

IN THIS ISSUE

Counselor's Corner
P.2

PTA President's Letter & PTA Meeting Dates
P.3

Instructional Coordinator Information
P.4

Upcoming Events
P.4



Remember!

October 14-18 Fall Break

October 19 Second Nine Weeks Begins

October 20 Silent Auction

October 21 School Carnival

October 24 Picture Retakes

October 27 Kindergarten Learning Carnival

October 31 Holiday Dress Pass

ALLEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Back to the 2017-18 school year! We have had a great first nine weeks. **Thanks to all of our parent volunteers** who have helped us with numerous tasks since the first day of school. We are so happy to see our eagles back in the nest for another year of fun, learning, homework, field trips, friends—the list goes on and on. Thank you for always supporting our efforts here at school, by beginning your "school" routines at home. The transition from summer mode to school mode has gone very smoothly.



Please be sure to check our website at edengardensmagnet.com. You will find the Monday Memo, cafeteria menu, updates and announcements from teachers—lots and lots of information that you will find helpful as we go through our year. We are in the process of using a new platform for our website. It is being built as I write this article. We will make sure that we get information out to you, when we make the change.

Traffic is going smoothly. **Our fifth grade eagle patrol and parent helpers** are assisting us in carpool again this year by opening doors and helping our kindergarten eagles find the way to their lines or classrooms. Our parent safety patrol rocks!! They are consistently making a big difference in our line each morning. Thank you for all that you do in making sure our car line runs as smoothly as possible. I know everyone's time is valuable, and I appreciate your help.

Thanks to many parent volunteers, our Eden Gardens Open House was a huge success. We were so happy to open our doors and let prospective parents see how our challenging academic foundation may benefit their child. They were able to meet our faculty, see our classrooms, and discuss first-hand what it's like to be a part of our "Leader In Me" community. In preparing for our Open House, we had a work day to spruce up our building and grounds. Special thanks to those parents and students who helped out to get our campus ready for company. I have never seen our campus look better. Thank you!

Our Leader In Me efforts are well underway this school year. So far, our students have reviewed the 7 habits, one at a time each week in their classroom, and beginning in November, we will concentrate on one habit per month. Look for more information as we go through the year. Our student leaders did an outstanding job at our Open House.

Thanks to all who have worked so hard on our school carnival. Carnival and Silent Auction are such a big part of our school year. Students are always so excited to spend the day here at school enjoying all the fun activities that go along with the school carnival. It takes many parent volunteers to make our carnival and silent auction so successful. I appreciate all the time and effort that goes into this big day.

We are patiently waiting for the arrival of our playground coverings. Phase I of this endeavor has been purchased (thank you PTA) and we are waiting for the shipment to arrive and be installed. I know that the students will greatly benefit from these coverings.

Please know **my door is always open** to you. Your children are very special to all of us. We are committed to another great year, as we work together to provide your child with the best educational experiences possible.

Sydney D. Allen

Counselor's Corner By Krista Wilburn



When you ask kindergarten teachers what kind of student succeeds best in school, chances are they'll say, "A child who believes he can learn... And one who is eager to get started." You can help build that positive attitude in your child. Here are some suggestions:

- **Expect your child to succeed in school.** One study of children found that children work harder in school when their parents expect more, and less when their parents expect less.
- **Give your child challenges they can master.** Help them learn to climb the steps to the playground slide. Teach them to button their own clothing or open the car door by themselves in the carpool line. Each of these skills will boost their confidence. Be sure to praise them as each new challenge is met. Promote independence!
- **Let your child make choices.** If they are very young, it may mean letting them choose whether the sandwich is cut into squares or triangles. When they are older you can ask, "Do you want to have your bath first or pick up your toys?" When you offer choices, you are showing you have confidence in them.
- **Hug your child and tell them you love them.** Your love will give them the confidence to go out into the world and succeed. (The Parent Institute: "Off to a Good Start")

Finding Your "Back to School" Routine

If your morning routine usually turns into a scramble to get your family out of the door on time, you may want to consider a makeover to ease your morning rush. Whether you're getting back in the school groove after a long vacation or holiday break, or need to jettison sluggish habits that are putting you and your child at risk of being marked "chronically late" at school and at work, here are some great ideas to speed up your morning routine.

1. **Get a timer.** If you have a child who can easily spend fifteen minutes in a shower or take five minutes to put on one sock, try using a timer to get your dawdler on the move. Kids naturally love to make a game out of things. If you challenge him to beat the clock, he'll be less likely to daydream and become distracted while getting ready.
2. **Create a routine.** Whether you decide that baths before bed or showers in the morning fit better into your grade-schooler's schedule or your child prefers to brush her teeth before getting dressed, keep the order of tasks consistent. Sticking to the same morning routine day after day will speed things up because she will be more likely to do what she needs to do without any reminders.
3. **Check out the weather forecast the night before.** That way, you can make sure the rain boots and coats and umbrellas are ready by the door if the forecast calls for rain or heavy jackets if the temperatures are supposed to drop.
4. **Pack up beforehand.** Have your grade-schooler pack up his backpack the night before. Homework, library books -- anything that needs to be taken to school the next day should be in his bag, ready to go. Designate a spot near the door for bags, shoes and jackets.
5. **Make lunches ahead of time.** Sandwiches can easily be made the night before. You can also put fruit, string cheese, box of milk or water bottle, or whatever else will be going into the lunch bag together on a shelf in the fridge. That way, you can save precious time by not having to look items in the morning.
6. **Make it a team effort.** If you present the idea of leaving on time as a family project, your grade-schooler is more likely to get enthusiastic about getting on board. On mornings that you make it on time say, "We are a great team." If you are late, avoid placing blame on your child and say, "I know we can do better tomorrow."

What It Takes to Succeed

How do you define success? Is it a satisfying job? A good income? Is it family, or love, or the opportunity to kick back and relax? Is it making a social contribution or leaving your mark on the world? Maybe it's all of these things. Or maybe it is something else entirely. However you define success, chances are as a parent, you want it not only for yourself, but for your children as well. Many important qualities can give a child a head start in the journey toward success. One of the best ways to help your child succeed in school is through "parent involvement."

Parent Involvement means attending parent teacher conferences, supporting the school's discipline efforts, communicating with your child about school work and school activities, reading aloud or listening to your child read and helping your child set up a study area at home.

Why is Parent Involvement Important? Studies show that children whose parents are involved in their education get better grades and test scores, have better attendance, do more homework, have higher graduation rates, are more likely to go on to college, are more involved in extra-curricular activities, and have a more positive and better behavior all around.

As you encourage your child's success at home and at school, keep in mind that it is important for you to become involved. (Active Parenting Publishers)



PTA President's Letter

On behalf of the Eden Gardens PTA Board, I would like to welcome all our new and returning families to the 2017-2018 school year! If you are new to Eden Gardens, you will find that we are more than a school; we are a family committed to caring for our children. We are so excited that you are now a part of the Eden Gardens family!

The Eden Gardens PTA is a powerful partnership between our amazing teachers, dedicated staff, and wonderfully committed parents. We all work together to enrich our children's education in countless ways. I encourage you to be a part of this partnership by joining our PTA and becoming involved. You have a say in your child's Eden Gardens experience by becoming a member and attending our general meetings.

Your membership dues, participation in any of our fundraisers, and donations to the Eagle Society, immediately and directly impact your child's education. Our teachers will continue implementing the Leader in Me program, thanks to the support of our families and the community partners. This year, our plans include covering some of the playground equipment with shades. Your financial generosity allows us to sponsor fun events, upgrade technology and materials throughout the school, support quality teachers, and so much more.

Great things are happening at our school! We provided supplies to Hurricane Harvey victims through our Eden Gardens Gives program. The landscaping committee has been busy beautifying our grounds with weeding, new mulch, pine straw, and fresh paint. Eagle Sprouts has met and is a great way for our children to explore science and nature through a garden club. The Recycling Committee is working diligently to reduce paper waste. Box Tops collections are underway and is an easy way to earn money for our school. Our Open House was a huge success; we welcomed a great group of prospective kindergarten parents to learn about our great school. The auction and carnival committees are working tirelessly to make our Fall Fest weekend awesome! Be sure to come out on October 20th and 21st for these events!!!

We have many more things planned for this year, but we need your help to make them a reality. Please take advantage of the many opportunities to get involved at our school. Whether it is serving as a room parent, supporting the Silent Auction or Carnival, attending a Spirit Night at a local restaurant, volunteering in the office, or helping with class parties, you are making a difference. Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

I look forward to working with each of you this year. Please feel free to call or email with any questions, comments or suggestions.

Lindsay Smith, PTA President 2017-2018



2017-2018 PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President, Lindsay Smith
- Vice President, Elizabeth Holtsclaw
- Second VP, Sydney Allen
- Third VP, Kristy Payne
- Corresp. Secretary, Kathryn Wood
- Treasurer, Kelly Straton
- Chaplain, Jenny Genovese
- Teacher Rep, Felicia Gipson

PTA BOARD MEETINGS

- Wednesday, January 10
- Wednesday, March 7
- Wednesday, April 4
- Wednesday, May 2*
- *Lunch/Notebook Exchange
- Location TBD

Meetings are held at 12 noon in the Eden Gardens Library unless noted.

Caddo District PTA Meetings

- October 19
- January 11
- April 19
- 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- The Board Room
- 1961 Midway Ave
- Shreveport

PTA Resources

- Pta.org
- Ptaourchildren.org
- Louisianapta.com
- Caddodistrictpta.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 4 Super Slice Pizza

November 13-16 Book Fair

November 14 Thanksgiving Program for 1st Grade

November 16 Christmas Pictures

November 17 Teacher's Birthday Lunch/Pep Rally

December 1 Social Studies Fair/Super Slice Pizza

December 15 Children Helping Children Program 9 a.m.

December 15 AR Cutoff for the 2nd Nine Weeks

December 18 Holiday Dress Pass/Christmas Parties for K-2 at 1:30 p.m.

December 19 Christmas Parties for 3-5 at 1:30 p.m.

December 20 End of the 2nd Nine Weeks

December 21 - January 5 Christmas Break - No School

What's New in Curriculum & Instruction?

This school year has been one of many changes in curriculum and instruction. While it takes time, effort and collaboration to make change successful, it is also understood that change is ESSENTIAL to progress! Here is an "at-the-moment" glance at some of the curriculum and instruction changes in "The Garden."



New Science Standards

Our Louisiana State Educational Standards set clear and consistent learning expectations for students and teachers (LDOE, 2017). Not only do these standards outline what students should know and be able to do upon completion of each grade level, they also help level the grounds for ALL students while providing a defined goal for instruction.

In science, we are teaching and learning through phenomenon-based standards! Phenomena are observable events that occur in the universe that can be explained through science. They also help students connect their learning to real-world events. Additionally, our new standards are very fine-tuned allowing teachers and students to spend quality time on each topic with enriched observation and discussion.

Louisiana Guidebooks 2.0

Our ELA teachers in grades 3 – 5 are utilizing the Guidebook 2.0 as the English Language Arts curriculum for whole class instruction. The guidebooks promote reading and understanding of complex text at every grade level. The beauty of this document is that it was created BY TEACHERS FOR TEACHERS. It is also aligned with our science and social studies content to help students make connections that will last a lifetime.

Math Minutes

Recognizing the value in differentiated instruction in math, we have ensured that each grade level has at least 90 minutes (daily) for math instruction. This allows teachers to fine-tune and differentiate instruction for students who need a little extra help. It also allows us to accelerate those who demonstrate the need to go further through our Accelerated Math (grades 2 – 5) and Zearn (grades K – 5) programs.

Tailoring instruction to meet the changing needs of all learners...

Embracing change as we progress to higher heights...

Partnering with parents in the supreme task of educating ALL students...

THAT'S HOW WE ROLL!!!

If you have any questions about these or any other curricular issues, please feel free to contact me for further discussion. We are deeply appreciative of our PTA for always helping out with instructional resources and tools to promote teaching and learning.

Felecia Gipson
Instructional Coordinator

Welcome!

In addition to our 2017-18 kindergarten students, we welcome 28 new students in grades 1-5 to our Eagles nest. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our new families.

New Student Application

Please help us pass the word to friends, family, church members, etc. Applications for 2018-19 Kindergarten through Fifth will be available beginning October 19, 2017. You are our best advertisement!

The
Leader
in Me®

BE PROACTIVE

BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST

THINK WITHIN WITH

SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND

THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD

SYNERGIZE

SHARPEN THE SAW