

Essex Elementary School Newsletter

March 2023

Principal's Message by Jennifer Tousignant

Dear EES Families,

March 8 is an early dismissal day for students. Our original calendars are incorrect! This change was communicated by our Superintendent a few months ago.

We look forward to our upcoming Parent-Teacher conferences on Thursday, March 17 and Friday, March 18, both early dismissal days for students. Please be sure you have a conference date and time. Reach out to your child's teacher to schedule. Report cards will FOLLOW Parent Teacher Conferences by one week.

On the next page you will find an optional "Student Information Form" should you wish to complete one on behalf of your child. The input forms are considered when creating classes for next year, however with declining enrollment and fewer sections at particular grade levels it may be impossible to meet all specific parental requests. Our staff works diligently in taking each student's individual strengths and needs into consideration when creating balanced classes with the future success of all students at the forefront of this most important decision making process. We strive to achieve an equitable number of children per classroom, an overall class "chemistry" which enhances learning, creating a positive classroom culture and dynamic within the class, and an academically balanced classroom where the cross pollination of thoughts and ideas can naturally occur within the learning environment. Should you choose to complete a Student Information Form, please return it to your child's teacher by Friday, March 31st at the latest.

As the weather gets warmer, many enjoy using our school grounds AFTER school hours and on weekends. If you choose to do so, please try to leave the basketball area free of vehicles so those who would like to use the hoops are able to do so. Also, please be sure to keep our campus free of litter.

Finally, we end March with our Virtual Kindergarten Orientation on Wednesday, March 29 at 6pm. I will host the informational session and it will include a short video from our kindergarten teachers and our PTO.

Have a great month! ~Jenn

Important Dates:

March 1: PTO Meeting 6pm- EES Media Center

March 2: Read Across America Day

March 8: Early Dismissal for Students; 1pm

March 16 & March 17 : Parent Teacher Conferences-
Early Dismissal for Students; 1pm
PTO Scholastic Book Fair

March 22: Report Cards go home electronically

March 29: Kindergarten Orientation for Parents at 6:00pm

BOE meeting information to parents:

[Agendas, Minutes and Recordings of Remote Meetings for all Boards of Education](#)

ESSEX ELEMENTARY~Student Information Form~Class Placement for 2023-24 School Year

Student's Name _____ Current Teacher's Name _____

Entering Grade for 2023-24 School Year _____

Describe the learning environment that brings out the best in your child.

In order to better understand how you view your child's strengths and challenges, please rate the following areas:

S – Strength

I – Inconsistent

W – Weakness

___ motivation

___ enthusiasm for school

___ peer relationships

___ transitioning to new teacher

___ organization

___ flexibility

___ independent worker

___ attention

What else would you like us to know about your child? Please include specific concerns that should be considered.

Specific Teacher Requests will NOT be accepted. Form due by Friday, April 1st.

Math News with Mrs. VanderMale!

Do you want the inside scoop on what your child is currently learning in math?

Check out the **Unit 5 and 6 Newsletters**

Kindergarten

[Unit 5 and Unit 6](#)

Grade 1

[Unit 5 and Unit 6](#)

Grade 2

[Unit 5 and Unit 6](#)

Grade 3

[Unit 5 and Unit 6](#)

Grade 4

[Unit 5 and Unit 6](#)

Grade 5

[Unit 5 and Unit 6](#)

Grade 6: Illustrative Mathematics

[Unit 5 and Unit 6](#)

Do you have a great location idea for this summer's **Summer Math Passport**?

Believe it or not, this summer's Math Passport is already in process. Over the next few months I will be writing the math problems our students will solve this summer. As you know from past passports, math problems are based on locations around town. Do you have an interesting idea or location for one of this summer's problems? I'd love to hear from you!!

Please reach out to me at:
svandermale@reg4.k12.ct.us

Preschool Restaurant

On Valentine's Day
Room 103 was
transformed into a
fine dining
establishment!

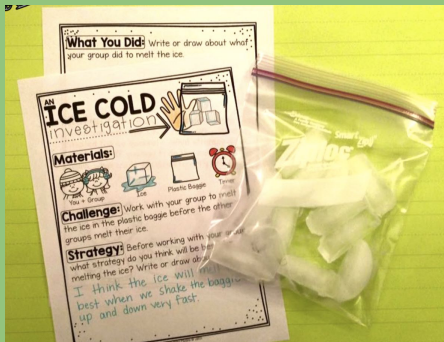










Students acted as
hosts, servers and
waterboys as they
waited on Region 4
staff and friends of the
Pre-K classroom.



First Grade News

Brrrrrrrrrr...It's cold outside! First graders learned the science of winter. Vocabulary, literacy skills, and hands-on activities were included in our *Science of Winter* fun-filled unit. One of our favorite activities was a hands-on experiment where students used their senses to observe and describe ice. After, they worked to see who could melt the ice the fastest, using tools around the classroom. They were quite resourceful!



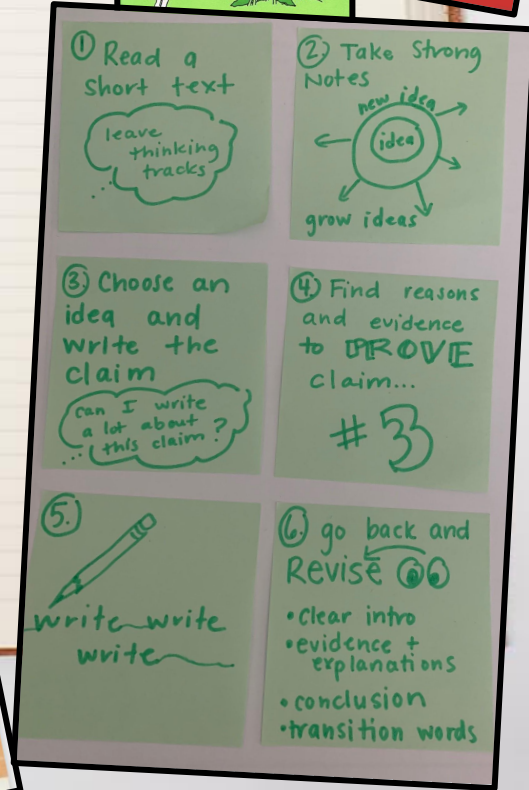
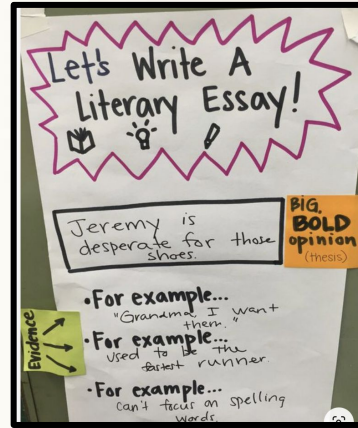
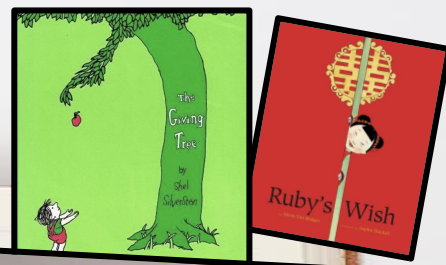
 ice frozen water	 ice storm a storm of freezing rain that leaves a coating of ice	 slick something that is smooth, wet, and slippery	 freezing rain rain that falls when temperatures are below the freezing point
 freezing point the temperature at which liquid turns into a solid when cooled (0°C or 32°F)	 frost small ice crystals that form on the ground or other surfaces when the temperature falls below freezing	 icicle a hanging piece of ice formed by the dripping of freezing water	 frozen turned into ice



Grade 3 News: Baby Literary Boot Camp

Do you love books? Do you love to write about books? Do you love to make big theories about characters and prove them??? Well that's exactly what the Literary Essay Unit is all about! Together, we read a mentor text, where students learn that they can make **BIG BOLD CLAIMS**. Then we work together to find examples that prove our ideas. We use strategies like "pinching parts across the text" or "slurping and spitting" exact lines from the story to help our big ideas come to life!

Students are learning to not only include evidence and proof across the story, but they are also learning to use explanations to support that proof. Take a look at some of the great tools and mentor texts we are using to **THINK BIG** about texts!



5th Grade News

Math and Science - In mathematics, fifth grade students are starting Unit 5, Multiplying and Dividing Fractions. Students will be learning to multiply whole numbers by fractions using a variety of strategies. Also, they will be applying those strategies to solve real world problems. In Science, we just had the pleasure of dissecting owl pellets with the help of Heather Kordula from the Audubon Society! The kids had a blast and learned so much!



Reading and Writing - In reading, fifth grade students completed their fantasy unit with all 5th grade classrooms reading and enjoying The Thief of Always. The students have really enjoyed exploring the fantasy genre.

In writing, the students have completed many opinion pieces on topics they feel strongly about. You may have even received an opinion piece from your child trying to persuade you to see their side!

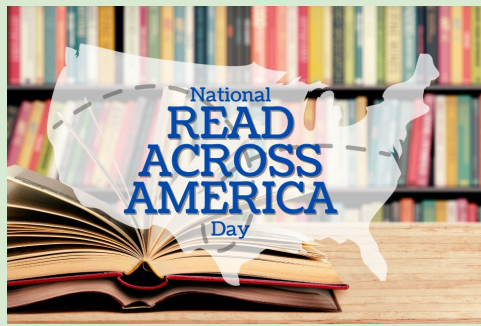


Social Studies-

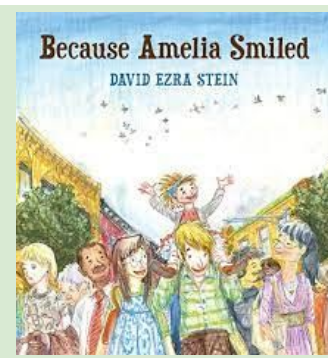
Students have begun studying the American Revolution and the causes leading up to the war. Mrs. Josefiak from the Essex Historical Society recently visited the STEM lab, where students took on the role of being history detectives and explored artifacts that were used during the Revolution time period. Students applied thinking such as: Who would use it? When would they use it? And, how was it connected to the American Revolution.

Social Development -February was kindness month! Students were practicing kindness towards peers, family members, and themselves. They have read The Little Things by Christian Trimmer and made "kindness starfish" to list ways they will focus on being kind.





Thursday, March 2 Is National Read Across America Day!



Thursday, March 2, is National Read Across America Day! This year EES will be bringing back a many-year tradition that was interrupted the past few years by Covid restrictions. On the afternoon of March 2, seniors from Valley Regional High School will be coming to EES to read to all our classrooms. This experience allows EES students to have the fun experience of being read to as well as have a discussion with other members of our community. This opportunity is also valued by our high school visitors, many of whom are previous EES students. They often request to be in the classroom of a previous elementary school teacher or take this opportunity to visit with staff members. The staff also looks forward to seeing their former students and seeing how they have grown into confident young adults! This year we will be reading the book, Because Amelia Smiled, by David Ezra Stein. This book is about how a smile can travel around the world and gives the message that even a small dose of kindness can spur more kindness and eventually make its way back to you!

READ TO FEED

MARCH 1ST-MARCH 31

What is Read to Feed?

Read to Feed is part of Heifer International, a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to ending hunger and poverty by providing livestock and training to families so they can earn a living income. Sponsors can pledge money for the minutes EES students read for homework during the month of March. Sponsorship is completely optional.



How do I keep track of my reading minutes?

Only minutes read for homework will be counted toward the Read for Feed challenge.


From March 1 through March 31, keep track of the minutes you read on the reading log given to you by your teacher. On April 1, you can calculate the number of minutes you read in the month of March. Finding sponsors is optional, but we are asking all EES students to keep track of their reading minutes during the month of March.

How will my reading help people around the world?

At the end of the reading challenge, we will tally up all the money donated by sponsors of EES students. We will be able to give the money to Heifer International, and they will provide people around the world with opportunities to enrich their lives, such as livestock that they can use for nourishment or to earn money for their families, clean water, or schooling. Sponsorship is completely voluntary.

March 2023

Updated 2/28/23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 Snow Day	1 C	2 D	3 A	4
5	6 B	7 C	8 D Early Dismissal Teacher PD	9 A	10 B	11
12	13 C	14 D	15 A	16 B Early Dismissal Conferences	17 C Early Dismissal Conferences	18
19	20 D	21 A	22 B	23 C	24 D	25
26	27 A	28 B	29 C	30 D	31 A	

Waves of KINDNESS~BEACH DAY - 2/17/23 with Therapy Dog LOUIE



Louie will be at
the Essex Library
March 9th



LOUIE LISTENS

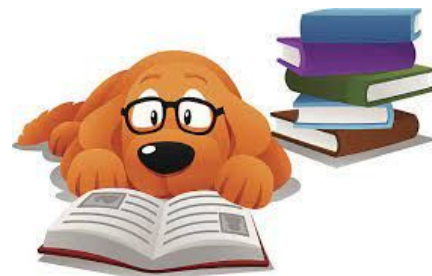
Kids & Teens,
come read or spend
time with Louie, a local
licensed therapy dog!



March 9
5-6 PM



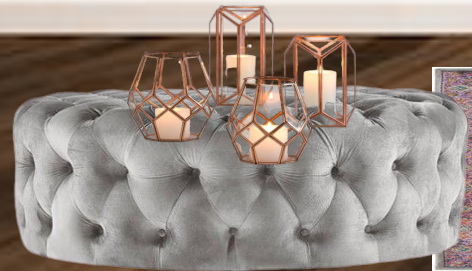
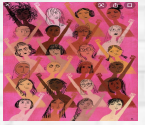
Sign Up!
☎ 860-767-1560
✉ staff.essexlib@gmail.com



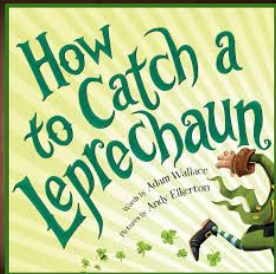
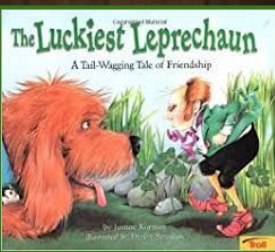
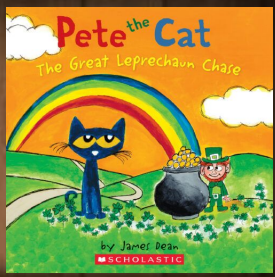
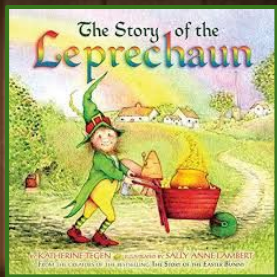
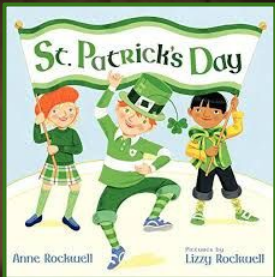
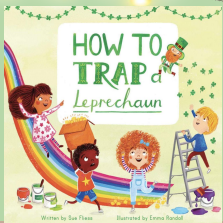
Holi



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH









Ramadan
March 22, 2023 -
April 21, 2023





Our therapy dog Louie is
LOVING the attention from the
students!





March 2023 Breakfast Menu

BREAKFAST IS AVAILABLE AT ALL SCHOOLS - COME JOIN US FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<p>Our Schools are offering FREE Breakfast and FREE Lunch to all students. Any second meals or a la carte items will be charged to the students account.</p>	<p>3/1 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/2 Assorted Breakfast Breads Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/3 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Apple Slices & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk or Fresh Homemade Fruit Smoothies</p>
<p>3/6 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/7 Assorted Breakfast Breads Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/8 Early Dismissal All Schools Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/9 Assorted Breakfast Breads Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/10 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Apple Slices & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk or Fresh Homemade Fruit Smoothies</p>
<p>3/13 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/14 Assorted Breakfast Breads Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/15 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/16 Early Dismissal Assorted Breakfast Breads Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/17 Early Dismissal Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Apple Slices & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk or Fresh Homemade Fruit Smoothies</p>
<p>3/20 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/21 Assorted Breakfast Breads Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/22 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/22 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/24 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Apple Slices & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk or Fresh Homemade Fruit Smoothies</p>
<p>3/27 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/28 Assorted Breakfast Breads Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/29 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/30 Yogurt Graham Crackers Fresh Fruit & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3/31 Grab & Go Cereal Graham Crackers Fresh Apple Slices & Dried Fruit Choice of Milk or Fresh Homemade Fruit Smoothies</p>

School breakfast and lunch will be free for all students at Chester, Deep River and Essex Elementary Schools and Region 4 Schools.

This benefit applies to all in-school students regardless of their meal status.

Fat-Free Chocolate & 1% Low-Fat Available Daily with Breakfast or \$0.50 a la carte.

Our menus follow dietary guidelines for reduced fat, salt and sugar while increasing whole grains, fruits and vegetables.

As part of a balanced breakfast, Fruit or Fruit Juice and Fat Free or Low-Fat Milk are offered daily. All Bread items are Whole Wheat.

Menu Subject to change without advance notice.

For suggestions and questions about School Lunch Program please call 860-526-9546 ext. 1420





March 2023 Lunch Menu

BREAKFAST IS AVAILABLE AT ALL SCHOOLS - COME JOIN US FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<p>Our Schools are offering FREE Breakfast and FREE Lunch to all students. Any second meals or a la carte items will be charged to the students account.</p>	<p>3/1 Pasta Bar Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/2 Hamburger or Cheeseburger Lettuce & Tomato Oven fried Potatoes Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/3 Fluffy Pancakes Fruit Topping Sausage Links Chilled Fruit Cup</p>
<p>3/6 Personal Pizza Or Personal Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Whole Fruit Sherbet Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/7 Beef & Bean Nachos Salsa & Sour Cream Roasted Corn Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/8 Early Dismissal All Schools French Toast Sticks Fruit Topping Sausage Links Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/9 Pasta Bar Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/10 Toasted Ham & Cheese Sandwich Or Toasted Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Veggie Sticks w/Dip Chilled Fruit Cup</p>
<p>3/13 Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza Or Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Whole Fruit Sherbet Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/14 Chicken Quesadilla Black Bean Rice Salsa & Sour Cream Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/15 Pasta Bar Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/16 Crunchy Chicken Nuggets Oven fried Potatoes Veggie Sticks w/ dip Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/17 Early Dismissal Sausage, Egg & Cheese Croissant or Egg & Cheese Croissant Hash Brown Potatoes Vegetable Sticks Chilled Fruit Cup</p>
<p>3/20 Personal Pizza Or Personal Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Whole Fruit Sherbet Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/21 Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Baked Chips & Veggie Sticks or Bagel Plate or Garden Salad with Croutons Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/22 Pasta Bar Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Steamed Carrots Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/23 Hamburger or Cheeseburger Lettuce & Tomato Oven fried Potatoes Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/24 French Toast Sticks Fruit Topping Sausage Links Chilled Fruit Cup</p>
<p>3/27 Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza Or Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Whole Fruit Sherbet Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/28 Meatball Grinders Oven Fried Potatoes Chilled Fresh Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/29 Pasta Bar Tomato, Meat or Alfredo Sauce Warm Garlic Bread Tossed Salad w/ Croutons Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/30 Crispy Chicken Pattie Sandwich Lettuce & Tomato Potatoes Wedges Chilled Fruit Cup</p>	<p>3/31 All Beef Hot Dog on a bun Baked Beans Veggie Sticks w/ dip Fresh Fruit Cup Apple Sauce Sheet Cake</p>

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