



Winter 2022-23

First bell rings at 8:40am  
School begins at 8:50am

### Calendar:

December 2

No School Mark Reporting Day

December 7 & 9

PTO Holiday Shoppe

December 12 – 16

SCTIS Supply Drive

December 14

PTO Dine to Donate at Red Savoy

December 22 – January 2

No School Winter Break

January 3 – 6

PTO Restock the Classrooms

January 12

PTO Dine to Donate at BP Panera

January 13

Student Asynchronous Remote  
Learning Day & Staff Instructional

Planning Day

January 16

NO SCHOOL

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 23 – 27

Great Kindness Challenge Week

January 27

Coffee with the Principal

January 30

PTO General meeting

February 1

PTO Dine to Donate at Champlin  
Chipotle

# Elm Creek News

**Mrs. Ness' Notes:** Did you know that Principal Ness presents her Mrs. Ness' Notes at the PTO General Meetings. Here is a sampling of the November Ness' Notes:

**Mexico Project:** We are in our seventeenth year of Students Connecting through International Service, an exciting leadership/service-learning project that will include a trip to Tucson, Arizona. Four elementary schools: Basswood, Elm Creek, Park Brook, and Edinbrook, select 6 fifth grade students to participate. These students will attend meetings, conduct a school supply drive in their own school, and then travel together to Arizona to deliver the supplies to the Mexican students at the border. After the trip, the students will create and present a video report to each of their schools and to supporting organizations. Local business and community groups will pay all trip expenses for the students. Congratulations to Campbell F. and Maria V. who will be representing Elm Creek this year! Elm Creek's school supply drive will be the week of December 12th-16th.

**Junie B. Jones the Musical Jr. performances:** Stages Theatre is offering a community education after school opportunity for Elm Creek Elementary students. Students enrolled in this class will be performing Junie B. Jones the Musical Jr. at Park Center Senior High Auditorium on Friday, March 17th at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 18th at 2 p.m. Admission is FREE and the show is about 1 hour long. Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays after school at Elm Creek Elementary from January 23rd-March 13th. This class fills up quickly so register soon at [osseo.ce.eleyo.com](https://osseo.ce.eleyo.com)

**Elm Creek Twitter and Instagram Pages:** Please join us on our Elm Creek Elementary twitter page @ElmCreekElem or on our Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/elmcreekelem/?hl=en>.

**From the Media Center:** We have started reading the Minnesota Student Book Award program books. Star of the North Award includes 10 picture books that students all over Minnesota read and the Maud Hart Lovelace books include 16 chapter books that students can read. We will vote in March to determine Elm Creek's favorite books in these award categories.

MackinVia is where students can find the Elm Creek eBooks. This can be accessed from home or school on a device just by going to [mackinvia.com](https://mackinvia.com), choosing Elm Creek Elementary and logging in using the student username and password. There are thousands of books available!

Wishing you all a happy and safe Holiday Season!

### Calendar Cont.

February 6

NO SCHOOL

Licensed Staff Workshop Day

February 17

PTO Family Paint Nite

February 20

NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day

February 23

PTO Dine to Donate at Panda Express

February 27

Coffee with the Principal

February 28, March 2 & 7

Parent/Teacher Conferences

March 10

NO SCHOOL Mark Reporting Day

March 15

PTO Dine to Donate at Noodles and Co.

March 24

Coffee with the Principal

March 27 – 31

NO SCHOOL Spring Break

#### Attendance Matters!

Help your child be successful at school by getting them to school at **8:40 each day** so they can be ready to learn at 8:50 when school starts.



### Message from Nurse Marta

With the excitement of winter and fresh snow upon us I am seeing many wet friends requesting dry pants. This is a friendly reminder to send a daily change of clothes with your students. Unfortunately, there are not enough shoes and pants to go around and occasionally students will be sent back to class wet if dry clothing is not available. Sending a change of clothes, no matter your students age, is appreciated.

The health office has always been well supported by generous donations from Elm Creek friends and family. We are again in need of new or gently used boys pants in sizes 5-12, girls pants and underwear from 5-16. We have plenty of shirts for all.

Thank you all for all you do to support our students at Elm Creek. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Marta Hertle LPN  
Elm Creek Elementary Health Office  
Phone: 763-315-7696  
Fax: 763-315-7690

**The lost & found** is overflowing with lots of sweatshirts, coats, hats and gloves. Please encourage your student to check the lost and found if you are missing items. Parents are welcome to come in and check the lost and found during regular office hours 7:30 - 4:00pm. Unclaimed items will be donated on December 21st at 3:30pm.

### Recess/Winter

Winter weather has arrived! ALL students will go outside each day for recess unless the temperature, or wind chill, is below zero, or it is raining. Please have your child dress appropriately with the knowledge that they will be going out to recess daily.

Please contact Kelly Deines, our School Social Worker, if you need resources for winter outerwear. You can reach her by calling the school office at 763-425-0577 or email [deinesk@district279.org](mailto:deinesk@district279.org).

**School Attendance:** Please call the absence line 763-315-7692 to report your child's absence. If your child is not called in when absent, they are marked unexcused. After 3 unexcused absences it is considered excessive, and action may be taken. We do not want this to happen to you and may be avoided by calling in and stating the reason for the absence. You can view your child's attendance record in ParentVue.

If you need to clear up past absences, contact Staci in the office at 763-425-0577 / [jones@district279.org](mailto:jones@district279.org)

Mark your calendars!

5<sup>th</sup> grade DARE Program

January 6

1:30 - 3:00

Detailed information will be coming soon.



### PBIS News:

Starting in Tri 2, teachers will be using a new Social Emotional Learning curriculum called Harmony. This curriculum is being used district wide. Harmony teaches a variety of social skills including emotion recognition, problem solving, perspective taking, and teamwork.

The Harmony curriculum consists of the same 4 units for all grades K-5:

- Being My Best Self
- Valuing Each Other
- Communicating with Each Other
- Learning From Each Other

#### Everyday Practices of Harmony

The curriculum has 3 everyday practices that all students at Elm Creek will learn and participate in:

- Harmony Goals: Students will work together to create both class and personal goals.
- Meet Up: An everyday classroom circle time to build community.
- Buddy-Up: Students are assigned weekly buddies. Teachers provide multiple opportunities for buddies to chat throughout the week.

#### Sign-Up for Harmony

Anyone can create a free account at [harmonysel.org](http://harmonysel.org). With an account, you can access all lessons and activities to reinforce the skills at home.

### Music Programs:

Mark your calendars!

January 10 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert at OMS, 6:30pm

January 25 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Demo at OMS, 6:30pm

February 2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program, 6:00pm

March 16 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Recorder Program, 6:00pm

### Student Council spirit days:

December 21 - Pajama and Stuffed Animal Day

January 20 - College Day

### Parking Lot Safety Procedures:

We continue to make safety in the parking lot a priority at Elm Creek. We would like to remind you of the pathway painted between the center parking area for students to walk to the crosswalks. Cars will not be allowed to pull through the pathway to get to the line to exit the school parking lot. Please see map below.

The parking lot is a very congested area, and it is important that we keep student safety as our priority, even if it means a slower experience for the driver. Please stay patient and follow the procedures noted in the map below. Thank you for your patience and support!

**WALKERS:** Students are not to arrive before 8:40 AM. There is no supervision prior to that time. Students will enter the building at 8:40 AM. Students must cross with the patrols using designated walkways. There are no patrols on 99th Avenue by the path leading to school.

**BUS:** Schedules are mailed from the Transportation Department in late August. Please remember that students are only allowed to ride on their designated bus. Please review the bus safety information with your child prior to the start of school. Riding the school bus is a privilege.

**CARS:** Students are to be dropped off and picked up in the front parking lot only. Please do not enter the bus area. Children should enter and exit the vehicle using the curbside door. If you desire, you may park your vehicle in the parking lot, meet your child at their outside door, and escort them across the parking lot crosswalks. At no time should children be walking through the parking lot unescorted. This is extremely important for the safety of each child. Maple Grove Police/Fire Department will ticket cars parked in the NO PARKING zones. Due to space limitations, cars must continue moving around the circle when dropping off or picking up. Courtesy to pedestrians and busses is a top priority, providing safety to all. Please yield to busses at the entrance to the school parking lot and let them in first.

Thank you!



- New Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures**
- Drop off and pick up your students at the white curb. **NO WAITING!**
  - There is no longer drop off or pick up in the yellow curb area.
  - Cross the parking lot at either of the marked crosswalks with the student patrols only.