

ELMWOOD EXPRESS

TEACHING AND LEARNING ARE VISIBLE

Kevin Seibel, Principal

Kim Martini, Assistant Principal Dec. 2, 2016

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

Well, December is here! I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break! The holiday season is upon us.

Your children have done some fantastic work during the last 74 days! I am pleased to hear the after-school conversations about ‘what did you learn today?’ between parents and children; and that parents are asking specific questions to probe what learning tasks they worked on that day. We will all continue to improve these conversations as we continue our work to produce Visible Learners in our school.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and support for our long-awaited playground. A special thanks to our School Board and Village for working together to support and make this project a reality. We know our children will enjoy their new playground structure.!



Students helped measure, mix and prepare the items they enjoyed in the annual First grade Thanksgiving feast!

PATT NEWS

Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe will be open next week for your holiday shopping needs!

Save the date for shopping at Five Below: Dec. 9, 10, 11 - Elmwood gets a percentage back.

Thank you for all your support. Any questions please contact Michela Shipinski at 708-845-6446 or email elmwoodpatt2319@outlook.com

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ElmwoodSchool401



We are ready for fun!



Elmwood’s Upcoming Performances

Dec. 8 Band & Choir Concert- Come join us for the first performance of the year for our 5th & 6th grade bands and our Choir. Shows at 1:30 & 6:30 PM.

Dec. 20 Elmwood’s Holiday Show- We invite you to enjoy the singing of our 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students as they put us all in the holiday spirit. Shows at 1:30 & 6:30 PM.

EXCITING TECHNOLOGY NEWS!

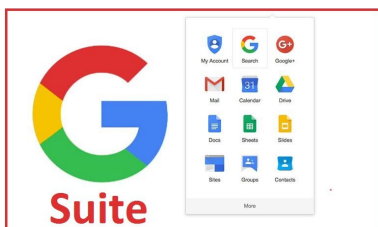
The District has been busily training teachers and administrators in Google Suite in order to provide the students of Elmwood Park an interactive and technologically-rich learning environment. After students return from Winter Break, they will have the ability to access the applications and features associated with Google Suite, such as Drive, Docs, Slides, and so on. Students will also have access to Gmail and Calendar. Student access to Gmail will only be available to students Grades 3-12.

Do not worry, the Gmail system students will have access to is a **closed system**, meaning they can only communicate with students and teachers who have access to the same @epcusd401.org account. This way they cannot receive or send messages outside of Elmwood Park. Safety is a primary concern of ours as we begin expanding the role of technology in the classroom.

While students and parents have already signed an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) at the beginning of the school year, the AUP needed to be updated to appropriately reflect what students will be exposed to and expected to use. In order for students to begin pursuing these new opportunities, the updated AUP needs to be signed by them and their parents.

This is a small step in a larger plan to incorporate technology into the classrooms and provide a more blended learning environment for all students. The District is pleased with the teachers' excitement, their wanting Elmwood Park students to experience the benefits of a blended classroom, and their providing further differentiation into their learning experience. It is our plan to begin sharing with the community the scope of our Technology Initiative in the coming weeks.

If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Wade, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at 708-583-5835 or waden@epcusd401.org. Thank you.



WORDS OF WISDOM

Happy Friday Panthers and Parents! The theme for the month of December is “The Gift of Friendship.” This week we focused on confidence. When children feel good about themselves, it sets them up for success — in everything from school to friendships. Positive feelings like self-acceptance or self-confidence help kids try new challenges, cope with mistakes, and try again. Taking pride in their abilities and accomplishments helps kids do their best. By contrast, kids with low self-esteem might feel unsure of themselves. Self-esteem develops over time. And if it's low, it can be raised. Here are things parents can do:

- Help your child learn to do things. At every age, there are new things for kids to learn.
- When teaching kids how to do things, show and help them at first. Then let them do what they can, even if they make mistakes.
- Praise your child, but do it wisely.
- Avoid over-praising. Praise that doesn't feel earned doesn't ring true.
- Be a good role model. When you put effort into everyday tasks you're setting a good example. Your child learns to put effort into doing homework, cleaning up toys, or making the bed.
- Modeling the right attitude counts, too. When you do tasks cheerfully (or at least without grumbling or complaining), you teach your child to do the same. When you avoid rushing through chores and take pride in a job well done, you teach your child to do that, too.
- Focus on strengths. Pay attention to what your child does well and enjoys. Make sure your child has opportunities to develop these strengths.

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!

BE RESPONSIBLE, BE RESPECTFUL, BE READY

