EAGLE'S NEST PTA NEWS

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A Five Star School of Academic Excellence

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HUGHES NEWS

Jan Hughes, Principal

Dear Parents,

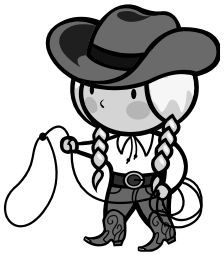
I can't believe it is already time to draw another year to a close! It has been a wonderful year so far, which I'm sure will continue until the last party is held and the last hug given, as we say good-bye to our sweet eagles.

Of course, one of the saddest things I do as principal is **say good-bye to our fifth grade families**. Our fifth grade students have handled the academic work load, as well as all of the added responsibilities that come with being fifth grade students in our school beautifully. They have been excellent role models for their kindergarten buddies, helping to make this first school experience so special. They have created memories with these children that will last a life-time. It is always sad to see wonderful students move on, but yet there is joy mixed with the sadness, as we believe each student has been prepared to be all that they can be as they travel on through middle school and high school. We will miss you and your children very much, but send you off with appreciation for all you have done and the memories we have shared. Thank you for so many great years!

A huge thank you goes to our **PTA President, Donna Bryan, and her Executive Board** for leading the way in many projects this year that have benefited our students. She and her board have led our drive toward SmartBoard technology. The first five boards that have been installed have caused unending excitement in our building. Children are constantly sharing with me something else they have done or learned. They are truly incredible tools for learning. Thanks to all of you for joining PTA in August, and for your unending support as we continue to meet the needs of our boys and girls with the funds generated through our various fundraising efforts.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation week was fabulous, as always. What a week—there are truly no words to say thank you for all you did for each of us. We share such a special relationship with our parents. This week allows us to visit with grade level moms each day, as we enjoy the treats provided. Thank you to **Missy Fussell** and her committee, as well as all of you. It was a great week!

If you missed the pancake breakfast at Applebees, you missed something that I hope will become a tradition. Thanks to **Kristy Payne** for getting everything organized, teachers and staff for embracing new careers within the restaurant business and each family that attended for making it so much fun! Wearing the aprons we received for Teacher Appreciation just added to the merriment. We had a ball—and I hope you did too!



Kindergarten Round-Up was a huge success, as our kindergarten eagles performed "Happy Trails" for the newest eagles in our nest. This exciting day was made even more special as each new eagle received an Eden Gardens T-shirt to wear and enjoy throughout the summer. Classroom visitations ended the morning's activities, with all of our new students eager for the 2011-2012 school year to begin. Some of our new friends cried because they thought school started the day of round-up! May they always be that eager to be here!

Field Day was so much fun, as all games had a "beach" theme. It is always great to see our families come together for a relaxing day of fun together. The hamburgers and hot dogs lived up to their reputation, being consumed as fast as they could be cooked! Children remembered their good sportsmanship, as they cheered their teams and friends during friendly competition.

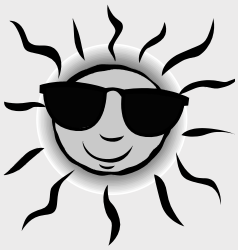
Being nominated for **Blue Ribbon School** status was a huge honor for our school. The application was very difficult, but we made it through the first screening. Another screening will be done after state test scores are released. We will find out in September if we will be confirmed as a Blue Ribbon School. Keep your fingers crossed!

With the ending of this school year, my thoughts naturally begin to think about the tasks that need to be completed before we close the schoolhouse doors for a few weeks. First of all, I would ask that as you shop for a backpack, please do not buy one that rolls. They are very dangerous, as it is hard for students to hold on to the railing and manage a huge backpack. Also, there is no where to put them, as the lockers were not designed to hold rolling backpacks and many will not close because of broken handles. We are and will continue to limit the number of books that come home on any given day, to limit the weight children have to carry in their backpacks.

Thinking about next year also makes all of us think about student placement. **Thank you so much for leaving the monumental task of scheduling students into classrooms to Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Hall and myself.** We know the educational needs of our students, and spend hours placing each child where we feel he/she will be most successful. I appreciate the support you have always given us in trusting our judgment to place your children in the classroom that best meets their educational needs.

We are the school we are in part because of you and your support. We have such a strong partnership between school and home, which leads to success for your children—our students. We wish all of our fifth grade students and parents much success in middle school. To all of our eagles who will be returning—have a fun, safe summer and we'll see you in August.

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PTA



Outgoing PTA President Donna Bryan

It has been such an honor to serve as the president of the Eden Gardens PTA this year! I love to tell others about our wonderful school and the exciting new things that we have happening here. I have been a part of this PTA for the last 8 years and next year will be my final year in "the garden" as my youngest eagle will be in 5th grade. I am so sad for her to leave the nest, but at the same time, I know that she will be well prepared for the challenges of middle school!

Your PTA has worked diligently this year to raise funds to provide SMARTboards to your children at Eden Gardens. With your help, we have completed phase 1 of the project, providing 5 interactive boards to our teachers and students. During Phase 1, we raised $22,000 through fundraisers like chocolate sales, eagle society donations, silent auction, and carnival. We have already begun raising funds for Phase 2 with our Flapjack Fundraiser held on April 16th at Applebee's. In those 2 crazy hours, we raised almost $1400 for our project! I hope that you will continue to support our fundraising efforts so that we may reach our goals and provide the most up-to-date technology for your children.

I am so excited to have Terri Bianca leading us next year as the Eden Gardens PTA President for 2011-2012. She is a great friend and leader and has some wonderful things planned for our school next year. Our school is so blessed to have parents and faculty that work so effortlessly together to ensure that our children have every opportunity and advantage that we can possibly offer them. Have an outstanding summer!

Incoming PTA President Terri Bianca

If you are like me, this school year has gone by in a blur! We only have a few more weeks until its flip flops and swimsuits. But even in the midst of summer planning, your PTA is busy establishing leaders and committee members for the 2011-2012 school year.

I want to send a heart felt thanks to the parents who have already volunteered to lead our PTA next year. Thank you for turning in your Volunteer Forms and answering my phone calls and emails. Your commitment to our school is what keeps us as one of the leading elementary schools in the whole state.

During the summer, PTA will be busy preparing for the new school year with many ongoing projects: improving and maintaining the landscaping, organizing school supplies, and planning back-to-school and welcoming events - just to name a few!

It is never too late to get involved with our PTA. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to volunteer, and with such a wide variety of projects, there is something to fit every schedule. Please contact me at ***318-798-2087 or jtgabianca@bellsouth.net*** if you would like to know more!

I look forward to working with you all next year!

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

MAY 18
(NOTEBOOK EXCHANGE)

WHOO HOO!

Our Eden Gardens Website won *Louisiana PTA Website Award of Excellence!*

Congratulations to Michelle Osborn and the Website Committee for their hard work.

FIELD DAY THANK YOUS!

Many thanks goes to...

Donna Bryan and Michelle Osborn
for counting tickets and all of the other parents who volunteered and helped with ticket orders.

Kim Ramsey and Gae Graham for purchasing all of the concessions and organizing the donations.

Amy Epp–Ribbon Chairperson

All of the **room moms** who helped volunteer and get volunteers to work at each booth

Osborn Funeral Homes for the large tent

Troy Brown for lining the fields, what a huge job!

Jerry Huddleston for providing the grill and all of the parents that helped grill the food

To all faculty and staff especailly Mr. Froebe, Lisa Doyal, Susan Foley, and Karen Sibert.

To all the parents that bought tickets, helped set up and clean up, sent donations, and came out and supported our school! Thank you very much.

—Louise Sistrunk and Jill Wynne

THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS YEARS' AR COMMITTEE

I really appreciate all of your help.
Hope to see you on
the committee next year!

—Megan Smith

Super Students

Congratulations to **Ellis Bryan (Cameron–4th grade)** for winning 3rd Place in the Girls 12 and Under Division of the Louisiana State Open Tennis Tournament.
Great Job Ellis!

Nylah Tolliver (Wray–2nd grade) participated in the Providence House sponsored Queens for the Cause for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) at the Louisiana Boardwalk on April 9 and performed with The Theatre of Performing Arts Program in the 9th Annual Yazzy Youth Celebrating Jazz Concert at the Strand Theatre on April 15. She also advanced in swimming to the level of Advanced II at The Swim School on April 27. Nylah had her artwork selected in the Juried Competition for display at the Convention Center for Artbreak. ***Awesome Nylah!***

Congratulations **Angelle Gandy (Little–2nd grade)** on earning your purple belt in TaeKwonDo.
Way to go Angelle!

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. Email your announcement to Tracy McGill at jnmcgill@aol.com.

PHYSICAL FITNESS TEAM

Congratulations Mrs. DiPaul and the 2010/2011 Eden Gardens Physical Fitness Team for their hard work and dedication this year!

Team members were **Kelsey Smith, Alex Stevens, Reagan Todd, Zack Lewis, Jaden Procell and Josh McCoy.**

These student athletes successfully competed at two Caddo Parish fitness meets. **Zack Lewis, Kelsey Smith and Alex Stevens** qualified to compete at the Governor's Games in Baton Rouge, LA. They joined 3 other qualifying athletes (including *James Hall, the son of our very own Mrs. Hall!*) to comprise the Caddo Parish Fitness Team. **Kelsey Smith** did an amazing 103 curl-ups in 60 seconds to bring home a silver medal! We are still awaiting the final meet results but there is no doubt that the Fitness Team did a great job representing our school and Caddo Parish! **Way to Go Eagles!!**

Counselor's Corner

Sydney Allen

Kindergarten Round-up 2011 was a tremendous success! Wait until you see the precious faces next year. We currently have 80 kindergarten contracts for the 2011-12 school year. What a joy this experience was for me, to meet and fall "in love" with each and every child. I look forward to watching these little seeds grow and bloom in the "Garden of Eden" surrounded by our love. We are also welcoming new students in 1st and 3rd grade for next year. Please join me in making them feel apart of our family.

TEST RESULTS

Keep an eye out for LEAP/ iLEAP and 2nd grade ITBS results. We anticipate receiving these scores before the end of school. As soon as we pick them up from central office, they will be sent home with your child. Testing went very smoothly. Thanks for all of your help and hard work in getting students here on time and ready for the day!

UNIFORM REMINDERS

There is one change for the 2011-12 school year:

Girls **MAY** wear uniform–style khaki capris.

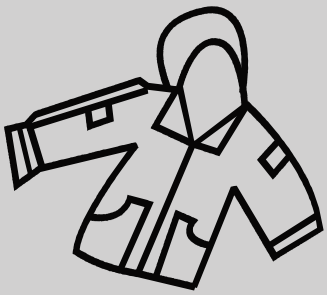
NOT PART OF UNIFORM POLICY:

Girls may **NOT** wear denim style khaki shorts or pants.
Also, cargo, hip-hugger, flair-leg pants are **NOT** part of our uniform.
Khaki skirts and jumpers are **NOT** part of our uniform policy.
All khaki shorts and pants should be uniform style.
The best way to remember is:
if it has legs, it is khaki; if it does not have legs, it is plaid.

Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions about the Eden Gardens Uniform Policy.

You can also view the UNIFORM POLICY on the website.

LOST & FOUND



Please check the Lost & Found box in the back hallway for any items that may belong to your student.

All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity.

Scheduling Your Summer

By: Kimberly Keith @ About.com Parenting Children K-6

It's a fact of life for most busy families these days. When school ends and the "lazy?" days of summer begin, parents have more scheduling and juggling to do with the kids at home all day. We make summer child care arrangements for our school age children. Vacation plans are made. Transportation must be arranged for camp, lessons, and ball games. Try this strategy for scheduling your summer now. It will reduce your stress, teach your child organizational skills, and help your family look forward to a great summer.

The first step is to gather information . . .

Gather brochures and information on community and childcare resources in your town, ballgame schedules, children's summer class schedules, vacation books and brochures, anything that will give you the ideas and information you need to plan your summer schedule.

The first planning meeting should be between you and your spouse only . . .

Each of you should bring your personal calendars and use an initial planning calendar to sketch out your ideas. Mark off already scheduled vacation times and other firm plans that you have made.

What activities do you agree on for your child? Consider your budget, your child's interests, your work schedule, and your assessment of each individual child's needs. Keep it flexible to give your child some choices. Let her pick one of several enrichment classes at a local university or museum. Consider both active and quiet activities - swimming and art lessons, or baseball and computer classes. Does your child need extra help or enrichment in any of his school subjects? Perhaps you could buy an educational software program or hire a tutor to come in and help him through the summer. University classes and summer school are also options for extra summer learning.

What family activities would you like to plan? Have you wanted to plan a hiking trip or a museum visit but never seem to get around to it? Put it on the planning calendar now and you'll be much more likely to do it this year!

Next, meet with the entire family . . .

Bring your Summer Family Calendar plus individual calendars for each family member. You and your spouse have agreed on what activities are mandatory and what choices you will give your child. Start with the firm plans, including the child care arrangements. Most school-age children are not too thrilled with going to a day care center. But, if they must go, try to emphasize the field trips and other appealing summer activities offered by the center. It really helps if you can find out where their friends are going and make the same arrangements! Let them fill in special day care events on their individual calendars. Perhaps you can schedule special days each week that Mom will pick them up early or Dad will come and take them out to lunch. Again, put these on the calendar to give them special days to look forward to. Fill in any other already scheduled activities on the family and individual calendars - baseball games, family vacation, etc.

Now, bring out your brochures and begin to plan some fun. Let everyone look through the materials and brainstorm some activities that you and your children will enjoy. Find a balance of individual and family interests and plan accordingly. When you all agree on an idea, put it on the calendar. Now, you have a great summer planned. Enjoy!

Schedule of Events for Fifth Grade Finale
May 23–27, 2011

Monday, May 23

SOCK IT TO THE STARS
WEAR YOUR FAVORITE SOCKS

8:15 – 10:45 Inflatables/Games on field across ditch; Snacks–Water, donuts, juice
11:00 Enrichment
11:45 Lunch
12:15 Recess
12:45 Teacher Time

Tuesday, May 24

SPIRIT T-SHIRT/UNIFORM BOTTOMS – JEANS ALLOWED IF AR GOAL MET AND GOING SKATING

10:00 Teacher skit in Library
10:30 Gift and T-shirt Presentation and snacks
11:45 AR Skating Party

Wednesday, May 25

HATS OFF TO THE STARS - WEAR YOUR FAVORITE HAT AND SPORTS TEAM/CELEBRITY T-SHIRT

8:15 – 10:45 Teacher Time
11:00 Enrichment
11:45 – 1:30 Picnic with fun and games on field across ditch your child may want to bring a blanket to sit on—LIMITED TO PARENTS ONLY (no aunts, uncles, grandparents or siblings due to space)
2:00 Bomb pops with Kindergarten Buddy

Thursday, May 26

YOU ARE A STAR!!!! Where your Finale t-shirt, jeans, and bring your shades (sunglasses)

8:30 – 11:00 Movie Kung Fu Panda–Tinseltown
11:00 Enrichment
11:45 Lunch
12:15 Recess
12:45 Teacher time
1:30 Red Carpet pictures

Friday, May 27

WEAR DRESS CLOTHES

GIRLS-dress, skirt, sandals, and low pump shoes, (no heels), the shoes may be backless, but after the celebration shoes must be changed. NO JEANS OR SHORTS!

BOYS-dress pants, khaki pants, nice collared shirt or golf shirt. The shirt must be tucked in with a belt. If you want to wear a coat and tie, it is fine but not necessary. NO JEANS OR SHORTS!

Your child may bring a change of clothes for after the Celebration. Parents will need to supervise changing. (Uniform attire)

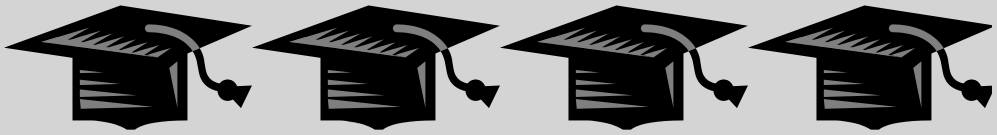
***ALL CLOTHING MUST MEET WITH CADDO PARISH DRESS CODE**

8:15 – 10:30 Celebration
(Honors Presentation & Video)
Eden Gardens Auditorium
10:30 Reception on the back porch
Cake and punch to be served

2 seats per students are available in the reserved seating section all other guest will have to sit behind the reserved area.

11:00 Enrichment
11:45 Lunch
12:15 Recess
12:45 Teacher Time
3:30 – 5:30 NON_SCHOOL RELATED SWIM PARTY (NO SIBLINGS)
East Ridge Country Club

This is a non-school related event. The cost is $10.00 per child (no siblings) **To be paid at the gate – cash only** Each child will receive a hotdog, chips, a drink, ice cream, and swimming. You will be responsible for the safety of your child. If your child is not a strong swimmer or cannot swim, a parent **MUST** stay to supervise the child. The lifeguard must meet your child and be informed of your child's swimming ability. Because this is a non-school related event you will be required to provide your own transportation.



COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

Ellen L. Hall

Looking back over the 2010-2011 school year, I am very proud of the advances we have made in curriculum and instruction. The teamwork of administrators, teachers, staff, students and parents has resulted in a challenging yet enjoyable year for all involved. The technology upgrades this year have been the driving force behind changes in our curriculum.

At the beginning of the year, our staff embraced the new JPAMS system and has used this tool to help keep you informed of your child's academic progress. We proudly boast that 100% of our teaching staff is proficient in "JPAMS".

The SMART board project is on the way! The staff began training for implementation of SMART boards in January. The administrative team and several teachers have had professional development courses taught by SMART board trainers. Four SMART boards are installed and students are currently enjoying the enhanced learning provided by this new classroom tool. Thanks to all who have sent donations. We look forward to a SMART board in every room.

Enhancement of the **Accelerated Reader** program to the online version has given our students access to a vast amount of tests that will lead to more independent reading and comprehension. This program also allows parents to have a direct link to AR information. Reading is still the best indicator of academic success so we hope you take full advantage of this opportunity.

The support of our parents enables us to do so much more than just teach. Thanks to each of you for making learning in the garden a truly unique journey for each child. Teacher appreciation week was just mind blowing and your positive support throughout the year, remind us of how blessed we are to work in "the Garden". I believe the essence of the partnerships at Eden Gardens is summarized in a few words from "Daily Word":

when we unite in following divine guidance,
we work together with ease and excellence.
Joined in mind, we create new ideas.
Linked in heart, we express an abundance of love.
Our united actions bring forth maximized abilities.

Enjoy your summer break, but remember a break from attending school should never mean a break from learning.

Thanks for letting me be a part of this great partnership.

Happy learning,
Ellen Hall

HONORS ASSEMBLIES

Thursday, May 26
8:30 am—3rd & 4th grade
9:30 am—K–2nd grade

Fifth grade Honor's Program will be held during the 5th Grade Farewell Celebration.

ACCELERATED READER SKATING PARTIES

Grades 1 & 2
Monday, May 23
12:00-2:30

Grades 3,4 & 5
Tuesday, May 24
12:00-2:30

Students who have reached their AR Skating Goal will attend! Congratulations!

END-OF-YEAR PARTIES

Grades K–2
Thursday, May 26
1:30pm

Grades 3-5
Friday, May 27
1:30pm

SUPER SLICE PIZZA FRIDAYS

MAY 13

BOX TOPS, RECYCLING NEWS

Thank you for your support of our "Recycling" efforts. Every time you clip a Box Tops for Education, Community Coffee UPC, Tyson Project A+ box end or tear strip, Fast Fixin' Home Team Logo, or Campbell's Labels for Education UPC, you are earning money for Eden Gardens. Every time you use your Kroger Plus card (after you use the bar code at the end of this article and tie your card to EGMS), your Target Red Card (and tie it to EGMS), or swipe your Albertson's Community Partners Swipe card (if you need one, call the office), you are earning money for Eden Gardens.

Since we began our "Clip and Save" and "Store Loyalty" programs in the spring of 2006 with our first Box Tops for Education submission, we have raised $20,446.27.

Clip and Save	
Box Tops for Education	$13,570.05
Community Coffee UPCS	1,301.81
Fast Fixin' Home Team Logos	66.00
Tyson Project A+	315.36
	$15,253.22
BFI Recycling *(discontinued)*	$282.10
Store Loyalty Programs	
Kroger *(doesn't include 2010-11)*	$ 2,105.17
Target *(doesn't include 2010-11)*	2,302.84
Albertsons Community Partners	502.94
	4,910.95
TOTAL	**$20,446.27**

2010-2011 RECORD YEAR
Box Tops for Education collection
We received $3,910!
Let's top that next year and reach a goal of $5,200
or one SMART board.
If everyone participates, we can do it!

Campbell's Labels for Education UPCs
We have "purchased" 2 overhead projectors and 20 pencil sharpeners with our Labels.

Also, continue to enter your
COKE rewards points online
and donate them to Eden Gardens.
We have "purchased" over 45,000 points worth of new P.E. equipment and some musical instruments (cymbals, triangles, etc) for Mr. Maiden.

ATTENTION KROGER SHOPPERS!!!!

If you shop at Kroger, please go to elabelsforeducation.com and tie your Kroger Plus card to Eden Gardens. Then, every time you shop and purchase Campbell's Labels for Education products, EGMS will automatically receive points for those products. We will still receive points for the UPCs that you clip and send in!

Take this bar code to Kroger the first time you shop after JULY 1, 2011, and show it with your Kroger Plus card to the cashier. This will tie your card to EGMS and we will receive a donation from Kroger for your eligible purchases at the end of the 2011-12 school year. *Give a copy of this bar code to your friends, family, and neighbors and they can earn $ for EGMS too!* **Even if you've already done this, you MUST reattach the bar code to your KrogerPlus card EVERY YEAR after JULY 1!**

EDEN GARDENS MAGNET SCHOOL

1 00000 80928

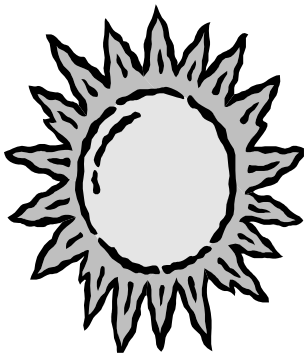
Don't forget that the Clip and Save money comes from your TRASH!

*With an average of 50% of our students participating this year, imagine how much we would raise if **EVERY** student participated!*

Ask your relatives, friends, and neighbors to clip and save for you!
It's easy and once you get started, you won't be able to stop!

2011–2012 SCHOOL CALENDER
CADDO PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

August 18	ALL Students Report
September 5	Labor Day (Schools Closed)
October 20	1st Reporting Period Ends
October 21	Fall Break (Schools Closed)
October 24	2nd Reporting Period Begins
November 21-25	Holidays (Schools Closed)
December19 - December 30	Holidays (Schools Closed)
January 2	Students Return to School
January 12	2nd Reporting Period Ends
January 13	Professional Development Day (NO STUDENTS)
January 16	Holiday (Schools Closed)
January 17	3rd Reporting Period Begins
February 20	Holiday (Schools Cosed)
March 16	3rd Reporting Period Ends
March 19	4th Reporting Period Begins
March 26-30	Spring Break (Schools Closed)
April 6	Holiday (Schools Closed)
April 12-13, April 16-17	LEAP/iLEAP
May 28	Memorial Day (Schools Closed)
May 30	Last Day of School



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!

SEE YOU IN AUGUST!

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

National PTA®
every child. *one* voice.®