

Edison

A 21st Century Neighborhood School



December 2016

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Joan Wieser, Principal Resident

A Message from the Principal...

Have you heard teachers at Edison talking about **college and career readiness**? At Edison, our goal is to prepare students for being college and career ready, even in kindergarten and ECE. So, what does college and career ready mean in elementary school? In elementary school, college and career readiness means that we are ensuring that all students leave Edison with the competencies, habits and skills necessary for college or careers by the time they graduate from high school. A 'college ready' student is a student who is academically prepared for middle school (and later high school and college) without remedial coursework. A 'career ready' student is a student who possesses the knowledge and technical skills needed for employment in their desired field as they graduate from high school. At Edison, teachers begin to prepare students by:

- Planning rigorous academic units, lessons and tasks that challenge students to think critically and take academic risks;
- Encouraging students to take ownership in their learning and set personal academic goals;
- Nurturing confidence in students to aspire to college through high expectations;
- Providing students with opportunities for leadership and collaboration with peers in relation to their learning;
- Supporting students in developing strong work habits and organizational skills;
- Helping students become self-aware of their achievement and set goals with a growth mindset;
- Providing students with opportunities to apply their learning to real life situations; for example: word problems and instructional tasks in math, dissecting a pig heart in science, creating a power point and presenting it to the class, science fair, etc;

We are most successful, however, when teachers and parents act as partners in preparing students for the future. Parents can support their children in becoming college and career ready by:

- Limiting TV and screen time;
- Helping your children identify their personal interests;
- Being careful not to assign chores or provide extracurricular activities based on gender stereotypes;
- Encourage your children to think about their future and asking them 'What do you want to be when you grow up?'
- Tour a college or university.

Our children that sit in our classrooms today are the future leaders of our world. We are doing everything we can to prepare them for this!

Your feedback and suggestions is always important to us. Please feel free to complete the following google survey with suggestions and feedback: <https://goo.gl/forms/K95Z4fD32tMyAmEK2>

Sincerely,
Sally Whitelock, Principal

Upcoming Events

December 1	CSC meeting at 4:30 in the conference room downstairs
December 1	PTA meeting at 6:00 PM in the auditorium
December 2	School Tour at 9:30 AM
December 9	Kindergarten Performance “Winter Traditions” at 2:05 in the auditorium
December 10	Second Star to the Right Edison Day 10am-2pm, % back on purchases, free gift wrapping
December 15	Literacy Night and Book Fair at 5:00 PM
December 15	ELA PAC meeting at 5:00 in the cafeteria
December 15	Read-A-Thon Reading Log sent home
December 16	School Tour at 9:30
December 21	Read-A-Thon kick off – students dress as their favorite book character & bring their favorite book to read!
December 22- January 6	Winter Break – Happy Holidays!
December 22-January 8	Read-A-Thon!
January 9-13	Reading Log due back
January 12	PTA meeting at 3:45 in the auditorium
January 12	CSC meeting at 5:00 in the conference room
January 13	School Tour at 9:30
January 16	No School
January 27	School Tour at 9:30
February 3	No School

Kindergarten Performance “Winter Traditions”

Please join us for our annual kindergarten performance “Winter Traditions” on December 9 at 2:05 PM in Edison’s auditorium. Kindergarteners will share their learnings about different winter traditions around the world and celebrate this learning through songs and dance in their annual performance.

Literacy Night and Book Fair

The entire Edison community is invited to our annual **Literacy Night on December 15 at 5:30 PM** for an evening filled with literacy and fun! Wear your PJs, bring a blanket and snuggle up for a reading of The Polar Express and a sing-along in the gym. Enjoy fun classroom activities and delicious cookies. Also, please plan to shop at the Scholastic Book Fair which opens on December 13 and will be available through December 15.

Scholastic Book Fair hours in Edison’s auditorium:

December 13 and 14 – 8:00-9:00 AM, 11:30-1:00, 3:30-5:00 PM

December 15 – 5:00-7:00 PM (during Literacy Night)

Literacy Night Schedule

5:30-6:00	ECE-2nd Gym: Polar Express and Sing Along
5:30-6:00	3rd—5th Classroom activities
6:00-6:15	Passing time, Cookies in Cafeteria
6:15-6:45	ECE-2nd Classroom activities
6:15-6:45	3rd—5th Gym: Polar Express and Sing Along

Eagle Read-a-thon

Eagle readers read over 65,000 minutes during last year's winter break! We're hoping to break that record this year in our 2nd annual Eagle Read-a-thon! Using the same team names as the Eagle Run, classes will challenge themselves to reach a class goal, and the classes with the highest participation will receive a class party. Plus, the reader who reads the most minutes per grade will receive a prize! All Eagle readers who read at least the minimum amount suggested per grade will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win more fantastic prizes! Another huge success last year was that our read-a-thon raised over \$12,000 for literacy supplies thanks to our generous donors. This year, our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 for more books for our library, book room, and classroom libraries which constantly need to be refreshed.

Sponsor request forms went home before Thanksgiving break to be returned the last week of November/first week of December. Students are encouraged to set a personal reading goal, regardless of if they are getting sponsors or not. Next, read-a-thon committee members will reach out to sponsors by mail or email and share information about the read-a-thon. **On December 21, Edison will kick-off the Eagle Read-a-thon with a day of celebrating reading – students should dress as their favorite book character and bring their favorite book to read!** Eagle readers will read over the 18 days of Winter Break and return reading logs when we come back to school in January. Prize winners will be announced at the Family Dance in February.

Reading is a reward unto itself, and we hope every student chooses to read over Winter Break. We also hope that you join them, either by reading to your children, having them read to you, or reading quietly together. You'll benefit too!

- Reading builds vocabulary.
- Reading increases focus and concentration.
- Readers appreciate the arts more, and are more likely to be engaged in changing the world around them.
- Reading improves your imagination.
- Reading reduces stress.
- Reading improves your memory. Reading is inexpensive entertainment.

For questions, prize donations, or to assist, please email Anne and Margaret at edisonreadathon@gmail.com

Eagle Run Fundraising Benefits Edison Students

Did you know that the Eagle Run raised over \$33,000 for Edison students? Thank you to everyone who sponsored our students and celebrated healthy living and team building with us. The Edison community is

simply amazing! Edison's teachers voted and the PTA gave approval for us to spend the Eagle Run fundraising money on:

- Chromebooks for 2nd grade and 4th grade classrooms
- Discovery Education Streaming Plus subscription
- New laptops for teachers
- Money for teacher's accounts to spend on classroom supplies, parties, etc.

State of the School Address Follow up

Thank you to everyone who attended the State of the School Address on November 10. For those who were unable to attend, the power point has been posted at Edison's website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/SPF-2015-16-data-presentation-Oct-2016.pdf>

During the State of the School Address meeting, parents provided the school with a lot of wonderful feedback. The community shared the following:

Edison's Strengths: Edison's values, growth mindset and 'yet' language, large numbers of students scoring at grade level according to STAR and DRA testing data, strong achievement with GT students, monster math, strong achievement in math compared to similar schools, teaching staff, engaged teachers.

Edison's Opportunities for Growth: Continue to work on decreasing the gap for students who receive free/reduced lunch and students of color, focus on 5th grade growth, close the gap between GT and non-GT students, increase the number of students meeting expectations on PARCC, engage in a two-way conversation with parents, support parents of color in attending meetings

Suggestions: Apply oral/written critique of practice in reading classes, focus on improving reading achievement in 5th grade, continue PTA funded after-school tutoring, partner with similar schools to learn what they are doing, get students into the community for walking field trips, encourage teachers to poll parents regarding type of contact parents prefer, increased communication, schedule teacher office hours, incorporate feedback, explanation of college preparedness, reduce the number of fundraisers, especially ones with toys, do a cultural celebration day.

We would like to encourage any parents that continue to have questions about the school data to call or email Sally Whitelock at 720-424-7780 or sally_whitelock@dpsk12.org or to attend a CSC meeting.

We also would like any additional feedback to be shared with us! Please feel free to complete the following google survey with suggestions and feedback: <https://goo.gl/forms/K95Z4fD32tMyAmEK2>

Due to time limitations, some questions were unable to be answered at the State of the School Address meeting. **Below are the answers to your questions:**

Q - Given CMAS/PARCC has limited value, especially for lower grade levels, can we ask DPS to start measuring/scoring STAR data? Is STAR high stakes?

A – DPS already uses the CMAS/PARCC and STAR reading data as data points on the SPF. STAR Early Literacy and STAR reading are 'Early Literacy' measures on the SPF. At this time, PARCC 'counts' for many more points than STAR does. DPS has responded to concerns raised by school leaders and is evaluating the SPF and

working to improve it. STAR is not a high stakes test in that it is not used to assess schools at a state level or teachers on their evaluations. STAR is somewhat high stakes in that it is used by DPS as a measure on the SPF.

Q - How do we compare our PARCC scores to national numbers? Can you explain the benchmark, how is 50% of students scoring in the Meets Expectations category good enough?

A – According to PARCC, the “Meets Expectations” category is the 68th percentile or higher, therefore, most students across the country would be scoring in the Approaching or Above categories. Since Edison had 53% of students in the Meeting or Exceeding categories for English Language Arts and 49.4% of students in the Meeting or Exceeding categories for mathematics, our students are performing well compared to students across the country. Based on PARCC performance across DPS, DPS set a benchmark of 40% of students Meeting/Exceeding expectations as the goal to have a school ‘meet expectations’ on the SPF.

Q – Why does English Language Arts Median Growth Percentile paint a different picture than other representations of PARCC data?

A – The short answer is that there are two different measurements or statistical analysis’. The Student Growth Percentile describes a student’s growth by examining their current achievement on PARCC relative to their academic peers of students scoring similar to them the previous year. Median Growth Percentile is a single number which best describes where the middle of the distribution of all of the student growth percentiles lies at the school. Typically, for SGP or MGP, low growth is below 40, moderate Growth is 40-60, and high growth is 60 or higher. Edison’s scores are in the moderate range, however, DPS set a goal of MGP 50 for schools to ‘meet expectations’ on PARCC growth in order to increase achievement over time. Since we have high numbers of students Meeting/Exceeding expectations on PARCC (status) we meet expectations on the SPF in status but since our MGP is below 50, we are approaching on the SPF for PARCC growth. MGP is measuring growth on PARCC compared to peers who scored like them while percent at grade level is measuring the number of students who are meeting expectations or above on PARCC.

PTA Tutoring

Did you know that our wonderful PTA funds after school reading tutoring at Edison for 4-6 students each semester in grades K-5? Some of Edison PTA’s fundraising efforts pay to provide after school tutoring to our most at-risk readers at Edison. Classroom teachers and intervention teachers look at student reading data at the beginning of each semester and invite only students who qualify to participate. Parents will receive information if their child qualifies for this opportunity.

Partnering with Parents

Parents have communicated with the staff at Edison that they would appreciate more two-way communication, that they want to be more connected with teachers, and that they want more opportunities for feedback. In response to this feedback we have implemented a few new communication processes this year, to include:

- Home Visit Program: All teachers at Edison have been trained in the Home Visit Program. Teachers are reaching out to families and conducting home visits to build relationships with parents and students and develop partnerships with parents.

- Personal contacts: In September and January/February, all teachers have committed to communicate with a parent/guardian of each of their students. This may be an email, a phone call, a one-on-one conversation, a home visit, or a letter/survey. The goal is to ensure open lines of communication, share hopes and dreams, build relationships and ensure that we are working as a team to educate our children.
- DoJo's: Many classrooms at Edison use DoJo's. This is a technology based positive reward system in which students and/or the class earn points for hard work and positive behavior. Teachers can share how students are doing and what they are learning through technology with parents.
- Classroom and School newsletters: The school sends out a monthly newsletter in an attempt to communicate with all families and support parent involvement. Teachers also send home classroom/grade level newsletters to support communication and parent engagement.

Please let us know if you appreciate this communication. Please share additional ideas you have.

Weather Delays and Closures

Winter has finally arrived! We want to make sure that parents understand the DPS/Edison Weather Delay and Closure policies.

Weather Delay Schedule for Identified Schools: In the event of adverse weather conditions that would impede the Transportation Department's ability to safely access students, a ***"Weather Delay Schedule for Identified Schools"*** will be implemented. The goal for this delay schedule is to provide buses/students an additional 60 minutes to access schools that start at 8:30 a.m. or later. If DPS has a **Weather Delay, school will begin at Edison for ALL students at 9:40 AM.** Morning buses will begin pickups at bus stops 1 hour later than the normal pick up time. Discovery Link will provide day care for Discovery Link students from 6:30 AM until 9:40 AM when school starts. Breakfast will still be available to students as they arrive to school.

School Closing: If schools are to be closed due to weather conditions, the district is committed to making a decision as early as possible. The decision to close is made by the Superintendent based on information provided by representatives from transportation agencies, the weather bureau, city and county law enforcement and DPS Transportation. If school is cancelled, this information will be communicated in the following ways: local television and radio stations, dpsk12.org, and the district's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Severe Weather During School Day: DPS will closely monitor severe weather conditions and forecasts throughout the day to ensure student safety. Should severe weather begin during the school day, bus routes will run in the same order as normally followed in the afternoon. Depending on conditions, arrival times at home may be delayed. You can reach the district transportation department at 720.423.4624 for your student's bus arrival time any time it's late. After-school activities (athletic events, enrichment programs, Kaleidoscope, etc.) may be modified or cancelled as a result of the weather conditions. Edison will send IC messages to communicate school closures during the school day.

PTA Corner

The big news with the Edison PTA is that at the last PTA meeting (Nov. 10), **we voted on how to spend the money our amazing students raised during the first-ever Eagle Run**. Based on recommendations that came directly from our teachers (and students), we voted to fund: Chromebooks for classrooms, a vital Discovery Education Streaming Plus subscription, laptops for teachers and money for teacher accounts that each classroom can spend as they see fit. The students had input in these decisions, and the idea was to get money back into classrooms as quickly as possible, so students and teachers could see the results of their efforts!

Also in November, Edison PTA purchased and distributed books to every student at Edison as part of the **Reading is Fundamental** initiative. Edison PTA believes that reading and having books at home is important for every child. Therefore, some of Edison PTA's fundraising money goes to purchasing books for students and providing students an opportunity to pick a book of their choice to take home with them. THANK YOU parent volunteers that supported this initiative!

The **Edison Eagle Read-a-thon** kicked off in November with an amazing, must watch video featuring Edison teachers -- <https://vimeo.com/190651729/418d0d366f> The Eagle Read-a-thon takes place during winter break (Dec. 22-Jan 8). Complete rules are listed on the Edison website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/read-a-thon/> The primary goal of our read-a-thon is to get all of our kids reading this winter. We also hope to raise money for books for Edison. Our fundraising goal is \$10,000 for books. If every student receives at least one \$20 pledge, we will meet that goal. It is important to note, however, that students do not need pledges to participate and win prizes, they just need to set a personal reading goal and read. Thank you Anne Spires-Delong for your leadership and coordination of our Eagle Read-a-thon!

Please join us at our next **PTA meeting on January 12 at 3:45** in Edison's auditorium to get involved, share feedback, and become actively engaged in what is going on at Edison.

PTA Leadership:

- President - Alex Cisney
- Secretary – Kristi Guinn
- VPs - Kurt Wolff & Brian Ripley
- Treasurer - Chris Campbell