

THE CALL



An Erie Community Unit School District #1 Publication



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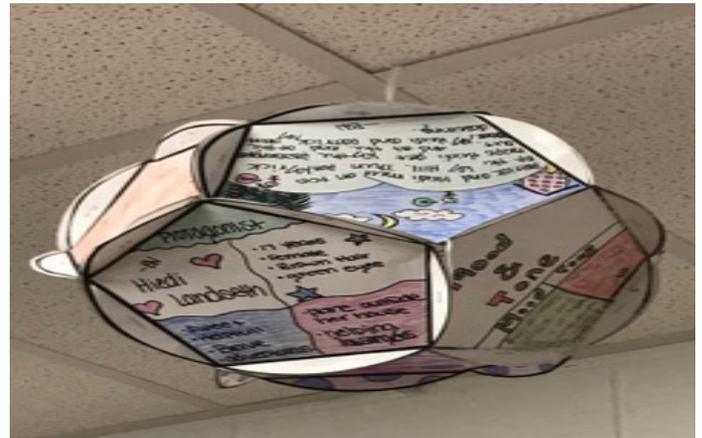
Upcoming Meetings:
 December 17 @ 6:30pm
 January 22 @ 6:30 pm
 February 25 @ 6:30 pm
 March 18 @ 6:30 pm

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For more copies of *The Call*, contact the
 ECUSD Unit Office

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 To view online, visit our website at
www.ecusd.info/the-call-magazine

On behalf of Erie Community Unit School District No. 1, I would like to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy 2019**. We trust that you will take the opportunity to cherish some important time with friends and family during this busy time of year. And just a reminder that school will resume on Tuesday, January 8th, 2019.



My topic for this edition of *The Call* is not a very cheerful one, but it is a very important one nonetheless. The topic that I am referring to, is our ECUSD lockdown procedures.

Prior to the Columbine High School incident in 1999, schools were very open to the public and older students were afforded the freedom to come and go during the school day (i.e. open campus). The events of that fateful day in April of 1999 have resonated in schools across America ever since.

Unfortunately, we have had to develop, communicate, practice, and revise our safety and security procedures over the years to address these types of senseless behavior. Because parents and the general community have not always been involved and/or included in the evolution of this process over the years, these procedures remain a partial mystery, and sometimes a fearful endeavor, for them. Due to these concerns, we feel that it is appropriate to refresh our communication regarding our lockdown terminology and procedures in ECUSD.

We will first address some terminology.

- A **Soft Lockdown** is a scenario where a building is locked to all outside traffic, in or out. Nobody will be allowed into or out of the building during a soft lockdown. There is no imminent danger present and students and staff may be allowed to change classes, use the restroom, etc. depending on the type of incident that is occurring. Examples of incidents that may lead to a soft lockdown include: drills, physical altercations (i.e. fights), and/or health situations requiring medical attention.
- A **Hard Lockdown** is a more urgent scenario where a building and all rooms within that building are locked to all traffic. Students and staff will shelter in place where they are and await further instructions. Examples of incidents that may lead to a hard lockdown are limited to: drills, unknown intruders, and/or active shooters.

During either a soft or hard lockdown, emergency personnel will be notified and students and staff will follow a practiced protocol. The first priority during any event like this will be to address the situation that led to the lockdown. First responders and school personnel will work diligently to contain and manage the situation. This is considered the **Critical Communication Phase**. Once the scenario is under control, ECUSD will first communicate with all parties appropriate to the situation (parents of student(s) directly involved and other ECUSD personnel and resources). This level of communication is considered the **Important Communication Phase**. Once all critical and important communication has occurred, the **Advisory Communication Phase** will begin. This phase will include sharing accurate and appropriate information with other people whom are affected by the situation and/or with the media. The **No Communication Phase** is the one that is most frustrating for most of us. Most scenarios involve confidential information that pertains to minor-aged students. Because of these constraints, most information cannot and will not be communicated to unaffected parents or to the community at large. We know that this can be very frustrating, but it is for the protection of our students and your children. We promise to share what we can when we are allowed to and we strongly encourage everyone to refrain from posting things on social media and or spreading information via other communication methods in order to protect our young children and their families.

Public perception during these situations is usually very skeptical and negative. Please remember that many staff members, including myself, have their own children in our schools and we will always do everything in our power to keep all of our students safe from senseless violence.

For more information about ECUSD lockdown terminology/procedures or any other topic, please contact me at the District Office at 309.659.2239 or mfelesena@ecusd.info at your earliest convenience.

-Marty Felesena, Superintendent

We Make Learning FUN

-Kali Livengood, Erie Elementary Principal



Over the course of the first months of school, the elementary has been involved in various events and activities that create unique experiences for our students. Between our Grandparents Lunch, Fire Safety Day and Veterans Day Program, our students are taught the value of community and service. Although these days are amazing in the eyes of all who participate, we also have phenomenal activities happening on a daily basis inside our classrooms. This article will focus on a few of these activities from each of our grade levels at the elementary. I hope you enjoy hearing a bit about the experiences our children are having at Erie Elementary.

Our Preschool and Kindergarten programs were busy planning for their Art Open House that was held at the Annex on November 19th. The art show was the culmination of a series of events in both grades. For two weeks in Preschool, the classes worked on different art techniques including chalk, watercolors, pottery, 3D art using various materials. The preschool students also had a variety of special events and visitors for their arts unit, including visiting Ms. Majeski's high school art room and Mrs. Sibley's elementary art room, singing in class with Mrs. Leihasing, playing the guitar with special guest Wes Weeber, and visiting Erie 107.7 Vintage radio station to be on a live broadcast. The kindergarten students also had time to work on their art pieces within class, and hosted a special guest to study the work of artist Louise Nevelson. The students were able to use recyclables to make their own Nevelson inspired art. All of these special pieces were on display for their family members to see at their Art Show! We find it important to provide these opportunities for our preschool and kindergarten families together to help our students transition into our elementary setting and be comfortable with our teachers and staff.

Our first grade has been busy learning about fact families in Math. They have been using many different approaches to get these perfected, including center games, crafts, and iPad apps. Students have been learning terms such as related facts and part-part-whole. The students have enjoyed using the doubles dice while playing roll a fact family and even made a turkey craft where the feathers represented the part-part-whole! The first grade also used a field trip to make pizza and bowl as inspiration for activities in class. The classes used two stories of Little Red Hen in which the character makes pizza to practice sequencing, discussing how wheat is made into flour to help make pizza, comparing and contrasting the stories, and practicing words that describe pizza! After all their work, a pizza craft, and some sentence writing, these students were pizza experts!



Both second grade classes come together every Friday morning to do hands-on activities related to a Science or Social Studies topic that they have been studying. Recently in Science, second grade has been studying plants. They made different kinds of seeds (helicopter, glider, and spinner) to see which would travel the farthest. Root viewers were also made to observe how seeds begin to sprout. Grassheads have been the most recent activity showing students that plants grow toward the sun. These group activities help the second graders to stay curious and become great problem solvers.





We Make Learning FUN, cont'd

Recently, the third grade visited the "operating room" for two very important "procedures." Third grade was learning about text features in ELA and the distributive property of multiplication in math. Students practiced identifying text features and determining the purpose of each and how it helps readers. Students analyzed "symptoms" of eight patients to determine which text feature would help them. Then, dressed as a doctor with mask and gloves, they had to find an example of that text feature from a magazine and glue it into the box. After a short brain break, the third graders continued on with their second "procedure" of the day. The third grade teachers introduced the students to Dr. Distributive. Students examined different multiplication equations, "breaking apart" arrays with Dr. D. Students used either manipulatives or drawings to break their equations into smaller equations to solve each problem. These concepts are difficult for most students, so these hands-on activities engaged them into a better understanding!

4th grade was excited to learn more about John Deere on their class field trip, coinciding with Illinois History as part of their Social Studies curriculum. They started off by going to John Deere's Historical site in Grand Detour. While there, students saw an excavation site of John Deere's workshop. They also were able to go inside John Deere's home where they saw replicas of what the furniture, bedding, and kitchen were like. 4th grade also enjoyed seeing what a blacksmith's job consist of. The blacksmith showed them how hot the metal had to be to be able to bend it, form it, and make marks on the metal. He was also kind enough to make a metal leaf for the class. They then traveled to the John Deere Pavilion where students interacted with the hands-on exhibits, including some of the first tractors ever built, product simulators, and giant combines and tractors. Students were also able to see a one-of-a-kind Walking Forestry Machine and an Autonomous Tractor. The personalized tour included interactive exhibits and videos where students could explore where food comes from, why roads and bridges are needed, and how to take care of the environment.

Our students also participate in various specials throughout the week, including, art, music, technology, physical education, and social-emotional learning. In art, the second grade art classes created Wayne Theibaud inspired ceramic cupcakes! Wayne Theibaud is an American artist, known for his paintings of everyday objects, many times depicting food; in particular, cakes, pies and pastries. Our students used Thiebaud's cupcake paintings as inspiration for teaching two basic techniques for making pots. The base of the pot was a simple pinch pot and the lid a coil pot. Once the basic structures were created each student chose their own toppings to make their favorite kind of cupcake. These clay creations will be on display at the Christmas Program on December 13th, which will double as an elementary art show this year! Our music classes have had a heavy load of material for our first semester. Along with the annual Christmas program, students were in charge of learning material for our Veterans Day program. Over the course of six weeks, the students memorized five to six songs each to be performed for our community audiences. In technology classes, Mr. Unruh has been busy teaching our students keyboarding skills as well as basic coding using various apps and code.org, even incorporating our elementary robots, Dash and Dot. The students also did a unit on photography and created movie trailers using iMovie. The students love their time in physical education as well, learning how to play many games as well as getting the opportunities to master basic skills to use in each. Our elementary counselor, Mrs. Abbott, uses themes such as empathy, gratefulness and kindness to teach her social-emotional classes (SEL). Student activities, discussions, assemblies and more help to drive home these important ideas as well!



As you can see, our students at Erie Elementary are learning constantly with creative lessons, supportive curriculum, engaging field trips and more. Please take time to like our Facebook page to keep up on even more happenings at the elementary.

5th Graders & NaNoWriMo

-Nikki Arians, EMS 5th Grade Teacher & Iszabel Oszfolk, EMS 5th Grade Student



NaNoWriMo is National Novel Writing Month. It is a yearly event where students and adults challenge themselves to write thousands of words in just 30 days. Our 5th grade students have all set personal goals that they intend to reach by November 30th. We spent time during the month of October brainstorming. Then, on November 1st, Ready, set, go! The students were on their way to becoming authors of their very own novels. On October 15th, we



hosted a reading/writing night at the Erie Public Library to encourage our young readers and writers.

The NaNoWriMo Young Writers Program promotes writing fluency, creative education, and the sheer joy of novel-writing in K-12 classrooms. NaNoWriMo has helped by providing resources, Common Core-aligned curriculum, and virtual class management tools to more than 2,000 educators all over the world.



This outstanding program was brought to my attention by Mr. and Mrs. Oszfolk, the parents of 5th grader, Iszabel Oszfolk. Mrs. Silvan-Oszfolk participates yearly in the adult version of NaNoWriMo. She has developed many amazing novels over the years. Her passion for writing has helped spark an interest amongst our 5th grade students. Cavita, along with her husband, Shawn, have visited with our students. They have

shared many tools to help the students spark their own stories and build interesting characters.



It doesn't matter where they begin, their story is their story. Please help encourage our students to write, write, write!

8th Grade Literature Class Gets Creative

-Lindsey Pons, EMS English/Literature Teacher

The eighth grade students in Mrs. Pons's literature class participated in a small group novel study in October. They spent four and a half weeks reading one of the following: *The Other Side of Dark*, *House of the Scorpion*, *Wolf Rider*, *The Contender*, *Flight #116 is Down*, or *The Call of the Wild*.

Every other day, students met in their small groups to discuss different aspects of the reading. They focused on the setting and time frame in which their book took place; they also took on the roles of Wonderers, Wordsmiths, Mood Catchers, Cartoonists and more. Students made predictions and analyzed dialogue; they portrayed a character and wrote a blog from his/her perspective, and they created poems about a character or scene.

One activity they completed together was a tableau. A Tableau is a living picture that captures a moment. Students worked together to pull quotes from their books that represented important events within the plot. The quotes were memorized, put to action, and presented in front of their classmates as a brief, dramatic summary of what they were reading.

After finishing the novels, each group created a Bloom Ball, a three dimensional, twelve-sided figure, also known as a dodecahedron. Each panel of the Bloom Ball represented a different idea of the novel. For example, students captured the setting with an image and labels, they analyzed the protagonists and antagonists personalities, physical features, and conflicts, and they wrote an alternative ending. The Bloom Balls are on display in Mrs. Pons's classroom.



EHS Campus Grows: A Look at the New Construction

-Tim McConnell, EHS Principal

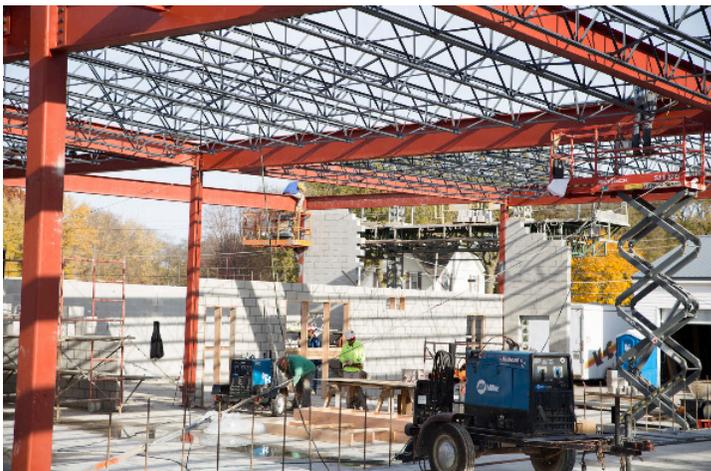


The campus at Erie High School is expanding this year. The new addition is moving along quickly and our anticipation continues to grow. The new addition at EHS will include many new opportunities for students, staff, and the community. This will allow for all high school classes and students to be contained in one campus.



This addition will include a new Art studio and a new Stem Lab. STEM is an acronym referring to the fields of study in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. There will also be a new welding room and an Industrial Arts wood shop. The addition will house a wrestling room, locker room, and a community weight room for students, staff, and community members.

All of this added space will allow for academic and extracurricular growth and success for our students at EHS. We continue to look to enhance all opportunities for our students in the fields of the Arts and Vocational Training. The projected completion date is June, 2019. If you would like to take a closer look, stop by the high school for a tour.



New Cooperative Education Program at EHS

-Brittney Ramos, HS Counselor

This year, we are piloting a new cooperative education program at EHS! With technical and trade professions in desperate need of workers, it seemed to be a fitting time to start this program. Students in the program will need to find in-field placement related to their career objectives in order to gain technical skills, along with valuable experience under supervision. The student receives compensation and school credit for their participation in this program.

Bill Wisdom, owner of Wisdom Heating and Air, came to us last May to inquire about having a high school student work for him during the school year. After some discussion, Mr. McConnell felt starting a co-operative education program would be a great opportunity for our senior students. We decided to pilot the program this school year. Bill already had one of our students in mind--Lucas Carey. Lucas started working for Bill during the summer and has continued on as an employee. Lucas is learning how to make ductwork, performing new installations, service calls and cleaning checks. Lucas describes his experience as rewarding, as he has "learned a lot and continues to learn more each day." Lucas enjoys that each day is different. "Bill has shown me what it means to have a strong work ethic and he has been able to keep me busy working on numerous projects," Lucas said.

Bill has been impressed with Lucas's dedication and motivation, "he hasn't missed one day and we are working most Saturdays too," Bill said. Bill plans on taking Lucas to new furnace technology classes, so he can "see that in this profession you are continually needing to learn new things."

Lucas will be evaluated by Bill on the quality of his work, his dependability, communications skills and job knowledge. Thus far, Lucas is demonstrating excellent work habits and attitude. He is paving the way for the future of this program. "I think it is a great experience if a student is interested in a trade profession because it helps get their foot into the door of the real world."

We look forward to more local businesses partnering with EHS and providing valuable opportunities for our students. If you are interested in partnering with EHS, please contact Brittney Ramos, School Counselor, at bramos@ecusd.info or 309-659-2239.



Senior Lucas Carey installed all the insulation in the ductwork pictured on this page.



All Conference Selections

1st Team All Conference:

Golf- Samantha Soleta, VB- Jenna Saad, FB- Trevor Pratt (DL)

2nd Team All Conference:

FB - Tyler Nipper (RB)

Golf- Harrison Ames

Honorable Mention:

FB - Brady Ballard (T), Carson Wiebenga (OE/DB), Gabe Friedrichson (LB)

VB- Skylar Steimle

Team Results:

Boys CC: Conference Champs



HOCO 2018



POSTAL PATRON
Erie, IL 61250

Dates to Remember...

12/15	E-P Wrestling Holiday Tournament
12/17	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 pm
12/21	Early Dismissal- ES 1:50, MS 1:55, HS 2:00
12/22-29	Warkins Basketball Tournament
12/22-1/7	No School - Winter Break
1/21	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/22	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 pm
2/6	Half Day Inservice - Early Dismissal ES 12:20, MS 12:25, HS 12:30
2/18	No School - President's Day
2/25	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 pm
3/5	HS Band & Choir Recital - 7:00 pm
3/6	Half Day Inservice - Early Dismissal ES 12:20, MS 12:25, HS 12:30
3/6, 14-15	Preschool Screenings
3/11	Freshman Orientation - 6:00 pm
3/18	Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 pm
3/25-29	No School - Spring Break
4/10	Half Day Inservice- Early Dismissal ES 12:20, MS 12:25, HS 12:30