



East Elementary School



December 2017 Newsletter

Lanea DeConcini- Principal

Rene Hart- Assistant Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to December! What a wonderful time of year! Students are working hard each and every day and we are very proud of our East Redbirds. December is a very busy month, so please check below for our upcoming dates.

Upcoming Dates

- December 1st- Science Fair list of references, typed abstracts, and conclusions due
- December 4th- 6:30pm Third Grade Music Program (East Gym)
- December 5th- Dine Out Day at Bread Company
- December 6th- 3rd Grade Field Trip- Alton Symphony Orchestra Concert at Lewis and Clark
- December 7th- Last day to bring in items for Community Christmas
- December 11th- 6:00pm EEL PTG Meeting (East Library)
- December 12th- 9:30am Band/Chorus/Orchestra Concert (East Gym)
- December 19th- 7:00pm School Board Meeting
- December 21st- End of 2nd Quarter
- December 21st- 1:30pm Classroom Holiday Parties
- December 22nd- January 2nd- No School- Christmas Break
- January 3rd- School Resumes
- January 5th- Report Cards go home
- January 5th- Science Fair Rough Drafts due
- January 8th- 6:00pm EEL PTG Meeting (Eunice Smith)
- January 9th- Dine Out Day at Pizza Hut
- January 15th- No School- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- January 16th- 7:00pm School Board Meeting
- January 19th- Science Fair final research papers due

Third Grade Winter Concert: Christmas Makes Me Sing!

Third Grade students will participate in their Winter Concert on Monday, December 4th in the East Elementary Gym. Doors will open at 6:00pm and the concert begins at 6:30pm. Students should arrive by 6:15pm to find their seats on the risers. Students may wear their Christmas best for their performance. We hope to see you there!

Third Grade Field Trip- Alton Symphony Orchestra Concert

On Wednesday, December 6th, third grade students will attend the Alton Symphony Orchestra Concert at Lewis and Clark Community College. Buses will leave at 11:45am and return to school at 2:00pm. Permission slips are being sent home today.

Community Christmas

East Elementary will be participating in Community Christmas to help families during the holiday season. A collection box will be in the office lobby for students to drop off items. Students may begin bringing canned or boxed goods, coats, gloves, socks, scarves, and toys for our Community Christmas drive beginning November 6th. These items should be new or in perfect condition. The Community Christmas drive will run from November 6th-December 7th. Please help us in encouraging our children to be caring.

General Information and Reminders

Student Absences- We want to ensure that our students are safe at all times. If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please notify the school (463-2130). If we have not received a call, you will be contacted to confirm the absence.

Visiting the Building- Building doors remained locked at all times for the safety and protection of our students and staff. All visitors must be buzzed in through the front doors and report to the office to sign in and receive a visitor pass. To preserve the learning environment within the classrooms, we require an appointment to be made 3 days in advance for all observations within the classroom. Please see someone in the office to make an appointment and fill out the appropriate paperwork.

Office Hours- Office hours are 7:15am to 3:15pm. If you call after 3:15pm, you will be asked to leave a message.

Morning Procedures- Students should not be dropped off before 7:15am. If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school, they need to arrive by 7:50am. This will allow them to eat as well as make it to class on time. Breakfast will not be served after 8am. If students arrive to school after 8am, they will not receive breakfast. If students are dropped off after 8:00, please make sure that you walk them into the office. Please do not drop them off at the front doors. Students need to be signed in by an adult.

Transportation Changes- Any time you need to make a change in transportation, please contact the main office at 463-2130. If at all possible, we would like to have all changes before 2:00pm. This allows us time to notify the teacher and your child of the change. In order to make sure all children arrive home safely, we must have a written note or a phone call to change a child's transportation.

Parent Drop-Off- Students should not be dropped off before 7:15am. There is no supervision available before this time. If you would like your child to eat breakfast at school, please make sure they arrive by 7:50am. This will ensure they can eat and make it to class on time. When dropping off students in the circle drive please make sure to unload in the area between the light poles in front of the gym lobby doors. Vehicles need to stay in a single file line for the safety of the students. Please do not pass other cars. Please be courteous of the time it takes to unload your students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parent Pick-Up- Parents picking up students by car will receive a hang tag that is numbered and corresponds with name(s) of child(ren) being picked up. After school, parents and guardians will need to pull around to the back of the building for parent pick-up. Please remain in your car and pull up to the door, which is located toward the building side of the second parking lot. Please wait in line until your child(ren) are escorted to your vehicle by the supervisor on duty. Additional hang tags can be requested if you would like to give permission to someone to pick up your child up from school. If you forget your hang tag, you will need to park and come through the gym lobby doors to sign your child out of school. If you lose your hang tag, you will need to come into the office and request

another one. Parents that enter the building to pick-up students will enter through the gym lobby doors. The gym lobby doors will not be unlocked until 2:15 pm. Parents may wait in the gym lobby until dismissal at 2:25 pm.

December Character Trait Word of the Month: Cooperation

Each month your child/ren will be learning about a character trait that we believe is essential to be a good citizen in our society. We suggest you take time to discuss this trait so that they learn it is important both inside and outside of the school setting. Every Wednesday morning, from 8:15-8:45, your child(ren) will take part in Social Emotional Learning lessons within their classroom. During these lessons teachers will focus on the Character Trait of the Month.

Our character trait for the month of December is cooperation. Learning to play and work with peers and adults is a critical skill for developing friendships, completing group projects, and participating in extracurricular activities. Cooperation skills also build the foundation for more complex social skills. You can teach your child/ren about cooperation through group activities that require skills such as waiting, turn taking, and following directions.

21st Century

The 21st Century afterschool program is at Lovejoy Elementary this year. The program runs Monday through Thursday after school. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Angela Kuchnicki at the Board Office.

Young Authors

The Alton School District is continuing the tradition of celebrating Young Authors. Students are invited to put their creativity to paper over the next few months. All student books will be collected by January 19th, 2018. It is not too late to request a packet. More information is available at altonschools.org under the Parents tab.

Recycling Initiatives

East Elementary collects many items for recycling as part of our Madison County Green Schools initiatives. All of these initiatives not only benefit our environment, but they are separate contests that we compete in throughout the year! The following items are recycled at our school. Please consider donating to help our school and our environment!

Used Markers

Soda Tab Tops

New and Gently Used Shoes

Plastic Bags

Box Tops

East, Eunice, Lovejoy PTG News

Our next PTG Meeting is at 6pm on December 11th at East Elementary. If you are interested in being a volunteer or want to be involved, please contact our PTG at eelptgredbirds@gmail.com.

We have one dine out event in December. December 5th is our Dine Out Day at Bread Company. Dine outs are a wonderful way to earn money for our PTG. Please consider dining out to support our schools.

District Procedures for Winter Weather Conditions

Weather conditions can change rapidly in the winter months. When weather is potentially threatening, Alton administrators constantly monitor forecasts and the condition of roads, parking lots and sidewalks. With this in mind, we would like to provide parents with information on district procedures in the event of school closures or early dismissals due to inclement weather. In the event that local weather conditions deteriorate rapidly during the school day, the District may be forced to dismiss early in the best interest of the safety of our children.

EARLY DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

East Elementary 12:25 p.m. release time

Early dismissal notification procedures are as follows:

*Parents receive phone call from the automatic dialer.

*Email notifications are also sent

*Notification will be posted on the district website (altonschools.org)

DELAYED START SCHEDULE

East Elementary 10:00 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event that the Alton School District elects to close schools for the day due to poor weather, information will be provided through the following means: phone call from automatic dialer, district website, Facebook posting, parent email, and through local media including WBGZ Radio – 1570 AM, KMOX Radio – 1120 AM, KMOV Channel 4, KSDK Channel 5 and Fox 2 Now.

As a final reminder, please contact our East office if you need to update contact information such as phone numbers, emergency contacts or email addresses. Having the correct contact information on file will ensure you receive prompt notification for these events.