



HEATHER BYERS, PRINCIPAL • KARLA CURRY, ASST. PRINCIPAL • ASHLEY HARRELL, PTA PRESIDENT

October/November

## Dear Parents and Staff,

Welcome back Eaton students, parents and staff! I hope you all had a wonderful Fall Break and are rested and ready for lots of Eaton fun in the upcoming weeks. I have been humbled by the sense of community and family our school has displayed in the last few months. My family and I are honored to be a part of such a great school community.

On behalf of our board, thank you for your support as we began the journey to fund the many PTA-sponsored programs. We had a very busy first quarter, and your board members have been working hard on a myriad of projects, including the Phone-A-Friend Directory, online spirit wear sales, yearbook pre-ordering, and coordinating your countless hours of volunteering. What a great start!

The **Olympian Fund** donations were amazing! You donated **more than \$14,000**, and your generosity sends a clear message that even in these difficult economic times you are willing to support your children's education. THANK YOU!

The **Attractions Book Sale** was also a wonderful success. Our school sold **732 books**, and we hope you and your family enjoy the discounts.

The **PTA Membership Drive** is wrapping up, and so far we have about **92%** of our parent and teacher base participating! If you haven't joined the PTA yet, it's not too late! Please visit our website, [eatonpta.org](http://eatonpta.org), for the form and join our TEAM!

Our **Fall Festival & Silent Auction** was a huge success this past weekend. Despite the weather, you all came out and had a ton of family fun! This event is completely parent powered, and we can't thank you enough for all of your volunteer efforts and donations that make the Fall Festival so successful! Please look for a complete list of our generous business donors in our December newsletter.

**Muffins with Mom is coming up on November 16th and 17th.** Please join us for some special time with your children and have breakfast on the PTA!

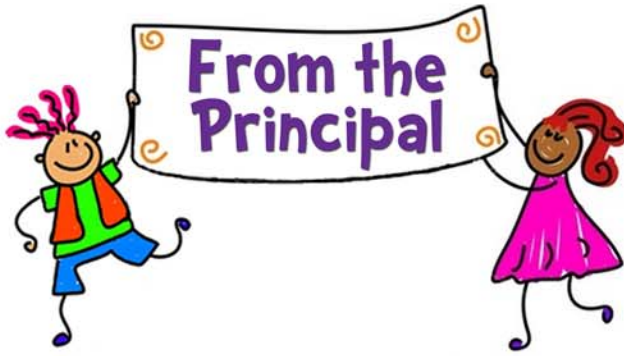
**There are two calendar changes for the month of November.** First, Learning Express changed their fundraiser this year. In lieu of Eaton week, we sent home Learning Express cards before break. Please return those cards to

either store and Learning Express will donate portions of the sales back to the school. Second, the Holiday Bazaar, currently on the calendar for November 12th, has been postponed. Although we love this event, and it's a great way to support our community, we are revamping it a bit to incorporate some new ideas. Stay tuned for more information!

Your PTA team is led by some very dedicated board members, and I am lucky to work with such phenomenal individuals. If you see one of these fine parents, please give them a pat on the back and a 'thank you'. They devote many hours, both at home and at school, to make all of these PTA dreams a reality. We look forward to continuing to serve our families' needs throughout the remainder of the year, and we appreciate all that you do to make this school GREAT!

Thank you for your support, and please feel free to contact me anytime.

**Ashley Harrell**



I hope you all had a wonderful time at the fall festival. Mrs. Hicks and her committee did an awesome job and I want to thank everyone who volunteered and participated. The boys and girls really enjoy the festival and it would not be a success without your participation.

#### School fundraiser information:

I want to take this opportunity to inform you about the various fundraisers we have available. The Franks Cards, as well as the cookie dough are school fundraisers. The money raised from these two events will go directly to our school's technology needs. Teachers use many computer programs as part of their daily lessons such as Reading Eggs, Brain Pop, and Education City just to name a few. These programs are not cheap and have to be renewed yearly. We have also replaced classroom printers. With a cut in the school's budget I am faced with tough decisions as to how I can provide teachers with the resources and technology they need to meet the current curriculum demands. Please understand that I am aware that you as parents are facing your own personal budget concerns. There is **no pressure** to participate in these fundraisers. We have different options so that families can choose what they would like to participate in. As always, we appreciate all of your support!

**Heather L. Byers**

Principal

## FUNDRAISING UPDATES

There will be a Box Tops contest again this year! There will be one winning class per grade level. Each winning class will receive Subway cookies and Vic's popcorn! The deadline for the contest is Monday, May 21, 2012. Please be sure to write the teacher's name on your collection sheet, ziploc bag, or envelope. Please neatly trim the Box Tops and check for expiration dates. Last year the Eaton PTA earned over \$2,600 through this program!



You may also send in the red Tyson chicken A+ labels. The whole label is required, not just the A+ symbol.

Empty ink cartridges bring in needed funds as well. Rapid Refill has generously supported Eaton for several years.



There are collection bins for these items just outside the school office. You can also send the items to your child's teacher.

Thank you for all your support!

**Emily Eldridge**

Passive Fundraising

Muffins



with **MOM**

- \* Last name A-M, November 16
  - \* Last name N-Z, November 17
- (7:00 - 7:40 am, multipurpose room)

# Welcome Back Eaton Families!

Eaton Parents,

Children usually begin their school careers very excited and eager to learn. School is an exciting place to be, and children's social lives often revolve around school, school friends, and school activities. When children are chronically tardy in elementary school, patterns are set that are difficult to break.

Studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Education on truancy, which is connected with tardiness, show that school attendance is a major factor when it comes to school success and student behavior. According to the research, students who are frequently tardy have lower grades, lower scores on standardized assessments, and lower graduation rates. Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is also linked to failure in high school.

When students are tardy, they negatively impact their teachers and other students in the classroom. These students typically fall behind in their classroom work. In addition, students who are tardy are less likely to feel organized and prepared when they enter the classroom after an instructional lesson is already in session. Tardiness also takes other students' attention away from a teacher's lesson, leading to more behavior problems and missed instruction.

Students are tardy for a variety of reasons, but being late to class can become a habit that can have a negative effect on their success in school. For this reason, Eaton Elementary School has established a tardy policy that includes consequences for multiple tardies. The intention of this policy is to help promote student punctuality and accountability—traits that students can carry with them even after they finish school.

We are happy to report that since the implementation of the tardy policy, Eaton has significantly reduced the number of unexcused tardies. Please note that students will not be marked tardy on days that there is heavy traffic congestion due to extreme weather and/or a vehicle accident. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs. Byers.

**Karla Curry**

Assistant Principal

## Eaton Elementary School - Tardy Policy

New Hanover County School Board defines excessive tardies as 3 per year. Eaton Elementary School's late bell is at 7:40 a.m. and our tardy bell is at 7:45 a.m., when children are expected to be inside their classrooms. NHCS board policy requires that parents bring their children into school and sign them in the office when they are tardy. Effective November 1, 2010, Children who are tardy (unexcused) more than three times in a nine week period will be assigned an after school detention until 3:30 p.m. For each unexcused tardy after three, an after school detention will be assigned. For example, if a child is tardy for the 4th time in a nine week period they will be assigned an after school detention. If they are tardy a 5th time, they will be assigned another after school detention and so on. It will be the responsibility of the parent to pick their child up at 3:30 p.m. During detention students can work on homework, read, etc. You will be notified by phone/letter when you child has received 3 unexcused tardies and warned that the next offense will result in an after school detention.

# 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 September composer was Aaron Copland (1900-1990) and the October composer was Michael Jackson (1958-2009). For more information on these composers, see my 'Composer of the Month' page on my teacher website.



### Kindergarten

Kindergarteners have learned how to read level one and two music notes such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests (open quiet hands). Encourage your child to draw these for you and try to trick you! You will be amazed at how smart they are and how much they love reading music rhythms. We are also discovering the science in music of how little instruments make high sounds and big instruments make low sounds.

### 3rd Grade

This fall, 3rd grade will be busy learning about movement to music, listening, and the fun benefits of social interaction through an autumn square dancing unit. Students will learn circle dances, line dances, the Virginia reel, and basic square dances.

### 1st Grade

Beginning in October, 1st grade began learning musical concepts through integrating children's books and seasonal songs and autumn activities. We will review reading our level 3 and 4 rhythm cards that include half and whole notes, in addition to quarter notes, quarter rests, and eighth notes. We will also experiment with loud and soft sounds and moving with locomotor and non-locomotor movements to describe music.

### 4th Grade

4th graders have learned about musical symbols and reading treble clef notation in preparation for playing recorders. We have started learning to hold and play a recorder and have begun our Recorder Karate curriculum. On October 19, the 4th grade attended a concert by the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra. Students have been learning about composers and music featured in this concert, and preparing to sing Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" in English and German!

### 2nd Grade

2nd graders have learned about reading treble clef music notation and how "FACE" spells the spaces on the music staff and "Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge" tells us the lines of the treble clef. For select 2nd grade classes, start looking for information regarding NHCS' annual arts showcase entitled Best Foot Forward in October. This performance will be March 16, 2012.

### 5th Grade

All the music for the Ukulele this year can be found on my teacher website. I would recommend getting a folder to keep all the printed music together and organized. Students know how to access this site from the Eaton homepage and to click on my recorder page. From there students can download, print the music, and keep their music together in their folders. This way, students build and create their own ukulele 'method book' that also shows all that they have learned throughout the year in music. If for some reason, a student does not have access to a computer or printer at home, I can give them paper copies to use in class.

## TECH CORNER

**Kellie Shanahan**  
CRT

**Heidi Mazzocco**  
Technology Assistant

The first nine weeks have flown by! Students in Fifth grade have completed research, learned about Goggle Earth, and created All About Me projects and learned how to use various tools in Microsoft Power Point. In third and fourth grade, students had fun creating an Avatar and imported it into a word document to tell about themselves. Second grade has learned a lot about science on the computers. They have played a nutrition game and created an animal power point. First grade has been busy learning educational games and learning to word process and use the draw tools in Scholastic Keys. Our little friends in Kindergarten have mastered the art of logging into the computers! They are also learning to navigate to the web links on our home page. Add Eaton's homepage, <http://www.nhcs.net/eaton> to your favorites. This will allow your child easy access to their favorite links, as well as keep you abreast of all the wonderful things happening at Eaton!



At home tip: Please check out the Parent Resources section on Mrs. Mazzocco's web site. Go to the Eaton home page and click on Technology Websites.





Our first nine weeks was a busy time as Kindergarten students learned how to work together as a community. Our new kindergarteners worked on learning letters, sounds, and number concepts while learning how to follow classroom and school rules. This next quarter will be filled with exciting learning opportunities as we dive into our farm unit and take a trip to Old McFaye's Farm. It's great to be in Kindergarten!



The first nine weeks of first grade has flown by and we are off and running. We have been spending math time learning about addition and subtraction. We have learned strategies to use in order to solve these problems. Some strategies are: counting on, using a number line, and drawing a picture. We have also been practicing number sense by writing, reading, and ordering numbers to 120. In language arts, we have been learning about Daily 5 concepts such as 3 ways to read a book, 3 ways to read to someone, and how to pick "just right" books. This is a skill we will continue to build upon for the rest of the year! We also did a genre study of fairy tales, folk tales, tall tales, and fables. The classes really got into recognizing the elements of each genre. We ended our Balance and Motion unit in science by visiting the Cape Fear Museum. Some of the activities we did to reinforce our knowledge of these concepts were building a marble maze, making balloon rockets, and balance parrot sky hooks!

2nd grade was buzzing with excitement about Life Cycles this past 9 weeks. Our students watched tiny caterpillars turn into beautiful butterflies. We went for a field trip to Airlie Gardens to actually see the butterfly house and habitat. It was so awesome to experience catching butterflies and then having them land on us! We also anxiously awaited the arrival of our newest additions to 2nd grade---Baby Chicks! We heard peeping and pecking coming from the shells before they were born. What a miracle life is!!! It was a great start to 2nd grade!!!!



The Third Graders have been "growing" this 1st nine weeks. We've enjoyed learning about plant growth and growing our own plants in our classrooms. Our first field trip was "Tarheels Go Walking". We learned about all the historic sites and monuments in downtown Wilmington and enjoyed having lunch on the waterfront. Mrs. Utt has been teaching us how to manage our time and how to study for a test. We are really growing up and becoming responsible third graders!

We are doing long multiplication and division in 4th grade math. Our new reading theme is "It's Amazing" (which all 4th grade teachers are :)). Ms. Campbell and Mrs. Matney will be taking a field trip to the Cape Fear Museum and Burgwin-Wright House, and the entire 4th grade will be taking a field trip at the end of November to hear an organ concert. Our new science kits are on animal adaptations, focusing on animals of NC. Social Studies is focused on the three branches of government and the first Native Americans of our state.



We're off to a great beginning to our school year. Our wonderful group of fifth graders are quickly adjusting to the challenges that fifth grade offers! We have also seen the students embrace the privileges of fifth grade such as Student Council, clubs, safety patrol, morning announcements, delivering birthday cards and Eaton Live. A huge thank you to the Eaton PTA for sponsoring the majority of the costs for our ropes course field trip. This is a great opportunity for our fifth graders! We will experience a day of team and individual challenges in "on the ground" activities, the Alpine Tower, and the giant swing. We can't wait!