JC McKenna Middle School School Newsletter

April 2016

Important Dates

4/17…….Prof Develop—No School

Mission Statement

"Educating and engaging the whole student"

To create a stimulating, caring and socially responsible environment that encourages students to reach their individual potential.

Contacting JC McKenna Middle School

Main Office Hours

7:15am-3:45pm

Principal, Mr. Knott ……..…….882-3302

Attendance Voicemail ……..882-3301

School Guidance Counselor:

Mrs. Jennifer Holm ……..882-3304

School Social Worker:

Mr. Mike Czerwonka ……..…..882- 3356

307 S. First Street

Evansville, WI 53536

Fax: 608-882-5744

Website: jcm.ecsdnet.org

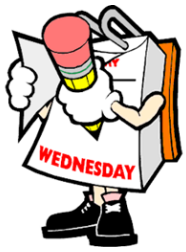
Principal Message: Jason Knott

Helping students succeed !

(what we do here as staff and what you can do as parents:)

We are all working to help students succeed. The best way to do that is to all work together.

Our teachers have been helping students use tools (like their assignment notebook) to write down assignments and class objectives—we do this so students have a way to remember work that is due, what they discussed in class and have a topic to talk with you about. We may ask you to initial the notebook as well.



We hold students accountable when they are missing work—students are given opportunities to turn in late/missing work, but when they have 5 or more late assignments ask they stay after school on Wednesdays. We know that for many students late work grows exponentially and then students are behind and feeling like they can't be successful or get caught up. We try to address it early and need your support in doing so—When we call requesting your son/daughter stay after, please make sure your child is in school that day and work to find alternative ways home if possible.

We have students in on non-school days or extend their school day/week. Again, we want to make ourselves available to students to help them find the time and space to get their

Continued...

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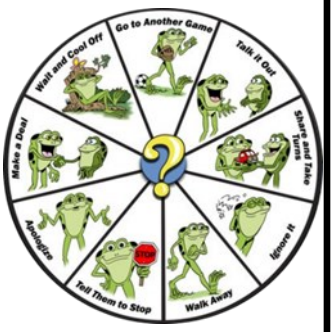
work done and feel successful about being caught up. If for some reasons your son or daughter is in that situation, please help support us by bringing them in or making arrangements for them to get here and home.

We keep students in at lunch recess—we know the benefit of having time to run around outside. Sometimes students' need that time and space to work one on one or in a small group with a staff member to understand an assignment so they can feel caught up and confident in understanding the material.

We might not let students attend fun events (like ski-trips, school dances and other extra things). We want students to feel involved with their school, but balance that with the rewards and consequences that come from demonstrating traits like respect, responsibility and safety.

We encourage students to solve their own problems—if they are feeling stressed or overwhelmed or experiencing conflict with a friend we help them develop strategies to try to improve the situation. Often times we allow students to share their feelings about whatever is going on, and then ask them what they would like to see happen and what they can do. We encourage you to try some of these same strategies so young people can began to realize that conflict is going to happen, but that they have the skills to work on creating solutions.



Crossing Guards

From L to R

Carleigh Koper

Amy Hionis

Jill Krupke

Denise Heydn

Cathy Beal

Safety First for Children Going to School

A report from the Evansville PTO

The Evansville PTO recently approved $500 to be spent on new equipment for crossing guards at Levi Leonard Elementary (LLE), Theodore Robinson Intermediate School (TRIS), and JC McKenna Middle School.

The PTO, LLE and TRIS parents have noticed a recent uptick in close calls and near-accidents in school zones, with cars almost hitting children as they cross the streets on their way to these two schools.

On foggy, dark or snowy days, it can be difficult for drivers to see the crossing guards as they step into the street and hold up their signs to signal cars to stop for approaching children.

Other contributors to a lack of visibility for the crossing guards are the small size of their traffic cones and vests.

By making an investment in equipment and redoubling its efforts to educate both children and drivers, the Evansville PTO hopes to put an end to the close calls for children and drivers in school zones.

The purchase of ANSI-2 reflective yellow vests, taller cones for the intersections, flashing LED lights for the crossing guards' uniforms, larger handheld stop signs with blinking LEDs, and "Caution: Children Crossing" road signs will serve to get the attention of drivers and remind everyone that the safety of children comes first.

There are some additional things we all can do to make drop-off and pickup times safer for all. These include:

Creating an efficient system to cross children together to keep traffic flowing;
Cars pulling up as far as they can in the circle when dropping their children off;
Educating children about waiting at the curb and other safe crossing practices; and
Reminding drivers about traffic laws, and the need to keep intersections clear.

Crossing guards have been instructed to report driving offenders to the Evansville Police Dept. The police will follow up with a warning, and repeat offenders may face a fine of $99 to $150.

To fully equip the crossing guards, the PTO estimates the costs will be $1,030. The breakdown is as follows:

ITEM	Quantity	Cost	TOTAL
Large Orange Cones	10	$20	$200
VEST-ANSI-2 Reflective Yellow (recommended by Evansville Police)	5	$20	$100
Long Reflective Rain Coats	6	$60	$360
Large 18" STOP Sign	3	$20	$60
Large 12" STOP Sign	2	$20	$40
Child "SLOW" Sign with flag	4	$30	$120
LED 3pack Flare Lights	2	$25	$50
Whistle	6	$6	$36
LED Arm Band	4	$7	$28
LED Lights to add to STOP sign	6	$3	$18
Batteries for lights	3	$6	$18
TOTAL			**$1030**

The additional funds will be raised through the upcoming Scrip gift card fundraiser. If you are interested in donating, please contact the school office.

6th Grade News

6th Grade Team

Mr. Tom Bethke 882-3328
Math
bethket@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Tristan McKittrick 882-3330
Social Studies
mckittricktr@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Colin Langan 882-3323
Reading/Language Arts
langanc@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Renae Smith 882-3322
Reading/Language Arts
smithre@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Greg Vossekuil 882-3329
Science
vossekuilg@evansville.k12.wi.us

Ms. Paige Baxter 882-3314
Special Education
baxterp@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Trent Schmick 882-3335
ART
schmickt@evansville.k12.wi.us

- Parents please continue to sign and check over your child's assignment notebook. This helps everyone stay informed about what is being assigned for homework as well as any upcoming tests or projects. Team Time teachers check for signatures daily.
- Grades are posted online. Please use Family Access to find your child's grades. It takes about 1 week turn around time for teachers to post grades. If you have not signed-up for Family Access please contact Linda Gard at the District Office.
- School supplies continue to dwindle for many students, **especially pencils.** Please ask your child what he/she is running low in and replace as soon as possible.
- Ellis Island Day was a huge success and we wish to thank the many parents and volunteers who helped make this educational simulation possible. Students had many thoughts about their experiences and most seemed to empathize with the long lines, arduous examinations, and sometimes anxious worries about becoming an actual American citizen. We also wish to acknowledge our amazing speakers who shared their immigration and family history experiences: James Espinosa, Gizzella Hatlevig, Bobby Bradley, and Mr. Dobbs. Thank you all again for supporting our students and programs.

Homework Help!

6th Grade **Success Club** meets every Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 pm. **The one exception to this is on our monthly staff meeting. Nights.* **Students may be picked up at 3:45 on the second Wednesday of each month due to this important, all-staff requirement.**

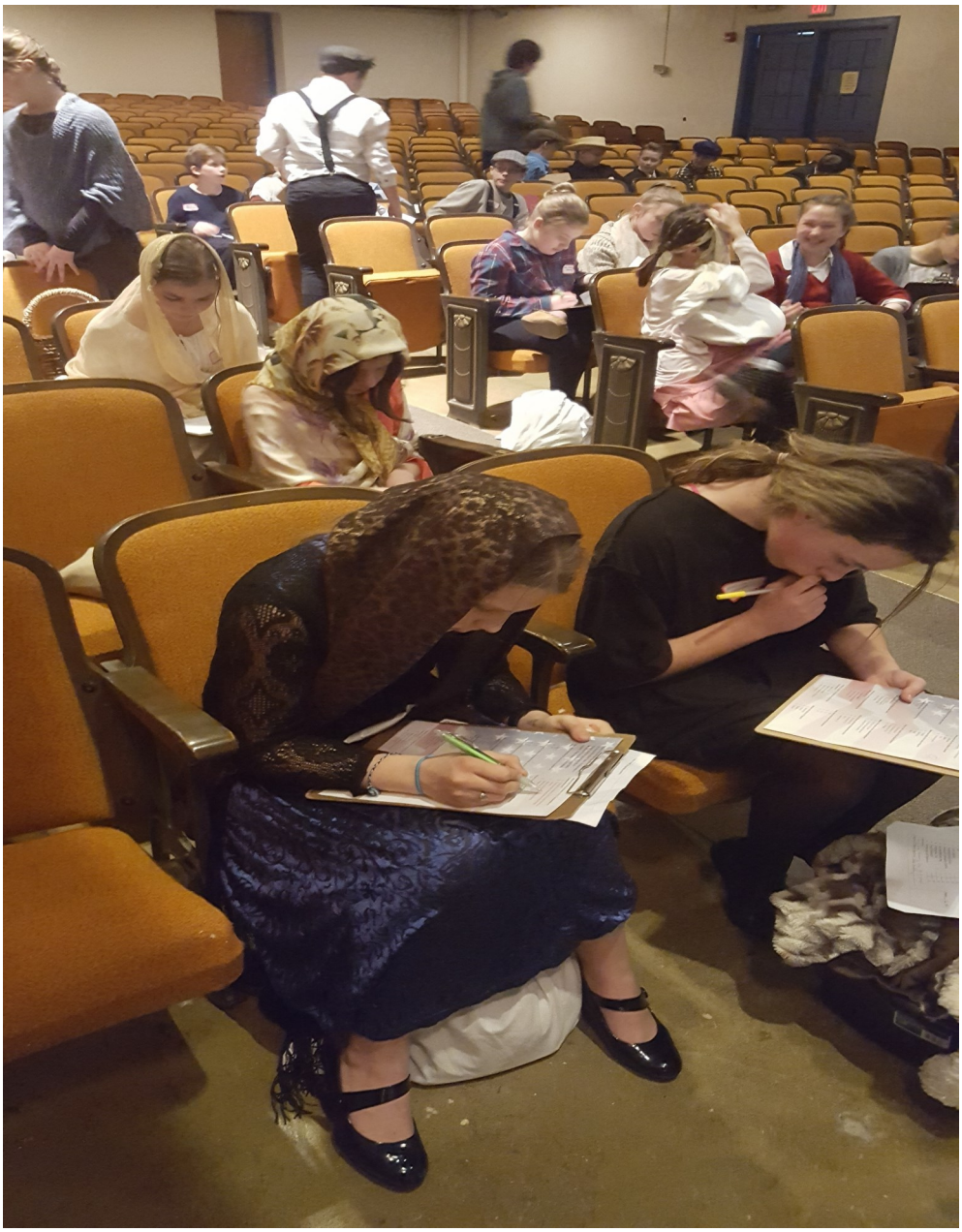
Success Club is staffed by 6th grade teachers. Parents can request that their child attend this club even if they do not have any late work. Students with late work will be asked to attend by Wednesday. Contact your child's Team Time teacher if you would like to sign-up your child or if you have any questions.

We take pride in providing many opportunities for students to complete work or even skill work.

Success Club snacks have been depleted. We would truly appreciate some donations of simple snacks like cereal or graham crackers. Otherwise, have your child pack a snack for him/herself before they leave on Wednesday mornings so they have energy to complete their homework.

In art class, the Sixth graders are working on two projects. In the first project, students are creating an imaginative Color Wheel. Each of the 12 colors will be mixed using only the 3 primary colors. Complimentary colors are also part of the design. Complimentary colors are two colors located opposite each other on the color wheel. (Example - blue and orange). In the second project, students created a ceramic bowl using the press form mold technique. A variety of glazing techniques will be explored and applied to bowl to create the design and color .

Thanks *Trent Schmick*



6th Grade Language Arts

Students recently completed their immigration novels where they were asked to dig deeper, providing much more thought and reflection with their brief questions and answers requiring textual evidence for support. Apart from our novels, we have just completed the second bend in our third Lucy Calkin's unit on Research-Based Information Writing. In this unit, students have also been working hard on writing with supportive, textual evidence related to "Teen Activism". Students chose to research one of five current global issues including: Environmental issues, animal rights, bullying, education for women/girls, and child labor around the world. Although this type of research has been new and was initially more challenging for our students, we have seen lots of growth and promise for even stronger writing down the road. In fact, after spring break students will have an opportunity to stream-line and revise their work to be included on a website or power-point to promote their cause.

In April, we plan on starting our integrated Civil Rights unit where students will again be able to pick a novel supporting this very important time in history. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry , Walking to the Bus-Riders Blues, The Lions of Little Rock, Glory, Brown Girl Dreaming, Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom, Spies of Mississippi, and Watson's Go To Birmingham are some of the novels students will be selecting from. Students will also begin writing their own children's books, which we will publish to share with others later this spring. They have the option to purchase a blank hardcover book for $3.00 which they can use for this project. (Other students will have tag board and white paper to use.) We will be collecting the money after break through mid-April. In early June, students will share their stories with second grades at Levi-Leonard, another Evansville tradition.

Mr. Langon & Mrs. Smith

Science

The sprint towards Science Olympic finals has begun! Teams are now entering the physics portion of the year which means more hands on competitions.

Students are also working out of the physics textbook as well. Please help continue to encourage your student to study 15 minutes a night. *Mr. Vossekuil*

Social Studies

6th graders have wrapped up their unit known as "Transforming America", and they learned a lot about the turn of the century in this country. Students wrote some well-reasoned argumentative essays, showing off their historical understanding and using evidence to explain both the pros and cons of a challenging era in our history. After exploring oral histories, old photos and other primary sources, all of the students were able to dive into our annual Immigration Day, simulating the experience of Ellis Island and making some connections to immigration today. We learned a lot from our guest speakers. After Spring Break we'll move onto study of the world map and get just a taste of World War II.

Tristan McKittrick

Math

Regular math classes have jumped into Chapter 4 of the new series BIG IDEAS. Classes are doing a pilot of this series for Term 4. This is the study of basic formulas like area and perimeter. We have just learned a lot about base and height and how to find the area of parallelograms, triangles and trapezoids. We hope to learn more in April with more formulas like volume and surface area coming up soon. We will also work in some circle area and circumference.

The Forward Test is coming in April. There may be another STAR test for some students in May.

Check out Khan Academy videos and practice for extra practice or help on math skills. Remind your child to bring their calculator to class.

Advanced Math

Currently the class has begun work in Chapter 5 of BIG IDEAS. This is the study of ratios, rates and proportions. We hope to have this section completed in mid-April so we can move on to other fun and exciting material offered by this series. Remind your child to bring their calculator to class.

Extra Credit Math Opportunity

All 6th grade math students have been given a math packet during Team Time to help keep them reviewing their math skills over break. Please ask your child if they have done any of these problems. All students can turn this completed packet in after break.

Also remind your child they have access to Khan Academy over break. This is a wonderful website for math practice.

Mr. Bethke

Ellis Island Day

7th Grade News

7th Grade Team

Mrs. Ann Alme 882-3325
Math
almea@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Bruce Curtis 882-3356
Science
curtisb@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Carla Gomez 882-3348
Spanish
gomezc@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Beth Oswald 882-3342
Social Studies
oswaldb@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. RuthAnn Yoerger 882-3349
Composition Literature
yoergerr@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Trent Schmick 882-3335
Art
schmickt@evansville.k.12.wi.us

Ms. Jolene Lenth 882-3360
Library Media Specialist
lenthj@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Kelli Ours 882-3324
Special Education
oursk@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Meghann Proper 882-3332
Choral Music
proper@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Cathy Kruckenberg 882-3308
Phy Ed and Health
kruckenbergc@evansville.k12.wi.us

All classes:

Many students are coming to class with no writing utensil. Please ask your children whether they are in need of more pens and pencils.

Science:

In Science we are beginning our studies of genetics. Students will be doing several topics such as genealogy, Karyotyping and blood typing. Also, we are getting close to the time of our annual science project! However, I think you'll find that this one is different than most and I hope your child enjoys it. (hint: they will be working with a real person in the science field!)

English Language Arts:

In April, we will begin our medieval unit. Students will select one of the following books to reading during this unit: *The Midwife's Apprentice; Catherine, Called Birdy; Matilda Bone; The Door in the Wall; Song of the Sparrow; The Tales of King Arthur;* and *The Sword and the Circle.* Students will each receive a calendar with reading assignments and due dates for this unit. The writing that we will be working on is also connected to this interdisciplinary medieval unit.

Math:

Seventh grade math next unit is on constructions and scale drawings. Students will be studying different types of angles. We will also be looking at triangles and quadrilaterals. Finally, we will be looking at different types of scale drawings; maps and house plans.

Spanish:

Students in 7th grade Spanish will be starting our food unit. Students will learn how to talk about the foods and drinks they like and don't like for various meals. Students are also either reading the novel *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros or *The Circuit* by Francisco Jimenez.

World History:

We are continuing our units on the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome this month. What "gifts" have we received from these cultures – what ideas and inventions do we still use today? Ask your seventh grader!

FACE:

Seventh grade students started FACE class the first week of March. We have been learning about fruits and vegetables, their nutrients, and how to purchase and store them. Ina Garten and Rachel Ray are the famous chefs we have talked about. We participated in our first lab—creating a cookie. Lastly we learned amazing facts about apples. We are looking forward to completing our fruit/vegetable unit and learning about breads and cereals so we can prepare our Fiesta with Mrs. Gomez!

8th Grade News

Composition/Literature

The 8th grade ELA class will be beginning their next lit. circle novel unit when they return from spring break. This unit is a classic novel unit based around dystopian societies. Students will be working closely with theme and symbolism, as well as tracking dystopian characteristics from their novels. These novels will be used in a lit. circle format where students are grouped with others reading the same novel. They will have discussions on their books on day 3. Other than working on reading, students will continue to learn and practice Word Within the Word lists.

Science

After Spring Break we are going to be ready to build our giant Earth History Timeline wall mural depicting all the major important events both geologically and biologically in earth's past. This mural will be placed in one of the long hallways because it could end up being about 50 meters long!

Spanish

Students in 8th grade Spanish will be learning the parts of the body and health terms. This is both a useful and fun unit! They will also shortly be starting graphic novels (in English).

World Geography

After spring break '17, students will be traveling to Europe to explore its very influential geography, history and culture.

Math 8

After a whirlwind March of pi activities and solving systems of equations, students will be starting April with a quick exploration of functions. Then, we'll visit the world of Pythagoras and his theorem. We will be studying square roots and cube roots to help us find the side lengths of right triangles.

Algebra

Quadratics! Now we get to graph all kinds of parabolas. We'll see how changing parts of the equation changes the graph. Then, we'll start solving quadratic equations using a variety of methods. Ask your student how his/her pi group achieved and if they are going to be attending the pi party this month!

Tech Ed

Students will continue to study robotics in April. They will design, build, wire, and program both open and closed loop systems, use motors and sensors appropriately to solve robotic problems, and troubleshoot a malfunctioning system using a methodical approach.

8th Grade Team

Mrs. Katelyn Demrow 882-3351
Composition/Literature
demrowk@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Rich Fanning 882-3358
Science
fanning@evansville.k12.wi.us

Ms. Kelly Fanta 882-3350
Spanish
fantak@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. John Hanson 882-3340
Social Studies
hansonj@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Gretchen Kopf 882-3343
Math
kopfg@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. David Kopf 882-3319
STEM/Technology Education
kopfd@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Brittany Shotliff -3315
Special Education
shotliffb@evansville.k12.wi.us

Specials Classes

7TH/8TH GRADE MENTORS ~ Students continue to do a great job at their placements. Reminder to check Google Classroom for discussion questions.

6TH GRADE COMPUTERS ~ Students recently completed an online activity testing their knowledge in the area of Internet Safety/ Searching. In April, they will be finishing up the Internet Unit, and will begin a mini-unit on Careers.

Eighth Grade Chorus and Band Students attended a live performance of *Beauty and the Beast* at The Fireside Theatre in Fort Atkinson on March 16th. Students enjoyed a delicious lunch, shopping, a behind-the-scenes session with a cast member and a fantastic live performance! Thank you to The Evansville Fund for their generous grant to cover transportation and $10 off each ticket. (See pictures below)

Seventh and Eighth Grade Chorus and Band Students had a successful day at District Solo & Ensemble at Evansville High School on Saturday, March 10th. There were 89 events from J.C. McKenna alone! Congratulations to everyone who performed!

GENERAL MUSIC/MUSIC APPRECIATION NEWS

Seventh grade General Music students and eighth grade Music Appreciation students are beginning a unit called Music and the Movies. Sixth grade General Music students are learning about musical theatre.

Specials Team

Mr. Kendall Buttchen 882-3316
Phy Ed/Health
buttchenk@evansville.k12.wi.us
Mr. Darren Demmin 882-3309
Phy Ed/Health
demmind@evansville.k12.wi.us
Ms. Leslie Ferrell 882-3320
Reading Specialist
ferrelll@evansville.k12.wi.us
Mrs. Mandi Firgens 882-3331
Business & Information Technology
firgensm@evansville,k12.wi.us
Mr. Bob Harsevoort 882-3334
Band
harsevoortb@evansville.k12.wi.us
Ms. Cathy Kruckenberg 882 -3308
Phy Ed/Health
kruckenbergc@evansville.k12.wi.us
Mrs. Meghann Proper -3332
Vocal Music
properm@evansville.k12.wi.us

8th Grade Health ~ Human Growth & Development

7th Grade Health ~ Mental Health

6th Grade Health ~ Prescription Drugs; Human Growth & Development

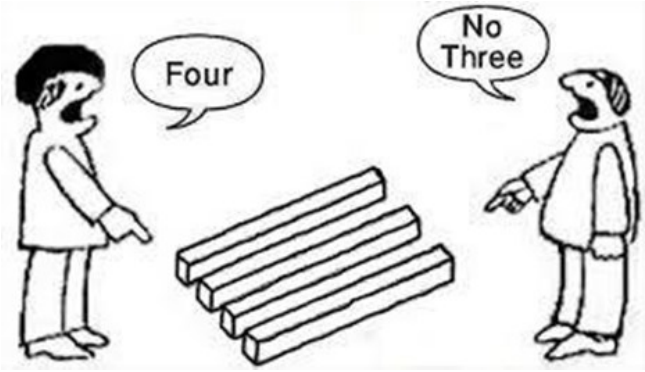
6/7 Phy Ed ~ Badminton

8 Phy Ed ~ Bowling

6/7/8 Reading Workshop ~ Monitoring reading and making inferences.

Perspectives—trying to think long-term rather than short-term.

By Jen Holm (School Counselor) and Mike Czerwonka (School Social Worker)



One of the hardest things to consider as the parent of a middle school student is the benefit of seeing how choices affect outcomes. This can mean taking a big, long-term picture perspective.

A big/long-term picture perspective involves being able to look long term at the outcomes that happen and our actions that contribute to them.

For example: Your son/daughter forgets their lunch for the day. The short term-perspective is often—solving the immediate problem. How will they eat today? The action we choose might be: running to the school to drop off their lunch.
The long-term perspective involves realizing they forgot their lunch—recognizing that it is unfortunate they forgot, but this may help them develop a sense of responsibility. A long-term perspective looks into the future and takes a different perspective. Perhaps it is one of recognizing that your son/daughter can be resourceful and grab a snack from his/her friends or maybe get a hot lunch item today and he/she might be hungry but aren't likely to suffer serious consequences.

Another example—Your son/daughter got an F on the project and that is unacceptable. The short-term perspective might be a parent email to the teachers asking for extra credit or another way to improve their grade. The long-term perspective might be figuring out how to encourage your son/daughter to talk with the teacher on his/her own to learn how to approach the situation independently and responsibly. A failing grade in middle school, while not ideal, is also not the end of the world. Learning how to rebound from a failing grade requires taking a long-term perspective. Children benefit from learning from their mistakes and realizing that they can rebound from minor set-backs (like not having a lunch for one day or having a failing grade on something).

Sometimes we take a short-term perspective because it can be easier, but having a long-term perspective helps build those traits of problem solving and responsibility that help young students develop into competent adults.

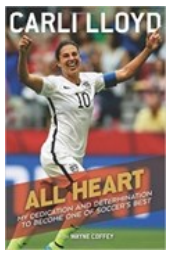
Library Media Center News

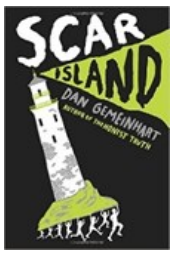
By Jolene Lenth, Library Media Specialist

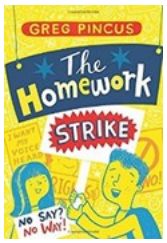
In March...

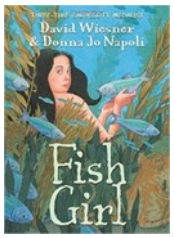
Students were busy this month in the library reading books for their literature circles.

Many new, high-interest books were also added to our collection. Some of them include:









Look Who's Been Reading!

The following students have checked out the most books for their grade during March. Keep on reading!

6th Grade:

1. Serena Parmer
2. Natalie Johnson
3. Kole Johnson
4. Isaac Karlen
5. Dayne Miller

7th Grade

1. Luis Anderson
2. Carson Graves
3. Briar Hall
4. Gunner Katzenmeyer
5. Carly Landphier

8th Grade

1. Madison Rucks
2. Niya Randall
3. Alison Hurda
4. Dylan Creighton
5. Gianna Ferraro

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Evansville Community School District prohibits harassment or discrimination against any pupil in any program or activity on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other basis protected by law.

Tootsie Roll Drive to help Evansville Community School District

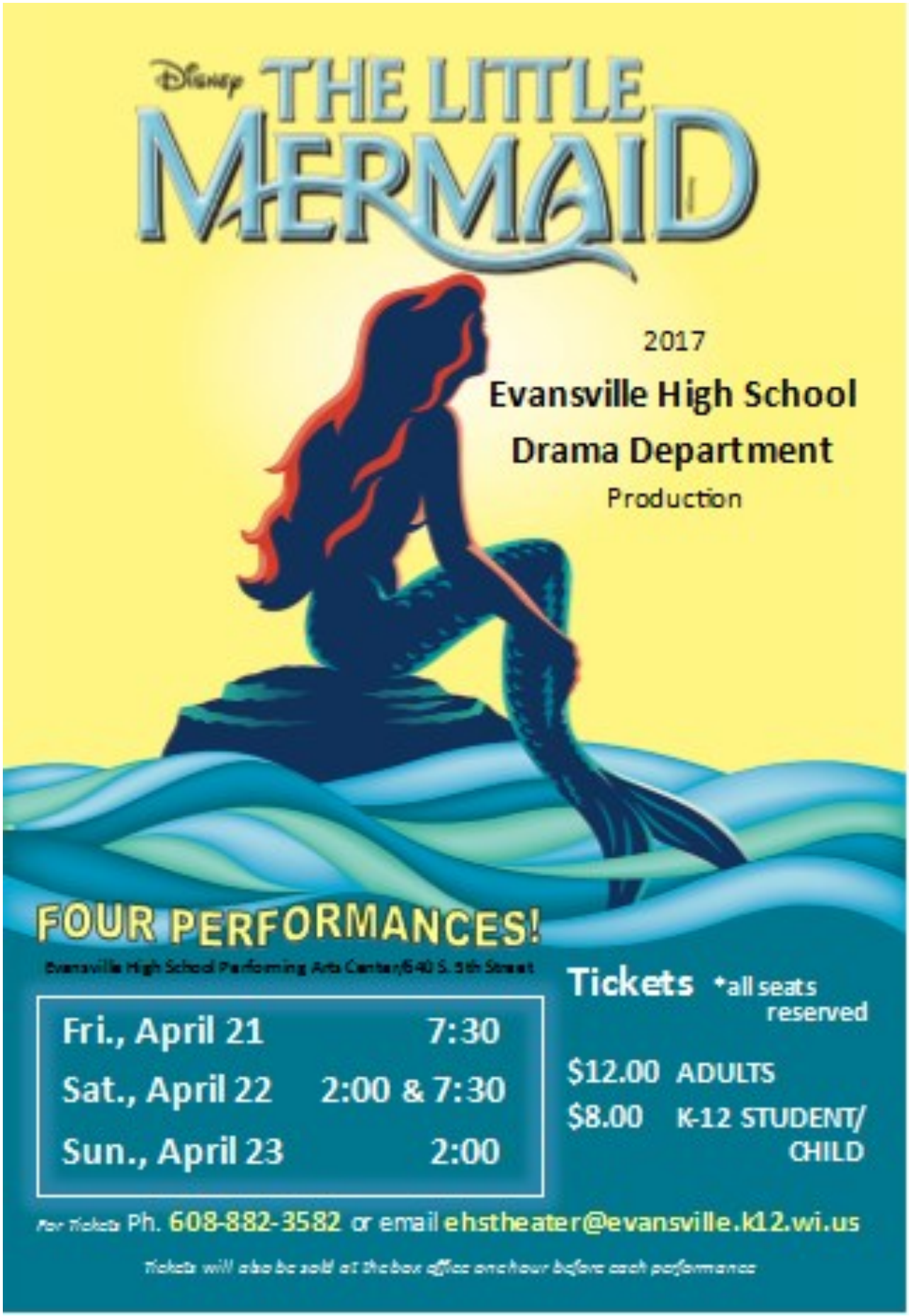
The Knights of Columbus help raise money for students in our district with disabilities. Each year the Knights of Columbus presents the Evansville Community School District with a check from all proceeds collected in one weekend of handing out Tootsie Rolls at Evansville's Piggly Wiggly.

This important donation helps fund assistive technology for students with disabilities to access specially designed instruction alongside their typically developing peers in the general education environment.

This year, the Tootsie Roll Drive will be April 21, 22, and 23 at Evansville Piggly Wiggly. Volunteers can sign up for hour-long increments at either the entrance or exit door from 7am – 9pm. If you are interested in volunteering, an electronic sign-up sheet can be found at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/181RQozVrOVy89z2_P9zio7j2eOL5wLIYyv1e2Ay6ENs/edit?usp=sharing

If you have any questions about volunteering, please email Janessa Katzenberger at katzenbergerj@evansville.k12.wi.us. You can also reach her at 608.882.3391


Disney
THE LITTLE MERMAID
2017
Evansville High School
Drama Department
Production
FOUR PERFORMANCES!
Evansville High School Performing Arts Center/640 S. 5th Street
Fri., April 21 7:30
Sat., April 22 2:00 & 7:30
Sun., April 23 2:00
Tickets *all seats reserved
$12.00 ADULTS
$8.00 K-12 STUDENT/ CHILD
For tickets Ph. 608-882-3582 or email ehstheater@evansville.k12.wi.us
Tickets will also be sold at the box office one hour before each performance

EVANSVILLE YOUTH CENTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
April 2017

Craft of the Week April 3-7
Easter Bugs
3—Sylvan surprise
4—Let's Dance
5—Wii I Spy
6—Challenge Us!
7—Challenge Us!
Craft of the Week April 10-14
Penny Blossoms
10—Frisbee football
11—Party Time
12—Pictionary
13—Minute to Win It
14—Minute to Win It
Craft of the Week April 18-21
Crochet
17—EYC TRIP all day
18—Movie & Popcorn
19—Milk Jug Bowling
20—Wii Basketball
21—UNO
Craft of the Week April 24-28
Birdhouses
24—Charades
25—Library Alison
26—Let's Cook
27—Crazy Relays
28—Wii Medieval Games