

# EYES ON EASTLAKE

Volume 21 Issue 1

October 15, 2015

## *Principal's Message*

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that the first month of school is already behind us. It has been wonderful meeting and seeing Eastlake School students' transition to a new school year! Thank you for attending Back to School Night to meet your child's teacher and to learn more about the curriculum being taught within the classroom. I'd also like to thank you for participating in Mrs. O'Connor's family reading night. Each year she puts a lot of energy and effort into making this a successful night.

Speaking of reading...we encourage our children to read every night and I would like to encourage you to read with or to your child as well. As Halloween approaches, it may be a fun idea to create a costume with your child based on their favorite story book. Please know, if you already purchased a costume and it is not related to a storybook character, it is fine. We want the children to have fun!

Our Halloween parade will be on October 30, 2015. When making or selecting a Halloween costume, I respectfully request that you keep the following in mind:

- Safety is important! Masks or anything that obstructs breathing is discouraged. Also, no items that might make your child trip and fall.
- The costume needs to be appropriate for a school setting. Please, no fake weapons or violent themes. We have young children in the school who are easily scared.

I hope you all have a happy and safe Halloween and thank you again for a great start to the school year.

All the Best,

Bryan Hershkowitz  
Interim Principal

## **Notes from the vocal music room**

Mrs. Mickey Hamell

Hi. I am happy to be at Eastlake as the vocal music teacher for grades K, 1, and 2. This is my 9<sup>th</sup> year in district. I also teach at Littleton.

The students and I have spent some time getting to know each other and learning songs and playing games for steady beat, rhythm, and melody. We spend our class time singing, moving, and playing instruments.



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 10/15 – Book Fair Family Shopping, 6-9 pm**
- 10/15 – Family Reading Night 7pm**
- 10/16 – Book Fair**
- 10/22 – PTA Mtg, 7:00**
- 10/23 – Cultural Arts Program**
- 10/30 – Halloween Parade, Class Parties 1:20 pm**
- 11/3 – Election Day**  
**No School for Students,**  
**Full Professional Development Day**  
**For Teachers**
- 11/1 – Daylight Savings Time End,**  
**Turn the Clocks Back 1 Hour**
- 11/5 – School Closed, Teacher's Convention**
- 11/6 – School Closed, Teacher's Convention**
- 11/13 – School Picture Retakes**
- 11/19 – PTA Mtg, 7pm**

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## *Looking Ahead*

**Pre-School:** We are on our way with our apple exploration this week in Miss Bruss' class! We look forward to learning more about fire safety next week after having our fire trailer visit last week. We will end October with exploring pumpkins and in November we will begin a study of "Trees." November is a busy month with days off, parent teacher conferences and one session days so please be sure to check the calendar and watch your child's folder for important notes. Please remember that we do go outside for the playground most days so children should wear sneakers every day and bring a coat.

Miss Fairweather's class has been busy beginning the year! We began by learning about the different areas of our classroom and our routines. We also met all of our new friends and got to know each other. This month we will be learning about all things fall. This includes apples, leaves, and pumpkins. We are looking forward to a fun-filled month!



We have had an amazing start to the school year in Mrs. Rodzen's class. Our themes will be "Pumpkins vs. Jack-O-Lanterns" (October 19-23), Halloween (October 26-30), Families (November 2 & 4, 9-13). Parent training will take place on Friday October 23rd. We will be having our parent afternoon story & craft on Friday October 30. We are working very hard in our classroom and appreciate all that you do to help. Remember that with the chilly weather settling in, please make sure to dress your child appropriately. As long as it is not raining or too cold we try to get out to the playground everyday. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Mrs. Safarik's class just ended the "All About Me" study. It was fun getting to know all about our families. We are beginning an apple and pumpkin unit for the next few weeks. We will finish up this month with fire safety. Just a reminder have your children wear play clothes and sneakers. We go out on the playground every day. Keep snack simple and nutritious if possible. See you at the Halloween Parade on October 30th.

**Kindergarten:** Welcome to Kindergarten! We have made it through the first month of school. Students are still becoming familiar with the routines of our day. Please remind your child to practice writing their first name. We've been learning to write our name starting with an uppercase letter and using lowercase letters for the rest. Our classes have been focusing on beginning sounds and rhyming. You can support this work at home by using the following interactive websites and apps:

- [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)
- Beginning Sounds Interactive Game by Lakeshore Learning
- Phonics Song by Preschool Prep (You Tube)

We're so happy to see many of you completing the reading logs for homework. Reading with your child is a great way to reinforce many of the skills they learn throughout the day. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

**First Grade:** First graders are getting use to their routine and are adapting nicely to the first grade program. We celebrated the end of our Readers Workshop launch by reading in the gym with the kindergartners and second graders. It was "Out of this World". The lights were out and each class had different colored glow sticks. We used our reading muscles and read to ourselves and our partners. What a great time. In Writer's Workshop we are entering our first unit on narrative writing. We will be discussing small moments over the next few weeks. In math we just finished reviewing simple addition and now are going into subtraction

**Second Grade:** We're off to a great start in second grade! In Reading Workshop, we have been building our reading 'stamina' by applying new reading strategies, like giving a book a sneak peek before we read, and deciding how to change our voice as we read. In Writer's Workshop, we discussed the differences between a watermelon (big topic) and seed (small moment) idea to help us in our personal narrative unit. In Spelling this year, we will learn how words are spelled by learning their spelling patterns. In Math, we've written two- and three-digit numbers in standard, expanded, and picture forms. In Social Studies, we created maps about the three different types of communities, and in Science, we made slime to describe the steps of the scientific method! Make sure you are reading at least 20 minutes at home to continue growing those 'reading muscles'!

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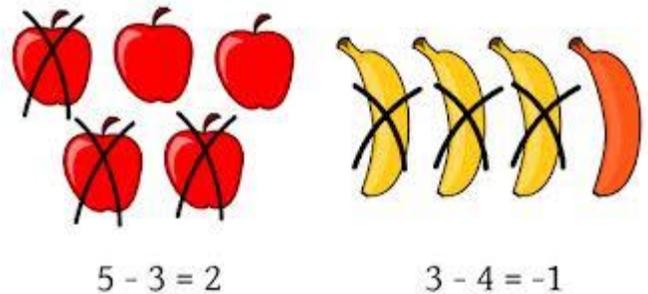
**Third Grade:** Trick or treat?! Third grade has been so neat! We've been off to a great start for the new school year. Science has been very exciting for the students this year. We are learning about the scientific method in Unit 1. We have been conducting investigations to answer questions throughout our lessons. Students have learned how to form a hypothesis and describe variables that changed in our investigations. We recently completed the 'Bubble' activity in which we compared results of the same model with difference variables. Students took three different containers and filled each with the same amount of water. We then dropped different amounts of dishwashing liquid soap in each one. We shook each container the same amount of times, and then used a ruler to measure the height of the bubbles. We repeated the steps for a second time, as we do in many of our investigations, to compare the results. Students are looking forward to new experiments as we move through our units.

We skipped to chapter 3 in math so the students can learn multiplication. They have been doing a fantastic job learning their multiplication facts. Flash cards are a great way for them to practice at home. We are in our last story for Unit 1 in reading. "My Rows and Piles of Coins" is the story we will be reading this week. Students should be studying their weekly vocabulary words and reading the stories at home. We are reaching the end of chapter one in social studies that focused on communities. Students should anticipate a chapter test in the near future.

Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> is Family Reading Night. It starts at 7 p.m. in the gym. We hope to see you there. We also look forward to seeing the parents on Halloween during the parade/class party.



**Fourth Grade:** The fourth grade has been enjoying reading Judy Blume's novel "Tales of a Fourth Nothing." It's about a nine year old boy named Peter and his mischievous little brother, Fudge. In math, we have finished our study of place value and are moving on to our unit on addition/subtraction. We are continuing to explore map skills in social studies. We have learned how to use cardinal and intermediate directions, as well map scale, to find locations and distances on a map.



**Fifth Grade:** Fifth graders have been busy learning about decision making and the six pillars of character in health. We just love having Miss Costa come into our room and help teach us. Hola, ciao, bon jour, are just a few of the new words they have learned during World Cultures. Señora Alvarez comes in each week to familiarize us with the languages and customs of Spain, Italy and France. Ask your children what these and other words/phrases mean. Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally is an acronym used to evaluate expressions. Each letter stands for a word that helps us decide the order of operations. Ask your children what this acronym stands for. Science is all about discovery, and we have been working hard to understand what scientists investigate and how they go about conducting an experiment. We are all immigrants from other countries thanks to the explorations done by men like Christopher Columbus. When cooking dinner tonight, please be sure to ask your children where these foods originated from? They learned all about the trading of foods during our lessons on the Columbian Exchange. As you can see, it's been quite the start to the school year.



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## We are getting off to a great start in Art!

We began the year by drawing self-portraits and making Art Folders. We have Activity Sketchbooks that we will work on during the year. We are working on our Color unit, observing Landscape and Still Life Paintings, and learning about and experimenting with Color. Students will learn about color by mixing their paint colors to achieve new colors, shades or tints. We will use creative & critical thinking skills through observations, critiques and writing about our artwork.

A little about me: I received a BFA in Illustration from Rhode Island School of Design and my Master of Arts in Teaching from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia. I have been teaching in Parsippany for 20 years and have taught at Intervale, Rockaway Meadow and Mount Tabor as well as at both high schools. I also taught in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Talented Art Program for many years. I have 3 children, who are 16, 14 and 11 and a dog who just turned 3 but thinks she's still a puppy! Things I love about October: I love fall and the changing colors of fall (I grew up in Vermont) and I love Halloween! I decorate, do Halloween crafts or make Halloween themed food all month long!

Mrs. Gallagher



## TIPS FOR CHOOSING BOOKS FOR KIDS

- Younger children enjoy books that use word repetition, rhymes, and predictable text. Look for books with colorful pictures and simple words.
- For beginning readers, select books that match their skill level.
- At the library, let your child choose some of the books.
- If your child has a favorite book, he or she may enjoy other books written by the same author.
- Choose stories that provide new experiences, such as folktales or books about different countries and cultures.
- Choose books that match your child's interests, from dinosaurs to dancing. (Most children like books that are funny.)
- For children who are already reading, select a variety of books – books you can read together, books you can read to your child, and books your child can read to you.
- Encourage your child to try different kinds of books, such as mysteries, biographies, and other non-fiction.
- Ask the children's librarian for book suggestions or booklists.
- Books about events in your child's life (new siblings, moving) can help him or her cope with fears and feelings.
- Visit the *Between the Lions* web site ([www.pbskids.org/lions](http://www.pbskids.org/lions)) for more on children and reading.

