

January 7, 2022



Alicia Lyford, Principal

# 2021-2022 EMES Family Newsletter

## *EMES Mission Statement*

"The purpose of our school is to teach all children to become competent, caring citizens and life-long learners through a challenging and relevant curriculum."



## **Dear EMES Families -**

It was wonderful to welcome your children back to school on Monday morning. I hope you and your family had a time of peace, rest, and rejuvenation over the extended holiday break. Our family had a very quiet break, which was just what we needed! I know the week back to school has been a bit chaotic with several emails from me about Covid. I thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to ensure all of our students are safe and healthy while at school. We were able to successfully conduct two rounds of surveillance testing along with daily Test to Stay testing for our non-vaccinated students. I am so thankful we have this measure in place as I know some of our surrounding schools have had to close this week as a result of too many students needing to quarantine without TTS in place.

As promised in my Sunday email to you, this newsletter is intended to NOT be all about Covid, but rather to share with you some of the amazing things that transpired throughout the month of December. As you know, we carried out a month-long selection and voting process of our new school mascot. The school and community were able to submit recommendations for our next mascot based on the following criteria: Native to VT; Represents our school community; General Awesomeness. After narrowing it down to the top three choices, Black Bears, Red Fox, and White-tailed Deer, the EMES community voted for their top choice. At an all-school assembly on December 22nd, we unveiled the Red Fox as our new school mascot. Each class was presented with a classroom version of the mascot and each student enjoyed a Red Fox sugar cookie. Our next step in this process will be to decide what our Mascot will look like. Stay tuned for details on this process. Finally, we will work to create new school and Rec gear with our mascot and school logo on it. Our hope is to have that completed by the spring sports season. This has been such a fun way to engage our school community!

Another celebration in December was bringing the Rec basketball program back to EMES. We were unable to offer basketball last winter and it has been such a pleasure to hear kids practicing in the gym again. We have taken small steps to bring this back by only allowing students in the same class/pod to practice together and not hosting games in our building. So far, it has been a great experience for our 3-6 students and we will be adding K-2 basketball to the mix next week. A huge thank-you to our volunteer coaches for making this happen safely!

EMES participated in a door decorating contest last month and the Student Leadership Team voted on the doors. Our school looks so beautiful with winter-themed door decorations and each door earned special recognition. Thank you to the Student Leadership Team for making this happen!

Students and staff were showered with love in the days leading up to the holiday break with treats from our PTNO and School Board. Our staff enjoyed delicious breakfast treats, sweets, and a coffee bar, as well as beautiful hand-made wreaths, and our students were able to pick out new books and flashlights to read with. It was so nice to be treated by our parents and neighbors!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to welcoming your children back on Monday!

Alicia

### Upcoming Dates to Note:

- ⇒ January 14—Second marking period ends
- ⇒ January 17—MLK Day—no school
- ⇒ January 18—Teacher inservice—no school
- ⇒ January 25—7pm PTNO meeting—virtual
- ⇒ January 28—Report cards mailed home
- ⇒ February 9—1/2 day of school 12:30 dismissal
- ⇒ February 19—March 1—winter break



### News from Community Connections:

In consultation with the Interim Superintendent and the Covid-19 Coordinator, Community Connections has made the decision to not offer the camps it normally holds on Martin Luther King Day and on the in-service day that follows. It is felt that with the rising number of cases, how the schools and their staff are being impacted, along with the fact that students would be coming to one school from numerous others it is not safe to attempt at this time.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause but feel that it is the safest path at this time.



2nd grade squishy circuits



Pre-K cookie making with Ms. Annie

### Happy Holidays -

I am collecting ALL /Any holiday greeting card fronts and new greeting cards (with or without envelopes) for St Jude's children's Hospital/ Ranch.

Send them in or drop them at school.

If you can't drop them but are Interested in donating, please Message me for media mail shipping address or schedule a pickup

Deadline for collection closes on Friday, February 4th.

Thank you in Advance

Bonnie Pollard- Allen



Yes! We are still accepting the fronts of your recycled cards

as we continue to revamp our recycled card program in our effort to provide teens with life and work skills.



6th graders conducting an equity and diversity audit of our picture books



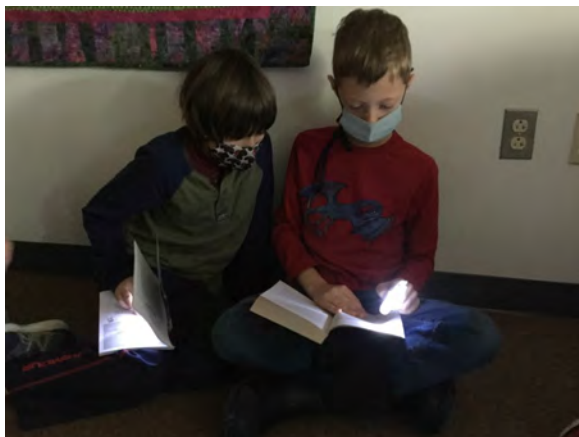
Grades 2-3 Design engineering



3rd grader reading to Kindergarten



1st Grade Beebots



Grade 3/4 Winter solstice Reading



Grade 3 & 4 Flooding the Model

## News from the EMES PTNO

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We hope you all had a wonderful break with your families. Thank you to everyone who helped out with the holiday celebrations before break. The treats and wreaths were greatly appreciated by the staff. The book exchange was a wonderful success and each child really enjoyed receiving a book from their classmate. Below are a couple of pictures from our holiday week of fun.



★ NEXT MEETING ★ - JANUARY 25th 2022 at 7:00pm

[ZOOM LINK](#) for meeting

[Meeting Agenda](#)

At our next meeting we will officially elect **NEW officers** to the executive board. There has not been an official vote since Covid began as the previous officers did not officially step down. We have seen a great interest in community members who want to be more involved in the school community and would love to have you on the board. Below is a list of the open positions with a brief summary of each one.

**President.** Presides over meetings, prepares the agenda, serves as the primary contact for the principal, coordinates the work of all the officers and committees.

**Vice President.** Assists the president and carries out the president's duties in his or her absence or inability to serve. The vice president also oversees any committees.

**Secretary.** Keeps all records, takes and records minutes, handles correspondence, and sends notices of meetings to the membership.

**Treasurer.** Receives all funds of the organization, keeps an accurate record of receipts and expenditures, and pays out funds in accordance with the approval of the executive board. They also present a financial statement at each meeting.

We look forward to seeing you all on January 25th and welcoming the PTNO officers.