

# EYES ON EASTLAKE

Volume 23 Issue 8

May 17, 2018

## *Principal's Message*

Dear Parents,

Spring weather is finally here and hopefully only sunny days will be in our future. Although the weather has been a bit chilly over the last few weeks it didn't stop our PTA from showing some warmth and caring to our staff. I'd like to thank our amazing PTA for a great teacher/staff appreciation week. Your generosity has overwhelmed us as each day brought on a new surprise. Your support of our school community is noticed, not only by our staff but by our students as well. They can see the great value that we put on education which will have a direct effect on their motivation to succeed in school.

Speaking of succeeding in school. Our third, fourth and fifth grade students recently completed the PARCC. There are still ways that you can support your child now that the test is over. One suggestion is to discuss the results with your child when they become available and above all else remember to remain positive and encouraging.

This month also brings a variety of fun activities. From Field Day to the Spring concert to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade basketball game, we are excited to be able to provide extracurricular activities that make learning fun. I am looking forward to seeing the many volunteers and visitors that these activities will bring and the excitement on each child's face as they reach success beyond the classroom.

Best Regards,

Bryan Hershkowitz  
Principal

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 5/21 – All Day Concert Rehearsal  
ESL Field Trip**
- 5/22 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Brooklawn Bridge**
- 5/23 – Spring Concert 7pm**
- 5/24 – Field Day  
Beach Blanket Book-a-thon**
- 5/25 – Race to the Finish**
- 5/28 – School Closed - Memorial Day**
- 5/30 – Preschool Field Day**
- 5/31 – Rain Date for Field Day & Beach  
Blanket Book-a-thon**
- 6/1 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade BBQ**
- 6/4 – Rain Date for Race to the Finish**
- 6/5 – 1:30 Dismissal Grades K – 5**
- 6/6 – Rain Date for Preschool Field Day**
- 6/8 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Camping Trip**
- 6/12 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip**
- 6/13 – Kindergarten Moving Up 10am  
Preschool Moving Up 1pm**
- 6/14 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip  
Family Fitness Night 6pm**
- 6/15 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up 9:30am**
- 6/19 – 1:30 Dismissal Grades K – 5**
- 6/20 – 1:30 Dismissal Grades K – 5  
End of Year Parties 12:00  
Rain Date for Family Fitness Night**
- 6/21 – 1:30 Dismissal Grades K – 5  
Clap Out 1:10pm  
Last Day for Teacher & Students**

### **On 1:30 Dismissal days:**

**Miss Bruss & Mrs. Safarik's class schedule  
is 9-11 for am and 11-1 for pm classes.**

**Ms. Fairweather's am class schedule  
is 9-11.**

**Ms. Gonzalez, Mrs. Pepe & Ms.  
Fairweather's extended day class schedule  
is 9-1.**

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## *Looking Ahead*

**Pre-School:** It is hard to believe it is almost June and this is the last newsletter for this school year! We have kicked off May with our exercise study and are looking forward to enjoying the spring weather and learning about the changes spring brings. We hope you enjoyed our Mother's Day Tea and are looking forward to some exciting end of the year events in preschool! Please watch your child's folder for important events and dates! Please be sure your child is wearing sneakers each day so they may enjoy the playground safely. Thank you all for a wonderful school year! I hope you have a terrific summer! Ms. Bruss

The year has flown by in Miss Fairweather's class! We recently completed our study on recycling and enjoyed culminating our study with creating recyclable materials projects. Next, we will be studying exercise! We will be taking part in a number of fun games and activities! We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our various activities for the end of the year and celebrating all of the learning we have accomplished this school year!

Ms Gonzalez's class is studying Leisure Activities this month. They explored gardening by making greenhouses and planting seeds. They will be learning about sports, cooking, and music. They will also be talking about how people celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Please remember to dress appropriately for the warmer weather. Feel free to send in a hat!!!

Mrs. Pepe's Preschool Class had a great time at our Mother's Day Tea Party. During story time, we are reading "There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Books" and "Let's Plant a Garden". In the Art center, we enjoy painting and playing with shaving cream. We are making Butterflies and Flowers. We enjoyed playing Gross Motor Games outside.

Mrs. Safarik's is beginning and exercise/ball study. We are learning about different spots and their special equipment. We will learn about proper nutrition and how we keep our bodies healthy. What jobs relate to exercise? How do we stay safe when we exercise? I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful gifts during Teacher Appreciation Week. I was blown away with your generosity. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

**Kindergarten:** My, oh my, how the year did fly! The kindergartners have worked really hard and learned so much. In writing, we are learning how to use our words to express our opinions. We know that we can write about our opinions and explain why we feel that way. Our final Readers' Workshop unit is learning about becoming avid readers. Please continue to read and write with your child at home. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our end of the year celebration on June 13. There will be more information to follow. We hope everyone has a safe and fun summer!

**First Grade:** First grade went on a great field trip last week. The play Henry and Mudge was enjoyed by all. All the kids behaved wonderfully and each wrote about their favorite part of the trip. In reading workshop we are becoming the "Boss of our Reading" by learning new strategies to solve tricky words. In math we are adding double digit numbers and learning about time. We are writing opinion pieces on the collections the students brought from home. The students are learning to give their opinions, hook the reader and giving reasons for why their collections are the best.

**Second Grade:** We can hardly believe we are approaching the end of the school year! There are some fun activities coming up that we are looking forward to. Field Day will be on May 24<sup>th</sup>, along with our Beach Blanket Bookathon. There are still some interesting things to learn before the school year comes to an end. In Science, we are learning all about matter. Students learned how heating and cooling matter can cause changes. We've conducted two activities in which we explored changes to matter. During the ice cube activity, students came up with different ways to melt the ice, and during our popcorn activity we observed the changes that happened to the cooked kernels. In both these activities we discussed whether these changes were reversible or irreversible. Second grade is loving our Writer's Workshop unit on poetry, and students are becoming quite the poets. Students are working on finding a topic that inspires them or means something to them. They are continuing to use their poets' eyes to see the world in a fresh, new way. We are completing our chapter on graphs in Math. Students enjoyed surveying their classmates, graphing their data, and analyzing their results. We are looking forward to celebrating our reading growth this spring. We are very proud of all the hard work and effort from our second graders. We look forward to celebrating the end of the school with them. We will be sad to see them move on, but wish them much success in third grade!

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**Third Grade:** How is it possible that we are so close to the end of another wonderful Eastlake year? Third graders are working to continue all of the hard work that they have put forth this year. In English Language Arts, students are learning about how to spot the main idea and supporting details in nonfiction texts. They are reading all different kinds of informational books to practice these skills. Students are also learning how to read and understand text features in nonfiction books. Learning and understanding the structure of this genre has really helped third graders to become even stronger readers.

In writer's workshop, third graders are very close to publishing their informational books. It is amazing all that third graders know and how they are learning how to write like grown up authors! Their topics range from lacrosse to Minecraft to different species of animals. The third graders have even taught their teachers a thing or two about the topics that they have become experts on.

Finally, in both third grade classes, students completed different research projects. In Ms. Coen's class, third graders researched endangered species. They just recently gave their presentations. And in Mrs. Craner's class, students presented their google slides on a different mystery found in nature. Third graders are definitely ready to tackle the challenges in fourth grade next year!

Finally, third graders are gearing up for their upcoming Flutophone concert! They cannot wait to perform for everyone. Have a great rest of this school year and a safe and playful summer!



**Fourth Grade:** The fourth grade is very excited for our busy week ahead! We have all day rehearsal on Monday to prepare for our Spring Concert that will be held on Wednesday. The very next day we will have Field Day (weather permitting!). What a fun time of year this is! In math, we are wrapping up our study of fractions and decimals, and we will be moving on to geometry soon. We have been focusing on strategies for reading nonfiction text in reading workshop, including previewing text, analyzing text structure, and identifying main ideas and supporting details. We will begin using these skills to complete a research project about extreme weather in small groups. Soon enough, we will be experts on our topics, and we'll be able to teach you all about it!



**Fifth Grade:** PARCC testing is over...woohooo!!! They worked very hard and we're so proud of their efforts! In math, the students have been working on conversions of both metric and customary units. The children continue to work on the Reform Movements project in social studies and are doing a fabulous job putting together their tri-fold boards. They are looking forward to presenting them and for the students to do a gallery walk to each of the Reform Movements to learn more about the changes our country made many years ago. Grammar is our focus this month in reading. The children have been working in their guided reading groups to determine subject and predicates as well as prepositional phrases and how these can be implemented in their writing. In science, the children will learn all about how energy gets transformed by plants. Make sure you ask them what a plant needs in order to survive. What a great opportunity our fifth graders have. Each year, our students get to write letters to the graduating seniors at Parsippany Hills High School reminding them of what they learned in the L.E.A.D program about the dangers of driving while intoxicated and poor decision making. The seniors look forward to reading these letters on their prom night to keep them safe. Fifth grade is quite busy the next few weeks as our Staff vs. Fifth Graders basketball game is this Thursday at 6:00 P.M at PHHS. Come to cheer on your favorite fifth grader and support the students before they move on to middle school.

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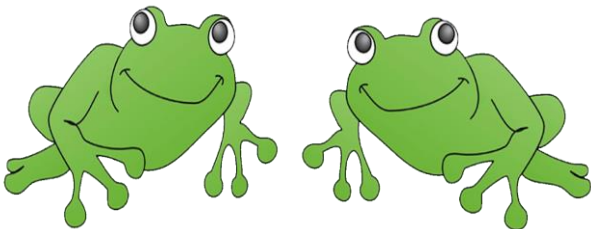
## Notes from the Vocal Music Room Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First

**Mrs. Mickey Hamell**

First Graders are using “ice cream rhythms” to improvise melodies on the barred instruments (xylophones, metalophones, and glockenspiels). They have come up with some delicious combinations!

Kindergarteners are becoming great musicians when it comes to recognizing AB and ABA form. They can listen to a piece of music and hear how it changes; it can be different instruments playing or a different melody. They became very good at this and played two challenge games including “The Chicken Dance”

Pre-K students are using their singing voices to sing about frogs that say “Gonk Gonk”  
Gonk-Gonk went the little mister froggie.  
Gonk-Gonk went the lady froggie too  
Gonk-Gonk went they both together, and  
their eyes went woo!-woo!-woo!  
As they kissed each other, XX, Just like little  
froggies do  
And he said “good ye” and she said “oh my!”  
Gonk-Gonk I’m coming too.



## ART NEWS

Our Design projects are currently displayed at school and we are finishing our Portrait projects. We’ve had a great year and hope you have enjoyed seeing your child’s artwork displayed in our online gallery at [www.Artsonia.com](http://www.Artsonia.com) - I especially love seeing comments from grandparents and others who live far away, who get to share in your child’s art accomplishments!

Speaking of Artsonia, please take some time to leave a comment or two! I have really enjoyed seeing the artwork displayed online and feel that the response from family members has been great for our artists. I love reading the encouraging words for our artists and I am happy we get to share the work with so many more people! Don't forget you can also photograph your child’s personal artwork at home and upload it to their Personal Gallery on Artsonia.

Keeping simple crafts materials on hand for the summer will encourage creativity. Papers, markers, colored pencils, scissors and glue are all you need to let a little creativity run wild, and there are numerous craft kits from places like AC Moore and Michael’s Arts and Crafts stores that you can purchase to do together. Try visiting a museum this summer or looking into art classes through local arts organizations if you want a broader experience.

Please contact me at [pgallagher@pthsd.net](mailto:pgallagher@pthsd.net) with questions or feedback.

Have a happy summer!

Mrs. Gallagher

