JC McKenna Middle School School Newsletter

January 2018

Important Dates

8th gr. Parent/Teacher confJan 8
Butterbraid orders dueJan 19
End of 2nd Qtr—Early ReleaseJan 19
Ski TripJan 19
7th gr. Courage RetreatJan 26

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

Telephone Extensions:

Families of JCMcKenna,

Second quarter is in full swing. The tri-core classes switched the first week of December and are well into their curriculum. 6th graders have Tech. Ed, 7th grade Art and 8th grade Computers. Talk with your students and see how their transition is going.

The 7th and 8th grade Band concert was phenomenal. It is amazing to me that they begin band as a 6th grader with many of them not knowing how to play at all to then being able to play recognizable songs as a collective band. The Chorus concert certainly was amazing too! I have a little confession to make, there are times that I hang out in the hallway outside of the chorus room because they sound so good!

The cold weather has certainly returned and many of our students are taking the natural consequence route and choosing not to dress appropriately for the weather. We understand that this is sometimes out of your hands but we ask that you continue to encourage your child(ren) to wear layers so that they are comfortable throughout the day. If you need help getting winter gear our School Social Worker, Mike Czerwonka, can help.

Last school year several ECSD staff members participated in the ALICE Active Shooter training to further prepare and improve our security protocols. This training gives both students and staff options in the event of an active shooter's presence. Please go to the following link for more information from our District Administrator and a brief video: <u>http://www.ecsdnet.org/families/school_safety.cfm</u>

Starting second semester, each building will be practicing grade level appropriate ALICE related drills. In order to help roll out the drills students in grades 8-12 were offered the opportunity to attend an ALICE session on December 16 with district- trained staff. The participating students will share their knowledge with other students during the school-wide drill scenarios.

In addition to practicing the drills, it is important to remind all students and visitors of the importance of being safe. Some of these reminders include:

- All visitors enter through the office. No exceptions. No outside doors are propped open.
- Students do not open doors for visitors but rather let a staff member know that some needs directions to the office.
- If you see something that does not seem right, say something.

Thank you for sharing your child with us every day. We appreciate you! As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or fun stories to share.

Joanie Dobbs JC McKenna Middle School Principal

Food Drive

The J. C. Mckenna Middle School food drive was a big success. Students collected items from December 18th through the 21st. On December 22nd all the staff and students helped organize and deliver the items to the Evansville Ecumenical Care Closet. This year the drive resulted in 738 pounds of items donated to help those in the Evansville Community. The items included a variety of protein (chicken, tuna and peanut butter), fruits, whole grain pasta, vegetables, personal hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes and tissues) and other nonperishables. This is the 4th year that staff and students have collected and donated items in December. We are glad to have the support and cooperation from the student body, staff members, Care Closet Staff and Evansville Police Department officers who provide traffic safety when we walk the items to the care closet.







Specials Classes

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

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 882-3332 6th/7th Vocal Music properm@evansville.k12.wi.us

ANNUAL MUSIC FUNDRAISER

We will begin our annual music fundraiser as soon as we return from winter break. Butterbraids come in a variety of flavors and they are a delicious way to support the Middle School Music Department! The money earned goes back to the kids in the form of new music, new or updated instruments, technology, and reduced field trip costs. Your student will be bringing home an order form, so I hope you're hungry!

CHORUS NEWS

Our winter concert was a huge success, so thank you for your support! Sixth graders will begin working on their spring concert music soon. Seventh and eighth graders will be working on their Solo & Ensemble Unit as well as learning their spring concert music. It's a busy time of the year!

GENERAL MUSIC/MUSIC APPRECIATION

Sixth graders are creating musical versions of "The 3 Little Pigs" or "Goldilocks and the 3 Bears." Seventh graders are starting a unit on jazz. Eighth graders are learning new vocabulary and practicing finding evidence in readings about the popular music al *Hamilton*.

7th Grade Health:

PSA posters on the dangers of inhalants and presentation to parents/families at home. The posters will be on display in the school.

8th Grade PE:

Fitness and recreation stations. The kids are enjoying trying out the new spin bikes in addition to all the fun stuff we have used in the past. Always a favorite unit.

6th Grade PE:

Fitness and recreations stations. The students are using pedometers, climbing the rope, putting for golf, ping pong, jump rope, balance boards, step-boxes, agility ladders just to name a few. Ask what their favorite one was!

JPACE NEWS 65

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

Mr. Dave Kopf 882-3319 Tech-Fd kopfd@evansville.k12.wi.us

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

Tech Ed: Mr. Kopf

In the Energy and the Environment Unit (EE), students are challenged to think big and look toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

Lesson 1: Investigating Energy The use and production of energy is

- Parents please continue to sign and check over your child's assignment notebook, unless otherwise discussed at conferences. 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.
- 6th Grade Success Club meets every Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 pm; except the 2nd wed. due to meetings. This club is staffed by 6th grade teachers. Students needing assistance or those with late work should attend. Contact your child's Team Time teacher with any guestions.

Science: Mr. Vossekuil

As we approach winter break we are finishing up our third chemistry unit on compounds and mixtures. This will put us a step closer to doing chemical reactions, which the students are excited about. We are also finishing up our Science Olympic training. The students will start Science Olympics the day after break and this will go to the end of the year.

Communication about science homework or any homework is important. Please check In with your student about their homework. We are working hard in class to understand how to recognize when things have been assigned, time management and when this are due. Please encourage your student to continue to work on this important skills.



everyone's important

to consider ways to reduce our impact on the environment when using energy to heat our buildings, to power modes of transportation, or to operate electrical appliances. The development of alternative energy systems is a recent innovation where energy is generated from

important in inexhaustible energy sources like wind, solar, geothermal, and hydrolife. It is also power, and renewable energy sources like biomass.

> These systems have the advantage of generating power with virtually zero carbon emissions. In this lesson students will explore the challenge we face to economically harness, store, and deliver these sources of energy.

Sixth Grade Math

Regular math classes are just beginning Chapter 5 of BIG IDEAS. Chapter 5 is the study of ratios and rates. Students will be working on ratio tables, rates, comparing ratios, and percent. Ask your child if they have done any math extra credit. Check out my YouTube lessons for extra practice or help on math skills. Calculators will be used in this chapter! Please make sure your child has a calculator at school. Advanced Math students will be working with ratios and proportions in Chapter 5 of BIG IDEAS. Students will be working on ratios, rates, proportions and slope. Check out my YouTube lessons for extra practice or help on math skills. Calculators will be used in this chapter! Please make sure your child has a calculator at school. Mr. Bethke's website has a variety of math resources including YouTube video lessons from the current chapter for regular and advanced math classes.

https://sites.google.com/a/ecsdnet.org/ bethke-website/home

The Tie-Dying of T-shirts for the 6th graders was a memorable experience. Look for pictures of this activity within this newsletter. A good time was had by all! Thanks to Mrs. Dobbs for all of her help to make it work for all 6 grade students!

6th Grade Social Studies

Sixth graders have started their group research projects on slavery and the Civil War. Using a variety of resources, students are digging through books and scouring the web to answer their own questions. They will present these projects to their classmates at the end

of the quarter in January on topics

ranging from Harriet Tubman to the Gettysburg Address to the role of horses in the Civil War. As sixth graders continue to grow as students and as citizens, these basic skills of inquiry, research and presentation will be invaluable. Meanwhile, more and more students are continuing to master

their states, putting in the work to show they can locate every state on the map. We're also already looking forward to third quarter, when Ms. Ferrell, our Reading Specialist, will join the class. Students will choose novels and non-fiction texts in a new literacy unit focused on the turn of the twentieth century in America.

Mr. McKittrick

Sixth Grade Language Arts: Mr. Langan and Mrs. Smith

The sixth graders continue to exceed expectations by reading an incredible amount of books. (Most have read six or more books already this fall, and we have a record number of "BOB" or Battle-of-the-Books participants!) Students regularly participate in small group book clubs and reading partnerships where they apply reading comprehension strategies through deeper discussion, compare inferences on major characters or events, and debate on author's purpose, lesson, or theme. Other sixth graders recently finished a Roland Smith author study. They compared and contrasted characters, settings, and themes across texts while also analyzing Roland Smith's craft as a writer.

Students are finishing up their second Unit of Writing – Literary Opinion Essays. Their first essay focused on stating a claim (or thesis) about a character and supporting their claim with a variety of evidence. The sixth graders dug deeper for their second essay by identifying a theme of a short story that was seen throughout the entire story and writing about it with supportive evidence. For their final essay, the sixth graders are comparing and contrasting themes from two different stories in a well-developed and supported piece of writing .

As a reminder, all sixth graders are expected to read for 20 minutes each night – if they are all caught up on their self-selected book for Language Arts, they can still read a free choice book, magazine or newspaper at home. Thank you for your continued support!

Mr. Langon and Mrs. Smith











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. Mike Maves 882-3336 Special Education mavesm@evansville.k12.wi.us Mr. Trent Schmick 882-3335 Art Schmickt@evansville.k12.wi.us Ms. Kelli Ours 882-3324 **Special Education** Oursk@evansville.k12.wi.us

World History:



7th grade art

Students are creating a watercolor painting that's inspired by the art work of James Rizzi (1950-2011). Rizzi created happy inspired paintings in and around New York City. His cartoon style art is bright, colorful and full of details. If you'd like to see samples of James Rizzi's art click on the link <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noVA5yAALtA</u>

7th grade math

Students will be working with inequalities. They will both need to write and graph inequalities. We will be solving them using the four basic operations. Students will be solving one and two-step inequalities.

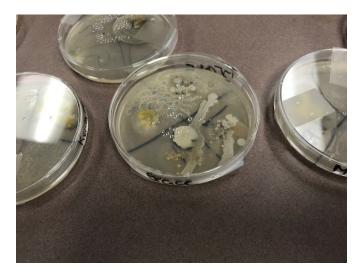
The Brick Challenge is done, as is our unit on Early Humans. How did the bricks hold up through the tests of strength and durability? Which 7th graders were named Brick Masters? Up next, we will be learning about Ancient Egypt, where archaeologist and National Geographic Young Explorer Nora Shawki is currently conducting her own dig. Nora will be sharing her experiences and expertise with the 7th graders as part of our Nat Geo Educator + Explorer Exchange. Here is Nora's first video to our class: <u>https://youtu.be/bCIRvVOinI8</u>

Composition

Students should be finishing their survival books. The final test is scheduled for the week we return from break. Some students have already taken the test. We are continuing our study of literary terms and applying them to the survival books and other stories as well. There will be a test of these literary terms in mid-January. We will also be reviewing the rules for capitalization in January.

Spanish

Students in 7th grade Spanish will be learning how to conjugate regular -AR verbs in Spanish. Students will also learn how to answer interview questions about one of their classes in Spanish and share this with Sra. Gomez. In class we are also reading the novel *The Red Umbrella* by Christina Diaz Gonzalez about a young girl and her brother growing up in Cuba during the 1960s.



Science

We are finishing up our Bacteria and Virus unit with a survey of the school. Students take samples of various places looking to see what bacteria are "hanging out"! Our next units will be Embryology and then the Skeletal System.

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.

8th Grade News

Composition/Literature and Spanish

Students in both English and Spanish will be focusing on three areas during January. These areas are Writer's Workshop, Word Within the Word, and reading. In Writer's Workshop, students will be focusing on a hybrid unit between narratives and journalism. Student's will be working on becoming journalist and telling stories that are newsworthy. Students will also be starting their journey with learning and memorizing Greek and Latin stems. This work will be mostly done in class, but you should see your student studying these at home. Students will be getting lists each Monday and having a quiz on that list each Friday. Also, students will also have a free time to read choice books each day.

Science

After the Holiday Break we will be pounding into Ch. 4 "Rocks". Remember to watch for due dates in the Online eBook under your students Login Menu tab.

World Geography

8th graders will wrap up the USA in December with a USA Road Trip project and then go off studying Canada, Mexico, Latin America in January.

Math 8

We begin the new year with graphing and writing linear equations. This will include finding and using slope and graphing proportional relationships. Students will be using slope-intercept form (y=mx+b) and standard form of linear relationships.

Algebra

Now that students have worked extensively with solving equations and inequalities, they will extend that knowledge to begin the year solving systems of linear equations and inequalities.

Computer Literacy

8th grade got a jump start on Career Cruising to prepare them for their high school registration process in January. Mrs. Holm, our guidance counselor, visited and students saved three careers to their plan after researching education, wages, and job description. Students then used this information to create a flyer of their favorite occupation. Parents can access this and more online @careercruising.com.

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

Mrs. Jo Ann Mumm 882-3339 Computer Literacy mummj@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Brittany Deaver 882-3315 Special Education deaverb@evansville.k12.wi.us

Exercising Gratitude

Parents' desires to raise children who are happy, healthy, and, yes, grateful are documented in countless website postings, TED talks, and parenting guides. Gratitude increases our happiness, improves our relationships, and makes us healthier. And it does so reliably. Over 40 research studies have shown the same thing – gratitude rocks. Research by Dr. Robert Emmons and Dr. Jeffrey Froh shows that cultivating an "attitude of gratitude" helps students achieve higher grades, set higher goals, have more satisfaction with life,



the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

have better relationships, have a greater desire to volunteer, and engage in healthier habits. Grateful people exercise more and take better care of their health, and gratitude effectively increases happiness and decreases depression. Psychology research specifically looking at the role of gratitude in sports has found that an athlete's level of gratitude for their success can influence their overall well-being.

So how can students exercise this gratitude muscle? Gratitude is a social emotion that signals our recognition of the things others have done for us. Expressing gratitude is a selfless act and is done without the expectation of something in return. It can, however, be contagious! This very evening, before drifting off to sleep, simply think of the positive things that happened during the day - things that you are grateful for. Take a moment to do this every night. It's not a bad idea to keep a gratitude journal to reflect on later. At dinner or bedtime, take turns sharing the three best things about your day. Make a thank-you video for someone who gave you a gift or showed you a kindness. Saying thank you is always important, but it's OK to think beyond the note. Help out without being asked, and make it a goal to do so once a day. Create a gratitude collage with pictures of things each person is grateful for. Thank the people who serve you in the community the postal carrier, your bus drivers, etc. Give a genuine compliment or share a positive post on social media. Gratitude might inspire you to return a favor, or act with kindness or thoughtfulness. You might see a situation when you can "pay it forward."



The most exciting aspect of all these benefits of gratitude is that gratitude costs absolutely nothing to practice, and that anyone can develop more gratitude in their lives. Check out the websites below for more information:

https://positivepsychologyprogram.com/gratitude-appreciation/

https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/11/17/4-reasonsgratitude-good-you/875588001/

<u>https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/</u> five ways to raise a grateful child?

<u>utm_source=Greater+Good+Science+Center&utm_campaign=a47f7615b8-</u> EMAIL_PARENTS_CAMPAIGN_2017_10_17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ae73e326e-a47f7615b8-51106355

https://www.today.com/news/get-grateful-20-ways-teach-kids-gratitude-tots-teens-1D80297963

http://time.com/5026174/health-benefits-of-gratitude/

News from the LMC

Did you know, we have e-books and digital audiobooks! In January, JC McKenna and the High School will be adding a second digital platform- Overdrive. It will offer many more titles to choose from. Stay tuned for updates.

In the meantime, students can check-out e-books and audiobooks from our LMC catalog. To begin, download the Destiny Discover app on the device your student will be reading the e-book on or listening to the audiobook on- phones work great! Students and parents can also access these materials on a computer by using this link: <u>https://www.gofollett.com/aasp/ui/pick/pick</u>. From either the app or a computer, follow these instructions:

Location: Wisconsin Schools: JC McKenna Middle School Click Go!



Log-in

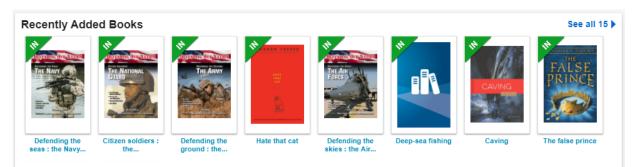
To download an e-book to a device, students can log-in using the username and password they use at school when logging onto the computers.

Or... parents can use this generic log-in to view e-books only.

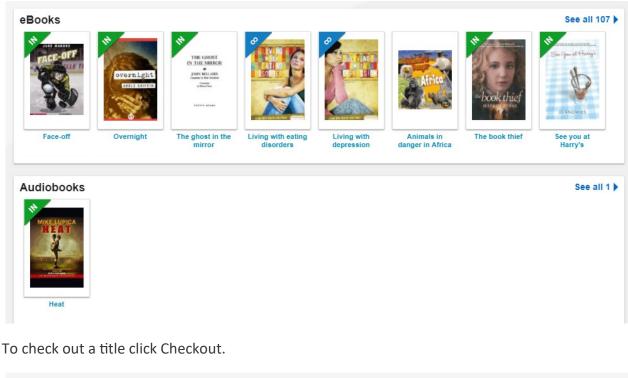
Username: JCM

Password: school

Once logged in, you will be able to browse our entire collection. Our newest books are displayed at the top like this:



To access e-books and audiobooks, scroll down and then click on a title. To view all of the titles click on "See all" in the right hand corner. It will look like this:



 Go Back 		
	The book thief	1 of 1 available
a-book thief	by Markus Zusak ; illustrations by Trudy White.	
	Follett eBook	Open
		Checkout
****		- Favorite
Reviews: 0		<u> </u>
Add a Review		Add to Collection

Feel free to take advantage of these titles over break or any other time. These digital books are great for traveling, accompany print books well and are an excellent way to keep your student

reading. We hope you have a wonderful winter break!

-Mrs. Beyerl, K-12 Library Media Specialist & Mrs. Zastoupil, LMC Clerk

UPCOMING SURVEY TO BE TAKEN IN HEALTH CLASS THIS JANUARY:

Our school is taking part in the Wisconsin Online Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in coordination with Rock County. The survey will ask about the health behaviors of our middle school students. The survey will ask about behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries, tobacco use, and alcohol and other drug use. It will also ask about sexual behaviors that may result in HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and, unwanted pregnancies and dietary behavior and physical activity.

Students will be asked to fill out a computer-based questionnaire that takes about 25 minutes to complete. They will take the survey during their health class between Thursday, January 4th to Monday, January 8th.

Completing this anonymous survey will cause little or no risk to your child. The only potential risk is that some students might find certain questions to be sensitive. The survey has been designed to protect your child's privacy. Students will not put their names on the survey. Also, no class or student will ever be mentioned by name in a report of the results. Your child will get no benefit right away from taking part in the survey. However, the results of this survey will help children in the future by influencing health and safety programs. We would like all selected students to take part in the survey, **but the survey is voluntary**. No action will be taken against you, or your child, if your child does not take part. Students can skip any question that they do not wish to answer. In addition, students may stop participating in the survey at any point without penalty. If you would like to review the survey, a hard copy is at the district office for you to access.

You have been sent a passive consent form allowing you to opt your child out of this survey. There is no need to communicate with the school unless you would prefer your child to **NOT** participate in the survey.

If you have any questions about the YRBS, please contact Meaghan Hannibal, school psychologist at (608) 882-3361 or <u>hannibalm@evansville.k12.wi.us</u>. We appreciate being able to gather this data about our students and it is used to inform programming decisions for AODA and other supports in our district and community.



January 2018



Make 2018 Your Best Year!

New Year's resolutions may sound cliché, but scientific research has found positive ties with individuals who write down and create an action plan for their goals and resolution success. Make sure you set yourself up for success, don't take the easy road by choosing goals that don't challenge or better you. Reach for goals to improve you or the community. Some examples to make 2018 your best year:

Set Positive Resolutions...Setting a resolution of 'eat an extra serving of vegetables daily' rather than 'never eat sweets again' will provide much more success and happiness without deprivation.

De-clutter Your Life ... We have all heard the statement, less is more. Well, the statement does hold some truth. Less visual distractions and better organization help keep your mind clear. But take this one slow, reducing clutter can be a big change in your life.

Commit to Your Wellness and Health ... Whether your goal is to increase the amount of physical activity or to quit a harmful habit like smoking, make sure the goal is challenging, obtainable and specific. Vagueness will allow you too much 'wiggle room' which will limit your success before you commit to the goal.

Embrace Happiness...Challenge yourself to look for what is going right in your life every day. This positive habit will help you develop healthy thought patterns and look for the good in each day.

Make 2018 one of your best years and set a life-long resolution. Melanie Wirth, RDN, LD, MBA, Corporate Dietitian, Taher, Inc.



HARVEST OF THE MONTH RECIPE—JANUARY

Arugula Salad Visite & comin

rield: 4 s	ervings
4 cups	Arugula Baby Leaves
12	Cherry Tomatoes (cut in half)
1/4 cup	Toasted Pine Nuts
2 Tbs	Olive Oil
1 Tbs	Rice Vinegar
1/4 cup	Grated Parmesan Cheese
1 tsp	Kosher Salt
1/2 tsp	Ground Black Pepper
1	Avocado

(peeled, pitted and sliced)

- 1. In a large plastic bowl with a lid, combine arugula, cherry tomatoes, toasted pine nuts, oil, vinegar and Parmesan cheese.
- Season with salt and pepper.
- 3. Place lid on bowl and shake.
- 4. Divide salad onto plates. Top with the sliced avocado, ENJOY!

NUTRITION SNAPSHOT "1 serving 235 calories, 19g total fat, 3g saturated fat, 5g protein, Omg cholesterol, 9g carbohydrate, 482mg sodium, ig sugar, 2g fiber

Evansville Youth Center

January 2018

3-WELCOME BACK/Dance Party 4-Minute to Win Tt 5-Minute to Win It Craft of the Week January 8-12 Snowflakes 8—Advertising Challenge 9—Charades 10—Wii Archery Challenge 11—Wii Dueling Challenge 12—Party Craft of the Week January 15-19 **Duct Tape Creations** 15-Movie & Popcorn 16-Bottle Bowling 17—Library Alison 18—Learn to Play Eucre 19-HALF DAY/NO EYC Craft of the Week January 22-26 **Rubber Band Bracelets** 22—Challenge Us! 23—Giant Jenga 24-Let's Cook 25-Puzzles 26-Puzzles Craft of the Week Jan 29-Feb 2 Snowmen 29—Singles Ping Pong Tournament 30—Doubles Ping Pong Tournament 31—Wii Bowling Challenge 1-Wii Fit Fun 2-Wii Fit Fun