

East Sunflower Elementary Newsletter

January 2021

“Equitable Education for Every Student”

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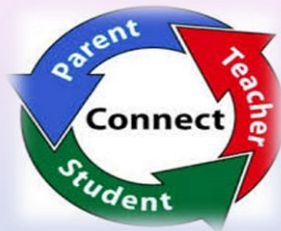
Principal's Message

Welcome Back!! I am so excited to begin the new year with you at East Sunflower Elementary. We are entering a new calendar year; however, expectations are still high for all stakeholders. We encourage everyone to make teaching and learning a **PRIORITY** each day at East Sunflower. Not only do we promote the importance of a quality education, we expect our students to be respectful and well-disciplined. By revisiting our vision and mission, schoolwide goals, and positive behavior plan, we are anticipating a successful second half! As we strive to create proficient readers, writers, mathematicians, problem solvers, critical thinkers, and productive citizens in the **NEW YEAR**, remember that if better is possible, then good is not enough. Let's work together to make 2021 a **BETTER** year with new possibilities despite all uncertainties!! S. Washington

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 1/5 Students return to Virtual School
- ◆ 1/8 Virtual Attendance Party 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- ◆ 1/11-15 Biweekly Testing.
- ◆ 1/18-22 I-Ready Diagnostic Testing
- ◆ 1/12 Virtual School Board Meeting @ 6 P.M.
- ◆ 1/18 Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday (NO SCHOOL)
- ◆ 1/25-29 2nd Nine Week Testing (Virtual)
- ◆ 1/26 Sunflower Community Informational Virtual Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ 1/29 Virtual Attendance Party 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Message from the Parent Liaison: Tabatha Jones



It is so hard to believe that winter break is over and 2021 is upon us! This school year is going by so quickly and Spring Break will be here before we know it. We are excited for a new year and the sense of excitement and renewal brought with it. Once again, we are so grateful for all the students, parents, and staff that bring joy to us on a daily basis. We truly hope that everyone had a safe and relaxing winter vacation!

Birthday wishes to everyone who is celebrating a birthday in the month of **January!!**



Social & Emotional Health

The outbreak of COVID-19 may be stressful for people and communities. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations. The emotional impact of an emergency on a person can depend on the person's characteristics and experiences, the social and economic circumstances of the person and their community, and the availability of local resources. People can become more distressed if they see repeated images or hear repeated reports about the outbreak in the media. Children react, in part, on what they see from the adults around them. When parents and caregivers deal with the COVID-19 calmly and confidently, they can provide the best support for their children. Parents can be more reassuring to others around them, especially children, if they are better prepared.

Support for Parents

Not all children respond to stress in the same way. Some common changes to watch for in children:

- Excessive crying and irritation
- Returning to behaviors they have outgrown (e.g., toileting accidents or bedwetting)
- Excessive worry or sadness
- Unhealthy eating or sleeping habits
- Irritability and "acting out" behaviors
- Poor school performance or avoiding school
- Difficulty with attention and concentration
- Avoidance of activities enjoyed in the past
- Unexplained headaches or body pain
- Use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs

There are many things you can do to support your child:

- Take time to talk with your child about the COVID-19 outbreak. Answer questions and share facts about COVID-19 in a way that your child can understand.
- Reassure your child that they are safe. Let them know it is ok if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress so they can learn how to cope from you.
- Limit your child's exposure to media coverage of the event. Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand.
- Help your child to have a sense of structure. Once it is safe to return to school or childcare, help them return to their regular activity.
- Be a role model; take breaks, get plenty of sleep, exercise, and eat well.
- Connect with your friends and family members and rely on your social support system.



“Keep the Dream Alive”



From the Faculty and Staff of ESE

"Warmest congratulations to Ms. Tiffany Sibley on the birth of her sweet baby boy!"



Nancy Adams



Nancy Adams is honored and humbled to have been selected for **Teacher of the Year** at East Sunflower Elementary School for the 2019 – 2020 school term. Nancy Adams is a veteran teacher with more than fourteen years of experience teaching in the Mississippi public school system. After graduating from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor's degree in Education, Ms. Adams began her first year of teaching at an elementary school in Drew, Mississippi. Over the course of the next ten years, Ms. Adams taught Reading and Language Arts to lower elementary students. She currently teaches Science to third, fourth and fifth grade students at East Sunflower Elementary school.

Having taught at East Sunflower for almost six years, Ms. Adams has grown to know and love the families in the Sunflower community. In addition to being committed to her students, Ms. Adams has made a commitment to being a lifelong learner. She is constantly searching for a better way to help students make connections between their learning and the world around them.

Counselor's Corner

This month's focus on character is **OPTIMISM!** Optimism is the expectation that the future holds positive possibilities and the confidence that, with effort, these possibilities become likelihoods. When you look at the glass, how do you see it? Half full? Half empty? It all depends on the person and their perception about life. Do you stay motivated even when things don't go well? Do you believe that you can improve on things that maybe didn't turn out well? If you do, then you are an optimistic person!

Nearline Anderson



In the Spotlight



Candace Burkett
Librarian
Teacher of the Month



Linda Brown
Food Service Worker
Staff of the Month



Nicole Hawkins
School Supporter
Parent of the Month



Jaiden Winfrey
Student of the month



Connor Patterson
Student of the month



ESE Panthers of the Month



JANUARY LIBRARIES



Happy 2021, ESE! Students now have access to a virtual "January Themes" library as well as a Martin Luther King Jr. library in their Canvas classes! Libraries include read-alouds of books as well as videos! The virtual libraries can be found by students going to their library class in Canvas, clicking on "Modules," then scrolling down to "Sunflower Little Library."

December's Super Readers:

Jacques Nicholson
Rolincia Richard
Makayla Howard
Sha'Miyah Wash
Zaylon Lee
Marybeth Howell

How to become a **Super Reader**: read books on your own from the digital libraries available through Canvas and Epic, then, submit your weekly reading in your library Canvas class! Happy reading!

Congratulations, Super Readers, and keep an eye out for more great books this month! Candace Burkett, Librarian

SANTA HELPERS GIVING BACK!!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!!

ESE Academic Coach Katisha Limehouse



Sunflower Mayor Desiree Norwood



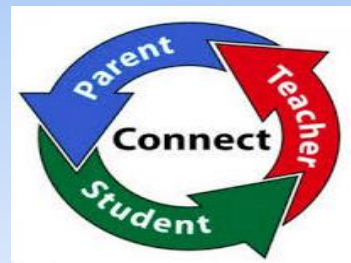
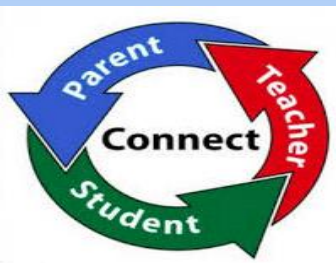
Emma Golden Sunflower County Consolidated School District Board & National Council of Negro Women



Melanie Townsend-Blackmon Sunflower County Consolidated School District Board of Trustees



Tabatha Jones, the winner of the gift card that was donated by Adoris Turner, Pastor of Mount Beulah MB Church in Indianola.



The McKinney-Vento Act

When a family becomes homeless, there are two issues that usually occur with the affected children, 1) student attendance decreases and 2) financial situations destroy students' interest in school. The SCCSD recognizes the importance of education for all children and has adopted the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act that addresses the needs of homeless children. This policy provides assistance for homeless students so that they can continue to be educated despite the challenges they face. If you know families with children who are homeless, please contact the **Homeless Liaison at ESE, Tabatha Jones** at (662) 569-3137. Your call could be of great assistance to a family in need.

East Sunflower Attendance Message

Attendance Matters! We know some absences are unavoidable even in this virtual environment, but keeping kids in school matters. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in elementary school so they learn right away that going to school on time and every day is important. If your child is unable to participate in their daily schedule, they are considered absent. Please remember when this occurs, the school needs to be notified immediately. To report an absence, please contact Ms. Mays @ 662-569-3137.



Winter Wonderland Walk-thru 1st Nine Weeks Honorees 2020



Winter
WonderLand