



East Elementary School



February 2018 Newsletter

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Dear Families,

It is hard to believe it is already February! Thank you for everything you have done during first semester to help your child be successful. As we continue to strive for academic success at East Elementary, it is important for parents to help partner with us to reach our goals. Please encourage your child(ren) to read each night, complete their homework, and arrive to school on time. We are looking forward to a wonderful third and fourth quarter at East Elementary!

Upcoming Dates

- February 2nd- Progress Reports Go Home
- February 5th- 6:00 pm EEL PTG Meeting (Lovejoy)
- February 5th- TJ's Pizza fundraiser begins
- February 6th- Dine Out Day at Dairy Queen
- February 8th-15th- Students can purchase candy grams
- February 8th- Lego Club
- February 15th- Box Top Contest ends
- February 15th- Candy Gram sales end
- February 15th- Lego Club
- February 16th- Teacher Institute- No School for Students
- February 19th- President's Day Holiday- No School
- February 20th- 7:00 pm School Board Meeting
- February 20th- TJ's Pizza Order forms and money due
- March 1st- Lego Club
- March 5th- Casimir Pulaski Holiday- No School for Students
- March 6th- Dine Out Day at Fazoli's
- March 9th- End of 3rd Quarter
- March 12th- 3:00-5:00pm TJ's Pizza pick up (East Gym)
- March 12th- 6:00pm EEL PTG Meeting (East)

TJ's Pizza Fundraiser

Our TJ's pizza fundraiser will kickoff on Monday, February 5th. All order forms and money will be due on February 20th. Students will earn one free item for every 10 items sold. A Kindle Fire will be awarded at each one of the participating schools.

- For anyone who sells 10 items, you will earn 1 free pizza (Triple Cheese, Bacon Dbl or Pepperoni)
- Sell 20 items and earn 1 free pizza and 1 free cookie dough (Chocolate Chunk or Oatmeal Cranberry)
- Sell 30 items and earn 2 free pizzas, 1 free cookie dough
- Sell 40 items and earn 2 free pizzas, 1 cookie dough, and 1 free DUTCH APPLE pie.

- Sell 50 and repeat!!

Please list your free product choices on the front of your sales brochures. If you do not choose, TJ's will default to the underlined item listed above.

Delivery will be on Monday, March 2th from 3:00-5:00pm in the gym. Please be prompt, the products are frozen.

A Note from the Green Team

Here at East, teaching our students about the benefits of sustainable living is very important to us. We do this in many different ways from recycling in the classroom to gardening out back. Each year our school's Green Team has the opportunity to pick a new project that can benefit our school and our community. This year our project is to reduce waste within our school and community. As part of this project, our students participated in a waste audit in order to learn just how much waste we as a school are producing. We are very excited to use this information to help initiate some exciting changes at East.

We received a grant to install water bottle refill stations in our school. This will help to reduce the amount of waste that water bottles create. Additionally, we will make attempts to reduce waste during our three lunch periods by introducing a composting program that is partnered with a community sponsor. As a team we will work closely with the James Killion Beautification Enhancement Committee to paint trash barrels as our community project. Our school will also continue their efforts to recycle plastic bags, soda tabs, and gently used shoes. We are hopeful that all of these efforts will make East an even better place to be.

Box Top Contest

Grade levels are having a box top contest! On Tuesday and Thursday mornings students can purchase items using box tops in the gym lobby. Each item will cost three box tops. The grade level with the most box tops turned in by February 15th will win an extra recess with freeze pops.

East Elementary School Store

Our school store is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:15am-7:55am. We offer pens, pencils, highlighters, notepads and much more! Students are able to purchase items during their morning routine on these days. Prices range from \$0.25 to \$2.00.

Candy Grams

Students will be able to send Candy Grams to their friends or favorite teacher February 8th-15th. Candy Grams will cost 25 cents and will be sold in the Gym Lobby before school. Candy Grams will be delivered to classrooms in the afternoon. All proceeds are donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Valentine's Day

Students will be able to exchange Valentine's Day cards within their classrooms, but there will not be classroom parties.

February Character Trait Word of the Month: Perseverance

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 February is perseverance. We will be teaching the students that perseverance means to not give up easily. Students will be discussing that it is important to strive for their goals, even though it might be difficult at times. Students will be learning about trying hard, despite potential problems or initial failures, to reach their goals.

Alton District #11 Truancy Guidelines

In an effort to provide your child with the greatest opportunity for success, please find a reminder of our Truancy Guidelines below and the importance of school attendance.

1. Regular attendance is CRUCIAL to every student's success.
2. It is important that your student be at school on time. This does not mean dropping your child off right at the time school starts or after. Being late means your child is missing important instructional time.
3. Please be proactive in calling your student's school to report an absence. Schools request a phone call before 9:00 a.m. on the day of absence.
4. please refer to your Alton School District calendar (pages 3 & 4) for guidelines concerning excused and unexcused absences. A calendar copy is also available at altonschools.org.

IF YOU TAKE YOUR STUDENT TO THE CLINIC, DOCTOR OR EMERGENCY ROOM, PLEASE ASK FOR A SIGNED EXCUSE. THE EXCUSED SLIP SHOULD BE SENT TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR STUDENT ON THE DAY HE/SHE RETURNS. MEDICAL OFFICES CAN ALSO FAX IT TO (618) 463-2121.

Most importantly, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Truancy Office at (618) 474-2244.

Winter Weather

Please remember that the students will go outside for recess if weather permits. Dressing your child(ren) in layers with a hat and gloves will ensure that he/she is comfortable this time of year with the temperature changes throughout the day.

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 remain 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- Anytime 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.

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 February 5th at Lovejoy Elementary. If you are interested in being a volunteer or want to be involved, please contact our PTG at eelptgredbirds@gmail.com.

Please mark your calendars for our next dine out event on February 6th at Dairy Queen. Dine outs are a wonderful way to earn money for our PTG. Please consider dining out to support our schools.

Trivia Night will be Saturday, April 21st at Pete's. More information will come out soon.

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 Fox2now.

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.