

THE ELMWOOD EAGLE

Office: 586 - 435 - 1100

SLS Website: www.solake.org

2012-2013 Classroom Assignments

It's hard to believe we are already approaching the end of the 2011-2012 school year. We are beginning to receive parent inquiries about teachers for their children next year. Please read the following information carefully about how we will assign children to classrooms for 2012-2013:

- Student assignments to classrooms are not random. It takes a great deal of planning, discussion, and multiple perspectives, with input from current grade level teachers, counselor, and principal to develop class lists. We work very hard to create class groups that are balanced for a number of factors, including gender, race/ethnicity, achievement levels, etc. In addition, we consider dynamics between individuals and groups of students to ensure students may work and learn collaboratively with their peers.
- Please be open to your current teachers' input about next year's classroom assignments. After working with your children for a full year in the classroom, as well as their Elmwood colleagues, they have a well-informed perspective on class assignments.
- Please understand we need to balance parent input regarding student learning needs/teachers with input we also receive from parents about other students they either do or do not want their children to be grouped with next year.
- If you feel a need to share input regarding your child's placement next year, we ask that you write a brief letter describing your child's needs and characteristics as a learner. We will need to have this information delivered in writing to the office no later than June 1. This helps us understand what you believe your child

needs from his/her teacher and classroom environment.

- You will receive notice of your child's classroom assignment the week before school begins in the fall.
- Our Elmwood teachers are all highly qualified and contribute in unique ways to their students and the school as a whole. Thank you for working with us to ensure an excellent learning year for your child in 2012-2013.

Attendance Line 586-435-1150 (24 hours)

PLEASE CALL IN AND REPORT YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE.

If your child will be late and needs a hot lunch, please let us know. Lunches are ordered by 9:00 a.m. Thank you for calling in!

No School

Thursday, 5/10/12 – ½ Day – No PM
11:35 am Dismissal
District Professional Development

Monday, 5/ 21/12 – Early Dismissal
1:45 pm Dismissal

Friday, 5/25 & Monday, 5/28/12 – No School K-12
Memorial Day

Mother's Day Flower Sale

South Lake High School Band Boosters are holding their annual Mother's Day Flower Sale:

Saturday, May 12, 2012 9 am to 3 pm
South Lake High School
21900 Nine Mile Road

Celebration of the Arts

May 10, 2012 5-8:00 p.m.

South Lake High School
21900 E Nine Mile Road

The Celebration of the Arts is an ideal way for community members and parents to come and see what our SL students have accomplished. This is a terrific showcase of our student's work and talents, featuring elementary, middle and high school students of South Lake Schools.

Student artwork from all grade levels will be featured throughout the building. Come one! Come all!

Spring Music Concert

Our spring concert will be presented at the Celebration of the Arts at South Lake High School Auditorium on Thursday, May 10. The concert will be performed by the fourth graders from 5-5:45 that evening and the third graders will perform from 6:30-7:15. All are welcome to come. Please contact Mrs. Mangan at lmangan@solake.org if you have any questions.

The fifth graders will perform with Mr. Verbeke in the gym at 6:00 p.m. Come enjoy the music.

Parent-Parent Meeting on the South Lake Middle School Experience

For parents who are interested in learning more about South Lake Middle School from experienced Elmwood parents who have students currently attending the middle school, there will be a Parent-Parent Meeting on Wednesday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Board Meeting

The May Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Office.

P.E. News

Want to know what the kids are doing in Mrs. Conlan's physical education class? Check out her website at www.schoolnotes.com. All you have to do is put in the district's zip code (48080) and you will find an updated schedule of units that we are working on. You will also find suggested homework for the kids to do, so that they stay active. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Conlan at mconlan@solake.org.

Final Awards Day, Gr 4-5

Please join us for attendance and special area awards for fourth and fifth grade students on Monday, June 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the gym. Eligible 5th graders will also receive their Presidential Awards at this time.

Please Keep Dogs off School Grounds

***By law, dogs must be leashed and kept on sidewalks only during school hours.** Dogs are permitted on school grounds only during non-school hours (i.e., evenings and weekends).

*If it is important to you to walk your dogs to or from school with your children, please remain on the sidewalk with them. Please also be aware that some of our students are allergic to pets, and some may be frightened of even gentle animals.

***Please remember to clean up dog waste, as we have unfortunately had incidents of students needing to call home for clean shoes or clothes after stepping in dog messes.**
Thank you for your cooperation!

PYP Ponderings

The month of May finds students focusing on becoming effective communicators. They are learning the importance of being a good listener ~ whether it is listening to a presenter, teacher, or peer. Students understand that valuable information is shared and learned by listening. They have also been working on their writing skills. Students in 5th grade took action and wrote letters to numerous companies, questioning their packaging. As they concluded their unit on Sharing the Planet, they used research to support their stand and sent off their letters. The students have received numerous responses addressing the concern that they have shown for the environment. Kudos to our students for taking action! The second grade students have recently finished their unit of How We Express Ourselves, and used both their reading and writing skills to explore folk tales and fairy tales. Fourth grade students completed their unit of Inquiry on Sharing the Planet. They explored the finite resources of the world. After researching endangered plants, animals, and finite sources, they created presentations that they shared with family and friends in their Celebration of Learning. Third grade students also explored their communication skills as they completed their How We Express Ourselves unit. At Elmwood, students created brochures for an ad campaign to increase awareness about the many Elmwood points of pride, calling the campaign "PURE ELMWOOD". First graders used communication skills to showcase their learning about how their wants and needs are met. Lastly, our Kindergarteners participated in many hands-on activities as they completed their unit on How the World Works. They reflected on their discoveries about force and motion and found many ways to share their new knowledge. Throughout every unit of instruction, as well as daily interactions, students are learning the importance of being able to communicate ideas and thoughts with others.

On May 7th and 8th the International Baccalaureate Authorization Team visited Elmwood. It was exciting for students, staff, parents, and Board Members to share with the visiting team all of the wonderful learning opportunities that are occurring at Elmwood. The review process is lengthy and we may not hear about our authorization until late August or early September, but it was a wonderful experience and kudos to staff and students for all of the hard work and dedication to the Primary Years Programme. Please be sure to stop by the buildings and explore the displays and celebrations of learning that are everywhere!

As always, please encourage your child to question and wonder about the world around them. Encourage them to reflect on the decisions and choices that they make. Invite them to share their learning with you, as this is action. Ask them, "Now that you know this information or have this skill, what will you do with it?" Remember, taking action is the highest form of learning!

If you would like more information regarding the Primary Years Programme, please contact me at cmerivirta@solake.org or at (586)435-1115.

Candice Merivirta
South Lake Schools
PYP Coordinator

Ecology Club

Good news from the Elmwood Ecology Club -

*Elmwood achieved their Green School status for the second year this April!

*Grace VanDyke, from Mrs. Richardson's third grade classroom, received an Honorable Mention award for her entry in the Michigan 2012 Earth Day Poster contest. Congratulations!

Rosanne Knapp & Monica McNamee

2012-13 Kindergarten Registration

Registration for new kindergartners for the 2012/13 school year is now taking place.

Please contact South Lake's administration office to register 586-435-1640.

If you know of someone that has a child that will be starting school in the fall, please pass this information on. Thank you.

Vision & Hearing

To be in compliance with the State Health Code, Act 368, each child must have a hearing and vision screening test prior to initial entrance into school. Most children will receive two hearing and vision screenings. The last testing must be dated within one year of entrance into school.

The Macomb County Health Department will provide free vision and hearing tests for children entering kindergarten in the 2012-2013 school year. Screenings are by appointment only. Please call 586-412-5945 for an appointment.

Elmwood's PTA

Our PTA has done an outstanding job this year. They have worked extremely hard to provide many functions and activities in support of our students. Thank you very much for supporting the PTA and all the activities throughout the school year.

The Elmwood staff was treated to lots of goodies from the PTA during Staff Appreciation week. **Thank you all** for showing your support and appreciation during the week of April 30 and throughout the entire school year!

Immunization Update for 5th Grade Students

Michigan law requires that all students be immunized against vaccine preventable diseases to attend school. **All current 5th grade students** will be subject to immunization reporting and updating of immunizations to meet current requirements, regardless of when the student entered the district. TD, polio, MMR, hepatitis B, chicken pox vaccine and meningococcal conjugate vaccines will be required.

Your child will not be able to attend school in the fall, even on the first day, if their shot record is not up-to-date.

If you receive a letter from the Middle School office, please bring in a current shot record as soon as possible. Thank you!

Nautical Coast Clean-up

Volunteer for the 17th Annual Clean-up of Lake St. Clair – Sunday, May 20, 2012

8:00am – 2:00pm
Check-In @ Jefferson Yacht Club
24504 Jefferson
Come Rain or Shine
(Only thunderstorm will postpone event.)
Bring Rakes, Gloves, Boots and Waders
Great Fun for the Whole Family

For More Info: 586-774-4750
Email: scswateradvisory@lycos.com

Lost & Found

Has your child lost a hat, glove, or other piece of clothing? Please check the Lost and Found table outside the office. All items will be donated at the end of the year.

Field Day Fun

Mrs. Conlan and Mr. Rinehart, our South Lake Elementary PE teachers, are restructuring Field Day for Grades 4-5 this year to allow students to participate in multiple events.

Grade 4 Field Day will be on Monday, 6/4/12.
Grade 5 Field Day will be on Tuesday, 6/5/12.

Weather dates, in the event a date has to be cancelled due to heat or rain, will be on 6/6/12 and 6/7/12.

Grades K-3 will participate in Field Day experiences at Elmwood (dates to be announced). Please watch your children's backpacks for further information.

Free Preschool (For Those Who Qualify)

The Michigan School Readiness Preschool Registration Fair will be held at:
Rodgers School, 21601 L'Anse
(East of Harper, 3 blocks south of 12 Mile Rd)
Thursday, May 17, 2012
4-6 pm in the Small Gym

"School Readiness Preschool" – children must turn four on or before December 1 and reside in St. Clair Shores. Call 586-285-8619 for more information.

"Macomb County Head Start" – children must turn three or four on or before December 1. Call 586-469-5215 for more information.

What to Bring:

Child's Birth Certificate
Child's Immunization Record
2011 Federal Income Tax Return
Proof of Residency is Required
Year to date Proof of Income

Thank You!

THANK YOU to our wonderful volunteers! We couldn't do all we do for our wonderful Elmwood students without you! In particular, we would like to thank:

*Our terrific PTA Officers, including Mrs. Cindy LePage, President, Mrs. Beth Knoll, Vice President, Mrs. Debbie Manjo, Secretary, and Mrs. Gina Korzeniewski, Treasurer!

*Mrs. Backos and Mrs. Green for Box Tops fundraising! (We are ordering new signs to teach students positive behavior expectations in the hallways, cafeteria, and bathrooms, purchasing a book for each classroom to use at the beginning of the school year to help students learn "The Elmwood Way," and each grade level will have \$200 to purchase materials to support Reading Intervention Groups for students at all levels!!!)

*Mrs. Yonkers for her work this year to submit Campbell's Soup Labels and orders. We ordered classroom DVDs, playground equipment, and games!

*Mrs. Dupuis for all she has done to coordinate Market Day for Elmwood!

*Classroom volunteers and field trip chaperones!

Purchases Help Elmwood

Thank you for selecting Elmwood when you shop at Target, Office Depot and Meijer. Your contributions help purchase materials and special projects for our school. Also, the Campbell's soup labels and Boxtops for Education are redeemed for teaching supplies and materials.

Warm Weather Information

With warmer weather, some students enjoy riding bikes to and from school. For your child's safety, please remind him/her to wear a helmet at all times and to stay out of the parking lot and circle drive. With car traffic, it is not safe for them to ride or walk their bikes in these areas.

In addition, please talk with your students about appropriate dress for the warmer weather, per the **Elementary Handbook** (which varies slightly from middle/high school rules):

- **Students MAY wear** skirts/dresses/shorts which are no shorter than your fingertips with your arms at your sides.
- **Students may NOT wear distracting clothing:**
 - Outlandish costumes that display blood and gore
 - Bare midriff, halter tops, tank tops or muscle shirts (or see-through clothing)
 - NO flip-flops (safety issue)
 - Clothing with inappropriate language, pictures, or advertising
 - Hats or sunglasses may not be worn to classes
- **Please note: the office may contact parents of students who are not appropriately dressed to bring a change of clothing.**

Safety

Thank you for following the parking and traffic signs around the school. The safety of our children is important.

Reinforce Your Child's Grade Level Skills Over the Summer!

The GRASP program (Grand Rapids Academic Summer Program) is a 9 week correspondence summer program in math and reading for students in K-8th grades. It is a great way for students to maintain their skills over the summer. Please see the office or go to www.grpublicschools.org/grasp for more information.

Please make sure your children continue to read and practice math skills over the summer to prevent "summer learning loss." For great websites with online activities to help your children learn; please go to our school webpage at <http://solake.org/Elmwood/index.cfm>, under the "For Parents" tab at the left side of the page, click on "Summer Learning." There are many reading and math activities - please dive in with your children!

Books! Books! Books!

It's that time of year where we need to find a good book to read this summer. Please be sure to check out the summer reading programs available at your local public library. For a sneak peek into what they are planning, please visit their website at: www.libcoop.net/stclairshores.

Also, if you could help out your school library by returning your books on time the last few weeks of check out, it would be greatly appreciated.

Visit: <http://www.scslibrary.org/src.html>

The summer reading program begins on June 5, 2012 at the St. Clair Shores Public Library.

Visit: <http://www.cityofeastpointe.net/programsjune10.pdf>

The summer reading program will begin at the Eastpointe Memorial Library on June 7, 2012.

