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News from the Tiger's Den

February 2021



A note from Principal Ben Dallman... PRIDE, Respect, and Responsibility



Hello Roosevelt Families and Friends!

It is hard to believe that we have already entered the second half of our school year. February brings us our final round of Family-Teacher Conferences. As a parent or guardian, you play an important role in the education of your child. Your involvement in your child's education will help them feel more confident as a student and experience greater success. Related to this, our final round of Family-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, **February 22** and Tuesday, **March 2**. This Wednesday afternoon (**February 10**), you will be receiving an email from your child's teacher asking you to choose a time for your virtual Family-Teacher Conference using the *Microsoft Bookings* scheduling app. If you need assistance with this, please contact your child's teacher or call our Technology Department at (715) 852-3411. As we approach your conference day, please take a moment to consider the following ideas:

- **Expect a two-way conversation.** Like all good conversations, family-teacher conferences are best when both people talk and listen. The conference is a time for you to learn about your child's progress in school. But it is also a time for the teacher to learn about what your child is like at home. When you tell the teacher about your child's skills, interests, needs, and dreams, the teacher can build better connections with your child.
- **Emphasis on learning.** Good family-teacher conferences focus on how well the child is doing in school, as well as areas for improvement. To prepare for the conversation, please create a list of questions you would like to ask your child's teacher.
- **Opportunities and challenges.** Just like you, teachers want your child to succeed. You will likely hear positive feedback about your child's progress as well as areas for improvement. Be prepared to share what you perceive to be your child's greatest strengths and areas of need, sharing ideas used to overcome similar challenges at home.
- Because Family-Teacher Conferences will take place throughout the day on March 2, **students will not be attending school on March 2** (cohorts A and D) and virtual instruction will be cancelled for all cohorts (A/B/C/D/ECVS). Students will be attending on February 22 (cohorts A and D) and virtual instruction will take place as normal because conferences will begin after the regular school day. If you are unable to attend virtual conferences on February 22 or March 2, please contact your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible to arrange another time.
 - **Monday, February 22, 4:00 - 8:00pm** Students from cohort A and D attend school.
 - **Tuesday, March 2, 8:00am - 4:30pm** Students from cohort A and D **do not** attend school.

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Highlights from January:

- After a much-appreciated winter break in December, our students did well with their transition back into regular school day routines. Thank you for helping your child get enough sleep, nutrition, and exercise at home. All three of these ingredients help set your child up for success!
- Thank you for working with your child during last week's *Great Kindness Challenge*. Hopefully, the activities on the *Act of Kindness* checklist were both fun and rewarding for you and your family.
- Beginning on February 1, we introduced our new focus-skill-of-the-month which is **empathy**. We describe **empathy** as "*seeing the world from another person's point of view.*" Our hope is that you see this quality carry over from school into your home as well.

Announcements for February:

- **February is Black History Month:** Black History Month is a time to celebrate the contributions black people have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality while recognizing their central role in our Nation's history. Related to this, it can be difficult to talk to students of any age about racial injustices, but it is important to have the conversation. Here are some resources you may find helpful when discussing racial injustices with your child: [Resources for Families to Discuss Racial Injustices](#)
- **Bus Driver Appreciation Week** is February 8-12. If you have children who ride the bus, please encourage your child to share an extra "thank you" to the ones who deliver our kids to school safely each day.
- **School Safety:** To ensure the safety of our children under any circumstance, we need to practice how we would respond if ever faced with a threatening situation. During the week of February 15, we will be practicing what to do in the event of a school lock-down with our students. This was postponed from November when we were in the middle of temporarily shifting to our 100% virtual format unexpectedly. Our goal is to carefully prepare for what is a highly unlikely situation while keeping student anxiety at a minimum. Please let me know if you have any questions.

On the Horizon:

- **Read-Across-America** week is set to take place the week of March 1. Here are few of the activities we will use to celebrate a nation of diverse readers and our love for reading!
 - **February 25-March 10:** Our Roosevelt PTA will be sponsoring an online Scholastic Book Fair.
 - Student dress-up days:
 - **March 1:** "Favorite Book-Character" (dress up like one of your favorite characters from a book)
 - **March 4:** "Read my T-Shirt Slogan" (wear a t-shirt with a slogan on it or your Roosevelt t-shirt)
 - **March 5:** "Favorite Book-Character" (dress up like one of your favorite characters from a book)
 - *Mystery Reader* activities will take place during announcements throughout the week.
 - **March 15-26:** Our Roosevelt PTA will be coordinating a Read-a-Thon with the proceeds of the fundraiser going towards our *Roosevelt Playground Update Fund*.
 - More information about *Read Across America* and our focus on teaching students empathy can be found here: [National Education Association: Practicing Empathy](#)
- Students in third, fourth, and fifth grade will be taking the state *Forward Exam* on the dates listed below. This includes all cohorts with bussing available to students in cohort C as needed with multiple testing locations being used. If at all possible, please avoid scheduling appointments for your child during their assigned testing times. Please call (715) 852-4710 if you have any questions.

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Cohort</u>	<u>Testing Location</u>
○ April 12, 13, 19, 20	3 rd Grade	A	Roosevelt Elementary
○ April 15, 16, 22, 23	3 rd Grade	B	Roosevelt Elementary
○ April 28 	3 rd Grade	C	Locust Lane Elementary
○ April 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27	4 th Grade	A	Roosevelt Elementary
○ April 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30	4 th Grade	B	Roosevelt Elementary
○ April 7 and 14	4 th Grade	C	Putnam Heights Elementary
○ April 12, 13, 19, 20	5 th Grade	A	Roosevelt Elementary
○ April 15, 16, 22, 23	5 th Grade	B	Roosevelt Elementary
○ March 24	5 th Grade	C	Northwoods Elementary

- Alternate School Requests:** As you plan for next school year, especially if you are planning to move to a location outside of our school boundary, it is important that you are aware of an ECASD board policy change regarding the *Alternate School Request (ASR)* process. The policy change put into place this past fall applies to families who live within the ECASD boundary wishing to attend a school other than their neighborhood school. Historically, *Alternate School Requests* could be approved for **legal, medical, or continuous enrollment** reasons with a special exception available for students who are in fourth, seventh, or eleventh grade. This exception allowed students to continue their enrollment into the following school year, being their final year at that particular school. With this change, the continuous enrollment exception will now only apply to students wishing to remain at their original school **during their current school year** but will not allow students at any grade-level to remain at their original school for the following school year for ‘continuous enrollment’ reasons. More information about this policy can be found on our [ECASD School Board website](#) by clicking on ‘Policies’ in the upper-right-hand corner and then selecting ‘400: Students’ from menu on the left margin. Specifics related to our district ASR policy can be found under ‘**432-Rule Guidelines for In-District Transfers.**’ If you have questions about this policy, please call me at (715) 852-4710.

- Please watch your mail for the **2021 ECASD Summer Program Guide** coming to you soon! Our summer school program scheduled to take place June 14 to July 1 is free to families and designed for ALL students going into grades Kindergarten through fifth grade regardless of academic or behavioral needs. Please let me know if you have questions about any of these great opportunities for your kids. Here are some important details to be aware of:

- Summer school instruction will take place **in-person** from 8:30-11:45am each day (M-Th).
- **Free** breakfast will be available to **all children** younger than 18 years of age from 8:00-8:45am and lunch from 11:45am-12:15pm throughout our summer school program.
- Options will likely be available for students to participate in immediately after our morning program.
 - River Cities Adventures will be run at Lakeshore.
 - Bussing will be provided to the Boys and Girls Club.
- You can find more details by going to [ECASD Summer School Programming 2021](#) with updates being added in just a few short weeks!

Raising Caring Kids from the UW-Extension

“If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change” – Wayne Dyer

Changing the Way You Look at the World español: **Cómo cambiar nuestra percepción del mundo**

Perspective taking requires you to put yourself in another person’s position and imagine what you would feel, think, or do if you were in that situation. Perspective taking helps children to be more successful as adults because they are better able to deal with other people. Seeing and understanding the world from someone else’s point of view is an important life skill you can teach children to build healthy and satisfying relationships.

*Perspective-taking is thinking about how **another** person might feel and think when something is happening. This may also be called their point of view.*

What we know:

Children with better perspective-taking skills are less likely to be involved in conflicts with other children. It helps them know how to behave in social situations, care for others, communicate effectively, solve problems, and work together. Understanding what others are thinking also helps children feel more comfortable in new situations.

Try this:

Take time to listen to your child. When you listen and care about their thoughts and feelings, you demonstrate how to care about another person’s point of view. Over time, children learn how to care about another person’s point of view because they have felt it themselves. As parents you can:

- model how to look for and listen to another person’s perspective,
- explain your own views and talk about your thoughts and feelings, and
- talk with your children about the possible feelings and thoughts of someone else.

Check out this Michigan State Extension [resource](#) to learn more ways to help develop perspective taking.

For fun:

Consider reading some of the [books about point of view](#) on Adrienne Gear’s list with your children to help them gain a better understanding of someone else’s perspective.

Print this as a 1-page handout ([Changing the Way You Look at the World, PDF](#)).

Once again, thank you for being an active part of your child’s education. We look forward to seeing you virtually at Family-Teacher Conferences. Stay warm!

Sincerely,

Ben Dallman

Principal
Roosevelt Elementary School & Eau Claire Virtual School

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“Collectively committed to educate our Roosevelt community in a safe, nurturing, and responsive environment.” 🐾

Valentine Day Party Reminders!



If you are planning on sending treats for Valentine's Day, please remember that all food must be store bought (not homemade) and need to be single serve, pre-packaged, not requiring refrigeration and sent with your child to avoid drop-off needs. We ask that you send treats and Valentine cards **at least one day before** the classroom party. Also, as you are writing out Valentine cards, please make sure there is a card for each student in your child's class. If you need a complete list, or have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. Thank you!

Blue masks
Red masks
Yellow masks too
Black masks
Pink masks
Any color will do
Smiley masks
Silly masks
Or masks that say boo
Keep the mask clean
with the washing machine
if you've worn it a lot
or you see dirty spots.
The washing machine
will know what to do
to keep all the germs
away from you

Wisconsin Public School Open Enrollment

Public School Open Enrollment: February 1 – April 30, 2021

Wisconsin residents in grades 4K -12 may apply to attend school in a school district other than the one in which they live. For example: a child that lives in the Altoona School District could apply to attend the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD). Students in pre-kindergarten may participate in limited circumstances; parents should call Jennifer Knutson at 715-852-3003 to find out if their preschool-aged child(ren) qualify.

Students who are currently attending the ECASD through open enrollment DO NOT need to reapply.

The open enrollment application for the 2021-22 school year is February 1 – April 30, 2021. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction no longer provides paper application forms to the school districts. An online application will be available to the public beginning February 1 and closing at 4:00pm on April 30, 2021. For more information about open enrollment, please go to: <http://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>

Have you moved outside of the Eau Claire School District this year? If so, you need to complete a **Tuition Waiver** form. Contact 715-832-3003 for more information.

Roosevelt Yearbooks

We are excited to announce that yearbooks will be for sale this year! If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook, you can do so online at ybpay.lifetouch.com using ID Code: 12725621. Yearbooks will only be available through 3/11/21. No late orders will be taken, and there is no guarantee that extra books will be sent. Please order early if you do wish to have a yearbook.

Order your school
yearbook at

ybpay.lifetouch.com



Family-Teacher Conferences Are Coming Soon!

Virtual Family-Teacher Conferences
are scheduled for
February 22nd from 4:00 – 8:00pm
and
March 2nd from 8:00am – 4:30pm

If you have questions regarding conferences,
please contact the classroom teacher
directly.



A Note About Parking...

Every year, as the snow piles grow, we receive questions regarding the limited parking set-up and back pick-up area at Roosevelt. Thank you for your questions, and we appreciate your patience with our unique situation! We wanted to take a moment to share some important information regarding our parking situation. The Eau Claire Area School District is allowed use of the lot behind school, however the City of Eau Claire owns and maintains it. This makes for a unique partnership! While we recognize that this is not the most ideal situation, we appreciate parents working hard to be flexible during pick-up time in order to make the most of the limited space we do have available.

To help with the crowded after school hours, we invite parents to also utilize the parking available along Folsom Street and Truax Boulevard, as we do have adult crossing guards stationed on these streets to assist in maintaining safe crossing for all students. As always, when picking-up and dropping-off, please observe the crosswalks and utilize the adult and student crossing guards. We ask when you are in the school zone that you always remain aware of your surroundings, and refrain from using cell phones. Thank you for helping us keep your kids safe!