. A lock-down ends after we have accounted for everyone and all are safe. Our drills normally last for approximately 15 to 20 minutes. I would like to ask you to discuss the drill with your student/s.

Our Capital Project is in the Design Phase still. Our team meets with the architects frequently to offer input and receive updates. Areas affected include the office, gym, and a new

Stairwell. We will update you next month.

I would like to remind everyone that you should drive around to the rear of the building if you drive your student to school. There is staff at the back door to welcome our children. Dropping students off in front of the building can be unsafe. We appreciate your help when it comes to keeping everyone safe and sound. All of us at ESE would like to wish all of you a very safe Festive Season and a very Happy New Year.

Our PTO is on the job this year. We invite all of our families to participate. Our meetings are virtual and we try to keep them to one hour or less. We know our parents are busy. Our next meeting is December 10 at 6pm. I hope to see you there. Here is the Remind App info for PTO.

REMIN APP - Text **81010**- in the message area type **@4h6eb4**

School Events

We cannot host our in-person December events as we normally would. Be on the lookout for alternatives. More information to follow.

The ESE School Improvement Team will highlight a portion of our School Improvement Plan at the December 14 Board of Education meeting. It starts at 6p. Our team and students will present to the board early in the meeting. I hope you can attend.



Our Character Education Trait for December 2020 is **SELF-REFLECTION**. . We will stress that Self-Reflection is a good way to learn more about ourselves. We ask for your help by reinforcing this concept at home.