

Happy, Happy SPRING Eswood Families, March 2026

We have had a lot of fun during the 3rd quarter and we are ramping up for all the end-of-the-year fun in the 4th quarter.

Girl's Basketball: Our **girl's basketball team** placed 2nd place in the Conference with a winning season of 8-2 overall, with both losses to Kings. Thank you to Coach Cassell and Coach Winters!

Read Across America Week: We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and a week of reading and dress up fun! (Thank you to our Enrichment Team)

Speech: We had a handful of middle school students that faced their fears and became a part of the Eswood Speech team, participating in two meets in March!!! CONGRATULATIONS for all your hard work and Thank you to Mrs.DeHahn for coaching these individuals!

Testing: Eswood 3rd-8th graders will be taking the **Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) test April 7-10th**. We tried to have a little fun this year and had pep assemblies, with a kick-off breakfast at 8:15am for the whole school on Tuesday, April 7th. Our kindergartners, 1st and 2nd graders provided the test takers with support from encouraging notes, locker signs and cheers at our pep assembly. The 5th and 8th graders will have a **State Science Assessment the week of April 20-24th** to assess their science knowledge, as well.

Chess: Eswood will be holding our Annual Chess Tournament on April 14th for 3-5th graders and Wednesday, April 15th for the 6-8th graders, both nights starting at 4pm, Community Club will once again over concessions for families. We have over 100 students set to come and engage their brains in a great game! Thank you to Mr Winters for organizing the event and coaching and preparing our Eswood students for the tournament!

Kindergarten Round up: Friday, April 24th, 9:30-11:30am. If you know of anyone who has an incoming Kindergartener for next school year, 20206-2027, please let them know to stop by during this time to speak with Erin in the office and take a tour of the kindergarten room with Mrs.Reed.

Staff Appreciation Week: May 4th-8th. We will be taking the week to celebrate and pamper our staff. Please join in sending them notes or anything of appreciation to show them how awesome they are!!!

End of the year Field Trips: K-2nd: Dupage Children's Museum, April 8th, Grades 3-5th: Planetarium in Chicago, May 5th; 6-7th Grades: Peoria Museum, May 1st; 8th Grade Field Trip, Great America, May 1st. AND 1-5th: Egyptian Theater to see some classmates: Aubrey, Harper, Grace, & Presley) perform in the show, High School Musical.

End of the year fun to come: May 6th: Spring Art's Night, Doors open at 5:30pm, Middle School Awards: Tuesday, May 12th, 2:30pm, 8th Grade Graduation: Thursday, May14th @6pm, Kindergarten Graduation: Monday, May 18th, School Picnic & Field Day: Wednesday, May 20th, Thursday, May 21st: LAST DAY of school, Bowling Day, Dismissal at 11:30am.

Thank you for allowing me to lead this amazing school!

I am blessed beyond measure to have the opportunity to be a small part of your children's lives.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Garrigan

Superintendent/Principal

K-2nd:

Art (Kindergarten):

During the third quarter in Art, we have been creating artwork inspired by everyday world activities. For example, we explored the Olympics by making torches and gold medals. We also connected art to the winter season by studying ice sculptures, such as those at Sinissippi Park and Lake Geneva, which represent our cold climate. We also make Valentines Heart using cut up paper rolls and glitter.

Recently, we worked on finger puppets using the origami principle. We also created a trifold art project where an object looks normal when folded (for example, a heart), but once unfolded, it reveals a creative transformation such as flowers or plants growing from the object. Clay is always a favorite activity, where imagination is set free to create unique pieces. Currently, we are working on a mosaic project with the kindergarten students after they returned from break.

Art (1st–2nd Grade):

Students explored a variety of creative projects this month. They made sparkling disco balls, created penguins using clay, and learned about *The Tree of Life* by Gustav Klimt. Inspired by Paul Cézanne, students also created their own still life artwork.

PE: Students have been learning and developing skills through whole-group activities and station work. We have explored dancing, bowling, and ball handling with feet and hands.

Kindergarten: Kindergarten has been busy this quarter! We are continuing to use our phonics knowledge to apply letter sounds into words and sentences. We have learned about types of punctuation and when to use capital letters. We celebrated Read Across America week by enjoying books by Mo Willems, made our own *Elephant and Piggie* comic illustration, and crafted some of our favorite book characters. We have been building our number sense and strengthening our addition and subtraction skills within ten. After break, we will be moving to place value in preparation for first grade. We are growing with leaps and bounds and ready to finish strong!

First Grade: In first grade, we've had a busy and exciting quarter of learning! In reading, we've been enjoying poems and folktales about plants, discovering what plants need to live and grow, learning which parts of vegetables we eat, and exploring where our food comes from. In writing, students are practicing writing complete sentences and adding details to their stories. They are also learning about different types of sentences—statements, questions, exclamations, and commands. In math, students have been working on addition and subtraction with 2-digit numbers, using hundred charts and place value strategies to solve problems. After we return from break, we'll begin learning about 3D shapes.

Second Grade: Our students have been busy learning and creating across all subjects! In math, we are currently working on adding and subtracting three-digit numbers, with a focus on regrouping. After spring break, we will begin our unit on measurement. In reading, we recently wrapped up our fairy tale unit and have transitioned into reading biographies. Students are learning about important individuals who have overcome incredible challenges in their lives. In writing, students are continuing to work on their own fairy tales inspired by *Little Red Riding Hood*. We have also started learning "Curve" handwriting! It has been so fun to see the mix of print and curved letters and students are really enjoying this change.

3rd-5th:

Third Grade - success continues in third grade. In math we have been dealing with fractions this quarter. Comparing common denominators and numerators and comparing uncommon fractions as well. The students have embraced the challenge whole heartedly. We have used a variety of techniques to take ownership of this skill. We have used models, manipulatives and drawings. The growth has been tremendous. We are now going to focus on upcoming IAR testing. In ELA the students continue to grow as readers and writers. We are evolving from simple sentences to understanding and writing paragraphs. The students' use of imagery and figurative language has been outstanding. Collectively, our read aloud voices, in terms of voice projection, confidence and inflection have changed immensely since the beginning of the year. I am so proud of all of them. We will be doing IAR testing in ELA as well after spring break. I look forward to the rest of the school year as we have several exciting field trips and activities planned. Everyone is putting forth their best effort in third grade!

Fourth Grade - We cruised through many math topics this past quarter. The students reached mastery in understanding fractional number sense, decimals to the hundredths place, and even the basics of angles! During our literacy time, the students were fascinated by natural wonders and tall tales such as myths and fables. They wrote their own imaginative stories, and you would be impressed by their use of dialogue and character development!

Fifth Grade - Similar to the fourth grade, fifth grade has gobbled up many math topics! We finished off operations on fractions & mixed numbers and even applied that knowledge to help us to complete multi-step customary measurement word problems. More recently, we've been working on our understanding of decimal numbers to the thousandths place and performing each operation with them as well. In literacy, we had a unit focused on caring for our Earth and one on all the different forms of art and its impact on people. The students enjoyed writing an editorial about an environmental issue and a personal narrative about a memorable moment in their life.

Fourth & Fifth Grade Young Authors Competition - During the third quarter, the students entered a creative writing contest in which they wrote mini-monster sagas that were only 100 words long. I am very pleased to share that ALL of the stories were selected for publishing in the anthology! They each received merit certificates recognizing that they are published authors. We anxiously await the day we get to read each of their stories in print! We are very proud of our Eswood Lions!

Science Fourth/Fifth Grade-In Science, we have been learning about how tectonic plates work by creating models and presenting information about the different plates. We also made volcanoes and explored how volcanic eruptions occur. In addition, we studied the layers of the Earth by creating presentations and models of the Earth's core.

Students conducted experiments to filter dirty water using materials such as charcoal, sand, rocks, and cotton balls. Each time, the water became cleaner, but we learned that additional steps are needed to make it completely clear. We also created chemical reactions using baking soda and cola. Through this experiment, we discovered that if the bottle is opened too early, the reaction will not fully occur and the explosion will be less effective.

Social Studies Fourth/Fifth Grade-In Social Studies, we have been learning about goods and services, scarcity, and the cause and effect of why products may increase in cost. Students also completed research projects in recognition of Women's History Month, which has been both eye-opening and informative.

Technology Class-In Tech class, we have been working on identifying credible websites and determining whether information is biased, opinion-based, or factual. Students have practiced creating, saving, editing, copying, and renaming files, as well as understanding where files are stored once saved.

We have also explored cloud computing and software applications, along with learning how to delete and recover files. In addition, students are developing an understanding of fair use guidelines. Next, we will begin working on creating avatars.

Art 3-8th:- During the third quarter in Art, we have been creating artwork inspired by everyday world activities. For example, we explored the Olympics by making torches and gold medals. We also connected art to the winter season by studying ice sculptures, such as those at Sinnissippi Park and Lake Geneva, which represent our cold climate. We also worked on making hearts using paper toll rolls and glitter for Valentines Day.

Recently, we began working on a one-point perspective by drawing city street views, and the artwork has turned out amazing. In addition, we are creating optical illusions using color patterns with markers. After break, our next project will be mosaic artwork. **PE**- Students developed some existing skills and learned some new skills during our 3rd quarter. Student bowling and dancing skills are improving! During our Jump Rope unit, it was great to witness our students jumping and creating “tricks” while increasing stamina. Ball handling skills were developed and our class benefited from our new adjustable backboards and sized basketball. We explored some Olympic events and enjoyed some whole group activities, too. Students also learned about a game called “pickleminton” which is a combination of badminton and pickleball.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Music and Band - We have been learning and having fun in all the classes. The Kindergarteners have enjoyed movement songs and rhythm songs such as old gray cat, strawberry shortcake and The Duck song. The first and second graders have learned about dynamics (loud and soft) and tempo of music (fast and slow), rhythms and started on their performance songs. We have had fun with songs such as pondering penguins and playing rhythm instruments. The third and fourth graders have taken on a great challenge with trying to achieve the belts in Recorder Karate! We will very soon have two black belts students soon taking the extra time to learn the notes and practice at home with their books. We have learned many songs and fingerings, along with playing together which is a great skill to develop as they learn to follow directions and listen to others. They will be performing a recorder song at the concert along with a song. The Bands and Choir have been working hard on learning new notes, new songs including a great pep band season. We had fun at the girl basketball games warming up the crowd and can't wait to see them during all the basketball games next year! They are great groups and will continue to excel as they learn more and “lock in “. Please encourage them all to practice their pieces or any music time at home as the spring gets busier. The band has a reward built in for practicing at home with candy each time I see them. I have had a great time this semester getting to know each and every one of them and seeing them get better each day. Have a great Spring!!

PE: What a great 3rd quarter! Students have been developing and learning new skills in the following units: Dance, Pickleball, Bowling, and Badminton. Also, we discussed and learned about *GRIT- Growth Mindset, Resilience, Inspiration, Tenacity*. Students were given several small-group challenges designed to help them experience and practice GRIT. Students worked together to overcome common barriers to teamwork and mindset.

CAREERS 7th/8th: In the Careers class, we have been busy exploring many different professions. We visited the Rochelle Water Management Plant, where students participated in a hands-on activity filtering dirty, smelly water to make it clean. We also visited the ComEd Energy Hub, where students used simulators to explore how much energy different appliances use. There were four interactive stations, and each group had the opportunity to work through them.

Additionally, we had Mr. Woyna visit our class to share about his profession, which the students found both engaging and informative.

Sadly, our trip to Kishwaukee was cancelled, but we are making plans for rescheduling our trip to KISH.

6th Math: The students have been working hard all quarter. They have been practicing and preparing for the IAR testing in April.

7th Math: Students performed well in 7th-grade math! After mastering rational number operations, they are now using linear expressions and two-step equations to solve real-world problems and find unknown angles. After Spring Break, we'll review for the IAR, study inequalities and geometry (circumference, area, and volume). We'll finish the year exploring statistics and probability to analyze data and predict outcomes. It's been a fantastic season of growth, and we're excited for a strong finish!

8th Math: Our third quarter was highly productive! Students mastered linear and nonlinear functions before tackling systems of equations using graphing, substitution, and elimination. We then shifted to data analysis, where students used scatter plots and two-way frequency tables to interpret real-world trends. Coming up, we will be reviewing for the IAR test, exploring real numbers, exponents, and scientific notation. Our final units will dive into geometry, focusing on the Pythagorean theorem and volume calculations. It has been a marvelous season of academic growth for our students!

6th Social Studies: Students completed the study of Ancient Egypt and West, Central, and South Africa. Students wrote their names in hieroglyphs and created their own African art pattern, both to be shared at the Spring Art Night. This quarter, each 6th grader also created an African Country Project. Please ask them to share it with you!

7th Social Studies: Students learned more about the initial purposes of Europeans' exploration of the Americas and how those purposes changed as new discoveries were made. They have now transitioned to focusing on the colonization of North America and why each colony had its own purpose in being established. Later, they will learn about the interplay between colonies and how those colonies changed over time. The 7th Graders also made a slide show to share with the class about a Native American tribe. Please ask them to share it with you!

8th Social Studies: Students examined the development of the U.S. in the first half of the 1800's. Topics included were Westward Expansion, the Trail of Tears, Manifest Destiny, Slavery in the U.S., and others. The next era is a lead-up to the Civil War, the war itself, its consequences, and Reconstruction. They have had to refer back to their study of the U.S. Constitution many times, and will do so more as we proceed. The 8th graders also made two slide presentations, one on a Native American tribe and the other about the life of a Declaration signer. Please ask them to share their work with you!

6th-8th Science: Students wrapped up Plate Tectonics (ask them what that is and the three types of plate boundaries) and the process of considering a claim, evidence for that claim, and reasoning that explains why a particular piece of evidence supports the claim or not. Please ask them about their theory of "Why did the chicken cross the road?" and "Who Dunnit? Old Man Frog Croaked".

6th ELA: During the third quarter, the class read *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan. We focused on setting and character development throughout the story. They wrote responses to literature and evidence-based writing essays answering the essential question: "How has the main character changed from the beginning of the story to the end?" Another focus in literature was the point of view. The students also researched a topic of interest and created a presentation. A works cited page was added at the end of the presentation. They are reviewing for the IAR test. We are reading short stories in our

literature books. The essential question we are focused on now is, "What can you learn from seeing the world through an animal's eyes?"

7th ELA: The students read *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis. They enjoyed reading about the "weird Watsons". The historical fiction novel is about an African American family traveling from Michigan to Alabama during the Civil Rights era. The students recorded their thoughts in a character journal. They also watched the movie *Remember the Titans*. The movie is based on a true story of a newly integrated high school football team that overcomes racial tensions to unite and succeed on and off the field. They reflected on the characters in the movie and how they changed throughout. They wrote Americanism essays sponsored by the American Legion. The question was "What are the Core American Values?" Congratulations to Helen Miller for receiving a second-place award and to Felix Contreras for receiving a first-place award among Eswood 7th- and 8th-grade students. They also researched a topic of interest, created a slide presentation, and presented their research. They will be reviewing for the IAR test. They are reading in their literature books. The unit is focused on the essential question "How Do Games Impact Our Lives?"

8th ELA-During the third quarter, the students read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. They enjoyed reading about the characters and how they changed throughout the book. Through the eyes of Ponyboy Curtis, the class learned about the importance of identity, loyalty, and understanding across social divides. They also watched the movie to compare and contrast the similarities and differences with the book. The class ended the novel study with a one-pager that included theme, quotes, sketches, characterization, mood, tone, and a summary. The class wrote Americanism essays sponsored by the American Legion. The question was "What are the Core American Values?" They also researched a profession and created a slide presentation. They are reading their literature books in the 4th quarter. The essential question is "What Will People Risk to Be Free?" The students are practicing for the IAR tests scheduled for April.