

# East Syracuse Elementary School March 2021 Newsletter

## Principal's Square

Happy March 2021 everyone. We are in the 3rd marking period and in the waning days of winter 2021. I like to share a few reminders at this time of year every year. School property is off limits to visitors during school hours. This includes the playground. But we welcome and love to see our families on the grounds after school hours. Also, ESM policy forbids visitors from golfing and bringing pets on school grounds.

Continuing, I would like to remind everyone to take time to update contact information with us if there have been any changes. It is very important for us to be able to contact you when necessary. As usual, thanks for your help with this.

As a reminder - a signed and dated Covid Screening Form must be sent to school with your student every day and provided prior to boarding a bus or entering school. A daily screening pass is available on the ESM website or pads can be obtained from the school office. Please help to keep our schools and students safe!



The 29th ESE (Virtual) Science and Engineering Fair is coming on March 5, 2021. We received about 45 applications to enter an exhibit for the fair this year. Students will be submitting projects virtually and projects will be shared with the school so that students can learn about what our ESE Scientists and Engineers discovered. At this time, there will not be a community IN PERSON event due to COVID restrictions. The committee is continuing to work on ways to celebrate and share the hard work of our students. Stay tuned and please make a plan to view the videos with your family. You will not be sorry that you did.

We will administer the New York State English Language Arts assessment to in person learning students next month, the week of April 19 to 23. Students will complete the assessment on a computer over two consecutive days. Students are ready. They use computers almost on a daily basis. They practiced taking the test in January. I am hoping for maximum participation. The test is a program assessment and not a student assessment. We use the data from the assessment to help us improve our ELA program. The tests are not timed. Students may take as long as they want or need. The NYS Math

assessment will be the traditional paper and pencil format in May. More to come on that next month.

***School will not be in session on March 29, 2021 through April 2, 2021, for Spring Recess.***

## **School Counselor, Mrs. Jarvi**

Welcome back to the Counseling Corner! Each month we will highlight a topic that may be of interest to you and your family. This month we will focus on after school communication. Communicating with our children is essential. When you make nightly discussions about school a part of your daily routine, it will help you learn new information about your child as well as make them feel important. Sometimes, our children may come home and offer very few details about their day. You may receive one word answers in the form of “fine” or “nothing.” This month, let's explore different ways to ask questions at the end of a long day. Below you will find some examples of alternatives to asking “How was your day?”

- What was your favorite part of your day?
- What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
- Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- How did you help someone today?
- Did you make any new friends today?

We hope these examples help to enhance your after school communication!

## **PBIS**

Here's what's happening in March in PBIS...

Our word of the month for March is **Perseverance**. To say that we have shown perseverance this school year is an understatement. Now is a good time to recognize all of the help and support we have received from each and every family in our building. We couldn't do it without you!

Perseverance can be defined as overcoming obstacles in pursuit of long-term goals. Our students are persevering through academic challenges every day. One universal long-term goal is to become a confident, ambitious learner. Below you will find book suggestions and activities to help enhance your discussions about perseverance. We hope you find many opportunities to incorporate these into your daily practices.

### **Read About It!**

The Curious Garden

By: Peter Brown

The Most Magnificent Thing

By: Ashley Spires

The Dot

By: Peter Reynolds

### **Practice It!**

Help your child learn to persevere by engaging in difficult tasks together.

Learn a new skill.

Find something to do together and commit to pushing each other through the challenge.

### **Talk About It!**

What do you think perseverance means?

Tell me about a time when it was hard to get through a challenge.

How did you feel after?

What are 3 goals you have? What may be some challenges to meeting these goals?

What will happen if you don't give up?

### **Habits**

We teach our students the **7 Habits of Highly Effective Students** at ESE. I listed the habits and describe what each looks like in practice below. Please take a moment to review the habits and discuss them with your students.

#### **Habit 1: Be proactive**

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

#### **Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind**

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision.

#### **Habit 3: Put First Things First**

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and achieve my goals. I am disciplined and organized.

#### **Habit 4: Think Win-Win**

I win, you win, and we win.

#### **Habit 5: Seek First to Understand**

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

#### **Habit 6: Synergize**

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I work well in groups, even with people who are different than me. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than can anyone of us alone. I am humble.

**Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw**

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I take time to find meaningful ways to help others.

**Character Education**

Our character education theme for March is “**PERSEVERANCE**”. I hope you will join our staff in highlighting this character trait during a family discussion.

***Please see the attached calendar for some important dates in the Month of March!***

Ronald L. Perry  
Principal  
East Syracuse Elementary School