



ELMWOOD EXPRESS

TEACHING AND LEARNING ARE VISIBLE

Kevin Seibel, Principal

Kim Martini, Assistant Principal

August, 19, 2016

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

What a great first week of school! I would like to welcome all of the new 1st grade parents to our Elmwood family and we look forward to working with your children as they learn and grow.

I hope you had a chance to see the Elm Leaves this week as Elmwood's 1st day of school was featured on the cover and an article inside.

Thank you to all the parents who made time to attend our Curriculum Kickoff on the first day. The meeting with the Principals and going to your child's classroom to meet their teacher has hopefully given you a greater insight into the wonderful things in store for our school and your child's learning that will be occurring during this school year.

One of the new curriculum plans for this year is StemScopes; a hands-on and interactive science program we will be implementing starting in the second quarter. We are extremely excited about the wonderful ways this will change our science classes and the learning your children will be doing.

I am pleased to announce that our School Board has approved new playground equipment for our school. The *Team Reil* company is beginning the construction on our playground and fingers are crossed that the weather will allow it to be set up before the winter season comes to Elmwood. Thanks to the Village of Elmwood Park and District 401 for securing the funding for our new equipment.

I would like to encourage you to be an active partner in your child's growth this year, working with their teacher and our school. Active parent involvement in their child's learning will help foster greater gains in learning and create lifelong learners that will be ready for college and careers in the 21st century.

PATT NEWS

Don't forget, PATT is sponsoring a Pool party tonight in the Circle from 8-10 p.m.!

Please send in your PATT forms.

Walk-a-thon Forms are going home this weekend! Make sure to read them.

Save the Date: Sept 8th PATT Meeting at 6:30 pm in the Elmwood Cafeteria.

Continue to collect your box tops, and feel free to send in all the ones you have collected already. Please double check the expiration dates.

Thank you for all your support. Any questions please contact Michela Shipinski at 708-845-6446 or email msitaly71@comcast.net



BMX biker Matt Wilhelm performed at our first day assembly, incorporating lessons on overcoming adversity and challenges



First graders at their very first lunch at Elmwood!



4th graders at their lockers on the first day of school

TARDY REMINDER

Please remember to make sure your child arrives to school on time. It is important not only for your student not to miss any instructional time, but important not to disrupt the whole class when entering the classroom late. As a reminder, students are allowed to enter the building starting at 8:20 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. Below are some tips in order to eliminate tardiness to school:

- Lay out clothes the night before
- Pack backpack the night before and leave it by the front door
- Pack lunches the night before
- Wake up 20 minutes earlier
- Create a calendar/schedule for weekly activities

Here is a link to a study that explains how tardiness can negatively affect school and job performance

<http://www.sfps.info/DocumentCenter/View/8404>



WORDS OF WISDOM

Happy Friday, and welcome back Panthers and Parents! The theme for the month of August is “Creating Success in School.” This week we focused on choices. Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “One’s philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes... and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.” This means we need to be conscious of the choices we are making, and need to take responsibility even if we make a bad choice. If you think things through then you will make good choices. Some decisions are about making a choice between right and wrong. Think about:

- How do you know when something you might do is right or wrong?
- Who would care if it is right or wrong?
- Who can help you make the right decision?
- Is this decision an important one? That is could it have a big effect on your life or the lives of people you care about?

Have a wonderful weekend, and remember to come to school on Monday prepared to Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be ready for class! With something to think about, this is Ms. Martini. Make it a great weekend – or not. The choice is yours!

We're all confronted by countless choices each day. Some have minimal consequences while other decisions can be life changing. And while some of these choices may impact our lives today, other choices may not affect us for years to come. The important thing to remember is that your life is determined by the sum of the choices that YOU make every day. Making good choices begins with taking charge of the decision-making process.

Manage the big stuff. It's very easy to get sidetracked by insignificant issues in life. If you spend a lot of time on trivial stuff, you won't have time to contemplate things that matter.

Values matter. Make decisions that are consistent with your core beliefs and values. The alternative invariably leads to regret.

Learn from the past. Learn from your experiences and the experiences of others. Identify situations where you've had a similar choice in the past. How can you apply those lessons learned to the existing situation?

Know what you know and what you don't know. Don't try to be an expert in everything. Seek input and advice when variables lie outside your comfort zone.

Keep the right perspective. View an issue from every vantage point. What do the facts say? What is your intuition telling you? Is your conscience trying to tell you something? Listen up.

Don't procrastinate. You'll rarely have all the information that you need to make a "perfect" decision. So don't demand perfection.

Once you make a decision, don't look back, make it work. Don't second-guess yourself. You can't relive the past. It's a waste of valuable time and energy.

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BE RESPONSIBLE, BE RESPECTFUL, BE READY