Principal’s Message

Here we are with only two months of school remaining. Yes, we are starting end-of-level assessments. This is an opportunity for students to “show what they know”. We look forward to celebrating student learning this school year. If you are planning to have your student out of school, please let your child’s teacher know. We will arrange for him/her to complete their assessments. It is also important to get your child to school on time so that they may participate in activities with their class.

In March, we were informed of Dr. Cunningham’s decision to close the International Pathways (IP) kindergarten class for next year. Emerson is committed to developing a strong and sustainable IP program and to place teachers in positions in which they are most comfortable. The staffing and reconfiguration of the IP program is as follows: 1st grade – Mrs. Morey (bilingual), 2nd grade – Mrs. Pizarro (bilingual), 3rd grade – Mrs. Oland-Wong (bilingual), 4th grade – Mr. Dadok (bilingual), 5th/6th grade – Mrs. Moreno (Spanish), and 5th/6th grade – Mrs. Jensen (English). Ms. Finerfrock accepted the neighborhood 2nd grade position created by Ms. Burlingame’s retirement. Throughout the process, the IP teachers were very professional, positive, and child focused. We believe we have created a program that will support the retention of our teachers and serve Emerson students well.

Teacher requests for next year are due by email to Ms. Reynolds by May 4th. We are not always able to honor those requests, but your input is considered in the process of creating balanced classes.

Let me explain the need to have half days scheduled prior to district non-student days. The early release on Friday is so that teachers may have their half day of planning time each week. When we have a non-student day on Friday, the Thursday is considered the last day of the week and teacher-planning time is included on that day.

Finally, just a reminder about the Emerson Arts Festival on April 19th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Your support of the Arts Festival funds the art program at Emerson. It is a fun community event that highlights the amazing art and talents of Emerson students. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

- Ms. Reynolds
5th graders are scholars and scientists!

Mrs. Pelton’s 5th graders are not only scholars, but scientists! They have been working hard this month on Genetics! They have been learning all about DNA. Students learned that when DNA is taken out of the cell and stretched out, it looks like a twisted ladder. This shape is called a double Helix. The sides of the DNA ladder are called the backbone and the steps of the ladder are pairs of small chemicals called bases. There are four types of chemical bases in DNA. The four chemical bases are Adenine, Cytosine, Guanine, and Thymine. DNA bases form pairs in specific ways. Adenine always pairs with Thymine, and Guanine always pairs with Cytosine. Why is this important? DNA provides the instructions for building and operating all living things. The DNA instructions are formed through the specific arrangement of bases. A sequence of bases that encode a function inside the cell is called a gene. One strand of DNA contains many genes. These genes determine the way we look. Why we may have straight or curly hair, or it explains why our eyes are the color they are!

Students worked hard to build models of DNA! They matched chemical bases and built their own strand of DNA. The bonus was that they got to eat it!

Did you know that in fifth grade we get to choose our own instruments? It’s true in fifth and sixth grade we have the option for ukulele/choir with Mrs. Alverez, strings with Mr. Hurst or Band with Mr. Mcalester. When we go to library we get to use the iPads and practice making iMovies so when it is our turn to make the broadcast for the whole school to see we will already know how to make them.

In fifth grade we also get to go on fun field trips, like to Abravanel Hall where we get to see the Utah state symphony. In fifth grade we also get to learn a lot about writing checks, depositing checks, spending money, Credit unions as well as banks. We get to go on a field trip where we use all of the skills that we have just learned. At this field trip we all get assigned a job and we all get a check book and a credit card. We go to Junior Achievement BizTown at Discovery Gateway. I think most everybody loved that field trip. We also get to do ICANDO which is a dance program that stands for Inspiring Children About Not Dropping Out. At the end of each school year we get to perform at West High School. If you get picked you can also do Dream team on Saturdays. We do a lot of fun stuff in fifth grade. I love fifth grade!

By student: Delilah Bailey

Emerson Cookbook

Thanks to everyone who submitted a healthy recipe to the Emerson 2018 Cookbook. The electronic version can be downloaded here. Take time to exercise, drink water, get enough sleep, stay calm and of course, eat healthy every day. A healthy child will be ready to learn.
It’s Garden Time!
As we enter spring, we are entering full swing into gardening season! Yes! There is a garden at Emerson, and your kids love it! The garden is open at recess for the kids to come explore, have a snack, relax, and learn about gardening. We can only have open garden recess if we have an adult supervisor. It’s easy, it’s fun, and the kids will be forever grateful that you are there.

We need volunteers! Your time is precious, but when’s the last time you got recess?! Come hang out with the Emerson students and serve up a garden snack. Combined, the morning recesses start at 9:30 and go until 10:50. Lunch recess goes from 11:30-1:00.

Send us an email at emersongarden@hotmail.com if you are interested! We are also on Facebook and Instagram!

Learning about Peru
The 2nd and 3rd grade bilingual classes were showcased on Telemundo in early April as they were finishing their study of Peru. The Telemundo host, Marco MuNoz presented a colorful discussion of Peru as it is his country of origin. Ms Moreno’s classes spent the month doing crafts, learning Peruvian history and went to a Tanner Dance performance of Lago Mago about Peru. https://www.facebook.com/TelemundoUT/videos/1793269074027252
Emerson 6th Grade Students plan Moment of Silence against Gun Violence

Emerson’s 6th grade students have been learning about activism and how their actions and voice can change the world. On Wednesday March 14, Emerson’s students peacefully walked out of class with their teachers to show respect for the 17 students and teachers killed in the Parkland, Florida shootings. Students left class around 10 a.m. and gathered around the flagpole. They then had 17 minutes of silence, one for each person who was killed in the Florida spree on February 14.

Today’s event was organized by 6th grader Maya Baucum. She said that she “saw people planning walkouts against gun violence all over the internet”. She said that she learned people were staging and planning events such as walking the neighborhood for 17 minutes to honor the Florida victims. This inspired her to come up with the idea to plan a moment of silence at Emerson. She took her idea to her teacher, Mr. Craner and principal, April Reynolds. Maya felt that the moment of silence was a better way to remember and honor the victims and their families, and let them know that they are respected. Students wanted to stand up for justice and let the community know that they deserve the right to feel safe in school.

The Role of the Bystander

A bystander is someone who sees or knows about bullying or other disrespectful behavior. Bystanders can either encourage bullying or be an important part of the solution to stop the bullying. It’s not uncommon for some kids to feel like it is easy to ignore incidents of bullying, or walk away thinking “at least it’s not me”.

Bystanders are important because bullying most often takes place in front of peers. Students respect those who stand up for others but being a supportive bystander can be tough. Sometimes it is not easy to work out how to help because bullying happens in different ways.

Here are some ways students can become supportive bystanders:

- Make it clear to friends that they will not be involved in bullying behavior. Never stand by and watch or encourage bullying to continue. Chances are if it is seen once, it could be happening to others.
- Avoid ignoring, harassing, teasing, or spreading gossip about others. This includes social media. Never forward or respond to messages or photos that might be offensive or upsetting. Support the person being bullied to ask for help and report the incident to a trusted adult.

Emerson hopes to empower students to step up and stand up as supportive bystanders. Intervening in bullying situations can help make a difference. For more ideas and examples of how to be a supportive bystander visit www.stopbullying.gov.