

The Raider Times

Emmons School District 33



Volume 1, Number 10

January 9, 2009

Emmons is students, staff, parents, and community working together to prepare our students for a successful future through excellent experiences and growth opportunities.

Emmons Teachers Earn Trustmark Grants... Congratulations to Mrs. Hartl and Mrs. Pisani, who became the third and fourth Emmons teachers to receive Impact Educator Grants through Trustmark Insurance Company of Lake Forest. Mrs. Ryan's and Mrs. Wu's grants were announced last month. Mrs. Hartl and Mrs. Pisani will each receive 6 Garmin GPS60 handheld units. These devices will help our students learn how to use field guides and topographic maps to help them become familiar with the natural history of northern Illinois. Portions of the lessons with these units will take place in parks and other natural settings that will encourage students "eco cache" natural features and "geo cache" deliberately hidden objects. The lessons learned with the GPS units will also have benefit of teaching students about hiking, camping, and the appreciation for a variety of outdoor activity that they can continue for a lifetime. We are extremely grateful to Trustmark Insurance Company for the \$3000 they have committed to Emmons School so far during the current school year.

Weather Expert Visits Emmons... Mr. Eric Priest, a professor in the Earth Science Department at the College of Lake County, will visit Emmons next Friday, January 16th, to meet with our middle school students. Mr. Priest has always been fascinated with weather and, at the age of 13, decided that he wanted to pursue a career in meteorology. After high school, he attended Penn State University and received a B.S. in meteorology. Upon graduation, he was commissioned an officer in the Air Force. After fulfilling his commitment to the military, he joined the United Airlines aviation meteorology department. For twenty years, he forecasted a variety of weather for airports across the globe. In 2007, he joined the Earth Science Department at the College of Lake County. Since then, he has taught Earth Science as well as a brand new course in introductory meteorology at CLC. As a professor of meteorology, his main goal is to help students become better consumers of the weather information that bombards them daily. We are very excited to have Mr. Priest join us!

Holiday Events Rescheduled... The classroom holiday parties planned for the afternoon of December 19th will be rescheduled for the morning of Friday, January 16th, from 9:00-10:00am.

Individual teachers will contact their room parent volunteers with details. From 10:15-11:15am, our annual Staff vs. 8th Grade Boys basketball will take place in the Tabar Gymnasium. Student dismissal on January 16th is at 11:30am.

Open Gym Helps Charity... Heifer International is a world-wide, non-profit organization that helps hungry families break the cycle of poverty and into self reliance by providing livestock and/or crops to them. Here's how it works: if a cow is donated to a family, not only can it provide milk, cheese, and butter to the family, but it can be sold to others in the community. This helps the family feed themselves and allows them to earn a living as well. Emmons Kids' Coalition will support this worthwhile effort through an Open Gym activity for all students in grades 3-5 today after school. Donation for this event is \$5.00 per student, and snacks will be available at an additional cost. Students need prior written parental permission to participate. Parents are asked to pick up their students promptly at 5:00pm on Friday. Thank you for your support.

Parent Volunteers Needed for Lunch Activity... Emmons teachers and administration have been working creatively all year to find time to meet for professional conversation that would not require loss of instructional time, the need for substitutes, or incur additional costs through stipends. We have scheduled a series of professional conversations for student lunch periods on Wednesday, January 14th. To accommodate the freeing up of teacher responsibilities that day, all middle school students will eat lunch together, as will students in grades K-2 and students in grades 3-5. We could use some assistance on the 14th between 10:45am-1:15pm to help us serve lunch and supervise student recess and the lunchroom. If you are available for any portion of our lunch block on the 14th and would like to volunteer, please contact Carla Pratt at (847) 395-1105 x210 to sign up. Thank you for your assistance.

Long Weekend Just Ahead!... Parents are reminded that students have a half-day of school on Friday, January 16th. Dismissal will be at 11:30am and no lunches will be served that day. Emmons teachers and staff will participate in a variety of professional development activities in the afternoon. There is no school the following Monday, January 19th, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Girls' Basketball Rosters... The following students will represent the Emmons community as members of our 2009 girls' basketball teams: **8th Grade** Katie Denny, Libby Gelande, Shannon Rieke, Ryley Horner, Meranda Masse, Autumn Pfingsten **7th Grade** Lindsey Horn, Rebecca Tompkins, Liz Zagorski, Amanda Bell, Paige Gallimore, Alyssa Dragin, Sage Keyes, Alex Fracek, Natalie Karpiel, Madeline Johnson, Kristen Kelly, Kaylee Karpiel, Jessica Stonis **6th Grade** Jaelyn Ukleja, Hannah Haley, Kristin Chivers, Rachel Lockfeer, Marina Palmieri, Shannon Zogran and Carly McCameron.

Emergency Closing Information...In the unlikely event that weather conditions would necessitate the closing of school, parents and students can check if school is open or not in the following ways: first, you can visit our website, www.emmons-school.com, where a message about a school closing will be posted on the front page of the site. Secondly, we will send out a broadcast message to all families at the home phone number we have on file as soon as Dr. Machak has made the determination to close school. We will post our closing on the Emergency Closing Center web site (www.emmergencyclosingcenter.com). Parents can register free of charge at this website to receive e-mail notification any time Emmons School has a weather-related closing. Finally, school closings will be announced on the WKRS radio (1220 AM) station as well as Chicago television stations.

Emmons “Officially” Welcomes Mrs. Brnot...Dr. Vandrush is excited to welcome Mrs. Karen Brnot on board as our newest para-professional. Mrs. Brnot, who has subbed at Emmons in a variety of capacities, has taken the position vacated by Mr. Nathan Pratt in December. Mr. Pratt, who was married over Winter Break, has now started his student teaching in Cicero, IL. Mrs. Brnot will work primarily with our first grade students in Mrs. Mazzola’s class.

Camp Henry Horner...Parents may not be aware that the High Sierra Adventure Center at Camp Henry Horner in Ingleside is a great place for a family camp out, hike, or birthday party. A variety of packages are available. Anyone interested in taking advantage of the beautiful facilities at Camp Henry Horner can contact Angelica Schab at (847) 740-5010 for more information.

Ceres Food Service Survey...Ceres Foodservice, our lunch provider, is requesting Emmons parent and student feedback. You will find two lunch-related surveys on the front page of our website (www.emmons-school.com). Each survey takes approximately five minutes to complete. Dr. Machak, Dr. Vandrush, and several student members of our Principal’s Cabinet will meet with Ceres representatives on Wednesday, January 21st, to discuss the survey results. Thanks for your participation – your opinion is important to us!

Spirit Assembly...Parents are invited to join us in the gym at 2:40pm next Thursday, January 15th, for our January Spirit Day assembly, presented this month by 6th grade. Be sure to wear your Emmons Red and White next Thursday!

College Planning Seminar...Warren-Newport Library is sponsoring a free program called *Don’t Pay the College Sticker Price!* next Monday, January 12th, at 7:00pm in the Warren-Newport Public Library, 224 N. O’Plaine Road in Gurnee. College planning expert Joe Orsolini will teach families and students how to reduce the exorbitant costs of college. The presentation will focus on strategies to help students maximize needs-based financial aid eligibility, targeting

the right colleges for merit-based financial aid, and learning about tax-savings opportunities. Interested parents can call (847) 244-5150 for more information.

Weekly Calendar...

Monday, January 12th	Study Hall – 3:30-4:00pm Library
Tuesday, January 13th	Study Hall – 3:30-4:00pm Library
Wednesday, January 14th	Study Hall – 3:30-4:00pm Library
Thursday, January 15th	Spirit Assembly – 2:38-3:21pm Tabar Gymnasium Study Hall – 3:30-4:00pm Library
Friday, January 16th	Holiday Parties 9:00-10:00am Staff – 8 th Grade Boys’ Bball Game – 10:15-11:15am Tabar Gym Early Student Dismissal – 11:30am
Monday, January 19th	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance



“The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people, but the silence over that by the good people.”

**- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968**