EISENHOWER'S EMPHASIS ON READING

Building excitement and enthusiasm, always telling them about a new book that she just read or an author she enjoys. Fourth grade students are working on sharing with younger students through 'Book Talks' and 'Picture Book Reviews'. Younger students are being provided with multisensory read aloud experiences; bringing stories to life and building connections to the words in a book. Every aspect of the library and the lessons are designed to foster a love of books and reading.

Reading Aloud
Reading a book out loud to students or your child is creating a reading experience that is exciting and dynamic. While doing this at Eisenhower, children are working on active listening skills and sparking conversations about the books that are being read. They are able to make connections to the words in a book, using their life experiences and conversing about other similar stories they have heard. Engaging in these book discussions increases their comprehension and builds vocabulary. Connecting to illustrations and generating writing regarding the illustrations allows the students to use their imagination and be creative. They have the opportunity to build an understanding of why reading is an important piece of learning and how the connections between books and a reader is essential.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Under the leadership of 2nd grade teacher, Nicole Lesovitch, and Outreach Chairperson, April Walker, Eisenhower students and families had the opportunity to participate in Operation: Military Kids (OMK). OMK, a partnership between the U.S. Army and 4-H, is centered around children and youth whose parents are deployed.

One of OMK's signature programs is the Hero Pack program. These are backpacks filled with gifts and supplies relevant to children who are missing their deployed parent[s]. All Hero Packs contain fun and educational items to help kids stay connected with their deployed parent[s] and help take their mind off the deployment. This program recognizes that the children of our military are also making a sacrifice for our country when their parents are deployed. Eisenhower families, students and teachers collected many items for the Hero Packs. Students sorted the items and stuffed the hero packs full of items to support the children in keeping in touch with their parents while they are deployed.

On Veterans Day, the students and staff presented the US Army Reserves School Specialists with the stuffed Hero Packs, as a culmination of our partnership with the Operation Military Kids. In addition, to tie into this Veterans’ Day program, an Army Veteran spoke about his experience in the military and how his deployment impacted his children. Students also wrote letters of appreciation and thanks to veterans for their service and sacrifice.

There is no doubt that Eisenhower students, families, and staff honored our military service people on this important day!
Research has shown that a necessary piece to internalizing a reading lifestyle is motivation and freedom of reading choice. Permitting students to explore and express their reading interests increases their chance of reading the book they checkout of the library. An avid reader is always looking for their next book to read and this can generate excitement for other book choices. As Neil Gaiman states in his article "Why our future depends on libraries, reading, and daydreaming", theGuardian.com, (2013), "If we read for pleasure, if others see us reading, then we learn, we exercise our imaginations. We show others that reading is a good thing." This is the message we want to send to our students. If you can reinforce this at home as well, children will see, hear, and live the message both at home and at school, giving all of us the best possible chance at helping them grow into avid readers.

In the same article Gaiman went on to point out, "Literacy is more important than it ever was, in this world of text and email, a world of written information. We need to read and write, we need global citizens who can read comfortably, comprehend what they are reading, understand nuance, and make themselves understood."

Albert Einstein once said, "If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales."

This school year the PTA has gotten off to a wonderful start. I have been overwhelmed by all our wonderful PTA volunteers. In addition, the family turnout for PTA sponsored events has been at an all time high! Our membership campaign was very successful, indicative of the wonderful support of the parents and teachers at Eisenhower. Thank You!

We have just completed our biggest annual fundraiser, The Eisenhower! Each one gets better and better, with something different added each year. Our committees, led by Amy Garces and Kiri Rising, put a lot of time, effort and energy to make the night a huge success. We hope everyone had a great time. A special thank you to the many volunteers who helped throughout the evening. Our children really benefit from this, using the money raised to support our exciting PTA activities.

Students and families enjoyed many PTA programs and events already this year. Here is some of the excitement that has been going on!

★ The year began with a "Welcome Back Lunch" for teachers and a Welcome Breakfast for kindergartners and new students and their families.
★ Our Book Fair kicked-off the school year and was enjoyed by the kids.
★ First, third, and fourth grade students, and their parents socialized at our annual grade level breakfasts.
★ Kids enjoyed the Halloween Parade and Classroom Parties.
★ The new online directory has been completed. I hope everyone is finding success in learning the system!
★ 3rd and 4th grade students and teachers went on a field trip to The Education Partnership to help assemble School Supply Kits. The kids worked hard and assembled over 300 kits for children in need!
★ Operation Military Kids - students presented 50 Hero Packs that will be distributed to children of military parents and gave thanks to our military personnel on Veterans Day.
★ The Hat and Mitten Collection for the Kelly School has begun. Check out the collection on the Hat and Mitten tree!
★ Students enjoyed some fun after school programs at Eisenhower Extras.
★ The kids attended a PTA sponsored program on Bullying. On December 18th they will learn about Terrariums!
★ Reflections and Odyssey of the Mind have begun. Good luck to everyone!
★ The 4th grade Spelling Bee will be held on January 29th, at 3:30-5:30, in the Eisenhower Library.
★ The Kids are busy at work on the Eisenhower Newspaper.
★ The Online Spirit Wear sale has just concluded for the fall.
★ Annual Eisenhower Cup: Family Bowling Get-Together starts with Kindergarten on Saturday, December 7th. Who will win the trophy this year?

Again, Thanks for your participation in these programs. I look forward to the rest of the year.

A GREAT BIG THANKS

A special thanks goes out to the many volunteers who have helped with the recent PTA functions. Thank you to the chairs and the many volunteers that have made the following activities a success:

WELCOME COMMITTEE: Jennifer Pesci and Chrissy Sileo
BOOK FAIR: Chrissy Sileo, Kristin Bounomo
BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB: Shelby Wherry
BOX TOPS: Heather Jamison, Tara Eagle
EISENHOWER EXTRAS: Maura Callahan
OUTREACH: April Walker and Chrissy Sileo
PROGRAMS: Chrissy Sileo
WEB SITE: Susan Speer
STUDENT MEDIA: Carole King
EISENHOWER: Amy Garces, Kiri Rising & the ENTIRE Eisenhower Work Force :
Silent Auction: Gail Groninger; Laura Murtough, Diane Stief; Baskets: Debra Mahon, Kristina Gzikowski; Games: Maria Tripodes, Maura Callahan; Tickets: Mandi Casey, Tracey Kovell; Cake Walk: Tara Eagle; Decorations: Renee Vasiiko; Dinner: Kara Heinrich, Linda Duff; Volunteer Coordinators: Diane Stief, Stacey Cobb; Guessing Jars: Kamryn York
WELCOME BACK TEACHERS LUNCHEON: Michele Krawczyk, Holly Spina
1ST LEVEL BREAKFAST: April Walker, Stacey Seewald, Kristin Buonomo
THIRD GRADE BREAKFAST: Mandy DiPasquale, Ginger Schwartz
HOMEROOM PARENT COORDINATOR: Kristina Gzikowski

SPELLING BEE: Melanie Shanholzer
3RD LEVEL BREAKFAST: Kamryn York
4TH LEVEL BREAKFAST: Chrissy Sileo
SCHOOL CLOTHING SALE: Heather Jamison
ARTS IN EDUCATION: Dana Gnud/Debra Mahon
MARKET DAY: Stacey Cobb
PTA MEMBERSHIP: Gail Groninger
HOSPITALITY: Dana Gnud, Chrissy Sileo, Tracy Wagner

DATE TO REMEMBER
★ 12/3 & 4 Holiday Mart
★ 12/7 Kindergarten Bowling (12:45 AMF)
★ 12/20 Winter Parties
★ 1/10 PTA Meeting (9:00 AM Cafe Ike)
★ 1/10 Family Bingo Night @ H.S. (6 PM)
★ 1/16 3rd Grade Social (6:30-7:45 PM)
★ 1/18 1st Grade Bowling (12:45 AMF)