



Essex Elementary

# PTO NEWS

February 2023

Breaking news .... the next PTO meeting will be  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 at 6:00 pm.

Happy 2023! We are off to a very exciting start to the new year.

- Over 160 stuffies found new homes courtesy of Cocoa and a Stuffedie. Thank you to **Carrie Comerford** for her incredible work with this event, as well as the EES Kids Say the Silliest Things calendar. Pick up your orders February 9th.
- The Staff Supply Drive was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who contributed and especially **Diana Mirante** for orchestrating the entire initiative.
- After the pandemic hiatus the PTO sponsored the return of **Cultural Arts Programming** with the Grumbling Gryphons Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle play. Another program is slated for later this year with a focus on African American History.
- **Square 1 Art** is back! Coming home with students this week with orders due by Feb. 15th.

Watch for more information coming this spring as we are bringing back **Family Night, Spring Dance**, and another **book fair**. Don't forget our ongoing programs; the **Birthday Books and Got Sneakers**.

**Volunteers are needed before, during and after for all events.** Email me at [eesptopresident@gmail.com](mailto:eesptopresident@gmail.com) or we will see you all at the next PTO meeting at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 1st!

Stacie Padelli  
PTO President

**2022-2023 PTO Board Members**

**President:** Stacie Padelli

**Vice President:** Cassandra Sweet

**Treasurer:** Melissa Ozols

**Recording Secretary:** Kate Savage

**Corresponding Secretary:** Kristen Pillion



Check those backpacks for your student's **Square One Art** order forms! Orders are only placed online this year and the deadline is February 15th. Don't forget that you can also upload photographs and other artwork to create one of a kind gifts. Please reach out to Cassie Sweet ([csweet070808@yahoo.com](mailto:csweet070808@yahoo.com)) and she will happily answer any questions.

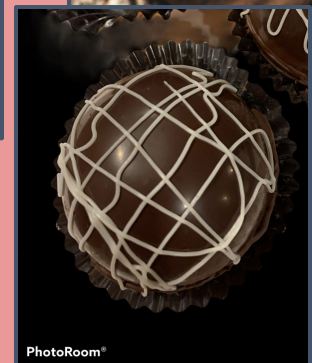
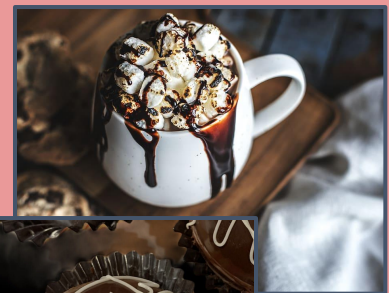
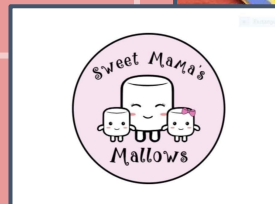
# EES Birthday Books

We are very excited to announce the new books that have been added to the EES classroom libraries and the media center. Below is a list of the Birthday Books distributed this past December and January. Thank you so much to Kristen Pillion and Jessica Wright for organizing this wonderful program.

Student Name	Book Title
Margaux Smith	A New Day
Cody Robida	Goodnight, Me
Emilia Stanley	Come Home Already
Margaret Keenan	Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier
James Smith	The Last Firehawk: Lullaby Lake
James Smith	James to the Rescue, Book Two
Emmeline Dowling-Moreno	Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone
Siena Nardizzi	Fast Pitch
Fiona Hollister	Starfish
Logan Mirante	The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh
Brayleigh Czyzewski	I Am Courage: A Book of Resilience
Brayleigh Czyzewski	I Need A Hug/Necesito Un Abrazo
Tucker Streit	Pizza and Taco: Who's the Best?
Tucker Streit	Fly Guy Presents Sharks
Landon Keric	Kitty and the Moonlight Rescue
Claire Conlan	Doggo and Pupper
Gavin Bell	The Accidental Apprentice (Wilderlore, Book 1)

Thank you to all who supported our last year of the Cocoa and a Stuffie fundraiser making it incredibly successful! We sold 171 cocoa bombs and stuffies!

Thank you to **Carrie Comerford** for organizing this successfully sweet fundraiser! We would also like to thank **Sweet Mama's Mallows, Essex Police Union,** and **Saybrook Ford** for their support!



PhotoRoom



# gotsneakers?

A Sneaker Recycling Organization

Our sneaker drive fundraiser keeps sneakers out of landfills and reduces toxic chemicals from being released in our air and soil. All reusable sneakers are recirculated to secondhand markets so people can access quality, pre-owned footwear at affordable prices. All heavily used and damaged footwear is recycled to reuse materials or to convert waste into new energy.

  
**ESSEX COFFEE  
& TEA COMPANY**



Thank you to **Renee Picard Walsh** for her ongoing work with this program! Looking to donate your old sneakers? Drop them in the bins found at the following locations:  
Essex Elementary Front Lobby (big blue bin)  
Essex Coffee & Tea Company  
Essex Hardware Company  
Funktion Fitness  
Valley Shore YMCA



Keep a lookout in March for volunteer sign ups and a used book collection for our second book fair of the school year. The book fair will be **March 16 and March 17**, coinciding with Parent Teacher Conferences.

Also, a favorite family event is returning in person after a three-year hiatus - **Family Night!** Pencil us in for **Friday, March 24th** and get ready for a fun-filled night of bingo and pizza! We will also be reaching out for volunteers as the date gets closer - this event takes many hands to make it a success!

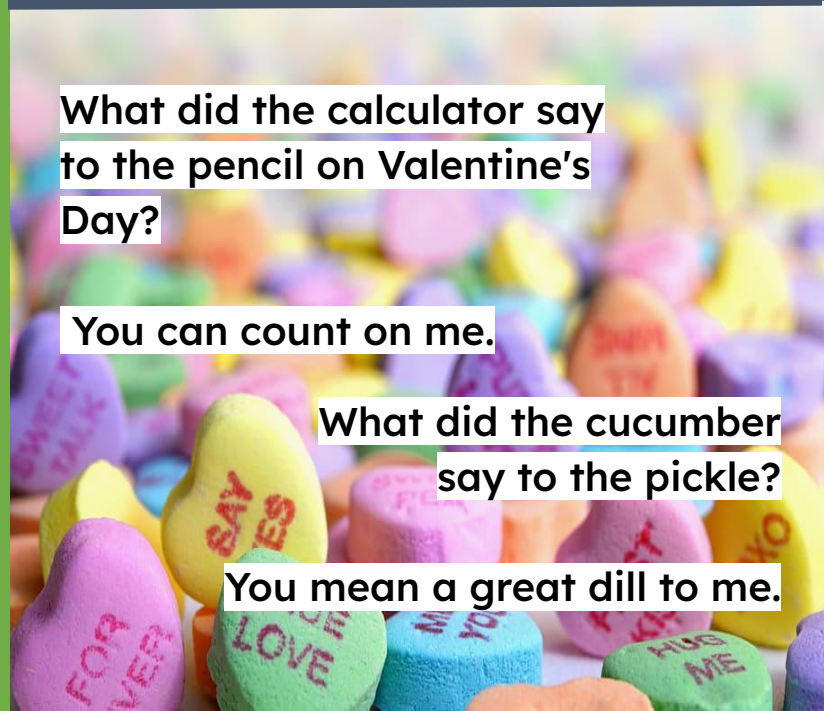
Please join us on  
**Wednesday, March 1, 2023**  
for our next PTO meeting at  
**6:00 PM** in the EES Media  
Center. Hope to see you there!

What did the calculator say  
to the pencil on Valentine's  
Day?

You can count on me.

What did the cucumber  
say to the pickle?

You mean a great dill to me.



## Important Dates to Remember:

February 8 - Early Dismissal for Professional Development

February 9 - PTO Cocoa & a Stuffie Pick Up

February 9 - EES Board of Education Budget Workshop II  
6:00 pm EES Media Center

February 14 - Valentine's Day 

February 20 and 21 - No School (Presidents Day and February Break)

March 1 - PTO Meeting 6:00 pm EES Media Center

March 6 - EES Board of Education Budget Workshop III  
6:00 pm EES Media Center

March 8 - Early Dismissal for Professional Development

March 9 - EES Board of Education Meeting (Tentative Budget Vote)  
6:00 pm EES Media Center

March 16 and 17 - Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences  
and PTO Book Fair

March 24 - PTO Family Night (more details to follow)

# 2022-2023 Committee Members

**Birthday Book Program:** Kristen Pillion and Jessica Wright  
**Book Fair:** Kristen Pillion, Diana Mirante, and Rachel Lowe  
**Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast:** Cassandra Sweet, Sarah Burrill-Manco, and Nikki Poulard  
**Calendar Fundraiser:** Carrie Comerford  
**Charleston Gift Wrap:** Erica Perry  
**Cocoa and a Stuffed:** Carrie Comerford  
**Cultural Arts:** Jill Schwartzman and Evita Rivera  
**EES Dance:** Nikki Poulard, Alyssa Kleiman, and Cassandra Sweet  
**Election Day Bake Sale:** Cassandra Sweet  
**Family Night:** Kate Savage and Jill Schwartzman  
**Gingerbread House Competition:** Cassandra Sweet  
**Got Sneakers:** Renee Picard Walsh  
**Harvest Festival:** Cassandra Sweet  
**Lost & Found:** Stacie Padelli  
**Newsletter:** Kristen Pillion  
**Pizza and a Prize:** Katie Orcutt and Megan Yoneda  
**PTO Directory:** Lauren Devin  
**PTO Website:** Maureen Connelly  
**Pumpkin Decorating Contest:** Melissa Ozols  
**Room Parent Coordinator:** Lauren Devin and Stacie Padelli  
**School Pictures:** Tawnya Ertel  
**School Sign Announcements:** Deb Champion  
**Social Media:** Alyssa Kleiman and Allison Harp  
**Square 1 Art:** Cassandra Sweet  
**Staff Appreciation Day:** Diana Mirante and Stacie Padelli  
**Student Assistance Fund:** Suzanne Deens  
**Welcome Back Luncheon:** Cassandra Sweet and Stacie Padelli  
**Winter Gear:** Melissa Ozols