



CEDARVILLE CONNECTION

December 5, 2012

Visit us on the web at
www.EACS.k12.in.us

Our mission at Cedarville Elementary School is:
To build a solid academic foundation and develop fundamental skills that will lead our students into a lifetime of success.

From the desk of the Principal...

If you're looking for a couple of great gift-giving ideas for kids for the holiday season, consider giving a book or board game.

If you decide to give a book as a gift, please be sure to sit down and enjoy it with your child, either by discussing it with him or her or by reading it to him or her.

If you're looking for a way to build math problem-solving or strategy skills, consider games such as Othello, Connect Four, MasterMind, or even Chess. While



learning to play by the rules of the game is important, it can be an excellent learning experience for your child to "talk through" the strategies or options for making his/her next move. Be flexible (at least as your child is becoming familiar with the game) in allowing him/her to visualize the outcomes of

placing the next game piece. Talk about why he/she might want to move a specific playing piece in Chess. Help him or her "look ahead" to think about the other player's response to his/her move.

Once your child has become familiar with the rules of the game, have him or her try creating new rules of his/her own. Be sure to write down your child's rules so that everyone playing the game can follow along. Talk about why rules are important and what makes a "good" rule or what kinds of rules simply don't work well in a certain type of game.

Other activities that will help your child develop his/her "classroom" skills during the holiday season might be:

- ◆ Create greeting cards. Have your child draw a picture and write a brief story or poem.
- ◆ Bake cookies or brownies (with your child) as gifts for others.
- ◆ Have your child write addresses on greeting card envelopes.

The key is to encourage your child to think creatively – and most of all, to have fun!

East Allen County Schools seeks input on school transportation and bell times...

East Allen County Schools is reaching out to parents and community members to better understand our patrons opinion on bell times and other transportation related services.

A Transportation Questionnaire has been launched to gather feedback. The survey can be accessed at the East Allen web site, <http://www.eacs.k12.in.us/>, or the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dFVIS19JdUx0UnRDclBpNk4zblNIVnc6MQ>

Please take a moment to complete the survey to help us better understand your views.

Thank you for your time,

Kirby Stahly
Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services



In the spirit of giving...



Our annual Holiday Food Drive is well underway!

You may bring non-perishable food items to place under the Christmas tree in the school's front entrance.

Canned meats/fish (such as canned beef, tuna, or sardines), canned fruits or vegetables, dry goods, soaps, shampoo, deodorant, laundry products, and paper

products will be accepted.

All items will be donated to the Leo United Methodist Church for distribution through the Associated Churches of Allen County Food Bank. **Collection ends Wednesday, December 19th.**

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Teacher Feature

**Spotlighting
Mrs. Firestine,
Third Grade Teacher...**

I knew I always wanted to be a teacher since I was in second grade. When it was time for me to start thinking about a career, it was an easy decision. I can't imagine myself doing another job that I truly enjoy.

I feel very fortunate to be a teacher at Cedarville. This is my 9th year teaching, and I have been blessed to be at Cedarville for 8 of those years. I taught second grade for 5 years, and this is my fourth year teaching third grade. The students are the best part of being a teacher. They can always put a smile on my face. I wouldn't love my job if it weren't for them.



I graduated from Ball State University in 2004, and I also earned my Master's Degree from Ball State in 2008. I was born and raised in Fort Wayne, and attended Snider High School. My husband, Andy, and I have been married for 3 years this past summer. In my free time, I enjoy reading, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. I enjoy traveling to destinations that are warm, sunny, and have a beach. My most recent hobby has been finding Pinterest projects. Currently we are refinishing an old door to turn into a headboard.

I hope to have many more years at Cedarville! ☺

KidsFit Reminder...

For those students participating in KidFit: There will be NO KIDSFIT until after the first of the year.

Labels for Education Contest...

Remember to start saving those Labels for Education for the contest in January. Whatever classroom brings in the most Labels for Education points between January 14th and January 25th will win a party! Start collecting now! Attached is a flyer of all the participating products. Thanks for helping our school!



Tip of the Week:

The holiday rush has more than started - it's almost a sprint to the finish line. The one thing that seems to make a big impact on my kids is all the colors! You see bright lights and decorations. Reds and greens and golds. It is quite remarkable.

It's also one thing that will help our families eat more healthy - bright colored foods are key to adding additional nutrients to our diets. And, no, I am not referring to the fruity flavors in candies - but the gorgeous reds, oranges and greens that are found naturally in fruits and vegetables.

Their benefits are featured in a recent Whole Living article. Eating seasonal foods (IE: apples in the fall) that are bright in color is important to our bodies. To help explain this to kids, download the *What Color is Your Food* activity sheet, from the North Dakota State University:



www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/yf/foods/fn595.pdf

And, while you're at it, match your next holiday gift wrap with your meal.

We're giving away a Meijer gift card this month on our Facebook page - upload your photo of your colorful plate to enter.

For more information on Family Meals, visit www.FamilyTableOnline.org



Food for Thought...

Remember
This December,
That love weighs
More than gold!

~Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon



Mark Your Calendar...

- Dec. 12: Collaboration Day
- Dec. 19: Canned Food Drive ends; Collaboration day
- Dec. 20: **Class Holiday Parties**
- Dec. 21: Popcorn/Pretzel Friday and SPIRIT DAY
- Dec. 22- Jan. 4: **Holiday Break – NO SCHOOL**
- Jan. 7: **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

