



# EFFINGHAM SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWS

November 13, 2009

## From the Principal's Desk – Mrs. Clegg

### Thanksgiving Theater

Family members are welcome to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Theater at 2:15 p.m., on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please don't forget to join us after the performance for your favorite slice of pie!

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. You will be hearing from your child's teacher if you haven't already scheduled a conference time.

### Parent Surveys

Please stop by at the school library to complete a Parent Survey. Your name will be entered to win a \$50 Hannaford's Gift Card. You may also ask for a paper version by calling Mrs. Johnson in the main office, 539-6032

### PTO Meeting

The next PTO Meeting will be held on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. We hope you can join us!

### Kindergarten – Mrs. Young

Kindergarten kids had a great time cleaning two fitness stations on the nature trail. We compared how the trail has changed since our last hike in October. Students enjoyed doing math activities with nuts and then breaking the nuts open and tasting them. The boys have been practicing writing the numbers 0-9 on white boards and in number books with a pencil.

In writers' workshop, we are writing books about ourselves using some new sight words and by writing as many sounds as we can hear. Students are preparing for our Thanksgiving feast on Friday, Nov. 20th. Children may choose to dress as either Indians or Pilgrims for the feast. We are making the costumes in class.

Kindergarteners are studying about the first Thanksgiving as well as hearing lots of Native American tales.

Please contact me if you have not signed up for a conference time yet.



### Readiness/First Grade – Mrs. Viens

Have you been keeping up with the events in first grade on our blog? Mrs. Marchand, the children and I meet every Friday afternoon to update our blog so that our readers will know everything that has been happening during the week. The children love to help choose the photos that lead off our page. Check us out at our school's web page or go to [blogspot.com](http://blogspot.com) and go to [mrsviensbearden](http://mrsviensbearden).

Thank you to the parents, Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Jones, and Mrs. Martin who have been coming in to read with the children. If anyone is free on Tuesday morning between 10:30 and 12:00 and would love to help these young readers please contact Mrs. Viens.

Our science unit is all about weather. Every morning our class meteorologist and his or her fifth grade buddy do a weather report for the school. The report includes the weather for the day and the upcoming night. We also do a daily record of the weather in our science journals and make a graph of the weather at the end of each month.

We meet with our fifth grade buddies every Thursday afternoon. Our buddies help us practice sight words and



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listen to us read. They also read a book to us. We are going to perform together at the Thanksgiving Theater on Monday afternoon.

## **Second Grade – Mrs. Lander**

In our classroom we continue to work on being caring friends. We practice using kind words and having friendly expressions on our faces when we speak to each other. We role-play different situations and try to feel what another person might be feeling.

We are starting to read various editions of The Nutcracker and will be talking about how we will perform this show. The second grade children carry the planning and speaking parts, but many of the children in grades 3-6 will also perform and help.

More details to follow.



## **Third Grade – Ms. Schuette**

Last week the third graders went on a tour of Effingham. We began the day by stopping on Lord's Hill to learn about the Lord's Hill Meeting House and the Isaac Lord House and Tavern (now owned by our wonderful Miller family.) From there, we went to study the South Effingham Church and walked across the street which put us into Maine. We later learned that a former Effingham School nearby was partly in New Hampshire and partly in Maine.

Next, we stopped at the fire station and took a tour. The students had their snacks on the sparkling clean fire trucks. Our last stop that morning was at the historical society. Mr. Eric Potter showed several artifacts to the

Students and gave them a tour of the museum. There's so much to see, we could have spent much more time there. Mr. Potter gave us several old children's magazines, newspapers and school books, many dating from the 1930's and as far back as 1906, as well as a piece of wood hand sawed in 1825, so that we can start our own little Effingham School historical museum. We're going to house them in the library.

In the afternoon, we visited the municipal building. Marilyn Maughan gave us a tour. We went into the town vault to view the records kept there. The students were given a little quiz about various significant buildings in Effingham.

It was a day filled with much information about this historically rich town.



## **Fourth Grade –Mrs. Olkkola**

The fourth graders have been working hard with Land and Water. Last week they used the stream tables to observe how rain water impacts land. They followed the steps of an investigation, learned the importance of having a "fair test," and discussed erosion and run-off. This week they created their first streams. They collected run off with graduated cylinders and measured their streams and the soil that was deposited. The children are also practicing cooperation and collaboration skills in these activities. It is great stuff!

## **Fifth Grade – Mrs. Perkins**

This week students in Fifth Grade learned why we observed Veteran's Day. We performed a short skit that helped us to understand that veterans are dedicated people who have served in one of our armed forces but not necessarily have fought in a war. They also learned



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veterans can be both male or female and may still be living. Most importantly, students realized what an important service these people have given our society. Without them we may not have the freedoms that we enjoy, such as freedom of speech. Through our work in our Voices reading program, students have read about citizens of many countries that do not have a democratic society and are very restricted in what they can say or do. We are very grateful for our veterans!

We are looking forward to performing with our First Grade Buddies for next Monday's Thanksgiving Theater. Hope to see you there!

## **Sixth Grade – Mrs. Vollaro**

In sixth grade, we have continued our study of the Revolutionary War. Not only have we talked about lots of events that caused the war, we have studied some of the major battles and read about how the war led to the creation of our country and its government. Throughout the course of this study we have practiced skills such as summarizing, note-taking, main idea, and cause and effect. We have also been reading many books on this topic, including George vs. George which looks at the war from the perspective of both the British and the colonists. We have been enjoying a read aloud called My Brother Sam is Dead. This book does a great job of describing the conflicts that were created in families and towns because of the war.

## **Reading Dept – Title One Ms. Alexander-Tapper**

The school book fair is coming to Effingham School from November 16-24. It is a great fundraiser for our school library and a wonderful place for children to purchase books for themselves as well as for parents and friends to purchase as gifts. Gifts for kids of all ages include joke books and drawing books. Picture books that you read with your child are excellent for the primary grades. The fair will feature lots of paperback and hardcover picture books for Christmas as well as new books featuring beloved characters like Skippyjon Jones, Judy Moody, and Junie B. Jones. Older children love non-fiction books like the *Guinness Book of World Records* and *Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul*. The long awaited *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days* will be out in

paperback for our fair. It is important to select books that are at the "just right" independent reading level. Books that are too difficult create discouraged readers or readers who can't comprehend the story. If you need any advice about gift books, check with your child's teacher for suggestions.

## **Mrs. Goodwin, RN – Health Office**

With the Holiday Season fast approaching, just a few reminders:

Head Lice: Remind your family members not to share hair brushes, combs, hair ornaments, caps, and hats. It is important to check your child's head weekly for head lice. Head lice increase this time of year with children having sleepovers and sharing of hats and stuffed animals.

**SHARE A TOY, SHARE A SLIDE,  
SHARE THE FEELINGS DEEP INSIDE,  
BUT NEVER SHARE A HAT OR COMB,  
OR LICE COULD MAKE YOUR HEAD THEIR  
HOME!!!**

**(From [www.headlice.org](http://www.headlice.org))**

Flu Season: Hand washing and cough etiquette are most important. Continue to remind your children to wash their hands frequently and to cough in their elbow.

## **Hannaford Helps Schools**

Purchase participating products and earn money for your school. From September 6 to December 6 purchase participating products in the Hannaford Helps Schools and we will earn school dollars that your school can use to purchase sports equipment, art supplies, computers, books, musical instruments and more. Go to [www.hannaford.com/hhs](http://www.hannaford.com/hhs) for participating products.



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## **Dates to Remember in November:**

- 16 Thanksgiving Theater at 2:15 pm
- 16-24 Book Fair
- 17 Photo entries for the Effingham Master Plan contest are due
- 19 Turkey for School Lunch Day
- 23 & 24 Parent Conferences – NO SCHOOL

## **Dates to Remember in December:**

- 3 King Pine ski/snowboard fitting at 1:30 pm
- 10 Nutcracker Dress Rehearsal at 10:00 am
- 10 Black Fly Committee Mtg at 4:30 pm
- 10 Nutcracker Performance at 6:00 p.m. (Will be held on Dec. 11, at 6:00, due to inclement weather)
- 14 Superintendent Jack Robertson reads to EES at 1:30 p.m.
- 17 Elfin Fair and Holiday Shop-at 5:00 pm  
Holiday Concert at 6:00 pm