

Bloomington School District 13
164 S. Euclid Avenue
Bloomington, IL 60108

Press Release

November 2, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERICKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS

On Monday, November 12, Erickson Elementary School, 277 Springfield Dr., Bloomington, will become a place where the celebrants of the first Thanksgiving would feel right at home. Students, parents, staff and community members will celebrate the event that brought the Pilgrims and Indians together in friendship and survival. In conjunction with the Feast, students will conduct a book drive and food drive.

The feast began in 1996, as the inspiration of Erickson principal Dr. John Markgraf and the PTO board, who sought a way of instilling a sense of community in students. The hard work of the Erickson Parent-Teacher Organization and some very dedicated staff members has turned Dr. Markgraf's vision into a much-loved and anticipated event. Students contribute to the feast by writing invitations and making decorations and placemats. At each sitting, students provide the entertainment, which includes singing and dancing. Boy Scouts will perform the flag ceremony.

460 students will be served at the Feast, along with numerous PTO volunteers, school staff, and local dignitaries. About 620 meals will be served in four settings between 11:00 am and 1:15 pm. Erickson School families and businesses have donated the traditional Thanksgiving meal. All donations will be acknowledged in a booklet given out at the feast.

In conjunction with the feast, the Erickson Student Council will be conducting a food drive and a book drive. The food drive will benefit local families through the Bloomington Township Food Pantry. Students will collect new and gently used books to be donated to American Indian Reservation schools throughout the country. The goals of the book and food drives are twofold: They assist Native American students and the local needy, and they help Erickson students understand that conditions of poverty exist not only on far-off reservations but here in DuPage County. The book drive also acknowledges the Native American culture that is an important part of the history of the Thanksgiving celebration.

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For further information or photo opportunities, Contact:
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