

Jan - Feb
2017

Elger Bay Elementary Compass



“Home of the Explorers!”

Happy New Year to all of our Elger Bay families!

I want to send along how grateful I am to work with such a caring and generous community. Your support of each other over holidays and all year long is inspiring and humbling.

As we move forward into 2017, I want to remind you that we are always here if you have questions or wonderings about something going on in the classroom or the schoolhouse. One of the hallmarks of our staff is their excellent communication. Our PTA always seems to have wonderful opportunities happening.

Finally, I want to share with you just how wonderful are the children of Elger Bay. Sure, we have our tough days, but there is immense warmth, caring, respect, and friendship among and between the children. I don't take it for granted and let them know as often as possible how much I appreciate who they each are as they journey through another year of learning with our wonderful staff. I'm grateful to our community for its deep caring for children.

Here are a few other articles to remind us of some important upcoming events and procedures.

Sincerely,

Victor Hanzeli, Principal

3rd Annual Elger Bay Student Heritage Day

We are very excited to inform you that on Friday, February 10, we will be celebrating Elger Bay Elementary Student Heritage Day. This will be a wonderful and exciting opportunity for all of us to share in the joy and pride we have in the background of each student. To that end, we have sent home a menu of possible family activities that would afford each student and her/his family an opportunity to spend time reflecting on and engaging with each other about family history.

These are not required activities, but we do think they are a wonderful opportunity to share as a school community in the richness and diversity of our student population. Please consider taking time over the next couple of weeks to work on one or more of these projects with your child. We are hoping that beginning Mon., February 6, we will have the opportunity to post many of these in our classrooms and hallways for all to see.

Our culminating activity as a school will be at an Assembly on the afternoon of Friday, February 10 from 1:30 to 2:30. We will have beautiful music from around the world, performed by our Kindergarten to grade 3 students. In addition, there will be reading of some poems from around the world by our students. Parents and family are always welcome to attend assemblies.

If you have any specific questions about the suggested grade level activities, please email your child's teacher.

Thank you so much for taking the time to look at these ideas and support your child's effort to look back on their family heritage and learn from the wonderful tapestry that makes up our school community.

Upcoming Events:

- Jan 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday- NO SCHOOL
- Jan 19: HIB Training- 4:00 pm EBE Library
- Jan 21: Science Fair- 9:00 am – 3:00 pm EBE Gym
- Feb 1: Spirit Assembly 2:15 – 3:10 pm EBE Gym
- Feb 3: Family Health & Fitness Night 6:00 – 7:00 pm EBE Gym
- Feb 3: Highly Capable Nomination Packets available at EBE and District Office
- Feb 9: PTA General Meeting- Nominating Committee 4:00 pm
- Feb 10: Heritage Day Assembly- 1:30 – 3:00 pm EBE Gym
- Feb 17- 20: Presidents' Day/Mid- Winter Break NO SCHOOL
- Feb 20: Highly Capable Nominations due to District Office
- Feb 23: HIB Training 4:00 pm EBE Library
- Feb 24: Bingo Night- 6:00- 8:00 pm

Highly Capable Program

Highly capable students are students who perform or show potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared with others of their age, experiences or environments. If you believe that your student is functioning two grade levels or more above his/her grade-level peers in reading and/or math AND he/she possesses the following learning characteristics, please consider making a nomination:

- Capacity to learn with unusual depth of understanding.
- Capacity to retain what has been learned and to transfer it to new situations.
- Capacity and willingness to deal with increasing levels of complexity.
- Capacity for intense focus and concentration.
- Capacity for learning at an accelerated rate.

Beginning February 3, 2017, Highly Capable program nomination packets will be available at Elger Bay Elementary and the District Office. Completed nomination packets are due to the District Office by February 20, 2017.

Excusing Your Child's Absences

- It is required that you excuse your child's absence(s) within 72 hours of returning to school.
- District policy and state law requires us to track this very closely and send out written communication to you and eventually conference with you when your child accumulates multiple unexcused absences.
- Contacting us for this purpose is very simple and can be done at all hours of the day. Pick the technique for you that is most convenient, but please be sure to diligently follow through on this procedure. Methods for excusing absences are as follows:
 - Send in a written note to the office that includes the student's name, dates of absence, homeroom teacher and signature.
 - Drop by the office and communicate the above information to one of the secretaries.
 - Call our office line at any time (360) 629-1290 and leave a message. This line will take your calls after hours.

8:55 am "Start Time"

School officially begins at 9:00 am (10:20 am on Wednesdays). However, one improvement we need to make, as a community, is that all of our students are in their seats and ready to go at 9:00 am. I have

made it a point to be out front nearly every day the past few weeks to observe the arrival patterns near 9:00 and, on average, we have 10-15 students each who arrive right at 9:00 or later. The impact is that nearly every classroom experiences someone who comes into the classroom late, disrupting the early directions and flow of the teacher's morning routines. This part of each day is instructionally crucial as the teacher sets the stage for the day's learning. Please support your child's own learning as well as that of every other student by making sure your child is in class by 8:55 am (10:15 am on Wednesdays).

Security Reminders

We want our school to be welcoming and warm but my first and foremost priority is on the safety of every child. Thanks in advance for your cooperation on these procedures.

- If you are unknown to the school office staff, you may be asked to present identification.
- Parents **MUST** sign in at the office and wear a visitor badge, even if only to walk her/his child down the hallway to class and /or drop something off.
- Once you have signed in, explained your business, and put on a visitor badge, you may make your way to the classroom.
- This guideline applies to all of our volunteers, including regular ones.
- **Special Rules For Pickup:** Parents are not allowed to just walk to classrooms at the day's end to pick up students or to take them directly from class, when volunteering. All students who are being picked up by a parent or approved designee **MUST** have a blue pickup slip and report to the gym or office for reunification. There, you must wait a moment for the staff supervisors to ensure that the correct student is matched up with an approved family member or designee.

PTA Science Fair- Saturday, January 21st @ EBE Gym

Please set up your projects on Friday, January 20th between 4-6pm. The timetable for the Science Fair on January 21st is as follows:

- 5th grade 11-11:30 am
- 4th grade 11:30-12:00 pm
- 3rd grade 12:00-12:30 pm
- 2nd grade 12:30-1:00 pm
- 1st grade 1:00-1:30 pm
- Kindergarten 1:30-2:00 pm
- Awards 2:00 pm

Missoula Children's Theatre Coming Soon!

Coming back for the eleventh year! The audition for Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) production of "ALICE IN WONDERLAND" will be held on Monday, March 27th in the Elger Bay gym from 3:40 to 5:45pm. Approximately 60 EBE students will be cast to appear in the show with the MCT Tour Actor/Directors. There is no guarantee everyone who auditions will be cast in the play. Students wishing to audition must arrive by the scheduled starting time and stay for the entire two-hour session. The first rehearsal for part of the cast begins approximately 15-30 minutes after the audition. This is a group audition- no advance preparation is necessary, but a smile never hurts. Students should just be ready to come and have a good time! **MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON**

High School & Facilities Bond, February 14, 2017

For information on the upcoming bond measure, go to the district website or click on this link: <http://www.stanwood.wednet.edu/docman/board-of-directors/board-misc/shs-bond-2017/6431-brochure-split.html>

IGA REGISTER TAPES FOR EDUCATION

Keep those receipts coming in. We've earned 98,087 points so far! Our goal is 200,000 for 25 cases of Xerox paper. Only 101,913 left to go!

FREE and REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATION

Free and reduced lunch applications are simple to complete and only one application is necessary for all of your children who are students in our district. If we can answer any questions for you about the program, please contact Kris or Janet in our main office.

If you would like an application, there are several ways we can get one to you:

1. Send us a note and we will send one home with your child.
2. We can send you a packet in the mail.
3. If you have access to a fax machine, we can send it to you by fax.
4. Just come by our office and we can hand one off to you directly.

The Stanwood-Camano School District does not discriminate in employment, programs, or activities on the basis of age, creed, religion, race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees(s) have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Your school principal and/or Maureen Stanton, Executive Director of Human Resources, and/or Pam Gentz, Director of Student Services, 26920 Pioneer Hwy, Stanwood, WA 98292, 360-629-1200.