

Calendar

December

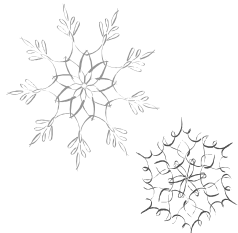
22 – January 2 **Winter Break – no school**

January

- 3 – School resumes
- 9 – 8th Grade Information Night, Irondale
- 10 – Enrollment Information Night,
7:00 PM, Edgewood
- 16 – Teacher Work day, *no school for students*
- 20 – Orchestra Special
- 23 – EPAT board meeting, 5:30 PM
- 23 – 7th & 8th grade Choir Festival,
7 PM, Irondale
- 25 – Quarter 2 ends - grades available
on SchoolView
- 26 – 27 Teacher Work Days, *no school for students*
- 30 – Quarter 3 begins
- 31 – West Side Band Festival, 7 PM,
Irondale

February

- 2 – Jazz Festival, Chippewa, 7 PM
- 3 – Unity Event, 2:45 – 4:30 PM
- 7 – 8th grade ski trip
- 7 – Precinct Caucus, no meetings
after 6:00 PM
- 8 – 6th grade ski trip
- 9 – Orchestra Concert, Bethel, 7 PM
- 14 – Chamber Orchestra–Tier I, Hopkins
- 20 – Teacher Work Day, *no school for students*
- 21 – Parent/Teacher Conferences,
3:30-8:00 PM
- 24 – Quarter 3 Grade Check Point on
SchoolView
- 27 – Parent/Teacher Conferences,
3:30-8:00 PM
- 29 – Spring Picture Day



From the Principal...

As you begin filling in your 2012 calendar, be sure to include a couple of important Edgewood Middle School events to kick-off the first month of the New Year.

Edgewood's Annual Enrollment Information Night is Tuesday, January 10. This is an opportunity for families of current fifth graders from Sunnyside Elementary School and Pinewood Elementary School and non-residents with a middle level student who wish to apply to Edgewood Middle School in the Mounds View School District for fall 2012. The event runs from 7:00 – 8:00 PM and will include an overview of the middle level program and self-guided building tours. In addition, there will be an information booth on the new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) magnet program that is coming to Edgewood beginning next fall. Edgewood teachers, support staff, parent leaders and students will be available to conduct tours, answer questions and highlight the new STEAM initiative. **If you know of any families interested in enrolling their children at Edgewood Middle School, but are unable to attend on January 10, encourage them to call the school at 651-621-6600 to schedule a school tour.**

The annual Unity Event for Edgewood students will be held on Friday Feb 3, 2:45 – 4:30 PM at Edgewood. All students are invited and activity buses to transport students home will be provided. The Unity Committee has been joined by the PRIDE Committee & the student leadership team, Student Helpers, to plan this year's Unity Event. We will be celebrating diversity through music, art, games and food. We are considering a Winter Carnival Theme; stay tuned for details about outside adventures for students. A \$5 entrance fee will include \$1 for food and game tickets. Many activities are free including dancing, swimming, snow sculptures, cross country skiing, broomball, sledding, and X-box gaming. We will be entertained by Mr. Johnson's Bass Dixie Style Band and Edgewood students singing Karaoke. Students will be able to sample several different foods from around the world. Come and celebrate our differences at the Unity Event. Parents are asked to contact Robin Howard (651-621-6628) if you have a cultural food or skill you could share at the Unity Event.

Thank you for sending your child to Edgewood Middle School. It's a privilege to serve our students on their educational journey through middle school, in preparation for high school and beyond. School will be back in session on **Tuesday, January 3, 2012.** Until then, enjoy the winter break and many special times with your children.

Happy Holidays,
Penny Howard



Spanish

¡Hola! We have been busy this quarter in Spanish class! We can recognize and produce vocabulary pertaining to classroom phrases, greetings, days of the week, weather and more! Students can talk about activities and say what they like and don't like to do. They have worked with subject pronouns and the verb *ser* (*to be*). Ask your student "¿Que te gusta hacer?" (What do you like to do?) Soon we will be starting 'Unidad 1.2: Mis amigos y yo' in which students will learn to describe themselves and others and identify people.

We would also like to welcome Jaime Staska! She is a student teacher from the University of Wisconsin—River Falls. She will be working with our Spanish class until the end of the semester through January.



6th Grade

In Ms. Crenshaw's math classes, we are wrapping up the semester in with fractions and probability. The students worked hard and finally finished decimals! It took a lot of persistence and dedication! Keep up the great work! The third benchmark will be taken at the conclusion of the two fraction chapters and test fraction operations.

Ms. Beth Snyder had her baby! Elsie Joelle Carmichael Snyder was born on November 18th at 9:12 AM. While Ms. Snyder is out on maternity leave, I have been filling in the classroom. My name is Katie Kritzeck Anderson. I'm currently in my sixth year of teaching, and enjoying my first time with sixth grade! I recently taught ninth and tenth grade in Elk River, but have had experience with every grade from seventh through twelfth.

In Ms. Snyder's language arts class, the kids are hard at work on their writing. For the first two quarters of the school year, the sixth graders are doing a Writer's Workshop. In Writer's Workshop, the students get to choose their own topic and genre of writing. We have students writing anything from a poem, to an essay, and even some chapter books! As we learn about different writing techniques, from using description and strong word choice to how to format an essay or letter, the goal throughout the first half of the year is to see major improvement from their very first piece, through multiple drafts, to the very last thing they write. Since Ms. Snyder will be back the middle of January, Ms. Kritzeck will continue to work with the students to make their writing top-notch!

Ms. Young's social studies classes are into the Revolutionary War. We are learning how the Americans won their independence and will focus on the skills they needed to create a Constitution for our country. We will learn about the different amendments and how they play a part in our everyday lives. The students should be discussing the different amendments with you and the background on why our Founding Fathers chose the areas they establish and developed in the writing of this living document.

Ben Kissling Phy Ed classes - we just finished our Volleyball unit where students learned the basics of the game. On Monday December 12, we started a dance unit where students joined a group of two or three others and will create their own dance. They will perform their 1 1/2 to 2 minute dance in front of the rest of the class. This unit will bring us up to the winter break. After break, we will begin the four week swimming unit so remember your suits and towels!

Spanish

¡Hola!

This month 7th graders have been working in 'Unidad 2: México: ¡Vamos a la escuela!' Did you know that Mexico introduced chocolate, corn, and chilies to the world?! We started this unit by learning to talk about daily schedules, ask and tell time, say what you have and what you do and how often you do things. We did this using the verb "tener" (to have) and "tener que" (to have to), with expressions of frequency. This week we are starting to work with present tense -ar verbs.

Señora Fosse



7th Grade

Language Arts classes are completing our study of media literacy and moving on to looking at propaganda and how it influenced the Holocaust. Students will be reading the Holocaust non-fiction excerpts written by three different people who were directly involved in the Holocaust, whether it was as a concentration camp survivor or a commandant of a concentration camp. The students are using pre-reading vocabulary activities as well as during and post reading comprehension strategies. The students will also analyze the author's purpose and point of view after reading the three nonfiction excerpts, pulling out the main idea, the details to support the main idea and the inspiration for writing the text. This is one of the common assessments in seventh grade ELA. Simultaneously, we are also reading aloud the book, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, which is about a young boy whose father is the commandant of Auschwitz during the Holocaust. As culminating activities, the students will be doing a web search researching children involved in the Holocaust, using "Forget Me Not" cards and watching a documentary called "Paper Clips", which outlines a Holocaust Memorial to remember the victims of the Holocaust. Mondays will continue to be silent reading and one-on-one conferencing days. Students should be reading a minimum of 150 minutes at least five days a week outside of school and keep detailed reading logs.

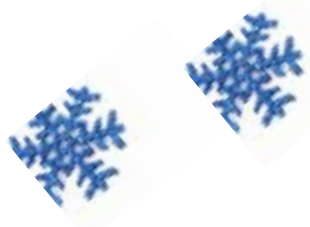
Ms. LaPanta's classes finished reading The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. We will continue our analysis of the novel by writing an essay about the conflicts in the story. Students were excited to order several new books for our classroom library. Hopefully you will see them reading at home over winter break! After break, students will join book clubs and conduct a literary analysis of their novel. Also, ask your student about their "Close Reads".

REMEMBER TO READ 30 MINUTES EVERY NIGHT

In **Ms. Christianson's** classes, we have completed our first novel of the year The Outsiders. Also, we have recently finished our five-paragraph conflict essay. We've started discussing the Civil Rights movement and important people and events around the 1950's. Incorporated within the lessons are language strategies using root words, prefixes, and suffixes.

Life Science with Houseman is just finishing *cellular processes*. We have preformed skits acting out the processes for moving materials into living cells, conducted an experiment to show the process of diffusion, and had engaging discussions about *mitosis* and *meiosis*. Prior to the winter break, we will take a quick look at *photosynthesis* and *respiration*.

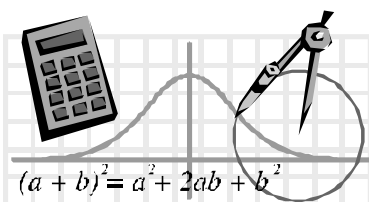
Ms. Crenshaw's math students have been reviewing a lot from last year with decimals and fractions and throwing in negative numbers as well! We are now working on the operations of decimals and fractions.



Spanish

¡Hola! The 8th graders have been busy this semester in Spanish class. They have been learning how to describe clothing, talk about shopping and say what they wear in different seasons. They also put on a fashion show and “strutted their stuff” on the red carpet. Students are learning more expression in Spanish using the verb “tener” and soon we will be talking about some irregular verbs like “querer” (to want).

We would also like to welcome Jaime Staska! She is a student teacher from the University of Wisconsin—River Falls. She will be working with our Spanish class until the end of the semester through January.



8th Grade Algebra

Algebra students are working on slope and attributes of different polygons. They will also start working on multi-step equations before break. After break, students will continue working on solving multi step equations, along with solving absolute value equations. Integrated Algebra students just had a quick review on the laws of exponents and scientific notation. Afterwards, we will be working on discovering what polynomials are, adding and subtracting polynomials, and multiplying polynomials. Students should be getting some homework daily; however, we will often be able to work on it during class to get a good start on it.

8th Grade

Earth Science students have become mineralogists, geologists, volcanologists, seismologists, and paleontologists this quarter. We have just wrapped up our work on minerals and the rock cycle. We are currently looking at fossil fuels and energy practices. Next, we will look at the destructive and constructive processes that have and do form our Earth including, plate tectonic movements, sea floor spreading, volcanoes, earthquakes, and glaciers.

Social Studies students have recently finished Chapter four which focused on how humans can use and preserve freshwater ecosystems. Students had the opportunity to participate in a class debate on the current state of the Great Lakes and to participate in urban planning policy committees. As we move forward with our study of the region of Canada and the United States, we will discuss urban sprawl, consumption patterns—this will include both creating a cartogram and the analysis of several others—and human migration, looking at the reasons why people move. We are continuing to watch CNN Student News each day in class. All students are expected to keep a news journal which they will be allowed to use on upcoming news quizzes. If students are absent, they should go to <http://www.cnn.com/studentnews/> to view any episodes they have missed. Look for the “archive” section to see a collection of past episodes. Ask your kids about what is happening in the news!

English Language Arts students in Ms. Odland’s class are completing the novel Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mickealson. Students are discussing the deeper meaning of the text and deciding whether they agree or disagree with the ideas presented. Throughout, students have compiled evidence to support their opinion of the novel. This information will be used in composing their final essay. We have also explored what makes a high quality expository essay and have reviewed the color-coded writing system. Students have also worked on using close reads, where students interact with the text through highlighting, circling, taking notes and adding visuals. This helps students remember and better comprehend the content in the text.

Outside of class, students are expected to read for at least thirty minutes and complete their reading log. In order to hold students accountable, students are graphing the minutes they read each week, completing a self-reflection and setting goals. Please encourage and model reading for pleasure; this reinforces the message that literacy is worth while!

English Language Arts students in Mr. Skinner’s classes have completed their reviews and are attempting publication. Everyone is continuing to read independent novels for homework, and are giving booktalks periodically. Before the break, students are going to be working on “close reads” of recent non-fiction articles. Skills of critical thinking and questioning will be the focus. After the winter break, we will begin our poetry unit where students will read, criticize, and write poems in several different forms including sonnet, haiku and free verse.

DEANS'



Ms. Julie Schneider (grade 6)

Ms. Robin Howard (grade 7)

Mr. Jason Voss (grade 8)

ESK

We are proud of the positive academic and social behavior of our Edgewood students. Therefore, we have many ways to recognize and honor students. Academically, students are distinguished by the A and B Honor Roll every quarter. Honor Roll students receive a certificate and their name is posted in the lobby.

Students who raise their GPA by .5 or better will be recognized for "improved academic performance" at the end of quarters two, three and four. In the spring, we also have our special Academic Excellence evening ceremony honoring students who have maintained an 11.0 GPA all school year. There are several ways that students at Edgewood are recognized for socially responsible behavior. This year we continue recognizing students with our Student of the Month Award. Students are selected by teachers based on: positive attitude, cooperation, and citizenship. Students have their picture posted in the display case and a letter and a small certificate are sent home.

Ask your child about **Eagle PRIDE**. Staff members hand out eagle feathers to students who are taking **PRIDE** in their actions in the hallway and classrooms at Edgewood. **PRIDE** stands for **P**repared, **R**espectful, **I**nvolved, **D**etermined, **E**veryday... we say that **PRIDE = Excellence**.

The **EAGLE Pride Award** will take the form of a coupon to be handed out randomly by individual teachers or teams to students throughout the year. The **EAGLE Pride Award** may go to students who hand in quality work, consistently hand in work on time and/or exhibit outstanding classroom behavior. If your child misses class because of an illness, music lessons, a family trip, etc., it is his/her responsibility to ask the teacher or know their teachers' system for checking for the previous day(s) assignments.

You can help your child complete homework assignments on time.

Here are some helpful hints:

- 1) Set a regular time to do homework.
- 2) Monitor your child's study time and assignments.
- 3) Ask to see your child's planner and completed assignments every day.
- 4) Sign up for **School View** – an electronic way to stay on top of your child's grades. You should have received a letter with your access code last fall. If you have misplaced the letter please stop by the Edgewood Office for assistance. All students have received their own School View account.
- 5) Don't hesitate to call or email your child's teachers or dean.

Thank you for trusting Edgewood with your child. We are so glad that you are part of this community!

STEAM Update:

Edgewood is the recipient of a \$22,000 Verizon Foundation grant. This grant will help provide technology and new class offerings for next year's STEAM programming.



Volunteers

With the year 2011 coming to an end, I would like to thank the many volunteers who have already come forward to help at Edgewood this school year. As the year 2012 approaches, I encourage you to make a New Year's resolution to volunteer at least once during the remainder of the school year. We will continue to have many opportunities for you to volunteer at Edgewood. Please read your E-News as we list specific volunteer needs there. Please contact me with your interests and/or suggestions.

I can be reached at 651-621-6620 or amy.wilson@moundviewschools.org.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you in the new year.

Thank you for all that you do here at Edgewood Middle School.

~Amy Wilson, Volunteer Coordinator