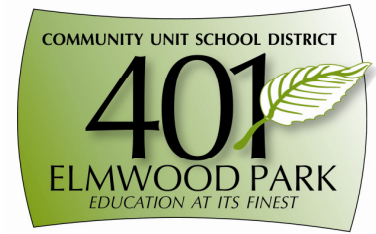


# EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER NEWS

JOANNE MOURIKES RICE, PRINCIPAL

OCTOBER 6, 2011

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



What beautiful weather we had to celebrate "National Walk to School Day" on Wednesday. Thank you to all our parents who walked to school and to those that joined us in walking around the Circle. Students were excited to walk with their friends and see the interesting sites along our route as they breathed in the fresh air and enjoyed using their large muscles.

Our October PTO meeting has been rescheduled to this Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 11:05 am in the ECC All Purpose room. Childcare will be provided during the meeting. The fabulous results of our book fair will be shared, and fall activities will be discussed.

The ECC will be hosting a parent meeting on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 5 to 6 pm in our All Purpose room. Patti Faldani, our school social worker, and Ann Udell, our parent educator, will present Dr. Thomas Phelan's award winning discipline program, **1-2-3 Magic**, and **More 1-2-3 Magic**. After watching this presentation, you can immediately start to manage troublesome behavior more effectively, and you will understand how your silence can speak louder than words.

Triton College will be offering free English as a Second Language classes at Elmwood Park High School, 8201 W. Fullerton, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 pm to 8 pm beginning Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. These class sessions will last through December. If there is interest, classes will resume in January. Registration will be held at Elmwood Park High School on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm. All Elmwood Park residents may register.

On Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, the entire kindergarten class will be going on their fall field trip. Please read your classroom newsletter carefully to be aware of start and end times. All students in our building participate in one fall and one spring field trip. This week, one of our Preschool classes was returning from a field trip when the bus they were on had a flat tire. Since we had practiced an emergency bus evacuation drill in September, our students were able to exit the bus and board another bus quickly and safely. In addition to the bus evacuation drill, we practice fire drills, lock-down drills and tornado drills every year to ensure the safety of all our students. We have our annual visit to the Elmwood Park Fire Department this Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, to learn about fire safety, and another fire drill scheduled for later this month.

## Important Dates

October 7<sup>th</sup> – No School, Institute Day

October 10<sup>th</sup> – No School, Columbus Day

October 12<sup>th</sup> – Kindergarten Field Trip

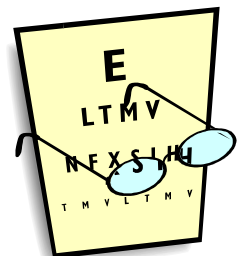
October 13<sup>th</sup> – Visit to Fire Department

October 13<sup>th</sup> – PTO Meeting 11:05, babysitting provided

October 31<sup>st</sup> – Halloween Parade, 8:45 am, 12:30 pm

## Reminder-

Eye exams are due for kindergarten students on October 15<sup>th</sup>.



OVER

# Helping Children Learn

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



## How can parents encourage good classroom behavior?

**Q: My first child just entered school and I want him to know I expect good behavior in the classroom. Do you have any tips on how to reinforce this at home?**

**A:** Many educators share your concerns about students who lack respect for rules and other people. But proper classroom behavior is not much different from the behavior you expect from your young child at home. Here are some behaviors to discuss and reinforce with your child:

- **Just be nice!** It sounds simple. But if your child speaks kindly to his teachers and classmates, waits his turn and shares, his behavior problems will be few.
- **How to handle frustrations.** At home, your child has a place to go if he is working through a “meltdown.” At school, he is expected to keep it together. Help him practice using words to express feelings. Calming techniques like deep breathing can help, too.
- **Behavior with family vs. behavior at school.** Parents and children may kiss each other at home, but there is no kissing others at school. At home, he might get a bite of what you’re eating, but taking someone else’s food is a no-no at school. When possible, try to enforce classroom rules at home to minimize confusion.

## Word recognition inspires

Help your child fall in love with written words by making them part of your home. Put words:

- **In her room.** Hang alphabet posters or decorate with letter blocks.
- **In the kitchen.** Label your child’s drawings—“house,” “flower,” “Dad”—and put them on the refrigerator. Ask her to help you with the grocery list and print the words carefully while she watches.

## Sharpen memory skills

Remembering things is a key step in the thinking process. To strengthen this skill, play the “What’s Missing?” game. Put five familiar objects on a tray. Have your child look at the objects for a full minute, then have him hide his eyes. Take one object away, and ask him to open his eyes. See if he can tell you which item you took away.