

EES REPORT for SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Mark Vallone

COMMUNICATION

- **Enrollment:** Epping's enrollment is over 500 students for the first time since 2006. Pre-school -25 Kindergarten 82 First Grade - 82 ; Second Grade - 80; Third Grade - 882; Fourth Grade - 65; Fifth Grade 86; Total Enrollment as of September 12th - 502
- **Band Rental Night for grades 4-5 is tonight 6:30 to 8:00**
- **The Start of the School Year**
 - **Eleventh Annual First Day Program.** EES held its 11th annual First Day program opening up classrooms to students and their families and conducted an information fair in the cafeteria. Parents, relatives and friends attended. There were over 70 donors including the PTO helping out to provide every student with an Epping Eagle T-shirt. Starbucks provided free coffee and the Epping food Service provided some light snacks Thanks to Cheryl MacLeay for coordinating the program and to school board member Sue Kimball, Superintendent Barbara Munsey, Curriculum coordinator Lyn Healy, and Special Services Director Cathy Zylinski for attending.
 - **Kindergarten Opening.** 3 full day and 2 half day classes started officially on Thursday, September 8th . There are four half day classes taught by two teachers, Julia Masury and Lisa Daniels along with one full-day class taught by Robin Yergeau.
 - **Pre School Opening.** Pre-school classes officially started on Wednesday, September 7th.
- **Open House Nights** will take place
 - **Tuesday, September 27 6:30 3-5**
 - **Wednesday, September 28 6:30 K-2**
- **The EES Book Fair** will take place from Monday, September 26th to Thursday, September 29th.
- **School Picture Day** was Tuesday September 13.

- **PTO fundraiser** EES and the PTO kick off the annual fall fundraiser this Friday with an assembly at 2:15. p.m. This year's vendor is Cherrydale Company.

STUDENT LEARNING

- **Mathematics.** The new program Math in Focus has been introduced in all grades K-5. Parents were very excited when it was announced at First Day's information session.
 - All classroom teachers K-5 have attended training sessions in June and August and grade level teams spent at least one day this summer working on math with Lyn Healy and math consultant Eunice Taylor.
 - EES made AYP in the 2010 math NECAP so it remains in Year One SINI (School in Need of Improvement) in math as it takes two years of making AYP to get out of SINI status. The SINI math plan remains virtually the same with teams focusing on essential learning in math at each grade level and giving common assessments to track student achievement. Unlike last year, EES will not receive any additional NH or federal funds to help with its improvement efforts in mathematics.
 - There are fewer staff to support mathematics as the math specialist position has been reduced to 60%. This has put a squeeze on Title I which has had to reduce its reading support to ensure math tutoring was adequate.
 - The District has rehired Eunice Taylor to continue her work providing teacher training and coaching in mathematics. She will help facilitate math committee meetings
 - The District Leadership Team is planning a K-8 Math Night for Parents to take place some time after NECAP testing is completed.
 - Math Enrichment classes are offered once a week to students in grades 4 and 5. Two programs are conducted by Dea Mayne every Thursday Participation is based on high achievement in the math NECAP and NWEA assessments as well as on classroom achievement.
- **Reading and Writing Programs** EES begins year 5 of its collaboration with what is now called the Teaching and Learning Alliance, formerly with Tufts University's Center for Advanced Child Development. Teachers will be working on the following:
 - **Increasing non-fiction reading.** The school has purchased hundreds of non-fiction books both to help struggling readers and to provided more reading content in science and social studies.
 - **Improving the use of guided reading and strategy groups** These are two very important approaches to meet the individual needs of every student. Reading and Writing consultant Stephanie Maze Hsu will work with individuals and teams

of teachers to use the sets of leveled readers and non-fiction books that were purchased this summer.

□ **2011 NECAP information**

- EES will begin testing October 4th with grade 4 and will run through October 21. A draft schedule was emailed with this report.
- The school offered summer tutoring to all students who were identified in the spring as needing assistance to prepare for the fall NECAP. Both Title I and Special Education staff provided the services Title I offered a summer program called Tent City incorporated individual tutoring, a computerized tutorial and an independent reading session. The special education department offered a set of summer programs. One was designed to ease the transition from elementary school to middle school which they other focused on providing tutorials to students in grades K-4.
- Epping Middle School offered a special program to help transition fifth grade students into middle school as well as to support them in reading and mathematics.

- **Reading and Math Special offered in Grade 1** EES is offering a reading and mathematics enrichment special for grade 1 with Sandy Landis and Irene Nelson team teaching every other week. Karen Page, the reading teacher, will conduct the reading portion of the class.

- **Successmaker and Study Island.** Successmaker is a computer tutorial that has been used at EES for the past 2 years. Because the program provides a great deal of leveled assignments and reading, it has been added as a computer lab special for grades 1 and 2 this fall. Unified arts teachers have supervised the sessions which will take place in one of the school's computer labs. Grades 3-4-5 use another program, Study Island, in the computer lab on a sign-out basis. That online program was introduced last fall. It does not have the range of tutorials that Successmaker has so it is not as effective as a remedial program. It has been more effective as a program for reinforcing concepts and for enrichment. The EES Technology Committee will discuss these kinds of programs at its meetings this year.

ACCOUNTABLE AND COLLABORATIVE CULTURE

- **Budget preparation.** I have begun the 2011-12 budget planning process and will submit a preliminary draft to Martha Williams by September 28

- **Bus Issues.** Four of the six First Student buses are arriving later than the 8:15-20 a.m. time that is needed to enable students to take part in the school's breakfast program and to settle into their classrooms by 8:35. First Student has told me the drivers of those buses will start their routes 5 minutes earlier and will notify students' families of the change.
- **Volunteer and Substitute Orientation to take place September 20th** EES will conduct a training session for new volunteers.
- Thanks and recognition to guidance counselor Marianne McDonough and Dean of Students Erin Milbury for their efforts to plan and coordinate the NECAP.

TECHNOLOGY/FACILITIES

- **Facilities** Thanks to George Kimball and the custodians for all their extra effort they put into getting our school in shape, particularly for their rapid relocation of three classrooms that had to take place late in August after the School Board approved the third full day classroom.
- **Technology** Thanks to Peter Gilligan and his crew for getting so much technology out to classroom teachers. Teachers who requested laptops and projectors have received them along with document cameras received them. Next step is working this equipment into regular classroom instruction.

Calendar

September 16	US Constitution Day PTO Fundraiser Kickoff (Drive runs through October 4)
September 19	Literacy Committee meeting
September 20	Volunteer orientation
September 22	Faculty Meeting
September 27	Open House Grades 3-5
September 28	Open House Grades K-2
September 30	District professional development day. No school for students EES conducts NECAP preparation as highest priority PD
October 4-21	NECAP testing
October 6	Advisory Council PTO Basketball: Harlem
	Wizards game played at EHS gym
October 10	No school for Columbus Day Holiday
October 13	Faculty Meeting
October 20	Math Improvement Committee Meeting

