WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

NEFF KINDERGARTEN

950 Jenne St, Grand Ledge MI 48837
Phone 517-925-5740 Fax 517-925-5772 Attendance Line 517-925-5333
Mrs. Kelly Smith, Principal

February 8, 2019

Dates to Remember

Feb 12	**Wear Purple for Ruby Jane!**
Feb 13	Count Day
Feb 14	PTO Meeting 6:30 - 7:30
Feb 15	1/2 Day Morning only
Feb 18	No School President's Day
Feb 22	End of Trimester 2 (K-6)
Feb 27	Conferences 5:00 - 8:00 pm Book Fair
Feb 28	Conferences 5:00 - 8:00pm Book Fair
Mar 1	No School PM Conferences 12:30 - 3:30
Mar 8	PTO Family Dance
Mar 14	PTO Meeting 6:30 - 7:30 Guest Speaker - Dr Metcalf
Mar 20	Pack @ Blessings in a Backpack
Mar 29	Spring Recess
Apr 8	School Resumes
Apr 19	No school in the afternoon
May 24	No school in the afternoon
May 27	No school - Memorial Day
Jun 4	Last day of school 1/2 day

PRINCIPAL'S PRIDE

Completed! We had 141 students who took the Kids' Heart Challenge. We raised $6266.00 in online donations for the American Heart Association. I will have our final amount raised in next week's newsletter. Thank you for all of your support.

Since 2000, February 7-14 has been proclaimed "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week." The past two years, Grand Ledge has participated in wearing purple for CHD Awareness and Ruby Jane Day and we are asking that again for Tuesday, February 12th to honor our heart warriors who bravely face this disease, and for those heart angels who have lost their fight. Let's see all the shades of purple at Neff on Tuesday!

I certainly hope you are enjoying reading The World According to Humphrey with your child. Today the kids enjoyed a Humphrey snack of carrots provided by our Food Service department. Since it is important to read aloud to your child to help him/her acquire language through listening, here are three of ten tips provided to us by "Read to Them:"

1. Match the reading style to the book – While there are some books that work well with a quieter style, the book we are reading works well with a playful style and lots of enthusiasm.
2. How to make time – Prioritize in order to make the daily reading an important part of your routine. Sometimes this means putting off a chore, and sometimes it may mean not watching a television show. You can read to your child at bedtime or fit it in between other activities.
3. Punch vocabulary – Make the language in a story more interesting by choosing a word in each sentence and doing something more with it: enunciate it, whisper it, elongate it, emphasize it! It will help capture your child's interest and enliven the prose.

Have fun reading chapters 5 and 6 this weekend. In fact, your child is bringing home a little hamster on a keychain that he/she might want to hold while you are reading. Read-Read-Read!

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

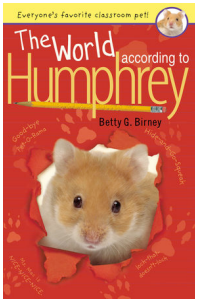
Parent Teacher Conferences at Neff will be held February 27th and 28th from 5:00 - 8:00 pm and the afternoon of March 1st from 12:30 - 3:30 pm. Please go online and set up your conferences as soon as possible. You may access the site by clicking: http://www.glcomets.net/ourschools/kindergarten/neffelementary/parent-teacher-conferences/. Due to high class numbers and limited time, we can only schedule one conference for each student. In split family situations, please make arrangements to attend the same conference as there are not enough time slots for all families to schedule separate conferences. Thank you so much!

PTO NEWS

We hope you enjoyed your week of snow days last week!

We wanted to send you a reminder of our February PTO meeting on February 14th at 6:30. We will be discussing the upcoming Family Dance on March 8th, talking about kindergarten roundup, the DIBELS testing results, and more.

We also wanted to remind parents that Dr Metcalf will be joining us on March 14th for an update on plans for the school reconfiguration and what is next now that the bonds have passed. If you are unable to make the meeting, please feel free to email us questions you have and we can ask Dr Metcalf when he joins us in March.



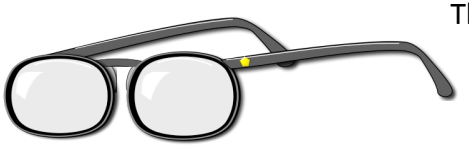
This past week Neff started a fun, new project called One School, One Book. This is where everyone in the school will be reading the same book - from the students, teachers, classroom assistants, custodians, bus drivers and cafeteria workers. Mrs. Smith and the PTO are asking for volunteers to read to students who do not get read to at home. Please take a look at the SignUpGenius link below and see if you can help. Grandparents are welcome to come as well! However, they do need to make sure that they have had their background check.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A44AEAC2CA57-onebook

Thank you for your time, Kristy Merignac

EYEGLASSES COLLECTION

Cub Scout Pack 657 is in search of your old glasses. They will be given to the Grand Ledge Lions Club to be distributed to those in need. Collection buckets will be in the school offices until February 22, 2019. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution.



NEFF PTO FAMILY DANCE AND AUCTION

Neff families dust off your dancing shoes! The PTO will be hosting a Family Dance and Silent Auction on Friday March 8th. The cost of the dance is $2.00 per person ($3.00 per person at the door) and is from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. We will send home a flier early next week for ticket sales. The Silent Auction will end at 7:30.

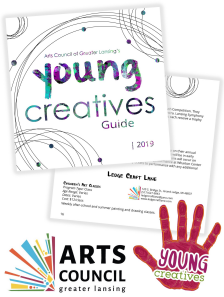
As the Neff Family Dance and Silent Auction is coming up we are asking for volunteers from each classroom to help coordinate the classroom basket.

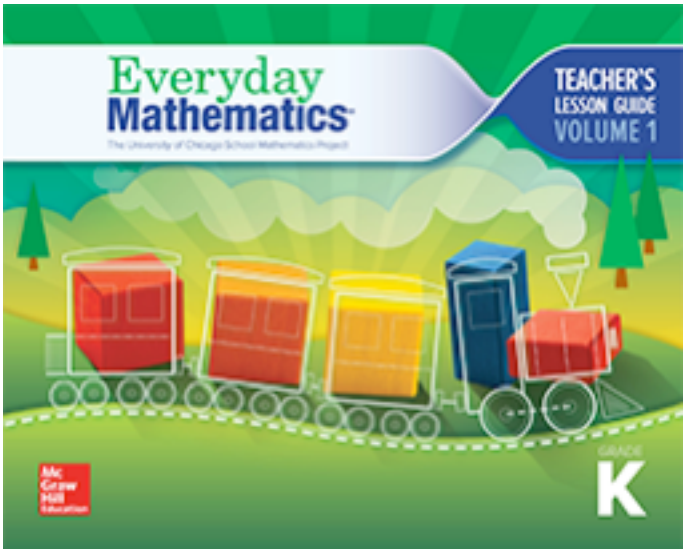
If you are interested in helping coordinate the basket, please email me and include the teacher's name. Coordinating the baskets is easy. The teachers have already picked their themes for the baskets, and all we need is someone to create a SignUp Genius and keep track of items that have been sent in.

Please email me at kmerignac@gmail.com and let me know if you are interested and I will get you more information! Thank you so much!

YOUNG CREATIVES GUIDE

The Arts Council of Greater Lansing continues to offer an expansive arts program for youth in the tri-counties. The Young Creatives Guide provides Lansing's young creatives, their parents, and their teachers with an extensive listing of classes, camps, lectures, workshops, and beyond! More information on Young Creatives and the full guide of 50+ pages of creative possibilities is available at http://lansingarts.org/programs/young-creatives





Here is our math homework for this week. Have fun exercising your bodies and your minds this weekend!

Teen Numbers

Family Note

The numbers 10–19 are sometimes called "teen numbers." As your child works with these numbers, he or she will begin to see that each is made up of "10 and some more 1s." For example, 11 is 10 and 1 more, while 17 is 10 and 7 more. (10 is 10 and 0 more.) This is an important step toward understanding place value.

To put teen numbers in familiar terms, you might talk about the word *teenagers* or *teens*. Are there any teenagers in your family?

Teen Number Exercises

Say a number between 10 and 19. Then have your child act out the number by doing one type of movement 10 times and a different movement between 0 and 9 times. For example, 10 jumping jacks and 2 toe-touches to make 12, or 10 jumping jacks and 6 kicks to make 16. Count each movement together aloud, from 1 to the teen number. Be creative with your movements!

"SUPER HEROES DAY"

A "TASTE OF GRAND LEDGE"

Saturday, February 9, 2019, 1:00-3:00 pm

Don't miss the party of the year!
The Caring Neighbor Foundation presents this fundraiser for Blessings in a Backpack-Grand Ledge at the Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge.

The generous individuals, bakery and restaurant owners who will showcase their palate-pleasing food in this event are:

Aggie Mae's Bakery, A&W Restaurant, the Log Jam, Biggby Coffee, Cugino's Italian Restaurant, Flour Child Bakery, Grand Ledge Area Fire Department, Grand Ledge Police Department, Tim Hortons, Mancino's Pizza & Grinders, Pancho's Taqueria Food Truck, Renee's Cakes & the Opera House.

Family-friendly

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Who will feed the kids this weekend?

Free-Will Donation

Super Hero Theme
Wear your super hero costume – prizes awarded.

League of Enchantment Heroes attending

Face Painting & Balloon Twisting

Door Prizes

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK-G. L.
www.blessingsinabackpackgl.org

Any questions, call Chris Richardson- Beagle, Event Chair
517-983-2444

Storytimes at the library

Stories and Crafts
Tuesdays **10:30 a.m.**
Ages 3-5. Join us for stories, songs, and a craft.

Baby Time
Wednesdays **10:30 a.m.**
Ages birth-24 months. Have fun and learn with stories, songs, rhymes, and play time.

Toddler Storytime
Thursdays **10:30 a.m.**
Ages 18-36 months. Join us for stories, songs and rhymes, then play time with sensory activities that will help your toddler develop literacy, social, and motor skills.

Music and Movement Storytime
Fridays **10:30 a.m.**
All ages. Get ready for an energetic storytime! Move, dance and sing to a variety of music, and learn to play with instruments, scarves, parachutes, and more.

Game On!

Tuesdays **3 – 5 p.m.**
Ages 8-18. Visit us at the library after school for game time and more!

STEAM Saturday*

Sat, Feb 9 **1:30 – 3 p.m.**
For kids in kindergarten through third grade. February's theme is math in the millions.

PJ Storytime

Thu, Feb 14 **6 p.m.**
All ages welcome. Bring the whole family for stories, music, a craft, and a snack. Kids are welcome to wear their pajamas!

Family Movie Matinée

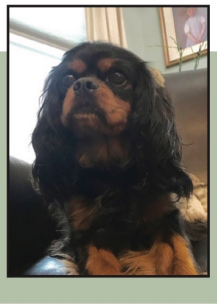
Sat, Feb 23 **1 p.m.**
All ages. Join us each month for a new-to-DVD family-friendly movie. It is free to attend and popcorn will be provided. This month's movie: *Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation* (PG 1 hr 37 min.)

Holiday Hours

The Library will be closed **February 16-18, 2019**

Paws for Reading*

Mon, Feb 11 **4 – 5 p.m.**
Thu, Feb 21 **6 – 7 p.m.**
All ages. Practice your reading with a great listener - a certified therapy dog! This is a great opportunity for kids learning to read or struggling with reading (and those who love reading too!) to practice reading aloud. Kids can choose whatever they'd like to read and one of our friendly therapy dogs will sit and listen.



*To register for Youth events, please call 517-321-4014 x3 or visit dtdl.org/events. To register for Adult events, please call 517-321-4014 x4 or visit dtdl.org/events.

2019 Grand Ledge Boys & Girls Comet Lacrosse

Season Begins March 11th

Girls Lacrosse

3rd - 8th Grade

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Protective Goggles
Girls Lacrosse Field Gloves (Optional)
Mouth Guard
Regulation Stick (No Boys Sticks)
Cleats

Boys Lacrosse

3rd - 8th Grade

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Lacrosse Helmet
Gloves & Arm Pads
Lacrosse Shoulder Pads
Mouth Guard
Regulation Stick
Cleats

*No lacrosse experience is necessary.

Equipment can be purchased locally at Athlete's Connection and Dick's Sporting Goods.
Athlete's Connection is holding an Appreciation Night with special discounts on February 18th from 5-7 PM.

Playing Fee: Girls = $175 + $75 uniform fee Boys 5th - 8th Grade = $175 + $75 uniform fee
Uniforms can be used each season. Boys 3rd-4th Grade = $100

REGISTER NOW ONLINE

www.gllacrosse.com

Register by February 11th

to be guaranteed a uniform by the first game

Payment plans and scholarships are available.
All players will require a current sports physical before the first practice on March 11th, 2019

A NONPROFIT PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME®

Camp Invention®

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE INSPIRED BY OUR NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES!

AKA WORLD-CHANGING INNOVATORS!

COLLABORATE

COLLABORATE TO BUILD PROTOTYPES!

HANDS-ON STEM

COMPLETE HANDS-ON CHALLENGES INSPIRED BY REAL INVENTORS!

DESIGN

DESIGN YOUR OWN REMOTE CONTROL BOT!

EASY WAYS TO SAVE*

$25 off
When you sign up by 3/22/19 using the promo code ***INNOVATE25***

$15 off
When you sign up between 3/23/19 and 5/10/19 using the promo code ***PLAY15FLYER***

$25 off
Per sibling when you register 2 or more siblings using the promo code ***SIB25AD***

*Discounts cannot be combined.

Your local Camp Invention site information:

REGISTER AT INVENT.ORG/CAMP OR 800-968-4332

Who: For children entering grades K–6
Location: Delta Center Elementary School
305 S. Canal Rd, Lansing, MI 48917
Date & Time: June 17 - 21, 2019 from 9:00am - 3:30pm
Price: $230 (before discount)
Director: Tricia Brentar | brentart@glcomets.net |

If these dates/times don't work for you, please visit invent.org/camp for other locations near you.

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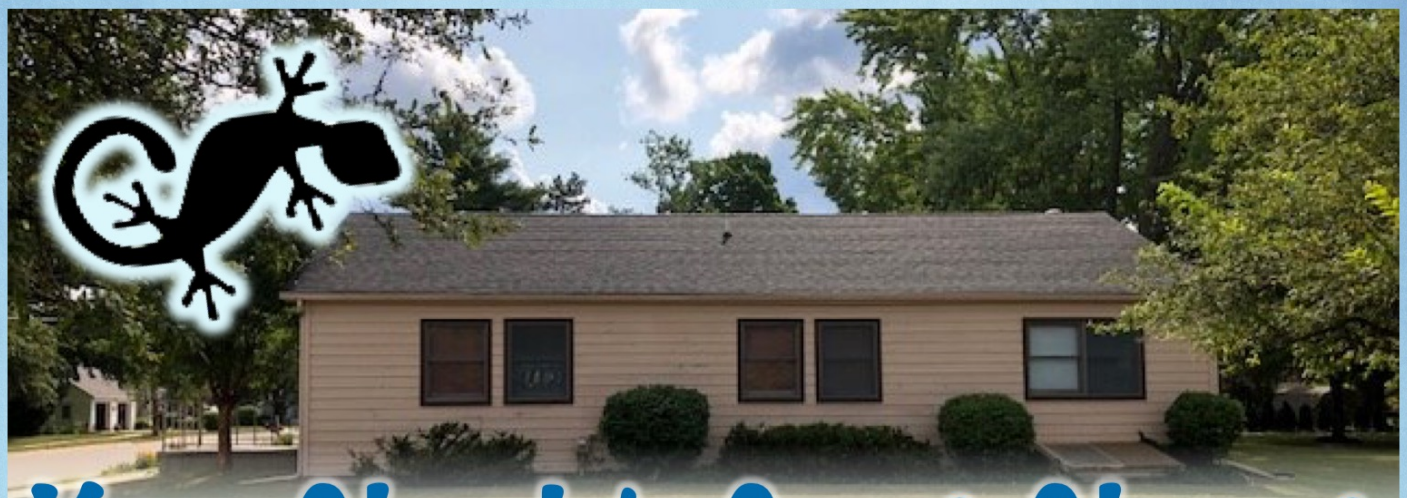
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE uspto

Investors in Creativity and Innovation
AbbVie Foundation
Army Educational Outreach Program
Duck Tape®
Ford Motor Company
General Motors
Burton D. Morgan Foundation
Nordson Corporation Foundation
United Way of Summit County



Ken Clark's Coat Closet

501 S. Clinton St. · Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Ken's Coat Closet has been serving many years as a clothing bank for the Grand Ledge community. Our mission has been twofold: 1. Providing free clothing, personal care items, and other items to the Grand Ledge Community. 2. Provide a work-based learning environment for special education students in our Giving Eaton County Kids Opportunities (GECKO) program.

Ken's Coat Closet is open to all members of the community for picking up things or dropping off donations:

Monday:	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday:	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday:	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Thursday:	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Friday:	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

If these times are not convenient please email us to schedule a time that will work: kenscoatcloset@gmail.com.

School Closing Protocol

Regular attendance is important to a student's ongoing success in school and we expect that, when school is in session, students will be actively engaged in learning. However, because we live in Michigan, and our winter weather is sometimes unpredictable, Grand Ledge Public Schools has established the following guidelines for decisions related to inclement weather. You may refer to these guidelines when you have questions about possible school closings/delays.

The decision to close or delay school due to inclement weather is a very difficult and serious undertaking. Decisions to close school for any reason are made in a thoughtful and deliberative process and, specifically, these decisions are made in response to the safety of students and staff members.

If the weather predictions are severe, we attempt to announce a school closing the night before. However, more likely a school closing decision won't be made until the middle of the night - usually no later than 5:30 a.m.

Factors taken into consideration when deciding whether to close/delay schools include:

- Information from the National Weather Service (NOAA);
- Amount and type of projected precipitation;
- Local weather forecasts, including start and stop times;
- Ability to clear parking lots and sidewalks around school buildings;
- Street (highway, residential and rural roads), and bus stop conditions;
- Freezing rain and the effect on roads, power lines and tree limbs;
- Wind and wind chill; along with overall temperature;
- Bus capability to start/run due to extreme cold or unplowed streets;
- Driving conditions; are they hazardous for buses, students, staff;
- Poor visibility due to fog, or blowing snow
- Water, power or phone outages within the district

Leaders in the Grand Ledge Public Schools Administrative team closely monitor national, state, and local weather forecasts. At all times, the safety of our students and staff is the foundation for this team's conversations and decisions. The district's administrators are routinely out driving the roads beginning as early as 3:00 a.m. to assess road conditions within the Grand Ledge Public Schools' community. It is important to remember, the Grand Ledge School District covers almost 120 square miles, many of these are rural areas.

The Administrative team also maintains regular communication with neighboring districts. Area superintendents remain in close contact beginning with the first prediction of inclement weather, often having conversations the day before and again in the middle of the night when foul weather seems certain. While there is an effort to keep decisions consistent across the region, each district must weigh many factors unique to their district. Therefore, there may be times Grand Ledge Public Schools is closed, while another district remains open. Finally, decisions concerning the cancellation of athletic or other extra-curricular events will be made with input from the appropriate school administrators/directors.

Early Dismissal

Grand Ledge Public Schools will generally not close once school is in session due to supervision concerns. Specifically, the district would not want to endanger a student by transporting a student by bus to his/her home, in the middle of a snowstorm, when there is no guarantee a parent received notification of the early dismissal and/or that the parent or other adult is home to let that child in out of the cold.

However, on an extremely rare occasion, it may be necessary to close a school during the day due to loss of power, loss of water or other non-weather emergency situation. Parents are reminded to provide the school office with up-to-date emergency telephone numbers to ensure our ability to notify them if this should be necessary.

Communication

An automated phone call to all Grand Ledge students and staff is typically the preferred method of communication. However, notification of school closings because of inclement weather will also be posted on the district's website, as well as published on Twitter, and Facebook. Additionally, local TV or radio stations may also post or announce closings/delays.

School closing, school delays, and early release decisions are not easy. Your child's education is important and we want to provide learning opportunities on as many days as possible. Almost always, some people will agree with the decision that is made, and others will not.

Please know these decisions are not made lightly. Rather, the decision to close school, for any reason, is made through a thoughtful and deliberative process. And, most importantly, these decisions are made with concern for the safety of students and staff members.

Popcorn Days

MINIMUM 25 CENT DONATION
1 BAG PER CHILD

All money sent in stays directly to your child's classroom!
Popcorn supplies provided by Neff PTO

Popcorn Dates:

September 20
October 18
November 15
December 13
January 17
February 21
March 21
April 18

©dianne j hook

Report to PARENTS

Make Every Day Count: Boost School Attendance

To stay on track in school, students need to be present every day. Missing 18 or more days of school in a year puts a child's high school graduation at risk, according to BoostUp.org, a national dropout prevention campaign. Being absent for just two days every month of the school year can put a child behind academically.

Students with regular attendance are more likely to read well by third grade and score higher on tests. They also tend to be more engaged in school and feel better about themselves.

Put your child on the path to success with these attendance strategies.

Make school a priority. Every absence (excused or not), can impact a child's academic achievement. Talk to your child about how important their education is. Make daily routines for homework and waking up on time for school.

Maintain communication with teachers and keep an eye on your child's academic progress. If your child seems disconnected from school or is prone to skipping class, try signing him or her up for an after-school activity. A report by the University of Minnesota found that students in an after-school program attended 18 more days of school and missed nine fewer than their peers.

Make a plan. If your schedule or transportation situation makes getting your child to school a challenge, ask for assistance. Make a carpool or transportation plan with other parents or family members, or ask your school principal for community programs or school initiatives that may help.

Report In. Know your school's attendance policies. If an absence or early dismissal is unavoidable, contact your school. If your family's religious observances fall on school days, let teachers know early in the year which days your child will miss.

Carefully weigh sick days. If your child is sick, talk with your health care provider to determine whether they should stay home from school. If the doctor or nurse recommends that your child stay home, find out exactly how long and on what conditions he or she can return to class (for example, after 24 hours of antibiotics).

Before keeping your children home, make sure they aren't faking symptoms. Regularly feigning sickness may be a sign that your child is anxious about facing a challenge at school, such as bullying.

Schedule wisely. Know your school's calendar, and arrange doctor and dentist appointments after school, on weekends, or during holiday breaks, if possible. Resist the urge to schedule vacations when students will miss school. This gives students the impression that school is not a priority.

Help students complete assignments. When your child has to miss school, make arrangements with teachers to pick up a packet of make-up work. Ensure that your child follows through, and be available to explain concepts or monitor their work. If your child's absence will be lengthy (for surgery, for instance), alert teachers as soon as you know and pick up assignments as the days go on.

Web Resources

Get Schooled has a number of attendance-related games and tools, including the Attendance Counts calculator and celebrity wake-up calls for students.
https://getschooled.com/

The Children's Hospital of Colorado's **How Sick is Too Sick? guide** can help families decide which symptoms should keep students at home.
http://bit.ly/1860RlA

Attendance Works offers research, webinars, and handouts designed with elementary and middle-level parents in mind.
http://www.attendanceworks.org/tools/

naesp National Association of Elementary School Principals

Report to Parents, written to serve elementary and middle-level principals, may be reproduced by National Association of Elementary School Principals members without permission. It can be posted to school websites, blogs, or sent via email. Back issues are available to members at **naesp.org**.

RP 32:1

THIRD GRADE READING LAW

A Parent Guide to Public Act 306

EATON REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY

1 What Is The Law All About?

- In an effort to boost reading achievement, Michigan lawmakers passed Public Act 306 in October 2016.
- To help more students be proficient by the end of third grade, the law requires extra support for K-3 students who are not reading at grade level.
- The law also states that a child may be retained in third grade if they are one or more grade levels behind in reading at the end of third grade.

2 What Do I Need To Know As Parent?

- Your child's reading progress will be closely monitored beginning in kindergarten.
- If your child is not reading where expected, a plan to improve reading will be created. This means your child's teacher and school will work with your child to find where your child needs support in his/her reading development and create a plan to support him or her. This plan includes:
  - Extra instruction or support in areas of need.
  - Ongoing checks on reading progress
  - A Read-at-Home plan that encourages you and your child to read and write outside of the school day.
  - Your child may be encouraged to participate in summer reading programs.
- The extra supports in your child's reading improvement plan will occur in small groups during the school day. Your child will not miss regular reading instruction.
- Starting in 2019-2020 school year, in order to be promoted from third to forth grade, your child must score less than one year behind on the state reading assessment, or demonstrate a third grade reading level through an alternate test or portfolio of student work.
- If you are notified your child may be retained, you have the right to meet with school officials and to request, within 30 days, an exemption if in the best interest of your child. The district superintendent will make the final decision.

3 What Can I Do To Support My Child?

Read at home with your child daily with books they enjoy, even in the summer. Some ways to do this:

- Read out loud to your child.
- Listen to your child read.
- Echo read (You read a line, then they repeat) .
- Read together at the same time.
- Reread or retell favorite stories.
- Talk to your child about the reading.

As you read:

- Ask your child to share what they remember.
- Ask questions about the reading.
- Talk about your favorite parts, what you've learned, or who is in the book and what they do.
- Talk about the pictures in the book how they connect to the words on the page.

- Talk to and with your kids a lot: Knowing more words helps kids to understand the words they read better.
- Encourage writing: Let children write the sounds they hear, spelling is developmental and a work in progress.
- Be involved in your child's education and support the reading plan if your child has one.

Eaton RESA Contacts:
Jennifer Eaglin, Early Literacy Specialist, jeaglin@eatonresa.org
Kaytie Palmiter, Early Literacy Specialist, kpalmiter@eatonresa.org

WONDERING ABOUT PRESCHOOL OPTIONS?

GSRP Preschool Offers:

- Low student/adult ratios (Max 8:1)
- Highly qualified & certified staff
- School-day programming (Monday-Thursday)
- Creative Curriculum focusing on:

  Language development, Literacy, Math, Social Emotional Development, Physical development, Science, Social Studies, Creative Arts
- Licensed by the State of Michigan

Classrooms are located in:

SPACES AVAILABLE IN YOUR DISTRICT!

Charlotte
Eaton Rapids
Grand Ledge
Maple Valley
Potterville

HOW DO I ENROLL?

GSRP is a state funded preschool program for 4 year olds. It specifically serves children from middle income households. It is administered by the State of Michigan.

To enroll, a child must be
4 years old on September 1st.

Decisions for enrollment into GSRP are based on individual family experiences.

- Family income
- Concerns about your child's development
- Challenging behavior
- English as a second language
- Family school difficulties
- Environmental risk
- Single parent home due to divorce, deployment, incarceration, illness.
- Change in guardianship

Learn more and apply at
www.eatonpreschool.org
517.541.8724

EDUStaff

OUR DISTRICT NEEDS YOU!

EDUStaff is an educational staffing company who specializes in providing guest teachers and other employment classes to our partnering school districts. Founded in 2010, EDUStaff has quickly become known in the educational community as providing outstanding customer service to both our partnering districts and our external employees; the guest teacher.

BENEFITS OF BEING A GUEST TEACHER

Becoming a guest teacher provides a number of benefits for those who are interested including:

- ✓ Flexible schedule to accept assignments when you want.
- ✓ Work in your child or grandchild's school.
- ✓ Make a positive difference in your community.

GUEST TEACHER REQUIREMENTS

Per State of Michigan law, the below requirements outline how to become a guest teacher:

- ✓ Current Michigan Teaching Certificate
- ✓ Expired Michigan Teaching Certificate
- ✓ 90-credit hours from a college, university or accredited community college

HOW TO APPLY

Log on to www.EDUStaff.org

For more information contact our customer service department.

www.EDUStaff.org | 877.974.6338