



OLYMPIAD

HEATHER BYERS, PRINCIPAL • KARLA CURRY, ASST. PRINCIPAL • TAMMY COVIL, PTA PRESIDENT

April/May

Dear Parents and Staff,

If you weren't able to attend our annual Talent Show, I'm sorry to say that you missed an extraordinary evening of entertainment! I didn't think it was possible, but each year the show gets bigger and better. It was obvious the students practiced diligently to polish their acts, and they were given a standing ovation for their efforts. Leslie Wiegler and her team of volunteers deserve a "standing O" for coordinating and executing a perfectly-timed event.

Each year, Mrs. Byers and the PTA Executive Board have the dubious task of selecting two people to be Eaton's Volunteers of the Year. As you can imagine, this is an extremely difficult job because we have so many candidates from which to choose! This year we are pleased to announce and congratulate our Volunteers of the Year: Eileen O'Donnell and Laura Ares-Roman. They will be honored in May at the NHC Council of PTA's Volunteer Banquet. We sincerely thank them for all they do for the students at Eaton.

As we begin to wrap the year, there is one more event we'd like you to note: Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2nd - 6th. This is a nationwide effort geared toward acknowledging the hard work and dedication of teachers in all areas of education.

As always, we have big plans for this week, so look for details to come home on Monday, April 25th. Also, on Friday, May 6th at 7:45 am, the week will close with the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast and Walk of Thanks. If you have volunteered any time in the school this year, please plan to attend.

On a personal note, it has truly been an honor and a privilege serving as your PTA President for the past two years. I can honestly say that despite a few bumps in the road, I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will forever treasure the friendships that have developed as a result of working with some pretty phenomenal people. I am thrilled to "pass the torch" to Ashley Harrell, who was elected PTA President for the 2011-2012 school year. I am confident in her commitment to the students at Eaton and in her abilities to perform the job. She is fortunate to have a strong, intelligent, enthusiastic team behind her. Please continue to give the PTA Executive Board all the warmth and support that you have given me over the years.

PTA[®]
Eaton Elementary School



Tammy Covil

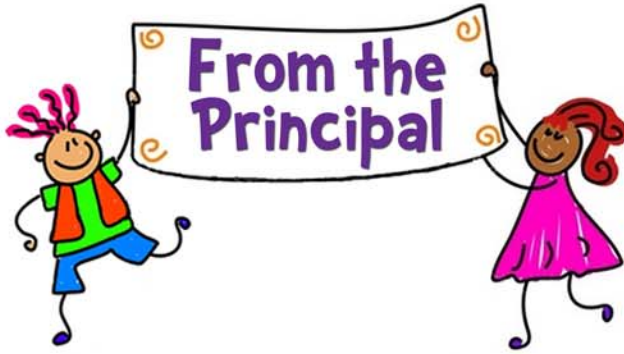
Eaton PTA President



NHCS Summer Camps!!!

Registration forms are available in the front office for:

- * Grades 1-5 (rising) include art, music, drama & technology.
- * Grades 6-8 (rising) include strings, band & art.



It seems that spring has finally arrived. Every year I take this time to remind parents and students of the New Hanover County dress code.

1. No spaghetti strap tops, tube or tank tops allowed.
2. Net shirts, bare midriff, or other revealing attire are not allowed.
3. Short dresses, short skirts, or short shorts are not allowed.
4. Headgear, hats, or sunglasses are not to be worn in the building. We do encourage students to wear them outside along with sunscreen which should be applied first thing in the morning at home.

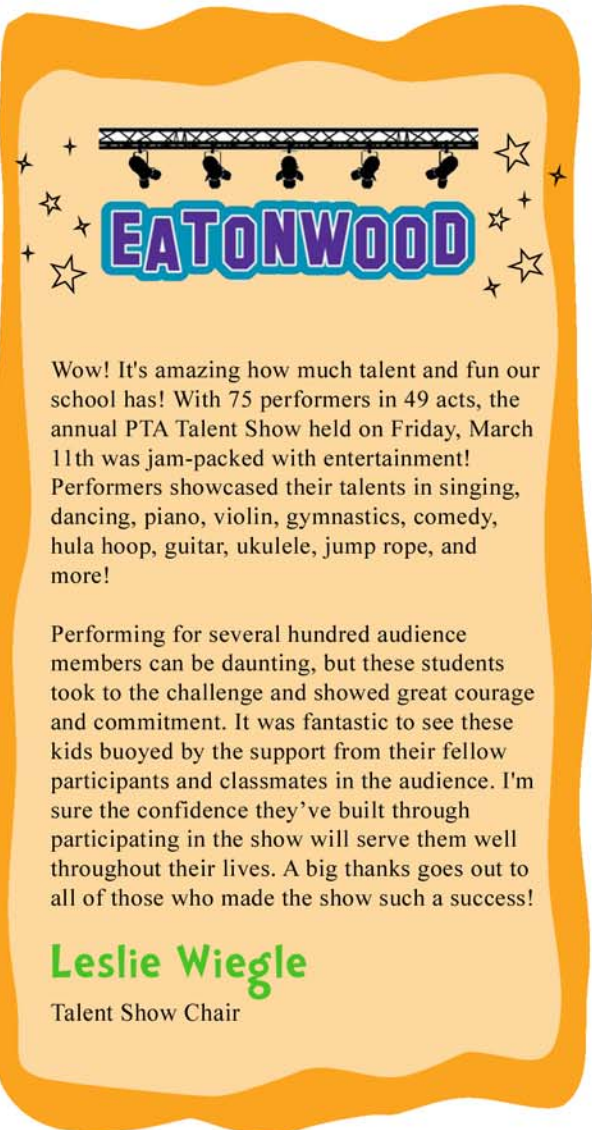
With spring also comes swimming at the pool, playing with friends outside and late night ball games. Students and parents are more likely to alter their nightly routines. Even though we are pulled in many different directions during this time of year it is important to keep routines in place to help continue student success. We all do better when we follow a routine.

Mornings can be the most hectic time of the day, especially when you are out late the night before. It is no fun for kids or parents to start the day unhappy. Consider what you can do to prepare at night to make your morning run more smoothly.

1. Get up 15 minutes earlier than normal – 15 minutes can really make a big difference!
2. Make lunches the night before
3. Have students pack their book bag and place them by the door.
4. Pick out school clothes the night before.
5. Praise your child for complying with morning routines and expectations.

Heather L. Byers

Principal

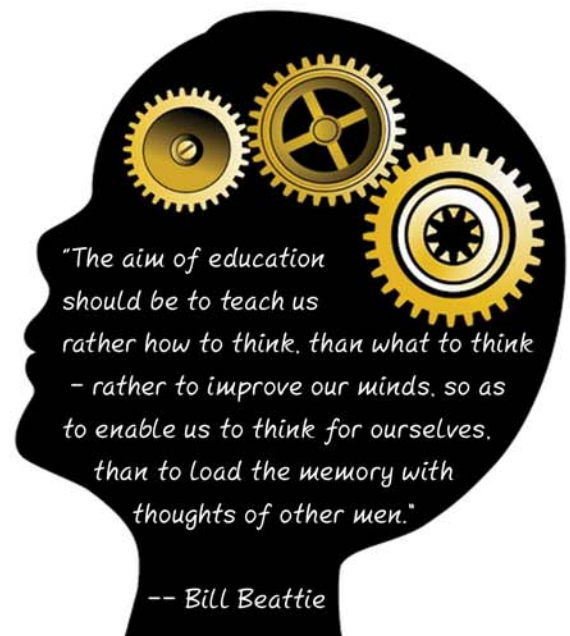


Wow! It's amazing how much talent and fun our school has! With 75 performers in 49 acts, the annual PTA Talent Show held on Friday, March 11th was jam-packed with entertainment! Performers showcased their talents in singing, dancing, piano, violin, gymnastics, comedy, hula hoop, guitar, ukulele, jump rope, and more!

Performing for several hundred audience members can be daunting, but these students took to the challenge and showed great courage and commitment. It was fantastic to see these kids buoyed by the support from their fellow participants and classmates in the audience. I'm sure the confidence they've built through participating in the show will serve them well throughout their lives. A big thanks goes out to all of those who made the show such a success!

Leslie Wiegler

Talent Show Chair



"The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think – rather to improve our minds, so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with thoughts of other men."

-- Bill Beattie

Happy Spring Eaton Families!

Dear Eaton Families,

As you know, the Internet is a wonderful resource. Just like any other place you visit safety rules need to be established and followed. Keeping your kids safe requires active parental engagement and conversations about online safety. In today's world, where kids turn to the Internet for just about all of their interests, education is a parent's first line of defense in keeping children safe. Help your children understand the following Internet rules:

- ▶ Never accept files or downloads from unknown sources; this includes familiar sources if you were not expecting them.
- ▶ Choose an email address/ screen name that DOES NOT contain any part of your name, age, gender, interests or favorite activities.
- ▶ Do Not fill out a profile without parent review and approval.
- ▶ Never give out real name, telephone or cell phone number(s), mailing address, or passwords.
- ▶ Do Not enter chat rooms.
- ▶ Do Not post photographs in publicly accessible sites.
- ▶ The settings for ANY social networking profiles* should be PRIVATE and new friends are accepted only if they are known to the child AND parent. (Social networking sites include: MySpace, FaceBook, Bebo, etc.)

Karla Curry
Assistant Principal

Suggestions & Responses from the Eaton Suggestion Box

By: Karla Curry, Assistant Principal

1. **Science Fair.** "We only had a small showing at the NHCS science fair. Can the school take a more active role in guiding students?"

This is a great suggestion. Our Curriculum Cadre Team will work on ways to increase our science fair participation at the school level. Since science is a target on our School Improvement Plan, the School Improvement Team will also investigate ways to increase our students' participation in the annual Eaton Science Fair.

2. **Accelerated Reader Program (AR).** "If a child is in 2nd grade and their AR level is 3.0-4.2, can it change to 2.0-4.2, so they don't miss a window to read some other books?"

This is a good question. The AR program is designed to personalize reading practice and assessment to the student's current reading level. The program provides additional information to teachers regarding students' reading rates, amount of reading, and other variables related to reading. Typically, teachers allow students to check out books outside of their AR level on Fridays. Lastly, our Media Specialist and School Improvement Team are currently investigating other types of school-wide reading programs that will continue to develop our students' love for reading.



MUSIC NOTES

FROM MRS. KANZLER

My Teacher Website: <http://teacherpages.nhcs.net/schools/eaton/carolinekanzler/pages/default.aspx>

Students in Kindergarten – 5th grades have been learning about composers of the month. Our March composer of the month is Claude Debussy (1862-1918). There will not be an April composer since we will only be back at school one week in April. There will be a composer for May though. For more information on these composers, see my 'Composer of the Month' page on my teacher website.



Kindergarten

Kindergarteners will be involved in a unit of singing games. This unit teaches students a variety of songs and adds participatory games where there is movement, dancing, and instrument playing. These musical activities also address leadership skills, taking turns, and fairness.

1st Grade

1st graders will be taking part in a musical ocean-themed unit in music. Students will be singing, acting, playing instruments, reading rhythms, and participating fully in music while incorporating ocean science and animals that live at the sea. This is integrating 1st grade's upcoming trip to the aquarium.

2nd Grade

2nd graders will be involved in a singing and movement unit. Students will be learning a variety of nonsense and traditional songs that have motions that will kinesthetically engage students. Through movement exploration, students will develop their gross motor skills and enhance their creative movement ideas and vocabulary.

3rd Grade

3rd graders will be learning to play independent instrument parts on Orff instruments in class to accompany songs. This is part of the Orff-Schulwerk approach to music education where all students actively participate in creating and making music while singing and playing the barred Orff instruments (xylophones, metallophones, glocken-spiels, and bass bars). Students will be playing up to six different instrument parts that fit together at the same time!!

4th Grade

4th grade has been continuing their hard work at earning recorder karate belts through my "Recorder Karate" curriculum. These belts begin at white and get sequentially harder as they go to the highest 7th degree black belt. Now students are working on the higher, more advanced belts and showing progress in their practicing and music playing skills!

5th Grade

5th graders are continuing their skills in playing the ukulele. Students have successfully learned the song "Be Friends" from the movie Napoleon Dynamite and have also plucked specific notes on the ukulele to play a full 8-note scale. Students will also continue working on playing individual notes on the ukulele to play melodies. Many students are discovering songs on their own by ear and playing them for the class. These students are truly becoming independent musicians!

TECH CORNER

Kellie Shanahan
CRT

Heidi Mazzocco
Technology Assistant

Students have been learning a lot about computer safety. Grades 2-4 have watched a video on internet safety and completed activities on smart choices regarding using the internet. Also, this nine weeks students in grades 2-5 learned how to use a GPS device. Grades 2 & 3 went on an Easter egg Geocache hunt. We had so much fun. If you would like to learn more about this geocaching go to www.geocaching.com/. 5th grade used GlogsterEdu, a 2.0 web tool that creates an interactive poster. The students used this program to learn about landforms. Kindergarten and 1st grade have utilized our interactive games to enhance their math skills and used the PBS web-site during Read Across America week.

At home tip: Mrs. Mazzocco has a new PARENT RESOURCES section on her web-site. Go to Eaton's homepage and click on Technology Websites. Then click the parent resource section. Here you will find links that help with setting boundaries for internet safety at home.

Featured Website: <http://www.imaginationcubed.com/> This web-site is sponsored by G.E. The children become creative with drawing and using the text features. When they are finished, click the replay button and it will show you exactly how the picture was created.

<http://www.kisstunes.com/> Turns your computer keyboard into a piano.





About Us!!!

Our Kindergarteners got their first taste of Dr. Seuss week. We celebrated each day by reading some of Dr. Seuss' most famous books. We wore funny feet, silly hats, dressed wacky & tacky, and brought a Wocket in our pockets. We even got a breakfast treat of green eggs and ham. But we didn't just have fun! We learned about Dr. Seuss' style of writing as we explored rhyming words and word families. We learned about his life and how he never gave up even though he was rejected as an author many times. What a great lesson for all of us. Most of the Kinders would tell you that Dr. Seuss is now one of their favorite authors.



The third 9 weeks of the year flew by in a flash and the last one promises to do the same! In science we will be discussing living organisms and taking a field trip to the Cape Fear Museum. In math we will be extending all of the concepts covered throughout the entire year as well as introduce telling time. We are getting geared up for our Annual Mother's Day Picnic at Ogden Park which will be on May 10th. Lastly, we would like to thank our volunteers and our wonderful PTA! We have all enjoyed using our Mimios this year and they have truly changed the way we teach! Thank you again!

What's the "Matter" with 2nd grade this 9 weeks? Solids, liquids and gases is what's the matter! We have been learning from some great hands-on experiments about how matter can change. All you have to do is say "Science" and the children get so excited. From making oobleck to churning up some butter, it has been an awesome time in 2nd grade. Students also created projects about Famous Americans. We learned how our country was helped and changed by a variety of Americans. The children created posters, time lines and/or dressed like their character. We shared with the other 2nd grade classes. Every child who came prepared did a great job presenting and sharing. Thank you for your help and support of this project. We are truly lucky to have your children!



Where has the year gone? The 3rd grade team can hardly believe that we are already into 4th quarter. The year has gone by extremely fast! We begin 4th quarter with a trip to Airlie Gardens! This will be an extension of our 3rd quarter science concept on properties of soil. The students will be digging in the dirt, composting, and observing some interesting wildlife at Airlie. We'll also end the day with a picnic lunch under the Airlie Oak! We have a lot of wrapping up to do during 4th quarter. Our big focus the first part of the quarter will be EOGs! We will be reviewing all skills taught this year and practicing with our test taking strategies. If you want more information for practicing at home, please see your child's teacher or visit their website. We know the students are going to do awesome, and we can't wait for them to show off all they've learned this year! We are so proud of all they have accomplished!

Fourth grade is looking forward to the last nine weeks. We will be preparing for EOG and looking forward to the Raleigh field trip on Tuesday, June 7th. We can't believe the year is almost over. Keep working hard and doing your best!



This 9 weeks we are looking forward to attending the Sea Scholars program at the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher. This field trip ties in wonderfully with our Ecosystems unit in Science and is a ton of fun! We will tour the Aquarium and check out all of the new exhibits. Each student will try and catch fish, shrimp and other marsh dwellers when we get a chance to be hands-on in the marsh. Students will also observe sea life through a microscope and test salinity and pH of water from various sources. If you see a 5th grader, be sure to ask them about this exciting trip!



Volunteers of the Year:

**Eileen O'Donnell
Laura Ares-Roman**

Spelling Bee Winners:

**3rd Grade - Robert Yates
4th Grade - Wilkerson Garrett
5th Grade - Luke Nilson**

Teacher of the Year:

Carly Kanzler

Paraeducator of the Year:

Kathy Brennan

Olympian of the Year:

Carmen Sherman

Reflections State Winners:

**1st Place - Jennifer Centa
(Music Category, Grades K-2)
2nd Place - Will Boggio
(Music Category, Grades 3-5)**

**Congratulations to Isabella Imig
in her 3rd place finish representing
NHCS and Eaton at the Azalea
Festival Children's Art Competition!**



THANK YOU to all students who were such a wonderful audience - showing **FANTASTIC** manners at the Taradiddle Players Performance on March 15th!