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## Evaline Families

**A message from our  
Head Teacher, wishing  
you a pawsitive holiday  
season!**

Usually at this time of year, whether we are parents, students, or staff, we are celebrating the successful completion of another Evaline play and looking forward to the next two weeks and all that winter break has to bring. We are tired but excited. We have worked hard, pushed through, met the challenges, and accomplished the goals. We have checked the boxes, completed tasks and cleaned up the little and big messes along the way. We have had our stressful moments, but right about now those seem worth it, and are becoming distant memories as we focus on the holidays ahead. We are thankful, and encouraged. We are happy. That is the norm that we have grown accustomed to. That is how we have learned through experience that it should be at Evaline. That is, until this year.

Each month since March, I have been asked things such as "When will school be back to normal?" or "What about the Feast or the Play or our other traditions and ways of doing things that makes Evaline unique.... What will happen to those?" The fact is, with opening a school during a pandemic, caused by a virus we knew very little about, that was affecting people worldwide, it is as if we are trying to navigate an older and smaller boat in choppy seas on an uncharted voyage. The world became grey, with information, data, rules, expectations, and decisions changing moment by moment and making giving black and white answers no longer realistic nor appropriate. This left many people feeling unsettled. As time has passed and the need for extending safety protocols has continued, I've noticed the tendency for people to begin to become discouraged, and take sides against one another. From a sociology point of view this is a common human response to prolonged stress, but not a required response. Sociologists would argue that we can make a choice about what we do with our emotions.



## IMPORTANT DATES:

### December:

Dec. 21 - Jan. 1: Winter Break

### January

Jan. 4: First day back to School



This is not the first time any of us will face a challenge of this magnitude, just as this is not the first time, nor the last time that the Evaline School has either. We have faced adversity, and each time, when we pulled together and focused on the children, we persevered, and prospered. The key is to keep the focus on what is truly important and not on all the other "stuff" that we think is representative of how things should be. We need to dig deep, get creative, learn from our past, and make sure our focus is on the priorities Evaline needs to have as a whole.

This week my Father reminded me of this as he reminisced of his time at Evaline, and stories from his Father before him. ... such as the destruction of the old school building and subsequent rebuilding of it by the community... and of the time our community had to financially step in to help secure funds to pay teachers and help cover other necessary expenses when our school funding would not cover those needs. He recalls the time and materials his family donated to the school over the years, as did his neighbors, to keep the school doors open and the students learning... one way or another, even when things were tough. The stories kept going on and on.... With a common theme - giving what you have, not just what you want to give, building people up instead of tearing them down, and putting students first without conditions. As we go into winter break, let's take a page from our history and place more of our focus on our true priorities, the children, and think about how we can contribute and help, and where we can offer support and encouragement. Together, with this focus in mind, I have no doubt we will get through the continued challenges we will face having learned more, and with a renewed appreciation for many aspects of our everyday life and the people within it.

**Susanne K Duren  
Head Teacher**

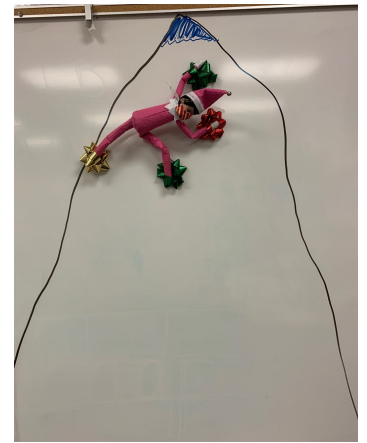


**MRS. YOUNG**  
**KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE**  
**(360) 785-3460 - Voicemail Ext. 1002**

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas break! Our family has been doing a lot of baking and decorating. I hope each of you find something fun to share with your families during this season. Stay safe if traveling.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Young





**MRS. MITTGE**  
**2ND GRADE**  
(360) 785-3460 - Voicemail Ext. 1006

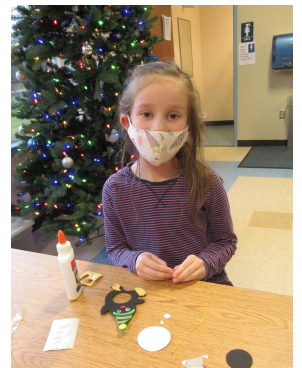


**Super Second Grade Weekly Update: 12/18/20**

This week's growth mindset mantra was, "You've got this!" Got this they did! Students worked so hard this week. We will be ready to begin new unit studies in math, social studies, and ELA when they come back on January 4th.

Students, keep reading over the break. Ask someone to quiz you on your flashcards. Create something new. Find something to smile at. Hug someone you appreciate.

Families, have a lovely, relaxing break with your caring, hard-working children! They are each such precious gifts to me. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to work with them! Please enjoy the photos enclosed below.

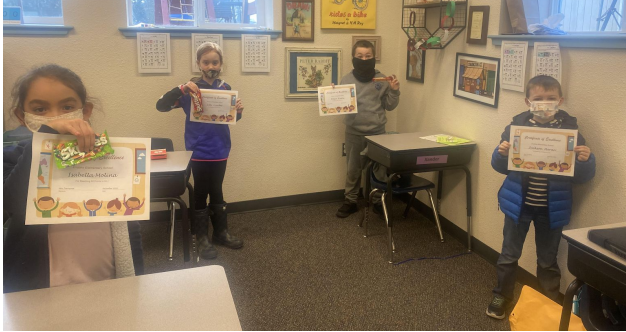




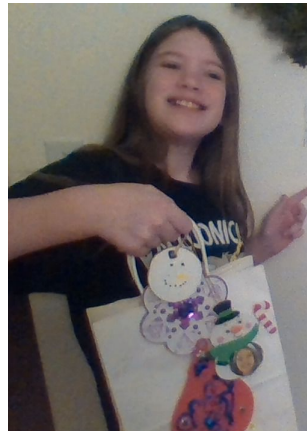
**MRS. TURNQUIST**  
**3RD GRADE**  
(360) 785-3460 - Voicemail Ext. 1003

We made it to winter break! This has been a difficult school year but your students have worked very hard, I can't wait to see what the rest of the school year has to hold. Students went home this week with Karate math instructions and flash cards. Please take the time to read over these materials. It is important that students continue their multiplication over break even if only for 5 minute each day. Have a great break and I will see everyone in January!

-Ms. Turnquist



**All of these students  
hit 50 IXL medals! Way  
to go, Isabella, Lilly,  
Dylan, and Jackson!**

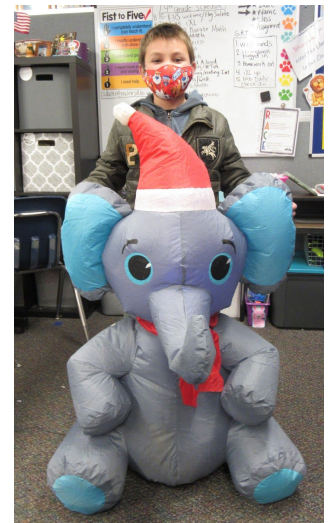
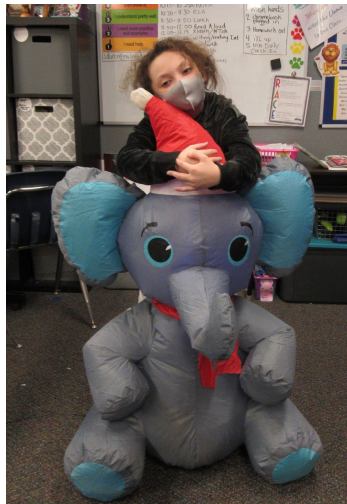




**MRS. DUREN**  
**4TH GRADE**  
(360) 785-3460 - Voicemail Ext. 1004



What a great last week before winter break! Our fabulous fourth graders indeed rose to the occasion to work hard on their studies, so that they could play hard when it was time for their class parties... and play hard we did! Parents, don't miss the short video clips posted on our class story in Dojo today, to get a glimpse of the fun we had! I hope everyone has a "llamazing" winter holiday break with your families. Please take some time to rest and "recharge your batteries". So that you are ready to "hit the ground running" in January. I hope our fabulous fourth graders take some time on break to read, and to practice their multiplication facts! They will appreciate the extra practice when they come back to school in January. Merry Christmas and Happy New Years - Mrs. Duren





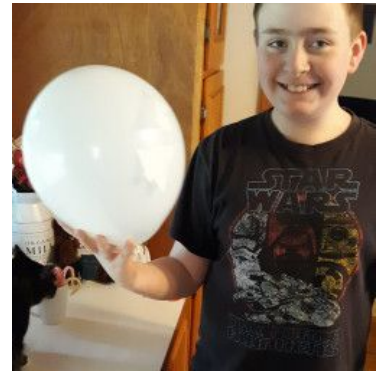
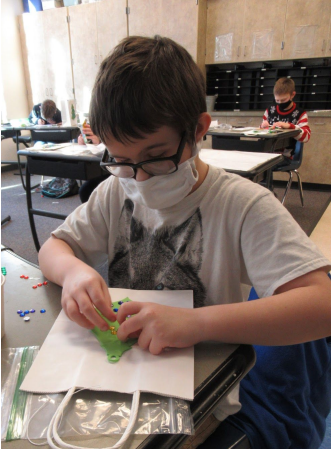
**MR. BURLINGAME**  
**5TH AND 6TH GRADE**  
(360) 785-3460 - Voicemail Ext. 1001



Hello Parents and Students,

We've made it to Winter Break! I hope you all can take these next weeks and rest, relax, and enjoy each other's company. I'll see you next year!

Have a great Winter Break!,  
Mr. B



**Happy  
Holidays!**