

EAGLE'S NEST PTA NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 3



A Five Star School of Academic Excellence



May 2016

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PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Kristin Parsons
Vice-President	Elba Hamilton
2 nd Vice-President	Sydney Allen
Recording Secretary	Lindsay Smith
Corresp. Secretary	Heather Adcock
Treasurer	Bronwyn Sanders
Chaplain	Neely Wright
Teacher Rep	Felicia Gipson

LAST PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING & NOTEBOOK EXCHANGE

Wednesday May 11th, 11:30

East Ridge Country Club

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ALLEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Parents,

I can't believe it is already time to draw another year to a close! It has been a wonderful Blue Ribbon 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, Kristin Parsons, and her Executive Board for leading the way in many projects this year that have benefited our students. Students have enjoyed a new iPad lab, standalone computers and programs to enhance instruction in the classrooms. They have loved every minute learning and exploring all of the many fun, educational activities they have engaged in using their iPads. I've said it so many times, but it is still true. We would not be the school we are without your support and the funds you raise on our behalf. You can give your child no greater gift than an excellent education—which is made possible through your membership and support of PTA. Thank you!

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. Our teachers were so excited with your Teacher Appreciation gifts. The last minute floods and having to split our week into two parts was an adventure. Thank you to Renee' Carr and her wonderful committee.

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 2016-2017 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!

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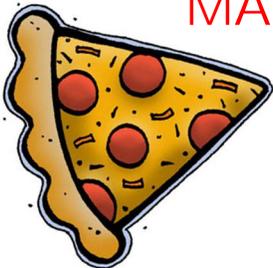


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SUPER SLICE PIZZA: MAY 13TH



5TH GRADE FINALE WEEK

Tuesday, May 17th

Movie Day at school

Wednesday, May 18th

Fun Day with inflatables
Students may wear their finale shirts
to school

Picnic 11:30-1:00
Please bring lawn chairs and blankets
Parents invited!

Thursday, May 19th

Graduation
Begins at 8:30 am
Wear nice clothes- must follow
Caddo Parish Dress Code

Swim Party
3:30-5:30 at East Ridge
Meal will be supplied for fifth graders



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ALLEN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Field Day Our 2016 was a blast, thanks to those who helped make it successful. It is always great to see our families come together for a day of fun.

Leader In Me Luncheon The Leader In Me Committee has been hard at work planning a luncheon on Monday, May 9th for our area business leaders and community members. The Leader In Me program, which begins implementation next August, will change the face of our school one little leader at a time. If you would like to be involved, or just want more information, please call me at 861-7654.

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 in a two story building, 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. Gipson, Mrs. Wilburn and me. 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.



FIELD DAY!



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INSTRUCTIONAL COORDINATOR'S COLUMN

Imagine a world where technical skill, knowledge, and competencies are not enough. In this world, knowledge of facts and the ability to retort them are insufficient strengths, alone, as employers and business leaders collectively note the absence of a primary resource for organizational success. That world is our 21st century dwelling, and that invaluable resource is leadership. Leadership has risen to the very top of the list of desired traits in employees and career candidates over the past 50 years. As schools continuously prepare students for a world that has long passed away, the end result is young adults emerging from secondary and post-secondary education taking on a world for which they have not been adequately prepared (<http://neweducationparadigm.org>). The current body of literature possesses a strong assertion for student leadership in schools.



As we prepare for the closing of the current school year and look ahead to our next, we are excited about our "journey of leadership" as we embark on implementing *The Leader in Me* at our school! *The Leader in Me* is a transformation process by which we plan to inspire greatness in EVERY child at Eden Gardens. Please visit www.theleaderinme.org to learn more!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER WITH KRISTA WILBURN

Kindergarten Round-up 2016 was a tremendous success! Wait until you see the precious faces next year. We currently have 88 kindergarten contracts for the 2016-17 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 5th grade for next year. Please join me in making them feel apart of our family.

Please make note of the uniform policy listed below. There are no changes for the 2016-17 school year. I would like to mention several items that are not part of our policy so that you may keep this in mind while school shopping for next year. Girls may not wear denim style khaki shorts or pants. All khaki shorts and pants should be uniform style. Khaki skirts and jumpers are not part of our uniform policy. The best way to remember is: if it has legs, it is khaki; if it does not have legs, it is plaid, with the exception of plaid skorts. All jackets, sweatshirts,

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fleeces etc. worn inside the building must follow uniform policy. Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions about the Eden Gardens Uniform Policy.

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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 & 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!



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PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been an incredible joy to serve as your president of the Eden Gardens PTA this year! Your PTA has worked diligently this year to provide needed assistance and funding to support our teachers and staff in providing the best educational experience available for our children. This final 9 weeks has been a busy one for our PTA: Many thanks to Renee Carr and Jennifer Rossi for an exceptional Teacher Appreciation Week. Lindsay Smith and Kelly Stratton also did a fabulous job with the Eden Gardens Fun Run. Susan Easley and Jamie Wilhelm and the rest of the Recycling Committee have worked so hard all year. Our incentives program raised hundreds of dollars for technology improvements in the Garden! Louise Sistrunk and the rest of the Field Day Committee did an incredible job making this field day fun for all. Kendra Meiki will close out our final AR treat day and Straight A's parties for this year. Thanks also to Amy Watts and all the parents who helped set up, work registers, pass out donuts, and clean up during our Spring Book Fair. It wouldn't be possible without you! Elizabeth strong has worked so hard to make our second annual Cultural Arts and Spaghetti Super a success. I am also very excited about the introduction of the Leader In Me program and know that Kristy Payne is doing a fabulous job as the parent representative. Heather Adcock, Kendra Meiki, and their 5th Grade Finale team have put together an amazing week for our 5th graders as they soar into middle school. And finally, many thanks to the behind the scenes work of Rebekah Aillet on the newsletter and Terri Lux on our website. They work so hard to make sure everyone is informed of what is happening at Eden Gardens.

As we close out this school year and I hand over the reins of PTA President to Elba Hamilton, I know you are in good hands. We have already discussed a few exciting changes that are in store for EGM next year. We are so very blessed to have a school full of wonderful teachers, administrators, and parents.

The Garden has held a special place in my heart for the last eleven years, and this past year has reminded me of why I fell in love with it in the first place. My pride spills over when people ask me about our school, which I always describe as a family. I have already shed a few tears over my fifth grader leaving our safe haven, but I know he is fully prepared for all the challenges of middle school. In just a couple weeks, we will be saying good bye to some very dedicated and hard working parents as they leave Eden Gardens with a fifth grade child for the last time. We wish all of our departing Eagles and their families the very best as they enter into a new chapter in their lives. I too will leave the nest for the last time and will always cherish the wonderful memories of watching my daughter and son grow, flourish, and succeed here in the Garden. I want to say thank you to all the exceptional teachers, administrators, and parents for nurturing, teaching, and most of all; loving on my kids. Our family will forever be grateful for our time at Eden Gardens. As I say goodbye, I hope you will remember to take in and enjoy each and every moment with your children because your time in the nest will fly by. Have a wonderful summer!

EGM BRINGS HOME THE TROPHIES!

Caddo District PTA 2015-2016

600 Club for PTA memberships

Caddo District PTA 2015-2016 Honor
Unit

Caddo District PTA 2015-2016

100% Membership

Caddo District PTA 2015-2016

Newsletter Award of Excellence

Caddo District PTA 2015-2016

Website Award of Merit

LA PTA Newsletter Award of Excellence

LA PTA Website Award of Merit

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WHO TO CALL FOR HELP

(318) 861-7651

Sydney Allen, Principal
Any school wide suggestions, ideas, concerns.

Krista Wilburn, Counselor
Enrollment/Registration
Contract/Contract Renewal
Standardized Testing
Gateway Concerns/Referral Info.
Counseling for a child
Moving-Need a copy of school records
Questions about Health Card, Social Security
Card or fees

Your Child's Teacher
Academic Progress or Concerns
Playground or Peer Concerns
Report Card Questions or Concerns
Volunteer to Help
AR Reading Updates/Testing/Goals/ZPD Levels

Felicia Gipson, Coordinator
Any curriculum related questions
Lost textbook or workbook information
Parent Resource Center information
Homework Questions
Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
Transportation Concerns
DIBELS Next Testing for K-3rd Students
DSC Testing for K students
Substitute Information
All Schoolwide Professional Development
After School Tutoring
School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention Plan

Cafeteria—Ms. Phillips (318) 861-6848
Questions about Individual Accounts
Special Dietary Requirements
Reservations to Eat Lunch

Transportation (318) 603-6535
Overcrowded or Late Bus

Susan Foley, Secretary/Bookkeeper
School Pay-Online payment system for parents
Another copy of School Letter or Communication
Money Related Questions (T-shirts, Yearbooks, Pic-
tures, Directories, etc.)
Message to Teachers
Questions about Monthly Calendar Events

Lisa Calhoun, Office Clerk
Absences, Attendance, Tardy
Any EGM Website Information/Concerns/
Advertising
Change of Address
Homework for an ill student
Transportation Information
Change in Transportation Plans



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CONGRATS D.I. TEAMS!

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 Kids on the Run 5:30 PM (Parking lot in corner of Clyde Fant and Stoner Ave.)	2	3 Book Fair, Cultural Arts Display and Spaghetti Supper 6:00	4	5 5th grade field trip to hatchitoches	6 Field Day AR Cut Off	7
Book Fair May 2nd through May 6th							
8 <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	9 Library Books due "Leader in Me" Luncheon	10 DIBELS Testing	11 PTA Notebook Exchange Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Gilliam Tea @ 1:30 AR Treat Day Birthday Book Club	12 Mrs. Gilbert and Mrs. Minton Tea @ 1:30	13 Super Slice 	14 Field Day Rainout Day	
15 K5 Crazy Hair and Sock Day 5th Grade Finale K-Buddy Time	16 K5 Super Hero Day 5th Grade Finale Movie Day	17	18 K5 Favorite Tshirt Day Honor's Assemblies Grades 3 & 5 8:30 Grades 1 & 2 9:30 K - 2 EOY Parties 1:30 5th Gr. Finale Inflatables & Picnic	19 5th Grade Finale Honors and Video 3rd & 5th Gr. EOY Parties 1:30	20 Last Day for Students	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30 MEMORIAL DAY 	31	Have a safe and wonderful summer! 				