

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- OCT. 5TH- WEAR BLUE FOR BULLY PREVENTION
- OCT. 6TH- PTO FUNDRAISER ENDS
- OCT. 7TH- INTERIMS GO HOME
- OCT. 12TH- LIONS CLUB SCREENINGS 7TH GRADE
- OCT. 13TH- COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW MEETING AT 4:00 AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
- OCT. 14TH AND 15TH- PICTURE DAY
- OCT. 21ST- 6TH GRADE PARENT INVOLVEMENT EVENT
- OCT 21ST- PTO MEETING IN THE LIBRARY AT 6:00 P.M.
- OCT. 26-30 RED RIBBON WEEK
- OCT. 26- WEAR RED FOR RED RIBBON KICK-OFF
- OCT. 27- PUT A CAP ON DRUGS- HAT DAY
- OCT. 28- SHADE OUT DRUGS- WEAR SHADES DAY
- OCT. 28- DIVISION SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND TITLE 1 MEETING AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE
- OCT. 29- WE ARE A TEAM DAY- WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM SHIRT
- OCT. 30- ORANGE YOU GLAD YOU'RE DRUG FREE- WEAR ORANGE DAY

Essex Intermediate School

OCTOBER, 2015

Looking Forward to a Great Year!

Dear Families,

There is something so exciting about the beginning of the school year! Our students are engaged and eager to learn, and our teachers have been busy preparing interesting lessons to ensure students are active participants in the learning process.



This year at EIS, one of the areas we are focusing on centers around parent and community engagement and involvement within our school. We believe that through a partnership of parents, community members, and teachers we will be able to work together to ensure the progress of each and every one of our students. In this newsletter you will find information about our first parent/community outreach meeting that was held at Essex Intermediate School on September 17. I encourage you to read the ideas that were discussed at this meeting. If you are able to assist in any of these areas, please contact me. I would also encourage each of you to attend our next meeting on Thursday, November 5th at 5:30 p.m. in the EIS library.

On a personal note, I want to thank each of you for sharing your children with us every day. It has been incredibly rewarding to be back in the school community that I feel so passionately about. The connection I feel to the students, parents, and staff members in Essex County has made the start to the school year a wonderful experience. I am truly honored and humbled to have been given this opportunity, and I look forward to working with the families I know well from my time in the county as a teacher as well as the new families I am excited to get to know better. I believe in teamwork and open communication, and I know that together we will work to ensure a positive and productive learning environment for our students. Please feel free to contact me at any time at hgentry@essex.k12.va.us or 804-443-3040. Together, we can make each day a great day for learning.

Best regards,

Heather Gentry
Principal

Parent/Community Outreach Update



Parent /Community
Involvement Meeting
on September 17th

▶ *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*— Margaret Mead

We had 21 members present at our first parent/community outreach meeting on September 17th at EIS. This meeting provided opportunities for parents, community members, and teachers to come together to discuss ways we can collaborate as a team to meet the needs of all of our students. As a group we came up with some worthwhile ideas to engage families, community members, and students in our school.

- We will be forming the "Men of Distinction" and "Ladies of Virtue and Elegance" clubs that existed in prior years at EIS. Community and parent volunteers will be needed to assist with meetings.
- A method of having 8th grade students mentor 5th grade students will be developed and instituted to encourage our 8th graders to be role models for our 5th graders.
- An Essex Intermediate School Facebook page has been developed to help inform the community and our parents about the exciting events going on at our school. Please like us on Facebook!
- We will be having fun parent involvement events for each grade level throughout the year to encourage connections between our teachers and our families.
- Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 5th at 5:30 in the EIS library. We hope to see you there!



We Need You!

There is an African proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child." In order to make all of the ideas discussed at our parent/community outreach meeting work effectively for our students at EIS, we need your help. We are in great need of volunteers to assist with our after school clubs. We would also like to form business partnerships to provide resources for our parent involvement events. If you are able to help in any of the areas listed throughout this newsletter, please contact Heather Gentry at hgentry@essex.k12.va.us or at 804-443-3040.

From Our Literacy and Curriculum Coaches.....

Read Aloud to a Child Week is October 18-24, 2015!

All parents, teachers, and caregivers are encouraged to join in celebrating Read Aloud to a Child Week, October 18-24, 2015. The Virginia Department of Education, in cooperation with Read to Them, is supporting this effort. This year's theme is Friendship. Tips, suggested titles, pledge sheets, reading certificates, and other materials can be found at the Read to Them website: [http:// readtothem.org/RAW-2015](http://readtothem.org/RAW-2015).

"The most certain way to succeed is to just try one more time."
~Thomas Edison

Scary Math— From Our Math Coach

Vampire Numbers- Try It !

A *vampire number* is an even number formed by multiplying two numbers (called *fangs*). For example, 1395 is a vampire number because $15 \times 93 = 1395$.

Notice that you can mix up the order of the digits in the fangs.

Find a vampire number using a calculator if you'd like (just don't look them up on the Internet- that's no fun).

Keep in mind, you can't use pairs *trailing zeros*. These are numbers with more than one zero in the lower places, like 150 and 930. But 150 and 903 would be allowed.

Parent Involvement Events at EIS

On Wednesday, September 23, our 5th grade teachers, led by Mrs. Tignor, held the first Parent Involvement Event of the year for EIS. In an effort to increase our connection with families and parents this year at EIS, each grade level will be hosting a parent involvement event. During the 5th grade event, the students were able to participate in many exciting activities. First, the students stayed after school and worked on their homework together with their teachers. Then they completed a fun Science experiment where they made a hypothesis about how many rubber bands it would take to make a watermelon explode. The 5th grade Science teachers got very messy conducting this experiment, and the students were so excited to see the watermelon explode! The students and teachers then met the parents in our gym where they read about the history of Zumba and did a think-pair-share together to discuss what they read. After this, we all participated in a Zumba workout together. The event concluded in the cafeteria with some food and a time for our parents, teachers, and students to talk and get to know each other. We hope to see all of our parents throughout the year at these fun events!



Zumba in the gym during our 5th grade parent involvement event!

News from the EIS Library.....

The library doors are open for business! Students have been excitedly checking out books, working on research projects, and coming in to simply read for pleasure. I have enjoyed getting reacquainted with our 5th and 6th graders and can't wait to meet all our 7th and 8th grade students as they visit with their English teachers.

Students will be excited to check out all of the new arrivals from Junior Library Guild. Junior Library Guild is a book review and collection development service that offers a monthly subscription for new-release books. Our library receives new middle school books every month! The books are generally novels, non-fiction, and graphic novels with themes of mystery, adventure, sports, and other high interest topics.

Don't forget that you can access our Destiny website from home to see all of the wonderful titles that are available in our library. The following website will take you directly to our Destiny webpage.

<http://tinyurl.com/psjtl5a>

Each month I will highlight a book of interest in the library. This month's book is *Nelson Beats the Odds* by local author Ronnie Sidney. Both students and adults will enjoy this inspirational graphic novel that features Nelson, a student with a learning disability. After learning that he has been placed in Special Education, he fears being teased. However, with encouragement from his parents and a special teacher, he discovers his true potential.

Last but not least, get ready for our fall Scholastic book fair. This exciting event will be coming to our library November 9-13. Look for more information to come home soon!

Happy Reading!

Latanya Weeden
EIS Librarian

"Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light" ~Vera Nazarian



PBIS Update From Mr. Doyle.....

Last year, in an effort to improve school-wide behaviors, Essex Intermediate School formed a committee and adopted a new program called PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). Over the summer, the motivated PBIS team members dedicated days of work towards the implementation of PBIS. PBIS is one of the foremost advances in school-wide discipline with an emphasis on school-wide systems of supports that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create a positive school environment.

The link between families and school is an important one. When families are meaningfully involved in educational activities their children do better in schools. Families play an important part in their child's education and social development!

We encourage our students to be positive by following "The Essex Way": Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Ready. Students demonstrating positive behaviors are awarded a bone that is proudly displayed on the bulletin board outside the main office. Each month, staff will nominate several students that have exhibited our behavioral expectations, and one individual per grade level will be selected as the Student of the Month and recognized during School Board Meetings.

Students of the Month

Each month, students from each grade level are nominated by the EIS staff for exhibiting our behavioral expectations and going above and beyond at our school. From these nominations, our staff members choose a "Student of the Month" for each grade level. For the month of September we recognized the following students as our PBIS Students of the Month:

5th Grade: Grace Dann- "She comes in and is always ready, responsible, and respectful. She is showing that she understands the "Essex Way".

6th Grade: Tommy Adams- "This student is always polite and shows wonderful manners. When I was having difficulty maneuvering a computer cart through the door, he came over and held the door for me. His thoughtfulness was appreciated."

7th Grade: DeJuan Bundy- "This student has returned to school with enthusiastic energy, willing to learn and participate in class."

8th Grade: Vanitra Moran- "She is always smiling and is a deep thinker. She is very helpful to new students in our building."

Congratulations to our Students of the Month for September. We look forward to recognizing the Students of the Month for October at our next school board meeting.



**Above-Grace Dann, Tommy Adams, and DeJuan Bundy
Below- Vanitra Moran**

