



**Bloomington SD13**  
[www.sd13.org](http://www.sd13.org)

# Erickson Express

**January 7, 2010**

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*A fair result is one  
 where people receive  
 what they are due and  
 what they deserve.*

**Academic Excellence  
 Award 2008**  
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DEAR PARENT,

The second quarter of the school year concludes on Friday, January 15. Report cards will be sent home on Tuesday, January 26 for students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade.

The Wednesday, February 3 Early Release schedule is devoted to Parent/Teacher Conferences. This conference time is not universal and can be parent or teacher requested.

Continue to take time to review your child's report card grades, markings and teacher comments with your child.

### MAP GOALS

The fall MAP scores in reading and math provide the teachers with valuable data. Recently, the teachers have concluded conferences with students discussing the scores, and setting improvement goals.

Students will be sharing the improvement goals with parents in the coming weeks. Like the report card, please review the goals set for your child and the value of attainment.

Teachers will periodically revisit the individual MAP goals to mark progress and support student efforts.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

One school improvement goal for this school year is in the area of assessment. Teachers began assessment training in August when they learned about Student Profiles. Student Profiles allow teachers to note strengths and unique characteristics about each learner in the hopes of using this data to direct instruction. Profiles may include information about a student's learning style (auditory, kinesthetic, visual), intellectual strengths (multiple intelligences, analytic, creative, and practical), and personal interests.

Teachers are currently leaning about the value of pre assessment which enables a teacher to plan a unit that acknowledges background knowledge. Future training will focus on formative assessment (non graded assessment during instruction) and summative assessment (end of unit measurement).

Knowing the individual is vital in order to properly plan instruction and assess at different points during instruction. The assessment work is intended to reinforce existing best practice and to further staff understanding and application.

### Announcing District 13's Virtual Backpack

School District 13 is introducing a new tool for distributing information to parents which will help us “go green” by allowing approved non-profit community organizations to post flyers online instead of making and distributing hundreds of paper copies. Doing so, will also save the district and community members a tremendous amount of time and money.

Beginning in January 2010, you will be able to access the “Virtual Backpack” link located on the District website and view materials appropriate to your child listed by school and grade level.

We hope you find this tool helpful!

### Project Wisdom Quote of the Week

Welcome back, students and Happy New Year!

This is the traditional time of year for setting goals. It's called making a New Year's resolution. When we make resolutions, we set goals for the coming year.

Goals give our lives direction. They help us figure out where we are going and how we will get there. When we write down our goals, we are making a road map into the future.

Today, take the time to write down your goals for this semester. When you are writing down your goals, remember these words:

Climb high. Climb far. Your goal the sky. Your aim the stars.\*

Then, put the list of your goals in a safe place. When you start to get sidetracked or lost, you can pull them out and remember where it is you want to go and how you want to get there.

### PTO News

#### Mitten/Hat/Scarf Tree

Thank you to all the families who donated to the mitten, hat, and scarf tree. We had over 230 items donated.



### Events to Remember

<b>Wednesday, January 13</b>	<b>11:45-12:40</b>	<b>Hot Lunch</b>
<b>Friday, January 15</b>	<b>7:00-8:30</b>	<b>Second Quarter Ends PTO Bingo</b>