



Elmwood Park CUSD 401

Elm Middle School News

March/April, 2010

Important Upcoming Dates

- 3/22: No School
- 3/25-26: Spring Pictures
- 4/1: Awards Assembly
- 4/1: 8th grade dinner dance
- 4/2-4/11: Spring Break
- 5/6: NJHS induction

Students enjoy being “locked in” at school

An annual tradition at Elm, Lock-In was held on Friday, February 26. The evening’s activities consisted of several large, inflatable amusements set up in the gym (the bungee race is pictured below), a dj-hosted dance

room, a hair and nail “salon” that was staffed by Elm parents, drawings for prizes, and electronic lip-sync videos. Over one hundred Elm students attended, and many Elm parents volunteered their time to help chaperone.



Family literacy night creates opportunity for fun and games (and reading)

District 401 reading director Valerie McCall and Elm teacher Lisa Lofredo organized a Family Literacy Night at Elm this semester. Families were invited to spend the evening at the Elm library playing a variety of games that strengthen literacy skills, such as Scrabble, Scrabble Slam, Bananagrams, and other

board and card games. Elm students and their parents and siblings were invited to the event. Families took turns trying out the various games and discovering some new favorites. At the end of the night, pizza was served to all and drawings were held. All the families in attendance were able to take home one of the games.



“Digital Generation v401” to highlight technology

"Digital Generation v401", the District 401 technology event will take place throughout Elmwood Park High School on **Wednesday, March 24, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM**. Bring your families! This is a **FREE**, family event. There will be activities for all ages including:

Create your own multi-media poster using Glogster. Learn how to make movies on your home computer using free Windows software. Play video games created by other students. Draw pictures with KidPix. Watch poetry videos made by 3rd graders. Try online reading programs like Headsprouts.

Test your knowledge of Elmwood Park using classroom clickers. Learn about internet safety for your children. Get help using your cell phone.

Featured legal presentation for parents: Learn from an attorney about the latest legal ramifications of student “sexting” and cell phone usage, laws governing the use of technology, and what you and your students should know about safe and legal technology uses. Laws are changing and the ways students use technology is evolving. Stay current on how these trends affect your student and what parents and students can do to stay safe.

Fourth quarter begins: Eighth graders begin the countdown to graduation and end-of-the-year activities

The following dates and information may prove helpful in planning for the final weeks of the 2009 - 2010 school year. (This information was also sent home in a letter with 8th graders).

Spring Photos

Spring Photos are **March 25th**. There will be a cap and gown available. If you would like your students photographed with a cap and gown, please have the student notify the photographer.

Class Trip The class trip is on **Friday, May 21st**. Students will be going on an entertaining architectural lunch cruise on the Mystic Blue ship that departs from Navy Pier. Students will enjoy a buffet lunch, architectural narration, DJ, and dancing. Students

will depart from Elm at 9 a.m. and return by 3 p.m. **The cost of the trip will be \$40.00 per student.** More detailed information will follow.

Graduation Practice Days

We will have graduation practice on **Monday, May 24th** in the morning at Elm Middle School and **Tuesday, May 25th** in the morning at Elmwood Park High School. Eighth grade students will have an early dismissal after graduation practice on **May 25th**. Students will receive their gowns and tickets at that time. More information about the time and details will be sent home in May. Students must be in attendance at both practices in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Graduation Tickets

Graduation is **Tuesday, May 25th** at 7:00 p.m. at Elmwood Park High School. Each student will be given four (4) tickets for the graduation ceremony. These tickets will be distributed May 25th, once we have determined who will be promoted to ninth grade. Elm Middle School does not provide extra tickets for the gym due to the limited seating capacity.

If additional family members want to see the ceremony, seating will be provided in the EPHS auditorium where the ceremony will be projected live on a large screen.

Only persons with tickets will be allowed seating in the gym.

Elm News in Brief

8th graders to take "Explore" test: The Explore test is the 8th grade level of the ACT. Like the ACT, it contains 4 sections. 8th graders will be taking the test in four different class periods (two language arts, one science, and one math) during the week of April 13. The results will give a baseline prediction of how well Elm students are progressing towards college readi-

ness, and will allow for more accurate high school placements.

"Alice in Wonderland" At EPHS March 19, 20, 21: Elm students attended a special performance of "Alice in Wonderland" on March 18 at EPHS. Performances continue at 7 p.m. on March 19 and 20, and 2 p.m. on March 21. The show is appropriate for family members of all ages.

National Junior Honor Society selection process to begin: All students who have been on honor roll for three consecutive quarters may apply for membership in NJHS. Sponsors Mrs. Hong and Mrs. Obrecht will meet with eligible students on March 24 to explain the application process, and completed applications are due in mid-April. Induction of new members happens at a ceremony on May 6th.

Elm Middle School Information

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Kathleen Porreca, Principal
Adam Parisi, Assistant Principal



Elm's Mission Statement

The faculty, staff, students, parents, and community of Elm Middle School are devoted to academic excellence.

In addition, we feel it is important for students to develop a sense of self-esteem and confidence in order to further ensure success in high school and to enable them to make the correct decisions that will guide them later in life.

We believe in:

*Individual differences
Responsible behavior and
An obligation of students to serve their*