



Bloomington SD13
www.sd13.org

Erickson Express

December 17, 2009

Erickson Elementary School
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Responsible people take pride in everything they do. They never say "it's not my fault."

Academic Excellence Award 2008

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DEAR PARENT,

The Erickson staff wishes all of our families a safe and memorable holiday season. The opportunity to work with your children each school day is taken very seriously by the staff. Together we will continue to support our learners and offer them a challenging and relevant learning experience.

The Winter Vacation begins on Monday, December 21 and continues through Friday, January 1, 2010. Students will return to school on Monday, January 4, 2010.

WINTER PARTIES

Kindergarten morning students are scheduled to have their winter parties tomorrow from 10:00-11:00. Kindergarten afternoon and grades 1-5 students will have their parties from 2:00-3:00. A big thank you to our parents for supporting, planning, and organizing the winter parties.

Please do not park in the designated fire lane.

VISION AND HEARING

Designated students will have their vision and/or hearing tested on Tuesday, January 5. If you have any questions about this service, please phone Mrs. Lents, our school nurse at 630-529-2223.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Students in grades 1-5 will be dismissed at 1:40 on Wednesday, January 6. Kindergarten afternoon students will follow their regular schedule.

Teachers will learn about the new literacy consensus curriculum maps.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RtI)

Response to Intervention, better known as RtI is an approach or Process that is a regular education initiative and is mandated by the United States government to be implemented by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. The RtI model assumes that all students receive research-based high-quality, differentiated instruction, like our new reading series from Pearson Scott Foresman, from a teacher in the regular education setting. School District 13's RtI taskforce has been working towards meeting the government's goal.

RtI is not just for:

- *students receiving special services.
- *English-only speaking students
- *identifying students with learning disabilities.
- *special education teachers to implement.

Response to Intervention (RtI) Cont'd

RtI is for any student who shows signs of falling significantly behind his or her peers.

RtI will not:

- *prevent students from being referred for a special education evaluation.
- *prevent students from being identified as learning disabled.
- *look the same for everyone everywhere.

RtI will help identify struggling learners who, with the proper intervention, have a chance of becoming proficient in the general curriculum. RtI is not a curriculum nor does it take the place of a curriculum. RtI is a process. (*excerpts taken from RtI-Response to Intervention Fundamentals of Process & Practice, by Karen Burggraf, MEd & Arden Sotomayor, Med)

District 13's RtI Taskforce is in the process of creating a website for parents to provide useful information regarding the RtI process.

Project Wisdom Quote of the Week

Benito Juarez, nineteenth-century Mexican hero, said:

Respect for another's rights IS peace.

In other words, peace comes from showing respect to other people. When we show respect to each other, we are less likely to argue and fight, right?

Peace on Earth means more than just peace between nations; it means peace between people like you and me. Each time we show respect to others, we build a little more peace in the world.

So, as you move through this holiday season, ask yourself: Am I respecting the rights of others? Am I respecting their right to enjoy a peace-filled holiday? Remember, peace on Earth begins with you.



Events to Remember

Friday, December 18		Holiday Parties
Monday, December 21		Winter Vacation Begins
Friday, January 1		Winter Vacation Ends
Monday, January 4		School Resumes
Wednesday, January 6	11:45-12:40 1:40	Hot Lunch
Thursday, January 7	2:00	PTO