

ER *Eaton Rapids* Middle School

SCHOOL TO HOME *Fall* NEWSLETTER

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MEAP

Testing will begin Tuesday, October 11th thru the 19th. MEAP is a valuable tool for the school to use in evaluating our academic programs. Schools are able to receive back many useful pieces of data that help to drive our curriculum development. Results can also give parents a snapshot of how your student matches up against other students around the state. It is very important for students to take the tests seriously and give their best effort. Several things can be done to assist your student in having a successful testing experience:

- Get a good night's sleep before all tests.
- Eat a good breakfast and lunch, avoid foods high in sugar.
- Be in attendance each testing day and be on time.
- Talk with your student about the importance of listening carefully, taking their time, and giving their best effort.

The testing format has changed significantly. Each test and the make-up for that test can only be given on selected days. This makes student attendance even more critical. MEAP Tests are usually administered 1st thing in the morning.

FALL FUNDRAISER – MAGAZINE SALE

The Magazine / Cookie Dough sale fundraiser coming to a close. Profits from this sale last year were about \$3000. This money was used to pay for an assembly, buy "team" T-shirts for some of the TAGs, purchase supplementary teaching supplies, and do many other things for our students! *Thanks for your help!*

LIFETOUCH PICTURES TAKE II

Friday October 21st put your smiles on for Picture Re-take Day! If you would like your child to have his/her pictures retaken please make sure the unwanted photos are returned. Forms are in the office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thank you for returning your parent volunteer form. If you did not receive one and would like to volunteer at the Middle School please contact Jeanne Masteller at 663-7222 or jmasteller@erpsk12.org. We have many opportunities from athletic events, office work to planting flowers! A big thank you goes to all the wonderful volunteers last year. Volunteers make a difference!



STAR REPORTS

Congratulations to the following students for receiving Student Appreciation Reports from their teachers and other staff members: Tiana Baker, Sarah Brenke, Marissa Cole, Natashia Cooper, Dultin Davies, Destiny DeHoog, Juan Garza, Charlie Gilman, Sam Good, Anita Haddad, Brent Hannahs, Robby Hecksel, Ashlea Hector, Tesa Jones, Dylan Martin, Miguel Martinez, Marissa Moreno, Lezxie Rowe, Drew Shafer, Cassidy Shumway, Makayla Taylor, Mariah Thompson, Gary Tropp, Eli Vanderley, Dalton Weaver and Dakota Yennior. Great Job Kids!!

SPACE CAMP

Eleven 8th Grade Space Campers had a great trip to Huntsville, Alabama the end of August. They had a very challenging week that included having NASA jobs at mission control, in the International Space Station, or on the shuttle. They also coordinated repair work at a new lunar station. The students also had to build and program robots to complete a variety of tasks on an obstacle course. The team of Kody Lankton, Katie Franz, and Rebecca Lathrop won the robotics competition and Kody Lankton was awarded MVP for the Robotics Lab. "5 Girls and 1 Boy" earned the most points during Space Bowl. Gabby Jones won the Right Stuff Award for her overall positive attitude, communication, leadership, and continuous participation. Information about next year's trip will be available in February 2011.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Box Tops for Education is a great way to help fund many student programs. Students may start bringing them in to their TAG teachers. We do have TAG/Homeroom competitions throughout the year and will notify students when this will take place. Thank you for supporting your school.



ATHLETICS

Our middle school girls' volleyball teams are setting, spiking and serving over the net! Games begin at 4:30 with the B team playing first.

Girls' Basketball Game Schedule:

10/17 Fowlerville home 8th away 7th
10/19 McDonald home 7th, away 8th
10/24 Mason home 7th, away 8th



Other Middle School Sports are; Girls and Boys Basketball early November and Track early April. The office will have more information and we will get this to students as the dates get closer. **All participants must have a physical on file prior to trying out for a sport.**

Sports Participation Fees

Participation fees for the 2011-2012 school year are as follows: \$60 for the 1st sport; \$30 for the 2nd sport; \$15 for the 3rd sport. Participation fees are due the Friday before the first contest. Fees are not to keep student athletes from participating. Please contact the Middle School office for details, 663-8151.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is charged for all sports. The admission fees are: \$3 adults; \$2 K-12 students; \$6 family, Senior Citizens Free. High School / Middle School year passes may be purchased at the High School Athletic office or contact Jeanne Masteller at 663-7222. High School and League passes are not accepted.

SWEETEST DAY

October 22, 6:30- 9:30 p.m., Sweetest Day Cafe, ERHS gymnasium, Eaton Rapids Choral and Drama Boosters is sponsoring the annual Sweetest Day Cafe--a District-wide drama and choir fundraiser. There will be a wonderful dessert buffet and silent auction. The entertainment will be provided by our ERPS choir students--choirs and ensembles. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or by reserving with Shelly Bair at 517-663-1592 or 517-290-0390.



GATE SATURDAY SCHOOL AT LCC

Lansing Community College is sponsoring its Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Saturday school beginning October 22nd through November 19. There are morning and afternoon sessions available for students in grades 6-8. Interested parents should visit the web site at : www.lcc.edu/ece for information on class offerings, times, and fees. We also have a limited number of program booklets in the ERMS guidance office. Please contact Mr. Bullinger (663-8429) if you're interested. Middle school classes this fall include an in depth study on the working of the human heart, a CSI style forensic science class, a class on aeronautics and rocketry, and Digital Cartooning class. Fees range from \$124.00 to \$129.00 per course. Additional information on this program is available by calling the Lansing Community College GATE program (517) 483-1860.

RESPONSIBLE THINKING PROCESS

Over the last six years we have implemented a new student discipline program called the Responsible Thinking Process. This program focuses on two basic rights: the right of the students to learn and the right of the teacher to teach. When a student chooses to be disruptive they are asked about what they are doing and what they should be doing. This focuses the student's attention on their behavior and hopefully is enough to get them back on task. If a student chooses to be disruptive a second time during that class period, they are asked similar questions and are sent to the Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC). In the RTC, the students are asked to reflect on their choices and to write a plan to help them to make better choices the next time. If a student has four visits to the RTC in a marking period, their parents will be called in for a meeting with the Dean of Students Michael Myers. This meeting will also work to develop a plan to help the child be more successful with their decision making. For more information on the process as a whole, please visit www.responsiblethinking.com. For more information on how the system works here, please look through your student's handbook or contact us.

7TH GRADE WINTER CAMP

Attention all parents of 7th graders
7th grade camp will be the week of February 13th, 2012 details and fundraising opportunities will be sent home in the near future. If you are interested in chaperoning or need more information please contact Judy Sharpe at isharpe@erpsk12.org.

COOL COATS FOR KOOL KID'S!

Clean out those closets! Eaton Rapids School District is collecting donations of gently used winter coats any size from Preschool thru High School. Please bring them to the office at the Middle School. They will be distributed to kids in need in the Eaton Rapids area!

PTO NEWS

Teacher: "What is the purpose of having school?"

Student: "Without School there wouldn't be any reason for holidays and summer vacations."

Hello from the new Eaton Rapids Middle School PTO! We are excited to be the first ever Middle School PTO. Our first event will be a **Freaky Friday Fall Activity Night! Friday, October 28th** immediately after school until 5:00 p.m. the school will be filled with fun activities! Silly hats..funny shoes...wacky shirts..all are welcome. (school dress code still applies)

Please save the date!! Details will come home with the kids in the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in chaperoning this event, please contact Nikki Mesko nikkimesko@sbcglobal.net Phone (517) 646-7674 or leave a message with Jeanne Masteller in the office and we will be happy to put you to work.

PTO's are a wonderful lifeline when it comes to ensuring that the students have the supplies and enrichment programs that make for a more complete learning experience. To do this, the PTO works hard at essential fundraising in order to balance such an important budget. However, PTO's do much more than just fundraise to help pay for school supplies and equipment. They raise funds for things that do not fall within the realm of a typical classroom experience. The funds that are raised are returned to the teachers as teacher appreciation gifts and luncheons; they are returned to the students as field trips, enrichment programs and more. Together we can help them experience things not learned in the classroom curriculum. We also help create a sense of community among school families through family fun events, ice cream socials, and school performances. So come join us in making a difference at ERMS!!

Our next PTO meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.** We would love to see you there and if for no other reason...we will gladly be an excuse for you to get out of the house!! Come down and meet your new PTO band of misfits...I mean..."Elected Officials" and let us tell you all the wonderful ways you can help us! We look forward to seeing you there!!

OFFICE NOTES

Your help is requested in the following areas to keep our office running efficiently:

- If your child might require a bee sting kit, please send it to the office and complete a medication form.
- Students are allowed to carry inhalers for asthma, but a medicine form must be on file in the office.
- If your child has frequent headaches in school (i.e. due to braces), you may bring in Tylenol, Advil, etc. for pain, however, the medication must be in the original container and a medication form must be completed to allow office personnel to dispense.

- If your student has been absent from school for three consecutive days or more, make-up work may be requested by calling 663-8151. Please allow 24 hours notice before picking up the assignments. Please pick up the assignments after school is dismissed for the day (2:46 p.m.) – this will give teachers the opportunity to bring the homework to the office.
- Thanks for your cooperation in using your students' planners. TAG teachers check planners at least once a week – NOT everyday. If you write a note to a teacher in the planner, your child needs to make the teacher aware of the note. E-mailing notes to the teachers can be more effective and may allow the teacher to provide you with a quicker response.

BOOK FAIR

Our Middle School Book Fair will be held Monday, November 7th through Thursday, November 10th! Come support your school library with a purchase from the book fair. If you can't make it to the book fair at school, it is now **available online** with extended dates! The online version begins November 2nd and end November 18th. You can shop the online bookfair from this web address <http://www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs/2902568>. Shipping is free and all books are delivered here to the middle school. During the fair, we will also be collecting spare change for the One-for-Books program. Stop in at the library for more information!

Mark your calendars!

Parent Teacher Conference
6th thru 8th Grades
November 7th & 9th
3:00 pm – 7:30 pm

*Please limit your visit with each teacher to 5-8 minutes as this will be a first come first serve basis. Please stop by the office to pick up your students report cards before going to designated areas where each teacher is located. There will also be a map indicating locations of teachers and grades. *No appointment is needed. If you wish to have a longer visit with a teacher please email or phone your students teacher to set up an appointment.*

