

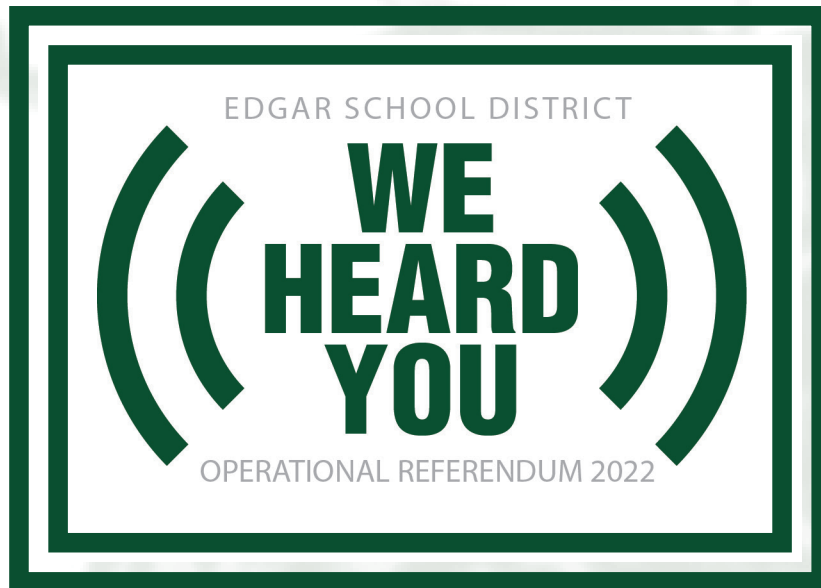
# Catprints



Edgar School District Newsletter

Vol. 29 No.2

Winter 2022



- Despite the last failed referendum our problems have not gone away.
- A volunteer community advisory group was formed to sort through all of the feedback given from the last referendum. The survey feedback we heard loud and clear was that the community would support a NON-RE-CURRING referendum.
- On Monday, January 17, 2022 the School Board of Edgar approved the district to go to referendum on April 5, 2022. The referendum will be a non-recurring operational referendum that asks voters to allow the District to exceed its state-set revenue limit by \$950,000 annually for the next five years. (2022-23 to 2026-27)
- Please watch for further communication about the upcoming referendum.
- This upcoming referendum is necessary to serve our mission to ensure that all of our students continue to get the best learning opportunities in the Edgar School District.

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# Elementary Art

By: Amanda Albrecht

Students have worked very hard this year and have learned about art concepts such as the Elements of Art and Principles of Design, many different art techniques, and were also inspired by famous artists and art movements. When kids are encouraged to express themselves and take risks in creating art, they develop a sense of innovation that will be important in their adult lives. The kind of people society needs to make it move forward are thinking, inventive people who seek new ways and improvements. Art is a way to encourage the process and the experience of thinking and making things better!

Spring is a wonderful time of new beginnings! We are all looking forward to the change of season and the bright colors that come with it. Many of our second semester projects are inspired by the bold and vibrant colors of Spring which pairs well with our growth mindset. I am looking forward to gracing the halls with color and design in the upcoming weeks.

In May we will have our Spring Concert, along with the concert there will be an Elementary Art Show for you to enjoy. I am very excited to be able to have my first Elementary Spring Art Show since I've been teaching in Edgar. The students are equally excited and very proud of their work, as am I. The show will be conveniently displayed during the Spring Concerts and will be located in the Music and Band hallway and around the entrances of the auditorium. Keep an eye out for your students' amazing work. It is really a pleasure to work with such a talented group of students.



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## Learning Through Dissections

By: Mr. Nathan Dahl

Biology students are learning about invertebrate and vertebrate diversity. Dissections are incorporated into the curriculum to get hands-on learning experiences that will help them learn about the anatomy and physiology of the organisms discussed in class. A few of the dissections completed this semester include the freshwater clam (pictured), crayfish, and a leopard frog.



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## Athletic News

By: Jim Steinke, AD

I would like to first thank all parents and guardians for giving your son or daughter the opportunity to participate in athletics at Edgar Public Schools. Being a small school, we need a high percentage of our students participating in order to keep our athletic programs running and being successful. It also helps when we have athletes that participate in more than one sport.

Participating in high school athletics has long-lasting benefits. This is especially true when coaches create an environment that challenges and rewards the growth mindset. When participants are supported like this, they develop lifelong habits that go beyond high school. I believe the coaches at Edgar do a great job leading our student athletes in this manner.

Students who played competitive sports in high school demonstrate more confidence, leadership skills and self-respect. Other benefits for student athletes are physical fitness, time management, teamwork, cooperation, and improved academic performance to name just a few.

In closing, I would highly encourage you as parents and guardians to allow your son or daughter to participate in the athletic programs, or any other extra-curricular program, at Edgar. Thanks for your time.

# Assessments

By: Jamie Koehler

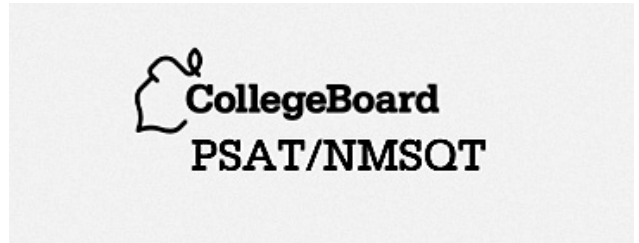


The junior class took a full length practice ACT exam on December 15, 2021. Students received their scores in content areas of Math, Science, English, and Reading.

Students are receiving ACT prep support from our ELA, Math, and Science teachers during their Resource period. Parents can assist their child by learning more at <https://academy.act.org/>. The Edgar School District LMC also has an array of resources that students are able to check out in order to help prepare themselves for this important exam! Juniors will be taking the ACT (with writing) on March 8, 2022.

In October, seventeen members of our Junior class took the PSAT/NMSQT. The NMSQT stands for the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This exam qualifies students for the National Merit Scholarship that is offered in the fall of a student's junior year of high school.

Of the 1.6 million students who take the test, around 50,000 students will be notified that they qualify for recognition. The organization commends two-thirds of the students who take the exam, which means that they acknowledge the students' hard work, but they don't move forward in the competition. Commended students are eligible to qualify for special scholarships.



Current sophomores will receive information on this optional test during the Fall semester of 2022.

Even if students do not end up qualifying or winning scholarship money, there is no harm in taking the test. By taking this exam students earn valuable test-taking experience that can further prepare them for taking the ACT exam in the Spring semester, or even the SAT.

## Dates to Remember

January 17-28	FASTBridge
March 7-18	B.E.S.T & BASC/BESS
March 8	ACT w/Writing
April 4-14	ACT w/Writing
April 4 - May 4	Aspire
May 2-13	FastBridge

*For more information, please visit our Assessment Website:  
<https://sites.google.com/gapps.edgar.k12.wi.us/assessments/home>*

## Helping Children & Adolescents with Grief

By: Samantha Boivin, Emily Gilmore, Jamie Koehler & Marisa Doll

Helpful Tips to helping children and adolescents with Grief:

- Listen to what the child is saying
- Reflect back on what you hear the child say.
  - DON'T say things like: "I know exactly how you feel."
  - DO: Respond by saying, "That must be really tough."
- Give permission. It's ok that you are sad.
- Share memories/talk about the person.

Helping Children & Adolescents with Grief Continues on Page 4



# Poetry for Enjoyment

By: Jeffrey Demlow

**S**ome of our high school students spent the whole month of December learning about poetry. At the beginning of December, we started a poetry unit by comparing music to poetry. Our goal was to determine if a song could be considered poetry. After listening and reading, the students all agreed that music can be poetry. We spent time reading and writing Acrostic Poetry, Sonnets and Haiku Poetry.

The student's favorite type of poetry is called Blackout Poetry. The students were given a page from a book or magazine and created a poem by using words from the page. The key to Blackout Poetry is that you black out words you do not want and what is left is a poem. The students liked this type of poetry a lot and had fun doing it.

We talked about a Poetry Café where people come and read poetry for fun and Poetry Slams which are Competitions between poets. During the 4 weeks we studied poetry we listened to and wrote many poems.

Here are three of our favorites:

Seven ages of Man by William Shakespeare:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLk4rXC8YoQ>

Zen Poems to Leave you Breathless  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dan5PntGO7E>

O Captain! My Captain by Walt Whitman:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3b9aFOryng>

## Edgar Recycling Program

By: Mr. Nathan Dahl

During the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year, Environmental Science classes have been running the recycling program in the elementary, middle, and high school areas of the building. The recycling program keeps most of the plastic, glass, aluminum, and paper that is used by students and staff out of the local landfill. A big concept that students learn over the course of the semester is resource conservation and practicing sustainability. Students get to see firsthand how their efforts can make a difference.



## Oh What a World!?! A Look Into Global Issues

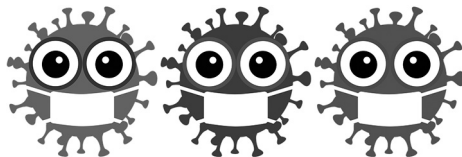
By: Mr. Jacob Skalitzky

What a world indeed! It is truly amazing, and to some overwhelming, to think about the complexities of the world today. When many of us were in school, life seemed a bit simpler; no smart phones constantly updating us with the latest news, no social media to find what we are or are not missing, no pandemics, virtual learning, quarantines, etc. We are in an age unlike any we have ever seen before, but luckily, our students get to study this age through a global lens in their 9th Grade Issues in a Global Society course. Over this semester and past semesters, our students have looked at how the world is changing, sometimes even before our very eyes. We study the impacts of geography, economics, global political institutions, and culture on their world and the world around us. In our last unit of study we specifically look at what current challenges our world faces, and dive into what the United Nations deem the “Sustainable Development Goals” or goals to transform the world for the better. What are the challenges we are going to face and have to answer together as Wisconsinites? What issues will we have to tackle as Americans? More than ever before it is important to understand some of the complexities of our globally interdependent world. Although we face many challenges, we have to understand that we have faced challenges in the past. If we are to truly overcome and protect what we hold most dear, unity is essential. The last unit we study doesn't just show the problems and give up, it also shows possible solutions. We have the capability to overcome any issues in our world, the only thing we have to remember is it takes a “togetherness.” How can we start to become more united to change the world? What can we do to help one another? It is in small acts of kindness and service that we change our friends, family, community, state, country, and world. Starting in 9th grade, our students are asked and are reminded, what can you do?

# Notes from the Nurse

By Lara Beranek, RN

## Viruses Everywhere!



Since March of 2020, there has been one virus that has overshadowed all others- the SARS-CoV, better known as COVID. Of course, there are other illnesses that affect us, and many of them are viral. Prior to COVID, we often didn't have a diagnosis of what virus it was and were told "it's something viral". Currently, many walk-in or urgent care providers are routinely testing ill patients for a variety of viruses (COVID, influenza A & B, and RSV). I point that out because some illnesses we called "a bad cold" in 2018 may now have a diagnosis of RSV or influenza. Before COVID, older children and adults were rarely tested for RSV. Now, with the need to have diagnoses prior to returning to normal life activities like work and school, testing has become much more common.

Below is some basic information taken directly from the Mayo Clinic Patient Care and Health Information website on illnesses we are seeing in our schools. Guidance on returning to school after diagnosis is from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

### Respiratory Syncytial Virus:

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) causes infections of the lungs and respiratory tract. It's so common that most children have been infected with the virus by age 2. Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-ul) virus can also infect adults. In adults and older, healthy children, RSV symptoms are mild and typically mimic the common cold. Self-care measures are usually all that's needed to relieve any discomfort.

RSV can cause severe infection in some people, including babies 12 months and younger (infants), especially premature infants, older adults, people with heart and lung disease, or anyone with a weak immune system (immunocompromised).

Symptoms in adults and older children include:

- Congested or runny nose
- Dry cough
- Low-grade fever
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Headache

In severe cases, especially in infants and young children:

- Fever
- Wheezing – a high-pitched noise that's usually heard on breathing out (exhaling)
- Rapid breathing or difficulty breathing – the person may prefer to sit up rather than lie down
- Severe cough

Infants are most severely affected by RSV. Signs and symptoms of severe RSV infection in infants include:

- Short, shallow and rapid breathing
- Struggling to breathe – chest muscles and skin pull inward with each breath
- Cough
- Poor feeding
- Unusual tiredness (lethargy)
- Irritability
- Bluish color of the skin due to lack of oxygen (cyanosis)

**School rule:** Students should stay home until they have been fever-free for 24 hrs without the use of fever-reducing medicine or they have a doctor's note clearing them to attend school. The lingering cough can be quite intense. If a student has a very bad cough, they may need to stay home until the cough improves. A bad cough makes it difficult to come to school well-rested and attend to school work.

## Notes from the Nurse Continued from Page 6

### Hand-Foot-and-Mouth Disease:

Hand-foot-and-mouth disease — a mild, contagious viral infection common in young children — is characterized by sores in the mouth and a rash on the hands and feet. Hand-foot-and-mouth disease is most commonly caused by a coxsackievirus.

There's no specific treatment for hand-foot-and-mouth disease. Frequent hand-washing and avoiding close contact with people who are infected with hand-foot-and-mouth disease may help reduce your child's risk of infection.

Symptoms include:

- Sore throat
- Feeling unwell
- Painful, red, blister-like lesions on the tongue, gums and inside of the cheeks
- A red rash, without itching but sometimes with blistering, on the palms, soles and sometimes the buttocks
- Irritability in infants and toddlers
- Loss of appetite
- Fever

The usual period from initial infection to the onset of signs and symptoms (incubation period) is three to six days. A fever is often the first sign of hand-foot-and-mouth disease, followed by a sore throat and sometimes a poor appetite and feeling unwell.

One or two days after the fever begins, painful sores may develop in the front of the mouth or throat. A rash on the hands and feet and possibly on the buttocks can follow within one or two days.

**School rule:** Students need to be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medications before returning to school. If there are draining blisters, they need to stay home until the blisters dry up. Young children who are not efficient hand-washers should remain home until they are considerably better. Young children who put their hands in their mouths or drool should also be kept home until significantly improved.

### Influenza:

Influenza is a viral infection that attacks your respiratory system — your nose, throat and lungs. Influenza is commonly called the flu, but it's not the same as stomach "flu" viruses that cause diarrhea and vomiting.

At first, the flu may seem like a common cold with a runny nose, sneezing and sore throat. But colds usually develop slowly, whereas the flu tends to come on suddenly. And although a cold can be a bother, you usually feel much worse with the flu. Though the annual influenza vaccine isn't 100% effective, it's still your best defense against the flu.

Common signs and symptoms include:

- Fever
- Aching muscles
- Chills and sweats
- Headache
- Dry, persistent cough
- Shortness of breath
- Tiredness and weakness
- Vomiting and diarrhea, but this is more common in children than adults
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Sore throat
- Eye pain

**School rule:** Students should stay home from school until fever-free for 24 hrs without the use of fever-reducing medicine, no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours without the use of medications, and all other symptoms (like a cough) are improving significantly.

### Strep throat:

Strep throat is a **bacterial** infection that can make your throat feel sore and scratchy. Strep throat accounts for only a small portion of sore throats.

If untreated, strep throat can cause complications, such as kidney inflammation or rheumatic fever. Rheumatic fever can lead to painful and inflamed joints, a specific type of rash, or heart valve damage.

## Notes from the Nurse Continued from Page 7

Strep throat is most common in children, but it affects people of all ages. If you or your child has signs or symptoms of strep throat, see your doctor for prompt testing and treatment.

Signs and symptoms of strep throat can include:

- Throat pain that usually comes on quickly
- Painful swallowing
- Red and swollen tonsils, sometimes with white patches or streaks of pus
- Tiny red spots on the area at the back of the roof of the mouth (soft or hard palate)
- Swollen, tender lymph nodes in your neck
- Fever
- Headache
- Rash
- Nausea or vomiting, especially in younger children
- Body aches

**School rule:** May return to school 24 hours after initiation of appropriate antibiotics and feeling much better.

**Lara Beranek, BSN, RN school nurse:** lberanek@mcse.k12.wi.us

**Mandy Myszka, 715-352-3858 health aide:** mmyszka@gapps.edgar.k12.wi.us

Information copied from <https://www.mayoclinic.org/patient-care-and-health-information>

Disease exclusion from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p44397.pdf>

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# The Investigative High School ELA Classroom

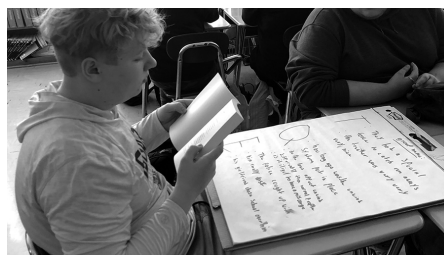
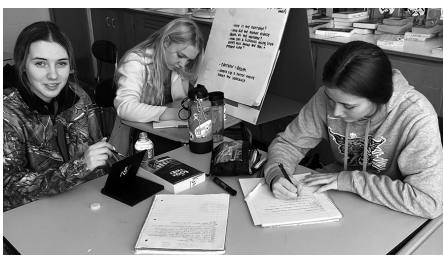
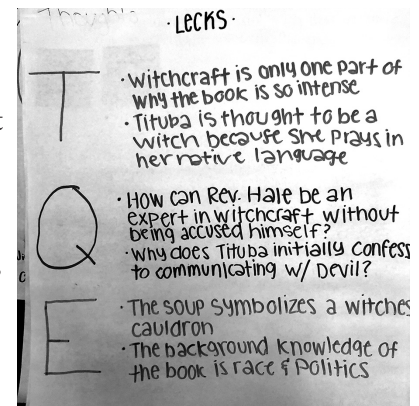
By: Ms. Laxton

TQE is a simple method to help students engage with what they are reading on a deeper, more significant level. It stands for Thoughts, Questions, and Epiphanies. Instead of the “regular notes,” one student asked me to take, it means that they are responding to what they are reading and not simply summarizing. This is important for many reasons, one of which is we want our students to think critically about the world around them and not just note the baseline information. And, once they have done that, the real magic begins!

My 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade ELA classes are working individually and then in groups to read and analyze *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman and *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak for 10<sup>th</sup>, and *The Great Gatsby* by F.Scott Fitzgerald and *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller for 11<sup>th</sup>. These books contain challenging vocabulary, themes, and historical/political allusions. When they are working on their own, it can be a real struggle. I ask them to stay away from sites that do all the thinking for them, such as Sparknotes. I ask them to, “Embrace the struggle!” because the struggle is worth it!

After the student works through the text on their own, they bring it into the classroom where they work through it again with their group. They cover the same ground, exploring what their classmates intuited with their own background knowledge or through looking up vocabulary or allusions or the background information I’ve given them, or whatever it may be. Then, they collate their TQEs and bring them to the class. Now, we have a guided-by-me whole-class discussion whereby the class is able to refine their thoughts, answer their questions, gather their epiphanies, and I can add in my years of knowledge on the subjects and novels. And we can then look up anything I don’t know (because, of course, that is a lot!).

This is what investigative learning looks like in a High School ELA classroom. It is not easy for them, or me. It sometimes feels too hard. It looks messy. But it is beautiful and it is worth it and their minds, and all of ours, are better off for it.

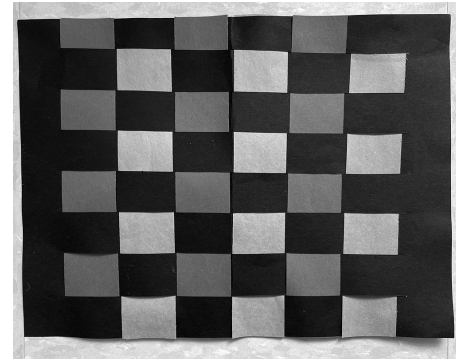
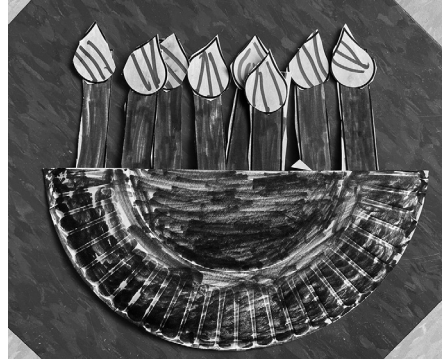




# Holidays around the World

By Angela Totzke & Danyelle Eberhardt

**D**uring social studies our first grade students have been learning about the differences and similarities in the winter holiday celebrations around the world. We learned and explored traditions in countries including Canada, Australia, Germany, Italy, India, and the United States. Many of the students were able to make connections between the different cultures and activities their own family does during the holiday season. We have learned that each of our differences make us unique and special!



## Go Band!

By Dennis Webb

In my twenty-eight year teaching career, I have never had a student come up to me at graduation and say, “I wish I had done less in high school.” High school is a once in a lifetime experience and I hope students make the most of it by being involved in all areas of our school.

Maintaining program during a challenge. The senior have been the most large group festivals, music trips, pep in the northwoods concerts, and se- list of lost opportu- on. Unfortunately, one opportunity to



a vibrant band pandemic has been a and junior classes notably affected. No solo and ensemble, band, marching on the 4th of July, nior awards. The nities goes on and students only get be in high school,

one opportunity to enjoy what the high school experience should be and music classes have taken the brunt of missed opportunities. Many events in our student’s lives contributed to a feeling of isolation such as quarantine, excessive cell phone use which puts a greater emphasis on why students should be more involved in school activities. Students that are involved become successful students and adults.

It is my goal to create many opportunities for our band students and foster a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts. Parents- please encourage your kids to be involved at school. The following is a list of upcoming dates and performances that we can look forward to:

- Solo and Ensemble, February 18th
- Milwaukee Bucks Pep Band, Sunday, March 6th
- Large Group Band Festival hosted in Edgar, Thursday, April 20th,
- State Solo and Ensemble, Saturday, May 7th
- Middle School Concert, Wednesday, May 11th, 2pm

- High School Concert, Wednesday, May 11th, 7pm
- Graduation, Friday, May 27th, 7pm performance
- Veterans Day Parade, Monday, May 30th, 10am
- Edgar Fireman’s Parade, Sunday, June 19th
- Northwoods Parades, Monday, July 4th, 6:30am bus

# What's new in the Kitchen?

By: Rebecca Larson

## Cooking In The Kitchen



**H**appy New Year!  
As we start the New Year I would like to remind you, we are still offering free breakfast and lunch through 6/30/2022. As far as we know breakfast and lunch

will go back to full pay 7/1/2022. If anything should change on this, we will let you know.

My staff and I would like to send a HUGE shout out to all students in the district. THANK YOU!!! We had the best food drive this year. I wish you could have seen all the food collected. It covered the floor and two tables. We were able to make 8 food baskets for school families in need and fill them with a lot of good meals and some snacks for Christmas Break. We also took a truck load over to the Circle of Joy. We are truly a blessed community! As always, my door is open for any questions, comments or concerns. Mrs. Larson



## Check out our recently painted #EdgarExcellence playground!

Many updates include...

Large black top area:

Road

Shuffleboard

Tightrope

Ladder

Shuffleboard

3 - four squares

Hopscotch

Workout circuit on wall

1-5 targets on wall

2 tic tac toes on wall

2 picture frames for drawing on wall

Small blacktop area:

2 mirror me's

2 basketball courts

Hopscotch

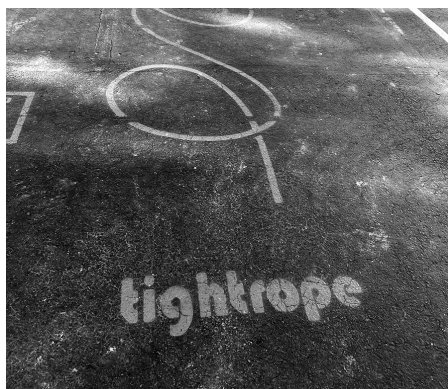
Sidewalk area:

Zig zag lines

Rocket alphabet hopscotch

2 Wildcat hops

Number hopscotch



# dates to Remember

**FEBRUARY 16** ..... SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – 6:00 P.M.  
**FEBRUARY 17** ..... WINTER OLYMPIC FAMILY FUN NIGHT – 6:00 P.M.  
**FEBRUARY 23** ..... PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES – MS & HS 3:30-7:30 P.M.  
**FEBRUARY 24** ..... PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES – ELEM. 3:30-7:30 P.M.  
**FEBRUARY 25** ..... TEACHER INSERVICE – NO SCHOOL

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**MARCH 8** ..... SPRING PICTURE DAY FOR ELEMENTARY  
**MARCH 10** ..... MATH FAMILY FUN NIGHT  
**MARCH 14–18** ..... MISSOULA THEATER COMPANY  
**MARCH 16** ..... SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – 6:00 P.M.  
**MARCH 16–17** ..... PRESCHOOL SCREENING  
**MARCH 18** ..... MISSOULA PERFORMANCE  
**MARCH 21–25** ..... NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK

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**APRIL 1** ..... QUARTER 3 ENDS  
**APRIL 4** ..... QUARTER 4 BEGINS  
**APRIL 15** ..... NO SCHOOL  
**APRIL 20** ..... SCHOOL BOARD MEETING – 6:00 P.M.  
**APRIL 21** ..... SCIENCE NIGHT – 6:00 P.M.

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## Snow/Traffic Safety

By: Mr. Rob Rauen

With the “snow season” upon us I would like to remind everyone to be careful while driving around the school building and village streets. The snow banks and piles can conceal a pedestrian until the very last second while you are driving. We have multiple parking lots that students need to cross the street to get into the building. Students (even older students) sometimes step out from behind a snow bank when least expected. Our village street employees and home owners do a great job of keeping the sidewalk banks along the streets to a low level so that you can see pedestrians (and of course they can see vehicles). Our snow plowing company does a great job piling snow in areas that do not obstruct views as well. Thank you all for being vigilant with the safety of our students!



**Edgar Public Schools**  
**203 E. Birch Street**  
**P.O. Box 196**  
**Edgar, WI 54426**

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(715) 352-2351 - Administrative Office  
(715) 352-2352 - High School Office  
(715) 352-2727 Elementary Office  
website: www.edgar.k12.wi.us

Dr. Cari Guden, District Administrator  
Mr. Bill Dittman, School Board President  
Gary Lewis, Vice-President  
Rebecca Normington, Treasurer  
Corey Mueller, Clerk  
Pamela Stahel, Member  
Thomas McCarty, Middle School/  
High School Principal  
Lisa Witt, Elementary School Principal,  
Director of Curriculum



**Wisconsin Statute 118.13** No person may be denied admission to any public school or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil service, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

### **SCHOOL CENSUS INFORMATION**

#### **School District of Edgar**

Please complete and return this form to the Edgar School District Office, 112 N. 2nd Ave., P.O. Box 198, Edgar, WI 54426. In order to reach all new families in our area, as well as all newborn babies, we are asking that this form be completed by anyone who **has moved into the Edgar School District or has a new addition to their family.**

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Spouse

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
House/Fire Number Street/Road City

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Township or Municipality \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL CHILDREN **NEW TO THE DISTRICT** (LESS THAN 21 YEARS OLD).

1.	NAME	AGE	DATE OF BIRTH	SEX	SCHOOL ATTENDING
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Thank you-if you have any questions, please call 352-2727 and ask for Michelle Socha.