



Elmwood Park CUSD 401

Elm Middle School News

May, 2011

Important Upcoming Dates

- 5/10: Band and Choir concert
- 5/13: 8th grade dinner dance
- 5/19: Poetry Night
- 5/23 and 5/25: 8th grade field trips
- 5/24: Circus Day
- 5/26: 8th grade graduation
- 5/30: Memorial Day—No school
- 6/1: Last day of school for 7th graders

Elm 8th graders will discover the big top within on May 24: Circus Day

On Tuesday, May 24, the Elm 8th graders will share in a unique learning experience as they enter the big top of Cirque Amongus. Cirque Amongus is a self-contained school program offering students, teachers, and parents the opportunity to explore the world of the circus from the inside.

The school day begins not with the bell, but with the sound of a circus train whistle. The students are gathered into troupes of 10. Once the students meet with their assigned instructors for the day, they begin a training circuit, sampling 10 different circus acts including juggling, tight-wire, and acrobatics. They are encouraged to learn, experiment, and think creatively at each station. After lunch, new troupes are formed as the students each choose their favorite

act and begin a focused training session. They have one hour to assemble an act with the members of their troupe. When the hour is up, the curtain rises on Cirque Amongus.

Cirque Amongus is the show. It is the circus discovered that day by the students, parents, and teachers. It is the circus on, around, and connecting each one of us. Each troupe performs a 3-minute act. Students display their newfound talents in a show sure to entertain, amaze, and amuse. When the curtain closes and the show comes to an end, the students are left with a sense of accomplishment, showmanship, and an experience that they will never forget—the day the circus came to them.

Cirque Amongus introduces the circus arts in a fun-filled environment promoting self-confidence, perseverance, and teamwork.

Students discover newfound talents as they experiment firsthand with rolling globes, tight-wires, unicycles, equilibristics, magic, juggling, acrobatics, stilts, trapeze, and pantomime. The Cirque Amongus facilitators are experienced performers trained in a wide variety of circus arts. They oversee the training, lending advice, keeping an eye on safe practices, and demonstrating equipment.

The afternoon kindergarten classes, and the district's first and second graders will be taking a field trip to Elm to watch the eighth graders perform their show. Administrators and staff members from around the district will be joining Elm staff and parents in working with the Elm students throughout the day.

Elm Principal, Dr. Porreca, talking about Circus Day, said

“We wanted an activity that would be fun, different, and educational for our 8th graders’ last week at school. Cirque Amongus caught our eye because it is definitely something that students would not be able to experience on their own. It’s an activity that we can provide that is totally unique and it looks like great fun. Additionally, it supports physical education, teamwork, creativity, and so many other positive values. The little kids are going to be so excited to see the 8th graders doing their acts. Cirque Amongus is tailoring their program for us so that it is appropriate for just 8th graders.” Elm is still seeking some adult volunteers for the day (parents or siblings, age 18 or older). Please call (708)452-3550 if you are available on May 24 to help out. For more information on Cirque Amongus, visit www.cirqueamongus.com.

District 401 welcomes new Superintendent of Schools, conducts survey

The Elmwood Park District 401 Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Kevin Anderson as the new Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Anderson is presently the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning in the Oak Park School District #97. He earned his doctorate in 1992 from the University of Northern Iowa and brings extensive knowledge and experience from a number of Midwest school districts, covering Kindergarten through 12th grade. His background also includes: Director of Technology, a Consultant for At-Risk Services, an Assistant Professor in Colleges, a teacher, and a published author of educational articles. The interviewing process began last fall, when Dr. Douglas Rudig

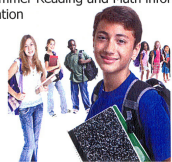
shared his plans for retirement with the Board of Education.

In preparation for the new superintendent starting in July, the district is conducting a survey of parents, staff, students, and community members to help gather information about priorities, strengths, and areas for improvement for district programs, facilities, and directions for future planning.

All district parents are asked to please participate in the survey. The feedback of parents is particularly valuable. The survey can be accessed online at: <http://www.epcusd401.org/survey>

Are YOU ready for middle school? You are invited: Elm Middle School Entering 7th grader Parent and Student Orientation

- Social networking safety presentation for parents
- School tours
- Submit registration papers and payment—at the discounted rate
- Help with using Power School
- How to access the latest school news on the school website and on Power School
- What to expect in middle school—information for parents and students
- Expectations for middle school and PBIS
- Summer Reading and Math information



Date: June 7, 2011
Time: 12:00—2:00 p.m. or 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Elm Middle School
7607 W. Cortland
Elmwood Park

This orientation is for parents and students to learn everything you need to know to start middle school in August. Choose to come to either informational session. EPCUSD business office personnel will be present to accept registration forms and process fee payments for you. Elm administrators, teachers, and students will be on hand to answer questions, provide tours of the building, demonstrate the use of the parents and student portals for Power School, and get you ready for the middle school years!

⇒ Students and parents are asked to attend this event TOGETHER as a family.

Questions? Call Elm : (708)452-3550

Freshman Orientation



Elmwood Park H.S.

Nervous about the first day of school? Worried about what to do or where to go? New student orientation can ease those fears! Come learn all about EPHS and start your year off right at orientation.

R.S.V.P. BY JULY 30TH TO
ANDERSONC@EPCUSD401.ORG
OR CALL (708) 583-6213
(PLEASE LEAVE THE NAME OF THE STUDENT ATTENDING)

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

TIME: 9:00AM-1:00PM

LOCATION: E.P.H.S.

COST: FREE!!!

The following topics will be presented:

- Meet the administrators and learn about school rules
- Receive your schedule from the counselors
- School tour (find your locker, locate your class, etc)
- Study skills and time management for a successful freshman year
- What to do if you are absent or tardy
- Meet the coaches and learn about extracurricular activities at EPHS

Elm News in Brief

Elm PAT news:

At the PAT meeting held on May 3, officers for the 2011-2012 Elm Middle School Parent and Teacher Organization were selected. The new officers for next year will be:

President: Fran Schwartz

Vice President: Fran Howard

Secretary: Lynn Schmidt

Treasurer: Kerri Hagen

Traditionally, the PAT plans and hosts the 8th grade dinner dance held each spring, plans and hosts the graduation breakfast for the 8th graders, and hosts a Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon each year. PAT volunteers help out with school functions such as picture days, dances, Open House and other special events. The PAT has also run many fundraisers to help provide funds for a number of projects to benefit the students of Elm. In the past few years, the PAT has helped re-paint the Elm gym, purchased sound equipment,

purchased thousands of dollars worth of books for the Elm library, and donated money for assembly presentations and materials to support the PBIS program. During the 2010-2011 school year, the PAT also donated the money to restore the Adventure Education club. (The Adventure Education club organizes trips to Great America, Gurnee Mills, and an educational overnight trip to Springfield, Illinois).

The PAT meets each month during the school year and all parents are welcome to attend.

Elm Middle School Information

Elm Middle School
7607 Cortland Street
Elmwood Park, Illinois
60707

Phone: 708-452-3550
Fax: 708-452-0662

Principal's e-mail: porrecak@epcusd401.org

We're on the web at:
www.epcusd401.org/elm/

Dr. 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 community.