Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "What lies behind us, and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us." Over the last four years attending Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School, your parents and your teachers have worked together to foster the best of what lies within you. For some of you it is a passion to lead. For others it is a desire to read and learn everything you could about anything that mattered to you. Still others of you tried to foster the good natured person within you wrestling with the ideas of right and wrong, good and bad, appropriate and inappropriate.

We have worked as a team, not to light a path but to help each and every one of you to forge your own path where none yet exists. We have given you the primary tools necessary to continue to expand your horizons through reading, and math, and inquiry; through teamwork, and self-reflection. We have helped to provide you with the tools necessary for discovery, invention, and imagination. Within each of you lies the potential to become anyone and anything you can imagine. You have taken the first steps in making those dreams a reality. With your continued hard work, devotion to learning, and passion for achieving success, you will be unstoppable. It has been my pleasure serving as your principal for the last three years. May your dedication and hard work take you farther than you can imagine.

We will think of you often in the years to come.
From the editors

Dean and Maria Kakadelis

Thank you!

It has been a real pleasure to serve as your newsletter editors these past four years. As this school year comes to a close, Dean and I would like to thank everyone for the past six wonderful years at Dwight D. Eisenhower. Eisenhower School ... what an amazing school!!!

A big thank you to Dr. Aguiles for your leadership and support, for all of your hard work and for your dedication to our students, staff and families of the school. Congratulations on receiving your doctorate!

Thank you to Donna and Linda - the pillars of our school. We encourage everyone to take a minute to stop by and see how our lovely secretaries run the school and solve everyone’s issues. Most people don’t realize how difficult their job is. Your smiling faces are the highlight of walking into the office. Thank you for all that you do!!!

Mrs. Braun – what can we say? We wish we could take you with us! When you're a nurse, you know that every day you will touch a life or a life will touch yours. Thank you for tending to all the boo-boos and tummy aches. We know it takes a special person to do what you do and we want you to know that we appreciate it ALL!

Thank you to our wonderful staff and faculty who opened their hearts and guided and nourished our children. Teachers are mentors who provide more than just the academic excellence that comes with books. We loved to volunteer because we were always greeted with warmth and with a smile. Thank you for being excellent educators! We know teachers like you are not easy to find. We appreciate your time and your patience.

To our custodians - if it weren’t for you, our school wouldn’t be clean and would not function. Thank you for fixing our lights, plowing the snowy sidewalks, mopping up the floors and so much more! THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all the students for giving us so many wonderful memories that we will hold dear in our hearts. Congratulations to the third graders who are moving up. We can’t wait to see you at the SUES. You are all special.

Volunteers – WOW! It was such a pleasure to work with all of the wonderful parents! We know how hard it was to sacrifice your time and yet, you did it all with a giant smile!

This is not a goodbye but a see you soon!
Good luck to all our third graders!

We are so proud of all of you.

Never forget the many great friends and memories you made at Eisenhower.

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You’re off to great places!

You’re off and away.

From,

The 3rd grade teachers
Mrs. Braun

The summer is quickly coming. It is the time of year most of us go on vacation, take day trips, or just spend some leisure time outdoors. It is also a time of insect bites, scrapes, and sunburns. Buying a small first aid kit for your travels or to keep in your car, is a good start to treat or prevent some of the summer mishaps. If you already have a first aid kit, now is the time to check for expired or missing items and replace them. If you are traveling any great distance or out of the country, don’t forget to take all the prescription medication for yourself as well as your children. This includes that asthma inhaler that is used only once a month and that Epi-pen for allergies that you never seem to use (and hopefully never will). Most first aid kits contain some sort of adult pain reliever, but they are not in a child’s dose. Make sure you put some in for the children. It will make life easier for everyone if it is there when needed. It is always a good idea to keep a first aid kit in your car.

I am going to suggest a few extra items that may be helpful. It might be less expensive to start with a small purchased first aid kit, since they have the small amounts of needed band-aids, gauze, tape, etc. Get a large zip lock baggie to add the extra items and possibly even hold the first aid kit. A bottle of water to help clean cuts or scrapes which can also be consumed if dehydrated (don’t forget to replace it if used!). A clean hand towel can be used for emptying the content of the bag on to, help clean a wound, or help stop the bleeding of a large wound. A small package of baby wipes will come in handy to help clean hands, noses, or whatever else needs to be wiped.

Sunblock and ChapStick will save the day when the sun pops out on a predicted rainy day (or for those ears and nose that need a second application). Some bug spray might make watching fireworks much more enjoyable! A small tube of anti-itch ointment such as Hydrocortisone is always good for poison ivy, insect bites, hives or anything else that itches. Put some tissues in a sandwich size baggie. These will help with runny noses, as well as bloody noses, and anything else in between. The baggie will also serve to hold a lost tooth or a questionable tic that needs to be identified. The baggie can also hold a pair of tweezers for splinters, nail clippers for embedded fish hooks, or a cracked nail and a small pair of cuticle scissors to cut whatever. Feminine Hygiene products are sometimes needed at the most uncooperative times and can also be used to help control a large bleeding wound! If there is still room you might consider a very small can of numbing spray such as Solarcaine. It works well on sunburn and for a painful cut. Last of all a pair of vinyl gloves and a small flashlight!

I hope I have given you a few tips to help you through some possible summer mishaps. I wish you all a very happy, safe and fun filled summer vacation weather you stay at home reading a book with your children or travel to some exotic destination.

Enjoy!
Hello Eisenhower Parents!!!

Is it really June? Time has flown by this year and I have to tell you that this has been one of my most fulfilling years as a School Counselor. Besides working with the wonderful colleagues I have in the building, it has been a pleasure for me to have spent time with your children. Thank you for that trust and honor.

I have ideas for next year that I am looking to put in place. With the approval of Dr. Aguiles, hopefully, they will become a reality. He is such a blessing to this building in his approach to discipline, education and making the whole Eisenhower experience a life lesson for every student in the building.

Enjoy your summer and I hope that at some point you can all find time out for yourselves. Parenting is not an easy task. Remember to feed yourselves as much as you are feeding others!!

Looking forward to a wonderful 2016-2017 school year!!
Field Day has been rescheduled for Friday, June 10, 2016 due to rain. This year’s theme is “Star Wars”. During Field Day, the students will take part in a variety of activities including competitive events where the students will win ribbons, participate in wet and dry relays and inflatable bounce houses. They will dance with the DJ and have lots of fun. At the end of the day, the students will take part in a tug-of-war contest in front of the whole school. It will be a great day and everyone will have a blast! It’s been a wonderful year and May The Fun be With You!!

Have a fun, safe, and ACTIVE Summer!!!

Thank you to Ms. Langan, Byrdie, and Mr. Najjar for all your preparations and making Field Day wonderful! What a way to end the year!

I cannot believe the year is coming to an end. Third graders worked on a family tree project in which they associated family member words with the names of their own family members. They also learned to count up to the number 100 in Spanish! They completed a lesson on cinco de mayo and all students learned about the events of that day in Mexico. We still have more activities to accomplish before the end of the school year. It was a pleasure teaching Spanish to all the 3rd graders in Eisenhower. Keep up the good work and good luck at the SUES.
I know what you’re thinking…warm weather, sun shining, only a few more days of school and then… SUMMER VACATION!!!!

WAIT!! Just because we have no school, does not mean some very good habits that we worked on this year should shut down. Please don’t forget to keep your “brains turned on” over the summer. As I tell the kids each year, don’t go on the summer slide! “Summer slide” is the tendency for students to lose some of the achievement gains they made during the previous school year. Reading will help to keep those minds running. Here are some simple facts to know about the “summer slide”:

- When children select reading materials themselves and read for enjoyment, they receive the most gains in reading achievement, including better reading comprehension, writing style, vocabulary, spelling, and grammatical development. Also, the longer that this free voluntary reading is practiced, the more consistent and positive the results. Thus summer programs, such as those offered in public libraries, that allow and encourage children to choose what they read are likely to be most successful.
- Children and teens tend to read more when adults in their lives encourage them to read, and also when they see those adults reading often themselves.
- Children that feel that reading is fun tend to read more often, so summer programs that help make reading enjoyable and social are most successful.
- Reading just 4 to 6 books over the summer has the potential to prevent a decline in reading achievement scores from the spring to the fall, so even small steps are very beneficial.

Our school district has come up with some helpful ways to prevent the summer slide. Information on summer reading will be sent home, but will also be available on our school website. Please don’t wait until August to get that reading in.

Actually, why not start the summer out right by going to Sayreville Public Library’s Summer Reading Club Kick-Off on Saturday, June 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Burke’s Park. No registration is required. There will be a DJ, air brush tattoos, face painting, balloons, and fresh cotton candy! The Friends of the Library will provide fun photo cutouts for taking pictures.

On a final note, I just want to send out my sincere thanks to all of the volunteers that have helped out in the library this year. We are a good team and I really appreciate your help in making the library a place the students want to be. Our goal next year is to “RECRUIT.” I am losing some of my top-notch volunteers that have worked with me since their children were in kindergarten. I send my best wishes to my “graduates”:

Maria Kakadelis, Lynn Pulvermuller, and Betty Tang

You have made a difference in many lives at Eisenhower School by not only showing your children that you care for them, but that you care for all the students at Eisenhower. Your generosity and dedication are a gift. Thank you for sharing it with us. I will miss you. Please keep in touch.

Have a great summer everyone!! Don’t forget to READ!
I can't believe the year is almost over! The days just seem to fly by because we're having such a musical time in class!

The Eisenhower Elementary Chorus Program got a great start this year, with all members performing the concert on March 22, 2016. The students sang songs surrounding responsibility, courage, peace, hope, and caring for each other and this world we live in. Their message was well-received by all those who were able to attend - they were even rewarded with a standing ovation! Over 150 dedicated students participated; relinquishing two recess days per week to rehearse in the music room from January through March. Members were able to learn more in-depth vocal production technique in addition to time spent rehearsing concert repertoire.

A special note to all chorus members from Ms. Valentine:

"I am SO PROUD of each and every one of you - all of that hard work and dedication of recess time paid off in a BIG way! Keep singing!"
Miss Clark

The Eisenhower Art Show took place Thursday, May 5, 2016. It was another successful event! The art displayed, made by the students, is truly impressive. The students of Eisenhower work hard to show pride in their artwork and it really shows.

The third graders worked for weeks on a relief printmaking project. First, the students draw animals of their choice, learning how to draw objects by observing the shapes that make up the animals. Second, the students carefully transferred the finished drawing onto styrofoam printing plates. Third, the students printed this image with brayer and ink several times, choosing the best print for display. Finally, the students wrote an artist statement to display with the prints. Great job third grade!

The second graders drew real flowers from observation. The students chose the plants that they were interested in drawing (they chose from tulips, pansies, or daisies). The students first sketched the flowers onto watercolor paper, being mindful of including subtle details and drawing exactly what they were seeing. Second, the students outlined with watercolor pencils. Finally, they completed the paintings with watercolor paints. They looked beautiful.

The first grade experimented with making a three dimensional sculpture out of a flat shape. The students draw the shape of a bird and cut out from tag board. Second, the students piled some tissue paper on top of the shape and taped it into place. Third, they followed directions beautifully to apply plaster of Paris on top of the tissue paper and smoothing it out all around the birds. This made the shape of the birds into the form of the birds. Finally, the students were able to choose a color for a monochromatic color scheme on the birds. The students added white to lighten the color for the top of the birds, used the color in the middle, and added small tint of black to darken the color for the bottom of the birds. Details and backgrounds were added for extra fanciness. These birds came out fantastic!

The Kindergarten learned about how to draw trees and used the artwork of Gustav Klimt for inspiration. Students viewed the painting "the Tree of Life". These trees were painted in a stylist manner with twists, turns and swirls in the tree branches. Bright and glittery colors were applied to circles, triangles, and diamonds on and around the trees. Glitter and jewels finished off these glamorous trees that celebrate life! Wonderful work Kindergarten!
This year’s theme for the International Festival was Legends, Myths, and Fairytales – various types of folklore passed down verbally from generation to generation. A very significant part of literature, the fairytale is present in all cultures around the world. On the evening of Friday, May 13, 2016, the Eisenhower PTO entertained something slightly different for its annual International Festival. This year we celebrated and shared the diversity within our community with a collection of stories from around the world. A total of 21 countries participated. We began the evening with inspired dishes; followed by a scavenger hunt/passport game; and finally, a presentation of myths, poems, fairytales and songs. Many of the children wore traditional costumes. Leather-bound classic international storybooks were raffled off from Barnes & Noble. It was a wonderful experience and an enjoyable time for all!
We proudly held our annual Walk-A-Thon on May 13, 2016. It was a beautiful day and a wonderful fundraiser for the Eisenhower School. Not only was it great fun, but the children took great pride in participating in this event. Through the support and generosity of parents, staff, teachers, friends and families, the funds raised enable us to provide things such as class parties, field day, educational programs and much, much more.

The prizes for the winners were: The student who collected the most funds won a $75 Toys R Us gift card. The class that had the most funds collected received a pizza party. The class with the highest pledge participation received an ice cream party. Each child who collected $30.00 or more in pledges was entered into a drawing for a $25 Toys R Us gift card.

The PTO donated the first $200 raised to a member of the Eisenhower staff whose family is dealing with a medical emergency at this time.

Who let the dogs out? Richard Belotti and Christopher Ravelle did! We have new wooden dogs on our field used as a humane way to keep the geese away. Richard and Christopher made the wooden dogs and donated them to the school. They are former students of Eisenhower School and are now 7th graders in the Middle School. Thank you boys!

In photo: Dr. Aguiles, Nicholas and Richard Belotti, Christopher and Alyssa Ravelle
Hello Parents! We are still collecting Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education (Campbell's soup labels) for our school to earn money. Please send in your Box Tops and Labels in a bag with your child's name and teacher's name on it. The winners for the class parties are Ms. Hessner and Mr. Dye for BoxTops, and Mrs. Schwartz for Labels for Education. Congratulations to our winners. We've had a very good year so far, so please keep it going and keep sending in those BoxTops and Labels!

By: Lori McLafferty

Dwight D. Eisenhower School is requesting photos of active-duty members of the military who are residents of Sayreville or who are graduates of Sayreville schools, for recognition on an appreciation bulletin board in the school.
Have a Safe and Happy Summer!

Editors: Dean and María Kakadelis