



# January 2017 Eisenhower Express

Eisenhower, make the world a better place by...  
acting responsibly, treating others fairly, showing respect,  
and being a good citizen.

And remember Eisenhower, **YOU ARE AWESOME!**



## School Principal News!

Happy New Year and I hope 2017 has gotten off to a good start for everyone! I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday and are now ready to get back into the regular routine of school.

We have a special event taking place at Eisenhower this Friday, January 6 with an assembly focused on our character word of the month, "Kindness". We are asking students to wear a certain color, if possible, to help us make a rainbow effect so each grade level will be asked to wear a different color this Friday. Your child's teacher will give specific information about which color we ask your child to wear that day. It should be a fun event!

Since we are finally experiencing winter weather, I know that the student drop area has gotten busier and more congested. I annually take the opportunity in this edition of the Express to review our morning drop-off routines for the upper parking lot off Spring Valley. (Recall our lower parking lot is for bus and daycare van drop off and pick up only.) I know that more students are driven to school during the winter months and I'm very aware of the long lines of cars waiting to get into our parking lot each morning between 8:15-8:30. If we ALL follow the expectations, it can make the process go better for everyone involved. While we certainly want things to go smoothly for everyone and allow families to get through the drop off line as quickly as possible, student safety is our main concern so please **DRIVE SLOWLY** at all times on school property and on the streets immediately around Eisenhower. Our crossing guards and parking lot supervisors are trying to help things run as smoothly as possible and keep everyone safe so please follow their directions at all times. Here are a few helpful tips about our morning procedures that will help **EVERYONE** if we can ALL please follow them:

- When you enter the parking lot, pull up as far as possible to the car in front of you. Follow the directions of the parking lot supervisors and **DO NOT HAVE YOUR CHILD EXIT** the vehicle until you are at least up past the "drop off" sign.
- It may be necessary to sometimes do a "double line" in order to get left turning traffic off the street and to allow a better flow of traffic away from school on Spring Valley. If this is necessary, please only do so at the direction of the crossing guards and then kindly merge into one lane as you drive up to the drop off area. The second lane should not be used as an express lane or "through lane".
- Students should have their winter gear on and their book bags ready so they can quickly exit the vehicle on the right side of the vehicle onto the sidewalk and not out into potential traffic.
- When preparing to exit, students should have everything ready to go so they can exit the vehicle quickly and safely. Please practice this with your child(ren) so they can do this quickly and independently without the parent needing to also get out of the vehicle (with possible exception for some of our preschool and kindergarten students). This is also not the time for extended hugs, kisses, and long "good-byes". ☺
- As soon as your child has safely exited your vehicle, please be ready to move along and exit our parking lot via the lower driveway area onto Spring Valley.
- If you need to walk your child into school or take longer with morning drop off, please pull around and utilize one of the parking spaces in our lot.
- By having everyone follow these expectations, we hope to make your drop-off time as efficient and safe as possible for everyone. Thank you for showing patience and courtesy to other drivers, patrol helpers, and parking lot supervisors and being a good role model for our students.

The month of January gives us a full calendar of activities. We have a PTO meeting on January 9, a Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade music program at Roosevelt the evening of January 12, and we enter our winter testing window with MAP and DIBELS (reading) assessments given this month. It should be a great month! Wishing you all the best in 2017!

## School Counselor News!

~Mrs. Klein

Although we would like to make this world for our children as safe and comforting as possible, we also have the task of living in reality. Our children need to know and to be prepared for the possibility that verbal and physical aggression could happen to them or to someone they know.

During the month of January, we will be discussing "Protective Behaviors"--keeping ourselves (and others) safe from harm. We will be working on both the preventative knowledge--avoiding situations that can be unsafe; and on reactive approaches so that students can have a plan to make a report to parents as well as to school and medical personnel.

Through our efforts together, we can support our children develop the "tools" that they need to say, "Please stop, I don't like that," in reference to their own safety and well-being; and when/if someone would cause them hurt/harm, s/he needs to stop.

With much appreciation for all that you do on behalf of your children!

## School Nurse News!

~Mrs. Ernzen

### Keep Movin' in the New Year

The cold weather, along with snow and ice, can make it hard to move outside. Don't let the cold winter months discourage you into cutting back on your exercise routine. If you don't currently have an exercise routine, there is no time like the New Year to get started. Consider these indoor activities:

- Walk at your local mall or your building's hallways during lunch or coffee breaks.
- Take the stairs whenever possible.
- Follow an exercise DVD rather than watching a movie.
- Do chair exercises while watching the television.

Whatever activity you choose you'll burn extra calories instead of storing them. The key to an active family is finding fun things to do in every season. Aim for a goal of 30 minutes of moderate activity daily for adults and 60 minutes for kids—no matter the weather!



Hello Eisenhower Families! I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are looking forward to a happy and healthy New Year.

**\*Please join us at our next PTO meeting on January 9 from 6:30-7:30 in the library.** We will be planning our Spring events and encourage parents to attend. There is always free childcare available!

Please contact Rebecca Jones, PTO President, with any questions or ideas at [wolff.rebecca@gmail.com](mailto:wolff.rebecca@gmail.com). We are always looking for volunteers!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

|                   |                                                                                        |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JANUARY 9</b>  | <b>PTO MEETING 6:30 PM</b>                                                             |
| <b>JANUARY 12</b> | <b>GRADES K-1 MUSIC CONCERT @ ROOSEVELT MIDDLE SCHOOL<br/>CHICK-FIL-A NIGHT 5-8 PM</b> |
| <b>JANUARY 15</b> | <b>LEGO LEAGUE STATE COMPETITION IN AMES</b>                                           |
| <b>JANUARY 16</b> | <b>NO SCHOOL - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</b>                                         |
| <b>JANUARY 19</b> | <b>SKATE COUNTRY NIGHT 6-8 PM</b>                                                      |
| <b>JANUARY 23</b> | <b>WENDY'S NIGHT 5-7 PM</b>                                                            |