Message from the English Learner Director

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This is the first newsletter in a series that will come to you each quarter of the school year. I am frequently inspired by our English Learners at all ages, levels and grades and their motivation to master English and academics along with the level of interest and support from the student families.

Our English Learners are critical thinkers who bring many strengths and a wealth of experience to their classes. Their motivation for learning is truly inspirational. While we develop their proficiency skills in English, and expand their knowledge in all subject areas, we want to strengthen the link between parents and guardians with the schools.

This newsletter is one of the first steps we are taking toward strengthening that link. It will feature information about student achievement and upcoming meetings. Not all schools will be represented in each issue, so if your child’s class or school is not featured in this issue, it will be in the next. This month, we chose to focus on the theme of problem solving and have highlighted lessons at the Webster School, the Parlin School, the Whittier School and the English School.

We always encourage families to strengthen and maintain their native language skills at home because we believe that bilingualism will make our students more competitive candidates in our global economy. We also thank you for your support. Feel free to email me with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Happy Spring!

Sincerely,
Anne Auger
English Learner Director
aauger@everett.k12.ma.us
National Honor Society

This year, 5 English Learners were inducted into the National Honor Society. These students have maintained a 3.7 or higher grade point average, completed hours of community service, and are leaders at Everett High School.

Congratulations!
- Mikerlentz Accilien
- Mariana DeSousa
- Yasmin Ferreira
- Erick Madrid Portillo
- Dat Phung

In addition, 35 former English Learners were inducted into the National Honor Society.

Save the Date!

English Learner Parent Meeting
May 1, 2018
6:45-7:45
Parlin School Cafeteria

There will be information about summer school, English test scores, trivia, raffles and prizes!
English School

After watching a recent news clip on the destruction of the mudslides that followed several forest fires in California, Ms. Supino’s 5th grade level 3 students wanted to learn more about what causes these natural disasters and what we could do to prevent death and injury to people living in the area. After making hypotheses about the relationship between forest fires and mudslides, the students took to conducting an experiment to see just how important a role forests play in the ecosystem. They first used their knowledge of time order words to correctly sequence the steps of their experiment, and then, as a team, they completed the experiment to learn that trees and plants are actually the glue that holds soil in place. Knowing that in order to create a viable solution to the problem of mud and landslides in California, they would have to learn more about their effects and formation, the students read an informative scientific article. Now armed with even more knowledge about this phenomenon, students will begin to prepare posters that explain the preventative solutions that they designed!
Ms. Holden’s Grade 8 Level 2 and 3 students had a fantastic time learning about bridges in their Science class, with Mr. Cash. The students learned about different types of bridges and the forces that affect them. The bridge building project aligned to the MA STE Standards and helped engage students through kinesthetic learning. Before starting the hands-on part of the project, students were introduced to and learned associated vocabulary, such as torsion, truss, deck, cables, beam, and tension. Students then collaborated in teams of 2 or 3 and built their bridges. They were given 150 craft sticks, wood glue, a hot glue gun, protective eyewear, and examples of truss bridges. The goal was to be able to identify each part of their bridges as well as the bridges’ strength and durability. In a fun filled and exciting class, students competed by testing the strength of their bridges. The Level 2 & 3 EL students beat all other classes. Their bridges were able to withstand up to 80 pounds.
Ms. Ippolito’s 5th Grade Level 2 students had a blast working on Unit 2 of their literacy book, "Catching the Light". The big question they focused their learning around was “What is the power of the sun?” The students read multiple genres around the topic such as myths, legends, blogs, and articles. They also expanded their scientific and academic vocabulary with words such as “alternate, circuit, insulate, and solar”. The students were inspired while reading about solar energy and wanted to help find different solutions to issues such as pollution and global warming. As natural problem solvers, they wanted in on the action! After reading the article, “How to Make a Solar Oven”, the 5th graders worked together to create their very own solar oven made from a pizza box. They were given materials and independently followed instructions step by step to complete their goal as a team. The class is looking forward to giving their solar oven a try on a warm day this spring.
Over the last few weeks, the Webster School third grade English Learners have been tackling the following question: “What can I do to welcome someone who is new and lonely?” Students tried to imagine how they might feel if they moved to a new country, surrounded by an unfamiliar language and culture, far from their family and friends. Students who have recently immigrated here shared vivid memories of walking down our hallway for the very first time. Other students eagerly asked, “What was that like?” and “Weren’t you afraid?” One student remembered: “I was so nervous to meet everyone and afraid I wouldn’t understand them.”

We then read *One Green Apple* by Eve Bunting, a story of Farah, a young immigrant, on her second day of school in her new country. After closely studying how Farah’s new classmates welcomed her through various acts of kindness, students imagined what they might do if they noticed someone new and alone in their own lives. During our discussion, one student revealed, “…You know what? This actually happened to me on my first day.”
Each year, teachers work together to help English Learners increase 1 level or more in their English proficiency. This includes English reading, writing, speaking and listening.

1. **Entering:** Pictorial or graphic representation of the language of the content areas

2. **Beginning:** General language related to the content area

3. **Developing:** Expanded sentences in oral interaction or written paragraphs

4. **Expanding:** Specific and some technical language of the content areas

5. **Bridging:** Specialized or technical language of the content areas

6. **Reaching:** Oral or written communication in English comparable to English proficient peers
Our Mission

The mission of the Everett Public Schools is to meet the needs of every student in our diverse learning community. The Everett Public Schools is committed to providing a safe, supportive, challenging environment that empowers students to become productive members of society. The Everett Public Schools collaborates with family and community to provide an environment that nurtures the unique capabilities of each student in order for them to become responsible learners and ethical, global citizens.

Questions or Comments

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We’re on the Web!
www.everettpublicschools.org
Click on Student/Family Resources
Click on English Learners

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