

# Castlewood Elementary Connection

March 2016



From the Desk of:  
Ms. Eide

## A Few Important Things to Know

**Read Across America Celebration** - We will have a different dress up theme on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

**Wednesday - Wacky Wednesday** - wear your clothes wacky (*backwards, inside out, crazy patterns that don't match, anything you can think of to show how wacky you are*)

**Thursday - Crazy sock day** - wear your craziest socks

**Friday - Show your stripes day** - wear stripes of all kinds

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, March 21st and Tuesday, March 22nd. Your scheduled time will be coming home soon. NHS members, under Mrs. Price's supervision, will be providing day care in the library so parents can attend conferences. You will need to take your child(ren) to the library and sign them in.

Castlewood Elementary School will be holding their kindergarten screening and 3 - 4 year old Child Find/preschool screening. All children who turn 5 on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> are eligible to attend kindergarten. All children who turn 4 on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> are eligible to attend preschool. Children who turn 3 prior to April 1st are screened for Child Find purposes to identify if additional support is needed prior to starting school. The 3 - 4 year old and new kindergarten student screening will take place on Friday, April 1st, 2015 in the Castlewood School south gym. If your child currently attends preschool in Castlewood, we will not be screening your child. Per our conversation last year at screening, your child will be going to kindergarten. Screening will begin at 12:00 p.m. and go until 3:30 p.m. Screening will take approximately ½ hour. Exit interviews will take place immediately following screening.

Family Math Night will be held from 6:30 - 7:30 pm on Thursday, March 31st. Come and enjoy an evening of fun math games with your family. Stations will be set up. Pizza will be served starting at 6:00 pm. Please sign up by returning the attached form prior to March 22nd so we are able to adequately plan for food and supplies.

## Upcoming Events:

1. Dakota Step Science testing for 5th grade will be held on March 29th, 30th & 31st. Smarter Balance testing for grades 3 - 6 will take place from April 11th - 22nd. Please do your best to ensure your child(ren) are here for testing.
2. Dakota Players—April 4th - 8th - more information will be coming soon
3. Oral Interp - April 29th starting at 8:20

## School Hours:

8:10 - 3:30

Preschool

8:10 - 11:45

## Special Dates:

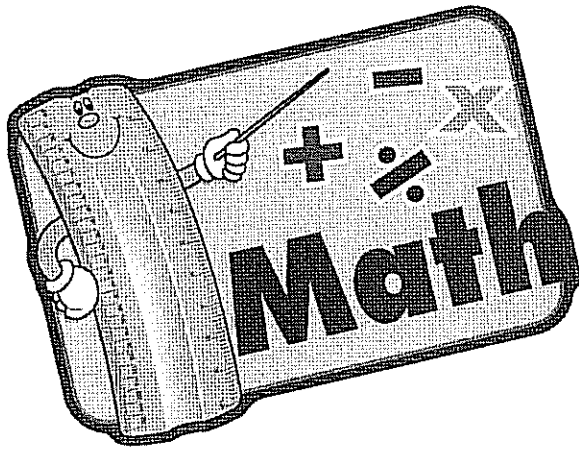
- Wednesday, March 2  
Read Across America Day—see note
- Thursday, March 3  
Bookmobile
- Monday, March 7  
7:00 Pops Concert - Grades 6 - 12
- Sunday, March 13th  
Daylight Savings Time Starts -  
Spring Forward
- Monday, March 14  
7:00 School Board Meeting
- Friday, March 18  
End of 3rd Quarter
- Sunday, March 20  
First Day of

SPRING

- Monday, March 21 - Thursday,  
March 24  
Book Fair in the DDN Room
- Monday, March 21  
4:00 - 8:00 Parent Teacher Confer-  
ence (Daycare will be provided in  
the library by NHS)
- Tuesday, March 22  
4:00 - 8:00 Parent Teacher Confer-  
ence (Daycare will be provided in  
the library by NHS)
- Friday, March 25  
No School - Good Friday
- Monday, March 28  
No School - Enster Monday
- Thursday, March 31  
6:00 Pizza & 6:30 - 7:30 Family  
Math Night

*"Think and wonder, wonder and think."*

- Dr. Seuss



# JOIN US FOR: FUN FAMILY MATH NIGHT

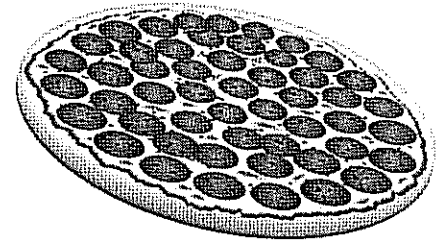
## WHEN & WHERE?

Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

6:00 p.m. – Pizza will be served

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Math Activities

North Gym



Please fill out  
the bottom  
portion and  
return to  
school by  
Friday, March  
25<sup>th</sup>.

## WHAT?

Join us for pizza and math  
games for the whole family to  
enjoy!

**RSVP**

Count us in!

Family Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of People attending: \_\_\_\_\_



# Castlewood School District - Master Calendar



March 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 BBB Districts - at highest seed	2 CEO meets at 3:35  National Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Birthday)	3 Bookmobile 9:00-1:30  Elementary Book Study at 3:35	4 GBB Regions at Huron Arena - Castlewood vs Sanborn Central at 6:00 p.m.  Middle School All State Band at Pierre	5 BBB District Championship at Madison HS  Middle School All State Band at Pierre
6	7 Pops Concert at 7:00 p.m. (gr. 6-12)	8 BBB Regions at Madison HS	9 Elementary Staff Meeting at 3:35	10 GBB State B Tournament at Huron Arena	11 GBB State B Tournament at Huron Arena	12 GBB State B Tournament at Huron Arena  Special Olympics State Basketball at Pierre
13 Daylight Savings begins - turn clocks forward 1 hour  Special Olympics State Basketball at Pierre	14 Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.  No School Today for Center Base students  PTO Meeting WILL BE RESCHEDULED	15	16 No NTHS  Staff Meetings at 7:50 & 8:30	17 BBB State B Tournament at Aberdeen  No NTHS	18 BBB State B Tournament at Aberdeen  End of 3rd quarter  No NTHS	19 BBB State B Tournament at Aberdeen
20	21 Conferences 4:00-8:00  Parent / Athlete (gr. 7-12) meetings for track at 7:00 p.m. & golf at 7:30 p.m.  Scholastic Book Fair - March 21-24 (DDN Room)	22 Conferences 4:00-8:00  JH Science Fair 6:00-8:00 p.m.	23	24	25 No School / No NTHS - Good Friday	26
27	28 No School / No NTHS - Easter Monday	29	30	31 Family Math Night - 6:00 - pizza, activities from 6:30-7:30		



## Castlewood School District - Lunch Menu



March 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Breakfast - French toast sticks  Lunch - Chicken patties on WG bun, vegetable salad, applesauce, lettuce, oranges	2 Breakfast - Biscuits and gravy  Lunch - Stromboli, baked beans, corn, peaches, apples	3 Breakfast - Egg McMuffin  Lunch - Hot dog on WG bun, tri tator, lettuce, fruit cocktail, oranges	4 Breakfast - Waffles and sausage links  Lunch - Quesadillas, lettuce, mandarin oranges, apples, rainbow sherbet	5
6 National School Breakfast Week March 7-11	7 Breakfast - Breakfast stick  Lunch - Teriyaki chicken, rice pilaf, corn, pineapple, bananas, bread, fresh veggles and Ranch	8 Breakfast - Breakfast bar  Lunch - BBQ on wg bun, sweet potato fries, steamed broccoli, fruit cocktail, oranges	9 Breakfast - Egg and cheese biscuit  Lunch - Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, peaches	10 Breakfast - Cheese omelet  Lunch - Chili, crackers, cinnamon roll, pears, oranges	11 Breakfast - Cinnamon rolls  Lunch - Cheese pizza, lettuce, mandarin oranges, apples, chocolate chip cookie	12
13	14 Breakfast - Pancakes and sausage links  Lunch - Chicken fajitas, black beans, mixed vegetables, lettuce, bananas, pineapple	15 Breakfast - Breakfast pizza  Lunch - Hamburger on WG bun, potato wedges, lettuce, peaches, apple	16 Breakfast - Scrambled eggs and ham  Lunch - Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, apples	17 Breakfast - Breakfast bagel  Lunch - Mini corn dogs, baked beans, salad mix, applesauce, oranges	18 Breakfast - Coffee cake  Lunch - Fish sticks, mashed potatoes, steamed carrots, bread, salad mix, applesauce, oranges	19
20	21 Breakfast - Scrambled eggs and sausage pattie  Lunch - Glazed chicken, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, bread, pineapple, bananas	22 Breakfast - French toast sticks  Lunch - Super nachos, refried beans, lettuce, corn, pears, apples	23 Breakfast - Biscuits and gravy  Lunch - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, mandarin oranges and Ice cream	24 Breakfast - Egg and cheese mcmuffin  Lunch - Ham patties on WG bun, cheese sauce, sweet potato nuggets, peaches, apples	25 No School - Good Friday	26
27	28 No School	29 Breakfast - Breakfast stick  Lunch - Chicken noodle soup, crackers, cheese bread, mixed fruit, bananas	30 Breakfast - Breakfast bar  Lunch - Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, mixed salad, pears, oranges	31 Breakfast - Cheese omelet  Lunch - Taco burgers, lettuce, black bean salad, refried beans, applesauce, oranges		

# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

March 2016

Castlewood Elementary School  
Ms. Heather Eide



## SHORT NOTES

### Car chats

If you carpool, your child's conversations with the other kids can shed light on what's happening at school or with activities. Later, use what you heard to start a conversation. ("You mentioned something about a new science club. Is that an activity you'd be interested in?")

### Double-check homework

Looking over completed assignments carefully will help your youngster turn in her best work. She should check for skipped questions and math errors like adding numbers instead of subtracting them. Suggest that she pay attention to mistakes she often makes. Then, she could write reminders ("Put my name on my paper!") to post in her homework area.

### Which group am I in?

As your child gets older, you may notice him placing more emphasis on how he fits in with peers. Explain that it's natural for youngsters to form groups, but it's nice to be friends with a wide variety of people. For example, he might have friends in class, friends from soccer, and neighborhood friends.

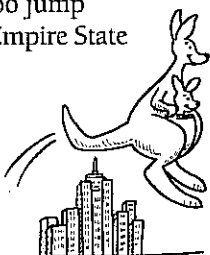
### Worth quoting

"You can observe a lot just by watching." *Yogi Berra*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

**A:** Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump!



## In real life: Beyond screen time

Today's children—and parents—are spending more and more time in front of computers, tablets, smartphones, and TVs. And that means fewer opportunities to interact as a family. Try these steps for cutting back on screen time and increasing the amount of time you enjoy together.

### 1. Track habits

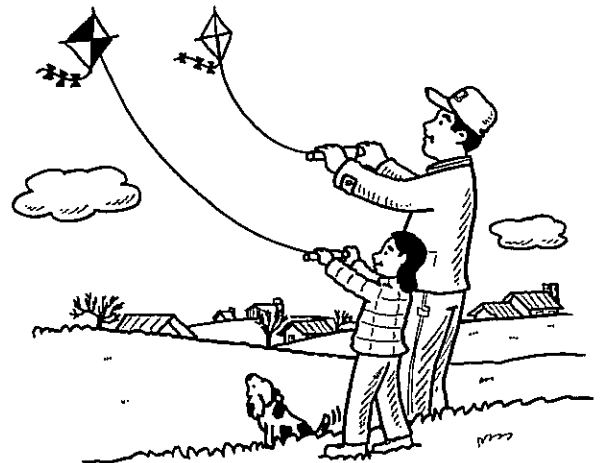
A little screen time here and there really adds up. For one week, have each person carry a small notebook to log usage. Every bit counts—your youngster might write "Music video on laptop, four minutes," and you could write "Facebook on phone, two minutes."

### 2. Set ground rules

Share your logs to see how you spent your screen time. Then, come up with rules to help you cut back, and ask your child to write them down. Her rules might include doing homework first, turning off screens an hour before bed, and not using devices in the car. A whole-family rule could be no screens during meals.

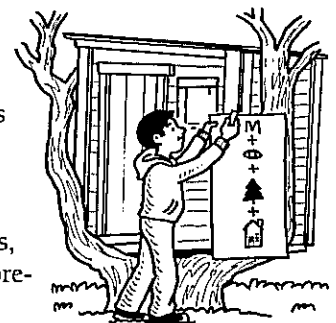
### 3. Brainstorm alternatives

Together, think of screen-free activities for home and on the go. *Examples:* Fly kites, play hangman on restaurant napkins, read aloud to each other from magazines in the doctor's office. *Tip:* Post the list. Have your child refer to it regularly—and add ideas to it, too. ♥





## RE + MANIA

Encourage your youngster to explore word parts and sounds by making his own *rebuses*, or puzzles that use pictures, symbols, and letters to represent words and phrases.




Take turns making rebuses for each other to figure out. For instance:



 +  = tree house

 +  + U = I love you

Suggest that your youngster say words aloud to get ideas. He will hear word parts that may help, such as *arrow* in *wheelbarrow*:

 + B + →

Mention that he can subtract letters, too! What does he think this one means?

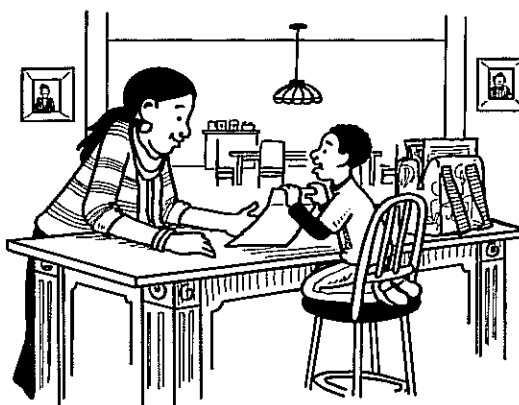
 - s + 

Answer: *unlock*

# How to talk about report cards

Report cards are one way that teachers communicate with parents about how their youngsters are doing. Use these ideas to discuss grades with your child.

**Start out positive.** First, ask your youngster to tell you about his report card. Have him show you something he is proud of, such as maintaining a good grade in writing or bringing up his social studies mark. Then, point out something positive you noticed.



### Focus on the future.

If your child gets a low grade, or a grade that drops from last quarter, discuss ways he could improve. He may need to get help from his teacher, or he might have to put in more study time. Pay attention to effort grades, too. Maybe your youngster's math grade stayed the same

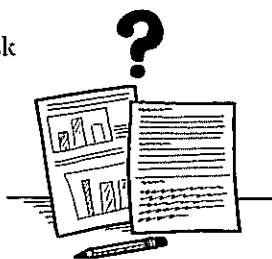
but his effort grade went up. He'll appreciate hearing, "You're really trying in math. Keep up the good work."

*Note:* Avoid paying your child or giving him prizes for grades. Instead, help him focus on the built-in rewards of doing his best. ("Your reading grade improved—soon you'll be able to read that new series you saw at the library!")♥

## Q & A Understanding state tests

**Q:** My daughter will be taking "performance-based" tests this month. What are these, and how can I help her prepare?

**A:** These tests ask students to perform tasks based on information they're given. For instance, your daughter may have to read a graph, answer questions about it, and then create her own graph. Or she might need to read two nonfiction articles on the same topic and compare the facts in them.



The best way for your child to prepare is by working hard in school each day and by reading regularly for pleasure. If the teacher sends home a test review packet or a practice test, look it over together when your youngster has finished—this will give both of you an idea of what to expect.♥

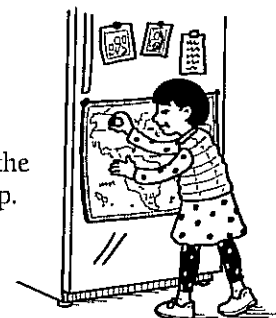
## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Pin the magnet on the map

Where in the world is Iceland? How about South Africa? This version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey will help your youngster learn locations on a map.

Hang a world map on the refrigerator, and stand with your backs to it. One person names a continent or an ocean. Each player takes a turn closing her eyes, spinning around, and trying to place a refrigerator magnet on the correct location. *Variation:* Call out countries or states, and have players "pin" small sticky notes onto them.

Who came the closest? Let your child use a length of string or a ruler to measure the distance from each person's magnet to the place. Older students could use the map's scale to calculate how many miles away it is. The person who wins that round picks the next spot.♥



## PARENT TO PARENT

### Parent volunteering: A first-time experience

I recently changed to the second shift at work, and the first thing my son Tony said was that now I could be a classroom volunteer like some of his friends' parents. I figured it was too late in the year, but I sent a note to the teacher anyway. I was glad when he called and said he'd love to have my help.

It turns out that my ability to speak Spanish and my sewing skills have come

in handy. First, I worked with a group of Spanish-speaking students who are learning English. Now I'm sewing costumes for the class play.

Mr. Brown told me that even if my hours at work change again, he has ways for me to lend a hand. Tony was happy to see me at school, and he and his classmates are excited about wearing the costumes in the play.♥



### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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