

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



Neighborhood News

Late Winter 2020 Edition

PUBLISHED BY THE
**EASTAMPTON
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Notes From Our Superintendent

Greetings Eastampton Community. We are well into the throes of winter as I write this article for the Neighborhood News. Our students are immersed in lessons and activities that are designed to cultivate a love of learning and expand their horizons to unprecedented levels.

There are a few updates I would like to provide our school community. Each August, the Board of Education develops goals which help position our school for continued success. This year, I collaborated with the Board of Education to craft five goals:

1. **Building Relationships** (two year goal)
2. **New Jersey Student Learning Assessment Readiness** - NJSLA (three year goal)
3. **Explore Bringing a Preschool Program to ETSD** (two year goal)
4. **Enhance Communication**
5. **Facilities Maintenance**

Each of these goals focuses on a different facet of what makes our school run efficiently and effectively. I continue to collaborate with the Township Manager, Kim White, to see how we can leverage our partnership to help the students and citizens of this wonderful town.

Our staff and administration have attended professional development workshops to enhance our academic offerings which will result in improved performance on the NJSLA. Under Mrs. Rucci's leadership, we now use the Measure of Academic Performance (MAP) assessment to help gauge student progress in meeting the New Jersey Learning Standards. The data from these assessments helps us craft educational pathways for all of our students.

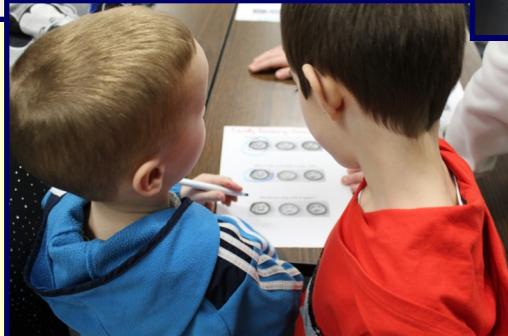
Last year, we applied for funding to bring a preschool program to our district. Unfortunately, we did not receive funding. But we will continue to explore partnerships with neighboring districts, as well as meet with DOE representatives to better position our district for next year's application for preschool aid.

We continue to use Facebook, our website, Twitter, and Instagram to update the community on school wide events. Please follow us on social media to stay connected.

We have developed a plan to update and maintain our buildings and grounds as our facility ages. To date, we have painted one third of the building, replaced carpet, updated network switches, enhanced security measures, painted the trailers, and purchased new technology and furniture for student use. It is our goal to maintain the beauty of the facility while making it safe and secure for our students and staff.

Attendance at BOE meetings (dates are listed on our website) will give you further insight into how the district is progressing toward meeting each of these goals. A vital part of school success is our partnerships with our families. We ask that you support our efforts in school by communicating regularly with your child's teachers. Checking grades on PowerSchool, attending school functions, and joining and becoming an active member of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) are critical to success. The PTA costs only seven dollars to join, but more than your money, they need your participation in leading and planning for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Neighborhood News, and stay safe and warm!



Kindergarten GTT teachers for a day...grading our 8th graders' toys

Letter from the PTA

URGENT!

This is a critical time for our PTA. This year ALL FOUR officer positions are up for elections: President and Secretary on their normal cycle, while the Vice President and Treasurer are continued from last year. We must have nominations by April. If we do not fill the vacancies, the PTA will drastically cut back operations next year, and many events for our children may end.

Our PTA raises funds throughout the year to provide our student body with:

- Family Fun Nights, such as the Halloween Dance, Winter Fun Night, Spring Sweetheart Dance
- Spring and Fall Book Fairs – *funds raised go directly to the ECS Library*
- Field Trip Busing for Kindergarten through 7th Grade
- Class Parties for Kindergarten through 4th Grade - Halloween, Winter, and End of Year
- Secret Santa Shop
- Assemblies for All Grade Levels
- Spiritwear
- Author Visits
- Student Scholarships - Eastampton Graduates from ECS and RV
- Color Fun Run

We also offer our support to events and projects such as our Veterans Luncheon, Summer Reading Kick-off, and Glavan's Garden. The PTA provides special treats and gifts to our teachers as well, with classroom supply reimbursements (\$50 per teacher), mini and micro grants valued at \$900, and our annual Welcome Back Breakfast and Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

The PTA needs your hands to function. Please consider becoming more involved, whether as an officer, committee chair, or general volunteer. We don't want to cut back our efforts - last year we put over \$38,000 back into our school! Moms, Dads, Guardians...please think about how you can become an important part of preserving our PTA for our children's sake.

Sincerely,

Stephanie McHugh
Eastampton PTA President



Child Study Team Connection

BY KELLY EAGLES, CST SUPERVISOR

Community Based Instruction at ECS

The Coffee Cart Café made its debut at ECS on February 13th! Our middle school student entrepreneurs, under the direction and guidance of both Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Goodman, have taken their business skills to a whole new level.



The Coffee Cart Café began as an idea to promote pragmatic language, functional mathematics, and team building amongst our students in a safe learning environment. Hence, this concept came to fruition in the form of a traveling café. Students in our self-contained middle school classroom developed a menu, which was placed in the faculty room and main office where staff could order coffee along with their preferred accompaniments (sugar, cream, etc.) and a delicious muffin! Once teachers submitted their forms, our students got to work. They spent time during their life skills class discussing how to purchase inventory, establish jobs, and plan the implementation of this moving cart. Their ultimate goal was to greet staff members and provide a warm cup of coffee to brighten each person's day. The students also practiced proper greetings, managing currency, and timely transport; all while having fun and engaging with their school community.

Community Based Instruction (CBI) is an essential component of educational instruction for students with special needs. The goal of our program is to provide a variety of hands-on learning opportunities at all age levels to help promote independent living and skill acquisition in a safe and supported environment. We are extremely thankful for the support of our students and staff in this CBI endeavor. Our next café will make its way through the halls of ECS on March 13th!

Why Kindness and Words Matter

FROM OUR GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Teaching and modeling kindness, respect, compassion, and empathy creates an environment where students feel safe, connected, and happy. A positive school setting has an impact on all aspects of a student's education - attendance, social interaction, stress level, and academic success. And the words we use have power. Can this power be controlled? Yes it can, and we can help our children by teaching them to train their tongues (and their typing) so that their words are a force for good.

It is extremely important for students to learn to measure the value of their words because their choices can change someone's day...or even someone's life. Based on this knowledge, parents and teachers should consistently point out the effects that words have and help our children identify the reactions their words may have on others. Will my words -

Heal or hurt?

Soothe or enrage?

Build up or tear down?

Change minds?

Create separation or bring people together?

Move people to action?

When it comes to words, there are three essentials we can teach our students:

1) Be aware of the tone of your voice. Tone might be just as important as the words we use. The tone with which we deliver our words speaks volumes itself. Sometimes it's not what you say, it's how you say it.

2) Become an active listener. Help teach our students that we do not just listen with our ears; we listen with our whole face and body. Make eye contact. Smile and nod. Focus on the words and try to understand the emotions that the other person may be feeling. Try not to think about your own opinions, but focus on mirroring and repeating back what someone just said.

3) Think before you speak. You have control over the words you use and when you choose to say them. You are responsible for what comes out of your mouth. When you think before you speak, you are asking yourself, "Is what I am about to say true? Is it helpful? Inspiring? Necessary? Kind?"

When schools and families work together to teach and model prosocial behavior, we can build leadership skills within our students and see positive outcomes both inside and outside the classroom.