

School Newsletter

October 2021

Judy Averill, Principal



Principal's News

October is often the month when we settle into our daily routines, and this year it feels especially true. Time spent on community building and assessments gives way to more structured days of learning and fun.

October is also the month we assemble our School Council for the year. This is a very important group of parents and teachers typically charged with advising the principal on four specific topics.

- ❖ Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards.
- ❖ Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school.
- ❖ Reviewing the annual school building budget.
- ❖ Formulating a school improvement plan.

PTO Update

The Easthampton PTO recently held the first annual Family Fall Event at Maple School on October 7. There was a very exciting BMX bike show and the Easthampton Fire Department generously showcased their ladder truck! Students got to choose one art kit from Valley Art Supplies. Choices included mini canvases and paints, mosaic making, scratchboards, origami, and bat and spider web making. They also got to choose a book from Usborne Books. All students will be receiving gift certificates for an ice cream cone from Mt. Tom's ice cream from their teacher. Parents can contribute to the PTO by signing up for Amazon Smile. Just go to

Due to the closing of Maple School at the end of this school year, our School Council will have a different focus than what we traditionally have had.

Our Council's focus this year will be to create opportunities for honoring Maple School's 125 years. We will also be exploring ways to help with the transition of our community with those from Center, Pepin, and White Brook as we blend to become Mountain View School.

There are two ways to participate in the School Council. One is to become a member of the committee. We meet on the last Thursday of every month from 3:30-4:40. The other way to become involved is to attend the public meetings as a guest.

If you are interest in becoming a member of the council, please email Judy at javerill@epsd.us. If several people express an interest, we will hold an election in accordance with the bylaws. School Councils are required to be balanced with an equal number of parents and teachers on the committee.

your Amazon account and select "Your Charity" near the top of the page. Enter in "Easthampton Home and School Association" and a small percentage of your sales will be donated to our PTO. We would greatly appreciate it!

The Easthampton PTO welcomes parents and guardians to join us, we love new ideas. PTO is a great way to enhance your child's school experience and to get involved in a positive way. Our next meeting will be on November 3, from 6:30-7:30 in the cafetorium at Pepin school.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ October 21 & 22
Noon Dismissal
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
- ◆ October 27
Noon Dismissal
Professional
Development
- ◆ October 28, 3:30
School Council
Meeting
- ◆ November 1
School Picture
Makeup Day
- ◆ November 11
No School
Veteran's Day

Rise Program News



The Rise classroom has been "cooking" up fun on our Fun Food Fridays! Students are working on how to read a recipe, follow directions, and perform simple cooking tasks. We are also enjoying eating our creations and exploring some new foods!

So far, we've made cookies and applesauce. This month, we plan to make pretzels, muffins, and roasted pumpkin seeds.

Soar Program News



Our themes for October in Soar are pumpkins and teamwork! We are really focusing on working together toward a common academic goal. This month, we all dissected a pumpkin to learn about the different parts before we begin learning about the life cycle next week. Each student had a different role in the experiment, and we had a blast. We are so happy to be able to safely work in groups again!



First Grade News



First grade is enjoying working in the Garden with Ms. Kyra. She always tells us, there's plenty to do! We pulled weeds around the benches and beds. We spread mulch to prevent weeds from growing back. The mulch protects the soil so it's not too dry and not too muddy! We harvested radishes and tasted them. Most kids were surprised by how tasty and spicy radishes are!

Then we pulled seeds from our ripe fruits including cucumber and pumpkins. We will dry the seeds and save them to plant in our Spring Garden. Bye-bye for now Garden!



Second Grade News



We have been very busy in Second Grade. We have continued to dive into our new math curriculum. Currently, we are learning how to read bar and picture graphs. Also, we have been making our own graphs with our own personal data. Working with our own data is so engaging for the children. We have also begun our small group reading. The children are so excited to expand their reading skills. Also, we have been

writing our own stories from our personal lives. This has been a lot of fun for the children to write about and share things from their own lives. Many of the children just don't want to stop writing! We use a turn and talk model for the children to share their work and ideas with a partner. This includes skills of taking turns, listening, asking questions and being kind. It has been so exciting to see how engaged the children are in their learning.

Fourth Grade Mrs. Franke News

Greetings families! We have been practicing Mindfulness each day in the afternoon. We learned different techniques to use such as “finding your anchor” and “mindful bodies.” When the class sits, the students find a position, such as a mindful knot or a mindful plane, and work on breathing techniques. The month of October we will practice Heartfulness, where we practice being mindful of kindness. Some students noticed that kind thoughts made them feel calm and peaceful. We will also practice being

mindful of our bodies and learn how to do “mindful body scans.”



Fourth Grade Mrs. Pickard News



The Fourth Graders in 4P have been learning about light and how the eye

works in science. After watching a dissection of a cow eye online, we built a model eye with a magnifying lens and index cards. We got to experiment with light coming through our eye model on cloudy days and sunny days. We noticed that the image showed up on the retina upside down.

Here are some pictures of fourth graders focusing their model eye and experimenting with light. We'll talk more about the brain and how senses send messages to the brain in the coming week.



Resources from Ms. Breon, School Counselor

Many families notice that their children hold their feelings together all day at school and let them out at home, often with crying, whining and anger. The term for this is “After School Restraint Collapse,” and this article details actionable ways to support your child when this happens.

Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity is accepting applications for three homes to be built on Burts Pit Rd. in Northampton. The application deadline is Monday, November 15, 2021. Eligible applicants must have incomes up to 60% of area median income which is adjusted for family size. More information can be found [here](#).



Walk, Bike and Roll to School Event



Fire Safety Week with Firefighter Gagnon

