

Eugene Brooks Intermediate School

September Newsletter

2018



The Principal's Corner- Mr. Lynch

We've had an exciting beginning to the 2018-2019 school year! Our EBIS newsletter was created this year to make things more streamlined for you as our school looks to increase dialogue and communication with families. Please expect to receive an EBIS newsletter on the last school day of each month. Inside each newsletter will be information from each grade level and department.



Thank you to all that attended our Ice Cream Social and Open House. I've appreciated all of the compliments, suggestions, and concerns that you've brought to my attention. Mental Health, Technology, and Literacy are three of the focal points in our district this year. As you'll read more about below, we have been working hard to make sure that each child in our school reaps the benefits from our new resources, programs, and technology. As we move into a world where ipads, virtual reality, and music labs become the norm, we are proud of the direction that our district is moving in to ensure that our students leave here college and/or career ready.



One of the focuses of our first day all school meeting was goal setting. I spoke about setting measurable goals, writing them down, posting them someplace that is visible, and then working hard to achieve them. As you all know, this is easier said than done! Your children will certainly need assistance with this. Below is a document taken from Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly

Effective People. Habit Number Two is "Begin With The End In Mind"

HABIT #2 – BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

Have a Plan

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference.

We all know how good it feels when we've done something well. As parents, we've seen that look in our child's eyes when they've done something that they are proud of – taking their first step, writing their name for the first time, or riding a bike.



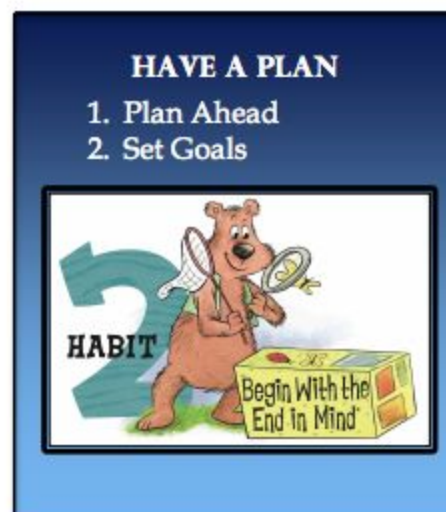
Habit 2 teaches that Beginning with the End in Mind, having a mental picture of achieving a goal, can lead to a better way of doing it. For example, imagine how difficult it would be to put together a 500 piece puzzle without a finished picture of it, cooking a new dish without a recipe, or driving to a new place without a map.

HELP YOUR CHILD BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

1. Have your child identify a goal that is meaningful to them.
2. Help your child visualize a picture in their mind achieving the goal; you could even have them draw a picture.
3. Help them break it down into manageable, specific steps – write them down.
4. Check their progress and offer support. Discuss the final results and celebrate their effort!

GOAL IDEAS

- Younger Children (5-8) – set small, easy goals; the intent is that they feel a sense of pride and independence. For example, making their own breakfast, trying a new craft, writing a little story, decorating a cake, or riding a bike.
- Older Children (9-12) – set more challenging goals, but with a high level of interest. The intent is to understand that a goal can take time and effort, but it feels great once they've accomplished it. For example, saving money toward a special item they want to purchase or improving a skill from one of their activities (i.e. dance, karate, music, etc.).
- When an older child comes to you with a problem, try asking them what their plan is to solve their problem. As the parent, you are now in the role of being a coach to help your child think through their plans to solve their own problems and to become more independent.



General Announcements

- EBIS Picture Day will now be Thursday, October 4th!
- New teacher webpages will be online by October 1
- EBIS Session 1 Club Letter went home on Tuesday September 25
- Please make sure to hand in your Emergency Contact forms and any other paperwork due to the school.

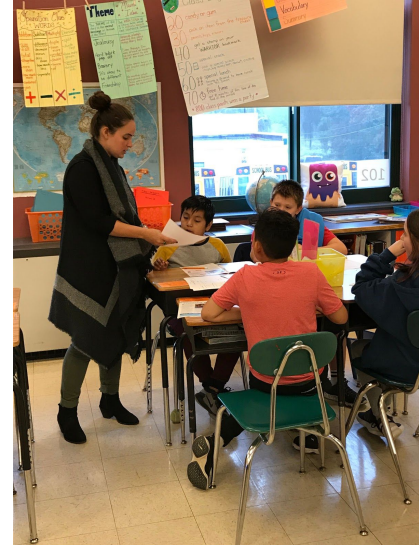
Grade Level Updates

4th Grade:

- We are off to a great start in the fourth grade! The students have adapted to their new environment at EBIS, and we have begun our Journeys, Go Math, and Science Fusion curriculums.
- I-Ready testing is underway, and we are collecting data on each student to individualize our Math and ELA instruction.
- Please remember to check the student planner daily, as we include homework and other important information here. Also remember to check the website often for district updates and future events, as well as teacher webpages.

5th Grade:

- Mr. Butland and Mr. Sullivan publicly welcome their new G5 team member, Ms. Simon, to EBIS!
- G5 Math students have nightly homework except on the day of a quiz or test. Mr. Sullivan's webpage has assignments posted. Also, the first task of each class is for students to write their homework assignment in their planner. We appreciate your support in encouraging your student to be responsible for keeping track of their own daily assignments.
- Homework assignments for Ms. Simon's classes will be posted through Class Dojo.



6th Grade:

Math/Science-Mrs. Brennie:

I'm very excited about our Math and Science Curriculum this year. Overall, 6th Grade curriculum is a big jump from 5th grade. We are considered "middle school" and the curriculum reflects that. Please be aware that the pace and content will be an adjustment for all. However, I will work very hard to break it down for all my students so they can better understand and master the material.

In Math, we will be working on The Number System, and have just finished Chapter 1 on Whole Numbers and Decimals. This chapter tends to be a difficult one because many students are not proficient in their multiplication facts, which makes division difficult. The only remedy here is for your child to spend time working on these facts to strengthen their fluency. This month we will go over fractions and rational numbers. Any support you can provide would be beneficial. Some examples include, measurement activities through cooking or construction. Discuss positive and negative numbers in terms of a debit versus credit.

Each chapter has a quiz attached to it. I allow quiz corrections, which will average the two grades together. I do not give out extra credit. Therefore, if a child takes advantage of the corrections and gets the help they need, that will improve their average more than extra credit would.

Please remember Math homework is assigned daily, and must be completed the next day or it's a zero. Math must have work attached to it, or no credit is given. All homework can be made up for half credit.

Extra help is during lunch or our Blend Period. During this time, I can pull small groups and work with them on their specific needs. However, if your child is struggling, please encourage them to ask for help, or send me a quick e-mail so I can address it in class the next day.

In Science, we are using a new textbook from Pearson. It's called Elevate Science and it's all online. Students will be getting a username and password, and will have access to their assignments and text from there. We have been discussing weather in the atmosphere, and will move on to rocks and minerals. I hope to do one lab per chapter, and either end each chapter with a brief quiz or test. Until all students have their iPads, they will only have access to the text in class as we read through it together. Overall, the content is difficult and will be a challenge to many. It's important for all students to do their best, and I will provide notes and handouts to break down what we are reading in class. I'm looking forward to having fun and doing some exciting labs this year!

ELA- Mrs.Conway

It is a very exciting school year with all of our new technology! Students will be able to access our Journeys Program for ELA via their iPads, once they receive them. Currently, students can access Journeys through the following link www.thinkcentral.com. Once on that site they can access Journeys 2017. There is a "Student e-book" which is exactly the same as the hard-cover book we use in school.

- In ELA, we will usually be covering a lesson per week. In each lesson we focus on 10 vocabulary words that are found in the main story or "anchor text". Students are asked to write the part of speech and the definition for each word. We review the vocabulary during the week, and I ask them to study for the test each Friday.

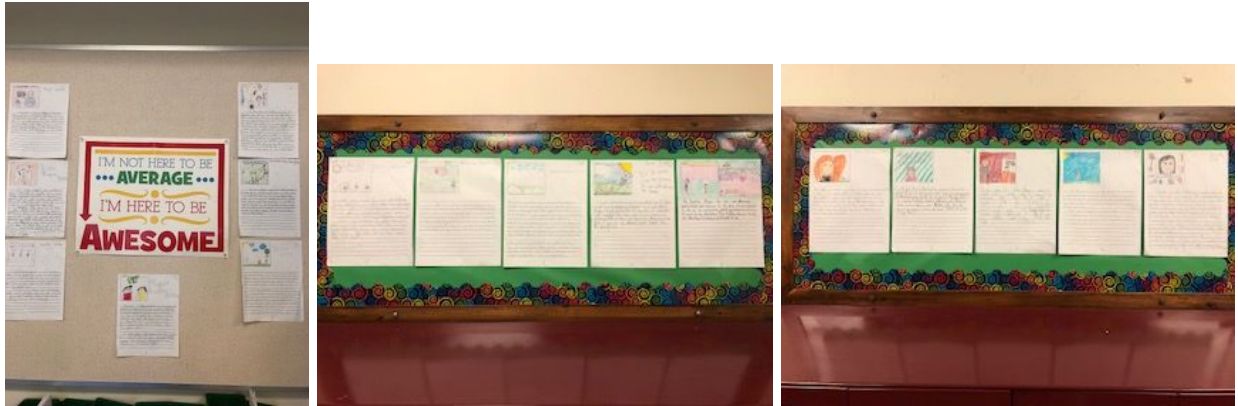
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- There is grammar work associated with each lesson as well. We review the directions for grammar work each day, and then students typically have grammar work (found in their Readers Notebooks) Tuesday through Thursday. Grammar work helps students to understand sentence structure and to become better writers.
 - Comprehension is something we work on every day. Students need to build a deeper understanding of the texts they read. We work on inferring, making connections about the text, and connecting the text to things they know. We read fictional as well as informational texts.
 - Writing work connected to the lessons is done every week. At the end of each unit (5 lessons), students will be asked to work on a five paragraph essay in a variety of genres (for example: narrative, argumentative, persuasive writing).

Social Studies- Mrs. Conway

In sixth grade we study the Eastern Hemisphere.

- The Neolithic Revolution
- River Valley Civilizations
- Classical Civilizations
- Comparative World Religions
- The Mediterranean World
- Interactions Across the Continent
- Grades are taken from both tests and projects throughout the year.

We work to build an understanding of how these ancient civilizations developed and what their contributions to the world were. There are many cross curricular connections made with what we are reading and learning about in ELA. Please ask your child what they are studying and learning about in Social Studies and in ELA.



7th Grade:

- Shelly from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies is planning on coming in to the science classrooms on 10/23 & 10/25 for a two part lesson/activity on Lyme Disease and the animals that spread the disease.
- We are planning a field trip to the Indian Mountain School Ropes Courses for October. Stay tuned for more information.
- The Grade 7 students have worked on map skills and have learned about the Age of Exploration in Social Studies.

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- In ELA, 7th graders are working on their skills in making inferences and using evidence while reading *A Long Walk to Water*. We chose words that proudly define ourselves and used these to set goals for the 2018-2019 school year.



8th Grade:

- Planning for the 8th Grade trip to Boston in May 2019 is underway. Be on the lookout for important information.

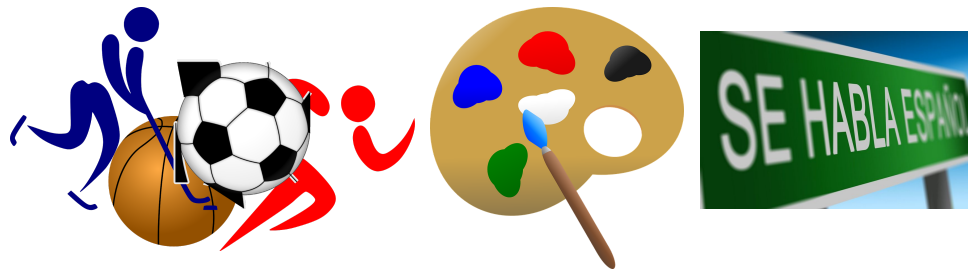
- Field trip to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum will be in October. Students will be able to compare this museum to the JFK Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.



- In Miss Garofalo's 8th grade ELA class, students should start reading their first "IR" (independent reading) book for this marking period. Please encourage nightly reading at home. Mrs. Nethercott and Miss G.'s classes are both reading

Inside Out and Back Again which is the first NYS Common Core Module.

- To keep up to date on assignments and lab due dates, Accelerated Biology students should sign up for Remind. The link for Remind can be found on Ms. Fridstrom's page on the district website where Remind messages are also posted.
- Math 7 and 8 have begun using our new *Ready* materials. Students are using workbooks to learn about positive and negative numbers in seventh grade and exponents in eighth grade. Each student in Math Blend has also been given a Prodigy account. Parent information on following your student's Prodigy progress will be forthcoming.



Specials:



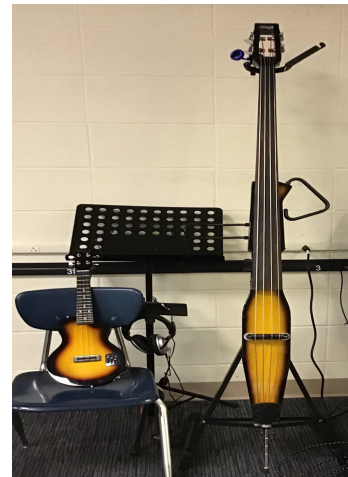
Need Wi-Fi?



Stop by the Library Media Center and borrow a Kajeet Hot Spot. Get the WiFi you need for free. Parental permission is required.

Music:

- The year is off to a great start! Our Music Lab is up and running! Thanks to everyone that stopped by during Curriculum Night to check it out. We are continually expanding as well, thanks to Mr. Wiener's fundraising projects on DonorsChoose. Check out "Big Dog, Little Dog", two of our newest classroom additions: Electric Ukulele and Electric Upright Bass.
- Elementary Band and Chorus have started! Both classes meet from 2:48-3:30; Band on ACE days and Chorus on BDF. As with other classes, parental permission is required for students to miss class on days when they are in school. For student safety, please contact the office if you know your child will be missing one of those classes.



Visual Arts:

We're off to a great start in the Art Room! Students are aware of the classroom expectations for Art Class. Students should come in with a sketch pad, an old composition book, or a spiral notebook. I like to see what students are working on outside of class. Our first project is a getting to know you "A personal Coat of Arms" or "All About Me" lesson. I'm looking forward to all the exciting things we will be doing in the Art Room this year!

Mental Health:

Tips for a Healthy School Year

1. Establish routines- Before School/Homework/Bedtime
2. Be involved- Attend school events/ Sign up for a conference in November/ Join the PTA
3. Communicate- Contact your child's teacher with concerns, questions or when you would like some feedback. The new school phone number is 373-4100. Leave a voicemail for the teacher.
4. Set limits- for cell phone use/technology/video games..electronics of any sort.
5. Ask your child open ended questions about school- Best part of the day, who they sat with for lunch, what they did in music class.... Engage them in conversation. Keep communicating with your child.

Athletics:

Fall season athletics are in full swing. We started off the season with an all fall athlete motivational assembly directed by ISI Elite Training founder Adam Rice. By hosting this assembly the Athletic Department encouraged positivity and enthusiasm among the students. They were able to see just how easy it is to come together and not be the challenging person, but the person who engages others to come together and learn how to take control of their own situations.



Please visit the Athletic page for game schedules on the athletic calendar.

Blended Learning/Technology:

It is an exciting time here at Webutuck because we are close to getting the iPads in the hands of the students.

Students in grades 6-12 should



have provided their families with information about the 1:1 initiative and turned in a device contract. The students have mostly completed their five mini lessons about iPad care and responsibility. If you have any questions about the 1:1 iPad Initiative, please visit the Technology Department Page on the Webutuck Website for links to all the information.

5th Grade
Technology is getting the lay of the land while Mr. Corbett leads students in the creation of Tie Dye Towers. Safety and fun are our top priorities!

