

# Catprints



Edgar School District Newsletter

Vol. 30 No. 2 Winter 2023



## Kindness Matters

By Dr. Cari Guden, Dr. Lisa Witt, Mr. Tom McCarty



Our school believes that to do well in school, students need to feel connected to their school community. In our ongoing effort to create a positive and caring school culture, we have focused on KINDNESS MATTERS in a variety of ways at Edgar Elementary and Middle School.

1. KINDNESS MATTERS has been a monthly theme at Edgar Elementary School. Each month all grades read a specific book related to KINDNESS. Each grade then does an activity that reinforces the kindness theme from the book read. Classrooms have read the following books: September - AT SCHOOL KINDNESS STARTS WITH YOU, October - I PROMISE, November-12 DAYS OF KINDNESS, December - KINDNESS FROM A to Z, January - KINDNESS IS COOLER, MRS. RULER, and February - THE INVISIBLE BOY. At our monthly CELEBRATION assemblies, the fifth-grade class highlights the book and activities that promotes KINDNESS and carries on the theme.
2. In November, the elementary school celebrated KINDNESS WEEK. Students participated in daily dress up days, had a daily challenge, and a daily classroom activity. In December, the elementary school continued the kindness theme by participating in the 12 DAYS OF KINDNESS CHALLENGE. Each day, every grade level opened up an envelope that included a daily challenge of spreading kindness throughout the school building and a daily kindness activity that culminated with a KINDNESS party for the elementary.
3. Edgar Elementary's Fourth and Fifth Grade students participated in the Youth Frontiers Kindness Retreat on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. The day was filled with a dynamic mixture of activities and games designed to help empower our students to be "everyday heroes" by using kindness to be respectful, include others, and to make our school an amazing place to be. The retreat focused on how kindness makes a positive difference in our school and how unkind behavior hurts others. The idea of being a hero for classmates was introduced by using tools like "ICI" (interrupt, compliment, invite away) and the KINDNESS BOOMERANG. Throughout the day, students, teachers and staff leaders were united together with song, dance, and laughter. Students participated in small group conversations about what unkind actions or words they are experiencing, as they worked together to process the effects of these behaviors. Using humor and heart, the facilitators of Youth Frontiers shared personal stories that helped develop empathy in feeling the effects of someone being unkind, as they challenged our students to be an "everyday hero" and make a difference in the lives of their classmates and their selves in our school.



**Kindness Matters Continues on Page 2**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Holidays around the World .....	2	Notes from the Nurse (cont.), Music Notes & News .....	7
Assessments .....	3	Third Grade Highlights, What's new in the Kitchen? .....	8
Outdoor Education, Our Giving Community, Referendum Project Update .....	4	Gaslighting, Snow/Traffic Safety .....	9
English Class Happenings, Edgar Elementary School Preschool Screening .....	5	High School Students have opened a school store! .....	10
Notes from the Nurse .....	6	Take Control of Your Mental Health .....	11

## Kindness Matters

Continued from Cover

Youth Frontiers (YF) is a nonprofit organization that has been delivering retreats to schools since 1987. They provide schools with experiences that inspire character, civility and community so that our next generation of leaders is grounded in character.

Support for this project was provided through the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin's Beyond Pencils & Crayons Grant program.

4. In February, Edgar Elementary will celebrate RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK. Students will participate in daily dress up days and then they will pick another classroom to do a random act of kindness during the week. Students will also write down what they pledge to do to be kind to create a paper chain. All chain links will then be connected from 4K to grade 5 to create a CHAIN REACTION in the elementary of random acts of kindness as a visual reminder how we are all connected with kindness.
5. During the month of November, Middle and High School students were encouraged to be "caught being kind." Teachers were given slips to acknowledge acts of kindness that they saw both in class and in the hallways. These slips allowed students to be acknowledged for their positive actions.
6. On December 19 nationally recognized speaker, Mike McGowen, came to Edgar to speak to our students about the role student's play in creating a welcoming environment for all students during the day. He encouraged all students to consider the legacy they want to leave behind and reminded them that nobody will remember what they did, but everyone will remember how they made them feel.

Students have learned how to make kind choices, learned to enhance their empathy skills to understand how words and actions affect others, and have developed conflict-resolution strategies that can be used in response to unkind actions. We believe that through all of the KINDNESS MATTERS activities that our elementary and middle school students have participated in that we have empowered them to use kindness to include others, to be respectful and to make our school a better place.

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## Holidays around the World

By Danyelle Eberhardt, Angela Totzke, Shanna Thorson

During 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!



# Assessments

By Jamie Koehler

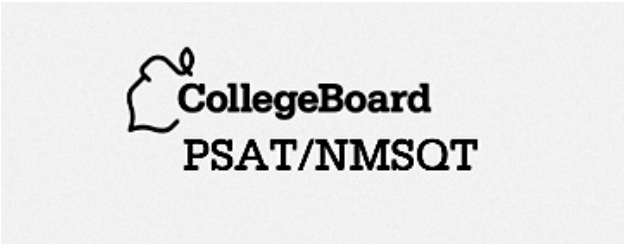


Students are receiving ACT prep support from our ELA, Math, and Science teachers during their Resource period. Parents can assist their child by learning more at <https://academy.act.org/>. The Edgar School District LMC also has an array of resources that students are able to check out in order to help prepare themselves for this important exam! Juniors will be taking the ACT (with writing) on March 7, 2023.

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In October, twelve 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 2023.

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.

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## Dates to Remember

<b>January 16-31</b>	FASTBridge
<b>February 22</b>	YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey)
<b>March 6-17</b>	B.E.S.T & BASC/BESS
<b>March 7</b>	ACT with Writing
<b>March 29</b>	PreACT Secure
<b>April 3-14</b>	Forward
<b>May 1-12</b>	FastBridge

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

# Importance of Outdoor Education

By Mr. Nathan Dahl

**D**uring the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year, Environmental Science classes have completed various outdoor activities and labs in our school forest and in the local waters of the Scotch Creek. Getting students outdoors and experiencing the natural beauty that surrounds us every day sparks interest in our environment. The most comprehensive outdoor activity took classes to three different locations on the Scotch Creek for the better part of a week. Students conducted three chemical tests: Dissolved oxygen, phosphate, and nitrate. In addition students tested stream flow, temperature and pH, along with using nets, waders, and sifters to gather various macro/microinvertebrate organisms.

Groups collected data each day and entered the results in a shared spreadsheet. The hands-on collecting of samples was important (and admittedly what students love the most), but so was the opportunity to become “citizen scientists” and analyze the data to complete a scientific paper based on our results to determine the overall health and quality of our local water source. Figuring out if the chemical tests fall under acceptable ranges, the factors that influence stream flow, and calculating the pollution tolerance for invertebrates were all instrumental in bringing meaning to our outdoor testing days.



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## Our Giving Community: Donations for Families in Need

By Mrs. Rebecca Larson, Dr. Lisa Witt & Dr. Cari Guden

It is with great pleasure that we have been able to help a number of families that are in need with the donations from our community. We received several donations for a combined total of nearly \$2000 to help families that have negative food service balances. We hope by helping those in need now these families can begin the new year with a \$0.00 balance. Thank you, Edgar Community and Marathon County.



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## Referendum Project Update

By Dr. Cari Guden & Mrs. Morgan Mueller

At the December 21st school board meeting our Edgar School Board approved a bid from Complete Control to install a new paint booth in our Tech Ed area. Plans will continue to move forward with installation occurring this summer. The finished product will be up and running for our 2023-24 school year. Again, a huge thank you to our community for allowing us to complete this project through the supportive referendum.

# English Class Happenings

By Daniel Prazuch

**W**e are at a halfway point in English 10! Our sophomore students are currently reading *Macbeth*, by William Shakespeare. Some of the ideas that we look at are called enduring understandings—big ideas that last over time and space which is all enveloped in the guiding question: under what circumstances, if any, is the use of violence an acceptable means of resolving conflict? We look at four different enduring understandings while we read and eventually write an essay, are used to help answer the guiding question. Our main ideas are: the use of violence should be made with open eyes and open minds; one person's terrorist may be another person's freedom fighter; violation of rights today may become the roots of tomorrow's conflict; and all choices involve a cost. Sophomores get to look forward to literature circles in which they pick out a book in a group to read and discuss within their group after our *Macbeth* unit. They will also get to have a choice book unit where they actually get to pick out an appropriate book to read for that unit's guiding question and enduring understandings. Students are extremely excited for this independence which will hopefully foster some unique discussions and pride in their work preparing them for their next year!

English 11 classes have been plugging away writing an argumentative essay on four different topics: teens and cellphones, school start time, cursive writing, and free higher education. This really encapsulates many of the standards that students need to demonstrate in their writing as they will be doing similar work, not only next year, but wherever they need to clearly state an idea or position. We will be wrapping up our fall semester with *The Great Gatsby* book as well as the newer movie. Mrs. Higgins and I are currently co-teaching one section of these students, so we can really dive in to help more students than we typically would alone. We switch off between teaching lessons, helping students directly, or providing another workspace for students. Though our time with the juniors are coming to a close, it was a joy getting to know them and having them walk away with an English education that can prepare them for their senior year!

A couple of other student related activities to note is that Forensics is alive and well! We will be hosting the sub-district event here in February! Students are finalizing their topics and categories and refining their speech for the festival. I am excited to be their coach and give them an in-person opportunity to perform.

NTC Dual Credit English classes are kicking off semester two for seniors. They will have the opportunity to take Oral Interpersonal Communication, and/or Written Communication with me this semester. This is a great way for them to start gaining college credit early still being in high school! An opportunity to do this in high school is truly efficient and a money saver (especially when we look at how much a college class costs in college)!

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## Edgar Elementary School Preschool Screening And 4 Year Old Registration Days

**Dates: March 15-16**

**Times: 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Place: Edgar Elementary School**

All children who plan to attend 4K in fall need to attend the preschool screening/4K registration days. This screening is to register your child for 4K in the fall as well as help identify any children who may be in need of some type of assistance prior to entering school. Screening and registration will take approximately 45 minutes and will include the areas of health and developmental history, readiness concepts, motor skills, and speech/language development.

If you have any concerns with your child who is under 3 years old, BIRTH TO THREE will be available to screen your child. This screening will take approximately 30 minutes and will include observations of early developmental skills and tasks and the completion of a health and developmental history.

Information letters will be sent out in mid February to all parents of children ages 3 and 4. If you do not receive a letter, or if you know of someone new to the district, or have any questions, please call the elementary office at (715)352-2727 between 7:30 A.M. and 3:30 P.M.

# Notes from the Nurse

By Lara Beranek, RN

**I**nfluenza has made a big reappearance recently after being less active the past two years. Let's review some of the symptoms of this virus and how it's different from the common cold.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	INFLUENZA	COLD
<i>Symptom Onset</i>	Abrupt	Gradual
<i>Fever</i>	Usual; lasts 3-4 days May spike up quickly and be high (102- 104°F)	Rare
<i>Aches</i>	Common; often severe	Slight
<i>Chills</i>	Fairly common	Sometimes
<i>Fatigue, weakness</i>	Usual; can persist for up to 3 weeks	Sometimes
<i>Sneezing</i>	Sometimes	Common
<i>Stuffy nose</i>	Sometimes	Common
<i>Sore throat</i>	Sometimes	Common
<i>Chest discomfort; cough</i>	Common; may be severe; often non- productive cough that lasts 3-7 days	Mild to moderate; hacking cough
<i>Headache</i>	Common	Rare

## What can you do to avoid getting influenza?

- Get a flu shot (it's not too late)
- Wash your hands well and regularly
- Avoid ill people when possible
- Eat healthy foods including lots of veggies and fruits
- Drink plenty of fluids (water and tea are good!)
- Get plenty of sleep
- Exercise regularly

## What should you do if you get influenza?

- Seek medical attention if you are in a high risk group; call your provider if you are unsure.
  - Under age 5
  - Over age 65

**Notes from the Nurse Continues on Page 7**

## Notes from the Nurse

Continued from Page 6

- Pregnant or within 2 weeks postpartum
- People in assisted living facilities
- People with certain medical conditions (ex) asthma
- You may be prescribed antiviral medications (ex) Tamiflu
- **STAY HOME!** Only leave to seek medical attention if needed. Wear a mask as soon as you get to the clinic/hospital. Stay home until fever-free for at least 24 hours.
- Wash your hands- often!
- If possible, isolate yourself away from other people in your house
- Rest, rest, rest!
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Use OTC medications to alleviate symptoms (ex) pain/fever reducer
- Cover your coughs and sneezes; wash hands after
- Disinfect high-touch surfaces often

Remember, influenza is a very contagious virus. Please keep your kids home while they are ill. Be prepared that influenza could mean a week or more of missed school. Children may return once they have been fever-free without medication for 24 hours, but even then they may not feel well enough to return. Fatigue and cough associated with flu can be severe.

*Wishing you a healthy winter!!*

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## MUSIC NOTES & NEWS

By Dennis Webb

### High School Music Trip to Washington D.C. and New York City

Members of the High School Choir and High School Band are finishing up preparations for the trip of their high school careers. On Saturday, March 18th, 2023 music students will board a charter bus for Washington DC. Over the 18-hour drive, there will be plenty of opportunities to strengthen relationships and create lifelong bonds.

While in our nation's capital, students will visit the eight Smithsonian Museums, tour Arlington National Cemetery, Gettysburg, Union Station, and take a tour of the Lincoln, Jefferson, and Washington monuments. The group will then travel four hours to "The Big Apple", New York City. While in New York students will tour the Statue of Liberty, Rockefeller Center, Times Square, Top of the Rock, Ellis Island, St. Patrick's Cathedral, enjoy a ferry boat ride, and a city tour with a local guide. We will also have the privilege of going to two musicals on Broadway- Hamilton & Wicked! After our tour of New York City we will settle in for the 17 hour bus ride back home. Students will be exhausted but the memories created will last a lifetime.

### Upcoming important dates

Friday, February 17th	District Solo and Ensemble @ Assumption High School
Friday, March 31st	EHS Pops Concert @ 7:00pm
Sunday, April 2nd	EHS Pops Concert @ 2:00pm
Thursday, April 13th	Large Group Festival Band @ Edgar
Thursday, April 20th	Large Group Festival Choir @ Auburndale
Wednesday, May 10th	Middle School @ 1:45pm and High School Concert @ 7:00pm

# Third Grade Highlights

By Mrs. Ristow and Ms. Morzewski

**W**e have had such an incredibly busy year that we just can't believe that it's already January! It seems like the months are flying by quickly. In Oct. we had pep rallies for the football team and volleyball team. We are so proud of them and how far they made it in the playoffs. It's always fun to see the enthusiasm from the players and our third graders. We are excited for the cross country, basketball teams, and wrestlers as well. We have a class with 25 students but they cheered like they were a class with 50 students! Wildcat Pride!

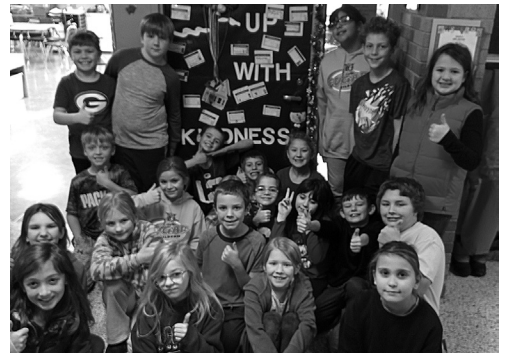
In November, students worked on a turkey disguise project. The goal was to write a persuasive paper to save the turkey and eat something else for Thanksgiving. Their creativity was off the charts! We had turkeys disguised as a deer hunter, a pile of leaves, a present, and even Santa himself! Their ideas for main dishes were great too! Instead of turkey they thought maybe eat spaghetti, venison, and pumpkin pie. Their reasons were very convincing.

Third graders have been working on multiplication throughout the school year. They found connections between multiplication and addition, and represented their thinking in different ways. One of those ways was by using their bodies to create arrays and come up with expressions to represent their arrangements.

Kindness is always a theme in the elementary. We had kindness week and then the 12 days of kindness with an assembly. All kids know how to be kind and we have taught many different ways to be kind and what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like. We decorated our door as a reminder.

Christmas is one of our favorite times of the entire school year! The excitement is unbeatable. We had so many fun activities, from Christmas packets, Readers Theater, playing Christmas bingo, making ornaments and cards, a visit from Santa himself, and gift giving.

*We are looking forward to a great 2023! Happy New Year!*



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## What's new in the Kitchen?

By: Rebecca Larson



Happy New Year! First, I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all students and staff who donated to our annual Help the Kitchen Feed the Community food drive. Not only were we able to fill 6 baskets for families in our school, we were also able to make a large donation to the Circle of Joy. How lucky are we to live in such a generous community!

Just a reminder that students will continue to eat breakfast free for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year. Lunch will continue to be charged at your current status, free, reduced or full pay. If your family has had any change in income or job status I would encourage you to fill out a free/reduced lunch application. Applications can be found in both the High School and Elementary offices.

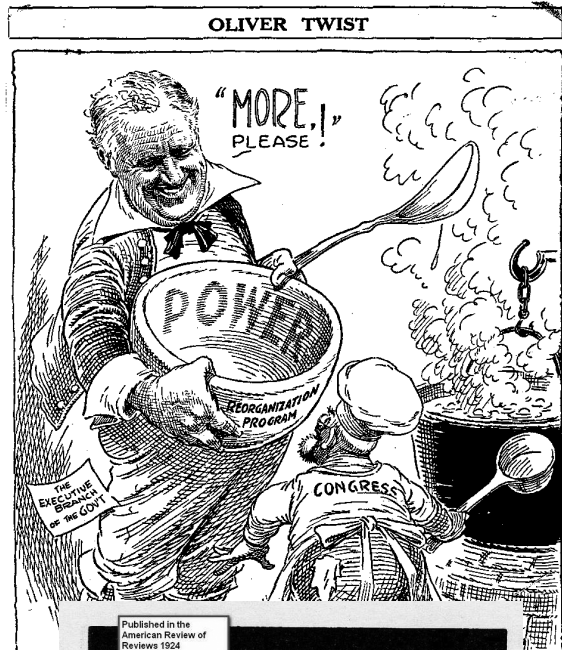
Thank you for all your continued support for our school breakfast and lunch programs. It is support from our administration, parents and students that we will continue to thrive. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out. 715-352-3321 or [rlarson@gapps.edgar.k12.wi.us](mailto:rlarson@gapps.edgar.k12.wi.us)



# Gaslighting - A Look at Contemporary U.S. History

By Jacob Skalitzy

The word of the year, according to *Merriam-Webster*, is “gaslighting”. Gaslighting, is “the act or practice of grossly misleading someone especially for one’s own advantage... (which) leads to confusion, loss of confidence, (etc.)...” When we look at today’s political climate and historical discussion, one can see why “gaslighting” was chosen for the word of the year. We see our media and politicians continuously trying to “put-one-over” their opponents and find that perfect “click-bait” moment to add to their repertoire of “got-ya’s.” Has this always been the case, or are we moving into a new era of division and disruption? Our 10th grade Contemporary U.S. History class has been exploring this question throughout the semester, reviewing a variety of primary and secondary sources, including political cartoons. As we look back, we can see that this strategy has been used throughout history. We see history is cyclical, full of periods of unity and division, and we are in a period of division. We have been able to look at history thematically this year, including a review of what makes up America’s core values, including freedom, opportunity, representation, and equality. Students have seen how U.S. divisions have started and how these values have united and reunited this country. One thing that is especially present in our studies of history, is the fact that we are especially privileged to be able to voice our opinions in this country. Our 10th graders and all social studies classes have practiced and worked on expanding the skill of creating an argument with historical evidence to support their views. Students have explored and justified which parts of America are the most important and what makes us “American”. Some great thoughts include Carlie Stahel stating “the American founding documents, such as the *Constitution*, the *Declaration of Independence*, the *Bill of Rights*, etc. in my opinion, (all show) the most important founding value is opportunity.” Or Madi Wendtland who argued, “I think the most important value is freedom because without it we would not have any of the other values. Freedom means that we are not slaves and are not owned by anyone. If we are not free to make our own choices, we wouldn’t be able to act on opportunities, we wouldn’t be able to vote...”. This is the power of history! If we want to see where we are heading, we just have to look to the past. It tells us where we have been and where we are going. This is the skill that our 10th graders are working on how to best analyze and evaluate history. In our next unit, titled *Patriotism and Protest*, we look at how people have used these strategies to push movements and shape history.



## 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. 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. As drivers around our building you will notice that the Village of Edgar has installed some “STOP” signs to make the area safer. Remember the intersections of 2nd avenue and Maple St. AND 2nd avenue and Birch St. are both 4 way stops. Thank you for being vigilant with the safety of our students! All too soon we will be looking at the grass again and wondering whether it needs to be cut yet or not. Happy New Year to all!

# High School Students have opened a school store!

By Amy Hahn - HS Business Teacher

**O**ur Entrepreneurship students did it! They started the Edgar School Store - named the “WILDCAT DEN”. They started this business from the ground up and are working really hard to bring this to all of you!! They sell apparel like hooded sweatshirts, hats, tumblers, and more!!

Right now, the “Wildcat Den” is run during school hours by the students. We will start attending home games very soon! In the meantime, you can get your Edgar gear by using the order form!! (Pictures of some offered items-see website below for more colors, options, etc.)

We have a Website and Instagram page if you would like to check those out as well:

INSTAGRAM: edgar\_wildcat\_den

WEBSITE: <https://sites.google.com/gapps.edgar.k12.wi.us/wildcat-den/home?authuser=0>



“LIKE” and “FOLLOW” us for updates and be the first to see when new apparel arrives!

Thanks for taking the time to check out the website.

We look forward to serving you!

The Entrepreneurship Students - Wildcat Den Employees

For more information - email Amy Hahn at [ahahn@gapps.edgar.k12.wi.us](mailto:ahahn@gapps.edgar.k12.wi.us)



As the new business teacher here in Edgar, I have to say, this has been an incredible experience for the students as well as myself. From discussions and lessons about “what an entrepreneur is”, to what it takes to start and run a business, to students’ designing logos, and now working in our own school store. This real work experience has been amazing! You can definitely tell how excited they are to sell something they worked hard on creating to their peers and staff at school. I am so proud of them and all of their hard work.



# TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

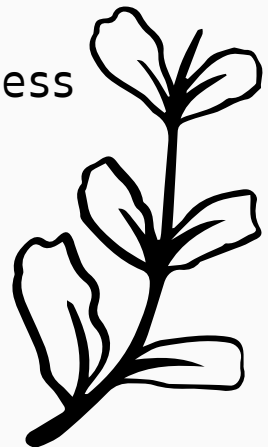
**Get Plenty of Sleep:** Getting enough sleep helps you grow and develop normally, pay attention throughout the day and maintain overall health

**Focus on your strengths:** Take time to think about what you're good at and ways to do more of those things. By focusing on and building your strengths, you can keep your stressors in perspective

**Do things that make you happy:** Find activities or hobbies that make you happy and incorporate them into your daily life

**Engage in physical activity:** Exercise takes our mind off stress and released chemicals in our brain that make us feel better. This can be anything from a stroll in the park, to a downhill bike ride or basketball game with friends

**Talk to someone:** It can be hard to manage stress alone. Talk to a parent or other trusted adult about your problems and they may be able to help you find ways to manage your stress



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Dr. Cari Guden, District Administrator  
Corey Mueller, School Board President  
Gary Lewis, Vice-President  
Pamela Stahel, Treasurer  
Rebecca Normington, Clerk  
Megan Wesolowski, 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.