



EAGLE'S NEST PTA NEWS

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A Five Star School of Academic Excellence

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Dear Parents,

HUGHES NEWS



Jan Hughes, Principal

Can you believe we are already into the second nine weeks of school? Our hot, humid days finally gave way to the cooler temperatures of fall, making outdoor time much more enjoyable. Our first big school-wide event was carnival—and what a carnival it was! Thanks to our over-all Chairman, Lora Slack and Co-Chair, Heather Tompkins to Silent Auction Chairman Kristy Payne with Co-Chairs Terri Irons and Gae Graham to Food Chairman Tammie Boyd who had everything ready for some good eating! Special thanks also to our parents and teachers who worked booths, set up and cleaned up, sold tickets, sent donations and supported our efforts through their attendance. The shuttle bus eased the parking and traffic in the

neighborhood, which helped so much. Other fall activities included Open House for perspective parents for the 2011-2012 school year, Kindergarten Learning Carnival, Book Fair, "A, B, C's of Thanksgiving" first grade program—the list goes on and on. As always, none of this could take place without all of your support and help. I don't know what we would do without the parent/school partnership which makes such great things possible.

You may have noticed we have a new storage building behind the message board in the back of our school. Caddo Parish is providing this as storage for all of our PE equipment. This will be readily accessible to Mrs. DiPaul while freeing up the space behind the curtains on the stage. Shelving will be added over the Thanksgiving break, so we can begin moving things in upon our return to school.



Turkeys and pilgrims have given way to Christmas trees and Santa Claus, as we prepare for the upcoming Christmas holidays. The building looks and smells like Christmas, as students are busy participating in many holiday activities. Their excitement can be felt in every nook and cranny as we go about our daily routines. What a joy to share this special time with them!

We continue our emphasis on giving throughout the holiday season. "Children Helping Children" is our way of giving back to our community as a school. I know you and your children will support this worthwhile effort on behalf of children who need a "helping hand." Please encourage your children to also give things during the month of December that cost nothing--keeping their rooms clean, helping with a younger sibling, setting the table or helping clear the dishes away after a meal, doing homework without complaining--the list could go on and on. Gifts given from the heart that cost nothing are priceless. My hope is that you are the recipient of one of these priceless gifts during this very special season when thoughts of others are put before thoughts of self.

My warmest holiday wishes to each of you!



GREETINGS FROM YOUR PTA



Isn't it great to be an Eagle? We have been so blessed this year at Eden Gardens. Our parents, teachers, and students have worked together to ensure another great Fall season at our wonderful school. The Christmas spirit is in the air as our Eagles prepare to soar into 2011!

We are enjoying the new sound system in the auditorium. Thanks again to **Michelle Osborn** for her dedication to that project. Mr. Maiden and the first graders put on an outstanding Thanksgiving program in November. It was standing room only - and everyone could hear!

Terri Bianca brought our PTA membership to almost 800 strong! **Kristy Payne, Gae Graham, Becky Rounds** and their team planned an open house that would make anyone want to be a part of our nest! **Lora Slack** and **Heather Tompkins** planned a fun-filled carnival that made over \$9000 for our school! **Kristy Payne, Teri Irons, and Gae Graham** provided some awesome auction items raised over \$14,000 doing it! **Tammie Boyd** rounded out our Carnival proceeds by coordinating and selling all of the wonderful food items. **Darlene Dean** and countless parents put together a remarkable book fair, with the dollars still being counted! **Nancy Mitchell** rounded up some cash by counting scrap paper in our Box Tops drive. Many thanks to all of the parents who made these projects possible.

Thanks also to **Karrie Hovis** and her committee for countless hours putting together our directory. Be sure to get yours in the office for \$5 each before they are gone! **Kristin Parsons and Amy Huddleston** have gathered and submitted our Reflections entries and we are anxious to share students' talents with the parish. Continued thanks to **Missy Fussell and Kristin Parsons** for organizing our room mothers, another great group of volunteers. **Megan Smith** has been working with Mrs. Roach to assist our children with Accelerated Reader time in the library. **Heather Tompkins** has done a fabulous job with publicity. Check out the links to the articles in The Times on our website. Speaking of the website, **Michelle Osborn** continues to do a great job maintaining and updating it on a daily basis! **Jill Wynne and Marilyn Gentry** have been diligently watering our flowers at the school. **Neely Wright** continues to do a great job with Pizza Fridays. **Cindy Riley** has spend many hours keeping our finances in order on all of these wonderful projects. And without **Tracy McGill**, you wouldn't be reading this wonderful newsletter!

Chocolate sales will be in February this year. Just in time for Valentine's Day! **Teresa Courtney** will be sending home information on this project after the holidays.

We have an exciting new project on the horizon at Eden Gardens. We are committed to providing SMARTboards to the wonderful teachers at our school. Plans are being made for fundraising projects to reach our goals. Thanks to all of you that have already made donations to the Eagle Society this year. **Angela Lawrence and Evette Clark** have been organizing your donations. If you have not done so, you can turn in donations through December 17th to be receipted for your 2010 taxes. More information on this exciting new project will be coming soon!

A great school is always a work in progress. It is always changing to meet the needs of its students. Thank you for supporting our PTA in 2010. We look forward to a fabulous 2011!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Donna Bryan, PTA President

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

JANUARY 12

MARCH 2

APRIL 6

MAY 18

*All board meetings will be held at 12:00 in the library unless otherwise notified.
Please contact Donna Bryan the Tuesday before the meeting if you need to be placed on the agenda.*

Super Students



Cate Rounds, LeeAnn Hovis, Anna Claire Graham, Annabel Partington, Jordan Meiki, Mary Osbourn, Paige Greer, and Claire Sanders are part of the cast for this year's Nutcracker performance. **Good job girls!**

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Congratulations to the following students for making the fitness team this year: **Kelsey Smith, Alex Stevens, Reagan Todd, Zack Lewis, Jaden Procell and Josh McCoy.** These students competed in the Caddo Fitness Meet and all qualified for the finals meet in the Spring. Congratulations also to **Kelsey and Alex** for finishing in the top five in the girls division. **Way to go, Eagles!**

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Caroline Brakeville (5th grade–Scott) competed in the Louisiana State Fair's 4-H BB Gun Competition-10 year old division. She competed against 47 other boys & girls and placed 9th in the State. **Awesome Caroline!**

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Congratulations **Agasthya Verdre-Kyanam** (4th grade–Cameron) on being 1st in AR for the 1st Nine Weeks. **Way to go Agasthya!**

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C'elcey Carpenter (3rd grade–Giecek) was crowned with the title of Little Miss St. Peter in October. The title was bestowed during the annual Youth Anniversary. **Outstanding job C'elcey!**

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Mark Mitchell (3rd grade–Greer) and his Commercial Heifer placed 7th in Junior Showmanship at the Louisiana State Fair. His calf placed third in her weight class. **Congratulations Mark!**

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Anna Clair Mackey (2nd grade–Jackson) participated in the COSST B meet @ Centenary College on Oct 30 and won the 10yr and under 50 yd FLY & 8yr & under 100 Yd IM. **Nice job Anna Clair!**

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Congratulations to **Ellis Bryan** (4th grade–Cameron) for winning 1st Place in Girls 10s at the Red River Shootout Tennis Tournament in November! **Way to go, Ellis!**

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Nylah Tolliver (2nd grade–Wray) was presented in a showcase with Eboni Transformations Dance Troupe on September 29. She also competed in the North Louisiana Beauties Pageant October 2 where she placed as Princess-1st Runner up and won Overall Fashion in her division. Nylah also won 3rd place -Second grade division in the Louisiana State Fair Coloring contest. She also competed in the Tinker's Belles & Beaus Pageant in Monroe, LA on November 13 and won the title of Queen in her division, Overall Photogenic and Overall Talent in her division. **Congratulations Nylah!**

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Dawson Bond (2nd grade–Wray) won 2nd and 3rd place trophies in his karate tournament in November. **Awesome job, Dawson!**

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Congratulations to the 5th Grade Football team for winning the Souper Bowl: **Zack Allen, Connor Colvin, C. J. Diggs, Tucker Gardner, Christian Griffing, Jackson Hartley, Connor Hunsicker, John Michael Johnson, Harrison Kammer, Zack Lewis, Christopher McCallon, Dayton McGovern, Cole Monroe, Seth Muellenschlaeder, Erwin Musgrove, Justin Pendleton, Christian Semon, Parker Smith, and Peyton Thompson.** **Way to go, Eagles!**

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This section of the newsletter is reserved for the wonderful achievements of our students!!! If you have anything you would like to send in for the SUPER Student section, please do so. Send your announcement to the office or email Tracy McGill at jnmcgill@aol.com.



School Performance Score

The Louisiana Department of Education has released the School Performance Scores from the 2009-10 school year.

Eden Gardens received a score of 154.4!

This increase gives us a growth label of "Exemplary Academic Growth", keeps our FIVE STAR status, and makes us eligible for monetary rewards. This score is only possible because of the hard work of every teacher, student and parent here in the garden! Pat yourselves on the back and keep up the good work.

Counselor's Corner

Sydney Allen



Children Helping Children

Sharing the spirit of the holidays with other children has become a tradition at Eden Gardens. "Children Helping Children" allows our students to focus on giving rather than receiving. Our project this year will benefit the Foster Children. We will raise money to buy and fill backpacks with items children need when they are put into Foster Care. What a wonderful way to really share "The Reason for the Season."

Fifth Grade Parent Middle School Letter

Watch for an informational letter, which will come home after the Christmas Holidays detailing requirements for enrollment in various middle schools. We will also give you the date for Open Houses, school tours and who to call for further information at each school.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated as finalists for the Eden Gardens Outstanding Student of the Year.

Caroline Durr
Apoorva Kakkilaya
Sarah Grace Prestwood
Amaya Sanders

Ally Lary

was chosen Eden Gardens Outstanding Fifth Grade Student of the Year. She will go on to represent us at the Parish Level!





Helpful Hints for a Meaningful Holiday Season

Being a parent of young children, you probably share an almost universal desire to make holidays special for your child. You also may have to overcome certain obstacles in creating your own special experiences with your children such as finances, distance from

family members, and the special circumstances created by divorce, step-parenting, and blended families. Many parents work overtime during the holidays only to find themselves frustrated by the experience and doubtful that the end "result" was particularly meaningful to their children. While it's difficult to determine exactly what "special" means to any one child, here are some guide lines which are most likely applicable to your family:

- 1. Develop traditions.** Create activities which are special to your family. They need not be elaborate or costly, but they need to be enjoyable and reflective of your family. Traditions can be as simple as a special recipe that everyone associates with the family holiday to an elaborate vacation or special event in which everybody participates. Some family holiday meals consist of recipes that the parents enjoyed when they were children or foods that are reflective of their culture. The opportunity for everyone to participate in the preparation of the meal may become part of a tradition. Traditions may naturally develop around certain activities such as finding a Christmas tree or they may be deliberately planned in order to make the holiday special. Once formed, these traditional activities contribute to a sense of identity and uniqueness for your children about their family holiday.
- 2. Keep the scope of your plans within the scope of your resources.** Holidays are double duty for most parents. What parent hasn't wondered where the extra time will come from to shop, wrap presents, cook, and plan and attend special events? What parent hasn't wished for that mythical homemaker of the 1950

sitcoms to be dropped on their doorstep to complete all the family's holiday preparation in a timely manner? Short of granting that wish, be realistic about the scope of your plans. If you are hurried and stressed your personal contribution to your children's holiday may be your short temper and irritability rather than your patience and enthusiasm.

- 3. Be sensitive to your children's wishes.** This is the time of year when it's difficult to avoid the many conflicting issues between parents and children. This is often true when children become teen-agers and the value of family time changes. Blended and divorced families pose special challenges for the holidays. Children often lose the delight and excitement of the holidays and instead feel the demands of making all their parents happy. If you anticipate any of these circumstances, plan ahead. Discuss with your teen-agers how they and you will spend their time. Communicate with your child's other parent to determine how your child's time will be spent. For example, two Christmas celebrations might be fine, but most children will resist two Thanksgiving dinners. Changing homes late at night on Christmas eve may be confusing and stressful to young children.
- 4. Help your children understand the value and the meaning of the holidays.** Don't rely upon others to convey the meaning to your children; do it yourself. Talking about your own personal meaning is important. If the holidays are a religious experience for you, impart that by your religious practice; if it's a sharing experience, provide your child an opportunity to share; if it's a predominant family reunion experience, provide a reunion of family for your child.
- 5. Finally, have fun yourself.** Don't expect perfection. Remember just as your child doesn't need or want a perfect parent, neither do they need a perfect holiday... just a good enough day will do.



ATTENTION: 5th grade parents

Begin gathering and sending pictures for the Finale video.

Deadline for submitting photos is **Wednesday, January 5th, 2011.**

Send to Michelle Durr through Caroline Durr in Mrs. Erwin's class.



Deadline for Safety Poster Contest Friday, December 17th

COMING SOON!

Chocolate Sales January 28 - February 11

Permission letters to sale will go home in early January. Chocolate bars will be sent home with students on Friday, January 28, 2011.

We will be selling variety packs this year, just in time for Valentine's Day!

If you have any questions, contact Teresa Courtney @ jandtcourtney@bellsouth.net.

COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

Ellen L. Hall



We are quickly approaching the end of the calendar year which is a reminder to us that soon half of our school year will have passed also. Time really flies when you are having fun. As with every year, we have made changes to improve curriculum and instruction and I'm glad to report that things are going very well. Gateway 4th and 5th grade students are enjoying having reading and math with Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Wicklund. New test prep materials have been purchased and are ready for use during the second semester. Teachers have gone to many new and exciting conferences and workshops which enhance instruction in every classroom.

Mr. Maiden, the first grade and other enrichment teachers presented the first graders in an awesome Thanksgiving Celebration. The children learned and taught us many lessons about why we celebrate and why we should always give thanks. Several fourth and fifth grade students formed an Orff Ensemble to accompany some of the songs. This gave the first graders a chance to see what they will eventually be able to do with their wonderful music skills. Mrs. Patti Jackson, second grade teacher and a children's choir director also lent her musical talents to help in the finale. The children were so cute in their costumes and all of the decorations were beautiful. Thanks to all of the staff, parents and students for your hard work. This was just another example of how much fun learning in the garden can be.

All teachers are using the JPAMS system, and also maintaining their TeacherWeb pages because of the extra information provided for you there. We were very proud that our school had 100% of the needed data for printing report cards in the system on time. The teachers really did a great job adjusting to the new grade keeper. Information put into JPAMS can be seen immediately by parents. This has greatly improved communication between the school and home. We look forward to the continued benefits of this program. It is, however, new to all of us. There are several things I want to ask you to do in order to help us continue to provide the best possible teaching and learning at every moment.

- Please wait to address grade concerns about posts on JPAMS until you have had a chance to review "Tuesday" folders and compare grades to papers.
- Keep in mind that while some multiple choice

papers may be graded and posted on the same day, writings and constructed response items will take longer to grade.

- Remember that this system is new. We are still working out the kinks and will gladly correct any necessary information brought to our attention.



Kindergarten parents received the first copy of the revised kindergarten progress report. I worked with the parish supervisor of kindergarten and a committee of other coordinators and kindergarten teachers to help create a document that really reported to parents what children know and are able to do according to the comprehensive curriculum. We are very pleased with this document and hope that it has been very helpful information for parents.

During the month of January, all kindergarten through third grade students will have a mid-year assessment using the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) which is a state mandated assessment. DIBELS evaluates students' pre-reading and reading skills and all teachers have received training in providing interventions to improve deficits in any of the assessed areas. You will be notified only if there are concerns, but if you would like a copy of your child's results, please contact me at the school.

Finally, it is always a wonderful time to be learning in the Garden of Eden. If you have any specific questions regarding your child's academic progress, please call your child's teacher. If you have general curriculum and instruction questions, please do not hesitate to call me. My door is always open to you.

*Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire!*

--William Butler Yeats



BOX TOPS, ETC.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our collection contest! We mailed **\$2,344.40** worth of Box Tops and with what we already had on account and bonus box tops on account, the check we should receive in January will be over \$2,500.00! Community Coffee UPCs will be mailed and January and Campbells' Labels for Education will be mailed in December.

Congratulations to **Mrs. Little's (2,322 points) class**. Their class collected the most Box Tops, Campbell's Labels for Education, Community Coffee UPCs, Fast Fixin' Home Team Logos, and Tyson Project A+ tear strips and box ends.

The consolation prize winners were:

- K: Gilliam 1,172 points
- 1st: Woods 1,583 points
- 3rd: Giecek 2,143 points
- 4th: Hendrix 1,744 points
- 5th: Erwin 1,750 points

Individual prize winners are:

Cole Rimmer (K Gilliam – 622 pts)

\$15.00 gift certificate to Book Fair

Ashley Webert (4th - Hendrix – 618 pts)

\$10.00 gift certificate to Book Fair

Hadley Tompkins (1st - Milligan – 576 pts)

\$5.00 gift certificate to Book Fair

Please continue to clip and save!! Another contest starts in January! Remember, at least 50% of the class must participate for your class to qualify for the class prizes. If you haven't clipped before, please start now!

TO HELP US OUT:

- Discard all expired Box Tops
- Box Top must have a visible expiration date
- Trim Box Tops, etc to reduce postage costs
- Send the entire tear strip or box end for the Tyson Project A+ to count (not just the picture of the Project A+ chalkboard).
- In order for Campbell's Labels for Education UPCs to count, you must send the UPC symbol, not just the picture of the Campbell's person.

Please continue to enter your Coke Rewards points on line and donate them to Eden Gardens. We recently "purchased" over 46,000 points worth of PE equipment for Mrs. DiPaul and over 3,500 points worth of musical instruments for Mr. Maiden. We are continuing to save points to "purchase" more instruments for him!

Christmas Parties

December 15–1:30 PM
K-2nd grade

December 16–1:30 PM
3rd-5th grade



REFLECTIONS Eden Gardens School-wide Winners



LITERATURE

Primary Division

- 1 ~ Graham Harris
- 2 ~ Paulyn Robinson

Intermediate Division

- 1 ~ Anna Claire Graham
- 2 ~ Sarah Huddleston
- 3 ~ Cora Addison Barnard

PHOTOGRAPHY

Primary Division

- 1 ~ Claire Sanders

Intermediate Division

- 1 ~ Harlee Connell
- 2 ~ Rebecca Parsons

VISUAL ARTS

Primary Division

- 1 ~ Emily Watts

Intermediate Division

- 1 ~ Harlee Connell
- 2 ~ Anna Lester
- 3 ~ Kelsey Smith

*Congratulations to all winners.
They will advance to the parish level.*

SUPER SLICE PIZZA FRIDAYS

January 7
February 4
March 4
April 8
May 13



DATES TO REMEMBER

December 1	Progress Reports
December 20 - January 2	Holidays (Schools Closed)
January 3	Students Return
January 7	AR cutoff date
January 13	2nd 9 wks ends
January 14	Professional Development Day (Staff-No Students)
January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (School Closed)
January 21	Report Cards
January 27	Social Studies Fair
February 1-11	World's Finest Chocolate Sales
February 7	Science Fair
February 16	Progress Reports
February 21	President's Day (Schools Closed)
February 24	2nd Grade Fourth in February
February 25	3rd Grade Louisiana Learning Carnival
March 2	Running Club Resumes
March 4	1st Grade Dr. Seuss Day
March 11	AR cutoff date
March 18	3rd 9 weeks ends
March 22	LEAP/iLEAP Test Day
March 25	Report Cards
March 28-April 1	Spring Break

SCHOOL CLOSING NOTICES

Please remember that when it is necessary to temporarily close schools due to severe weather conditions, the Superintendent is the only person who will make the decision.

The news media will be informed around 6 AM. If a "delayed start" is announced, the buses will run two hours later than normal.

If your child is normally picked up at 7:15 AM, on a "delayed start" day they will be picked up at 9:15 AM. Student arrival time will be 9:45 AM. The tardy bell will ring at 9:55 AM. Breakfast will be served, even though it will be later in the day, and have a modified menu. Lunch will also be served, although the menu may be altered.



Our mission at Eden Gardens Magnet is to provide a challenging academic foundation in a nurturing educational climate, leading to lifelong learning and achievement.

Visit
PTA Websites

Educational resources for parents



pta.org— National PTA
caddodistrictpta.org — Caddo Parish PTA



Have a Safe and Happy Holiday
and we'll see you next year!!