



December 2020

“Equitable Education for  
Every Student”

S. Washington, Principal  
(662) 569-3137 Office  
(662) 569-3309 Fax  
ese@sunflower.k12.ms.us

## Principal's Message

**H**appy **H**olidays! We are already half way through the school year as we enter the month of December. It is expected that **EVERYONE** will continue to keep 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 contributing members of our society. By giving, sharing, helping, and sacrificing, our students can make a difference and change the world. Let's teach our children that it is better to **GIVE** than it is to receive and to **COUNT** their blessings. We can impact the world through teaching, learning, giving, and caring! Continue to watch us grow!

*Principal S. Washington*

## Counselor's Corner

*Season's Greetings from Dr. N. Anderson  
ESE School Counselor*

### Character Ed Word of the Month **GRIT**

*Grit is perseverance and passion for long-term goals. Grit also means that you finish whatever*

*you started; stick with your projects for more than a few weeks; try very hard even when*

*you experience failure; keep working hard even when you feel like quitting and staying committed to your goals!*



## Message from your Parent Liaison

Hello families, Here is some information that you should know or that you may find helpful as we get further into the holiday/winter season. The Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer some recommendations for how to safely participate in the upcoming holidays. These include: a. Avoid certain events such as large gatherings with people from outside of your household, indoor bars and restaurants, or shopping in crowded stores. b. Find alternative ways to celebrate like having a virtual dinner with family and friends, watching sporting events, parades, and movies from home, and preparing and delivering meals and treats in a way that doesn't involve contact with those outside of your household. c. Make safe choices by avoiding unnecessary travel, wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, washing hands, and staying home as much as possible. d. Know when to not host or attend any in-person gatherings. If you or anyone in your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has not met the criteria for discontinuing isolation (10 days since symptom onset, fever free for 24-hours without the use of medication, and an improvement in symptoms), has symptoms of COVID-19, is waiting for test results, may have been exposed to someone in the last 14 days, or are at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, please continue to stay home. I hope you all are staying happy and healthy and are able to find a safe way to participate in the **Holiday Season!**

## Upcoming Events

12/7-11 Biweekly Tests  
12/15 Third Grade Parent Meeting 5:30 pm  
12/18 1st Nine Weeks Winter Wonderland Walk-Through for Honor Students  
12/18 Progress Reports will be mailed to parents  
12/21-1/1 Christmas Break (NO SCHOOL)  
1/4 Staff Returns  
1/5 Classes Resume for Students  
1/18 Dr. MLK Holiday (NO SCHOOL)



## East Sunflower Elementary School 1<sup>st</sup> Nine Week Honor Student 2020-2021 School Year

### Principal's List

1. Chloe Contreras-1<sup>st</sup> Grade
2. Kaliyah Lemon- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
3. DeMonte Mickey- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
4. Phoebe Patterson- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
5. Chauncey Porter- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
6. Lillian Washington- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
7. Kristin Carpenter- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
8. Artavius Williams- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
9. Ryleigh Griham-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
10. Amariah Porter- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
11. Rosilyn Richard -3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
12. Rylie Tiggs- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
13. Alexandria Freeman- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
14. Rolincia Richard- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Honor Roll

1. Kingston Jackson-1<sup>st</sup> Grade
2. Roosevelt Nash Jr.-1<sup>st</sup> Grade
3. Connor Patterson-1<sup>st</sup> Grade
4. Channing Perkins-1<sup>st</sup> Grade
5. Dyson Brand-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
6. Deondre Lee-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
7. Ser'Marion Clayton- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
8. Tommie Porter- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
9. Jaquarius Appleberry-4<sup>th</sup> Grade
10. Anthony Lee- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
11. Jacques Nicholson- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
12. Jaiden Winfrey-4<sup>th</sup> Grade
13. Kentavius Hawkins-5<sup>th</sup> Grade
14. Jakolbe Winfrey-5<sup>th</sup> Grade



### In the Spotlight



**Doris Carter**  
**Math Teacher**  
**Employee of the Month**



**Edna Minton**  
**Bus Driver**  
**Staff of the Month**



**School Supporter**  
**Michele Nicholson**  
**Parent of the Month**



### ESE Panthers of the Month



**"Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much."**  
**-Helen Keller**

## Caring for Christmas

Nearly half of low-income Americans or someone in their household experienced some type of income loss during the pandemic. Because more people are facing hardship this year due to the impacts of COVID-19, more families in your community will likely be in need of assistance this holiday season and into 2021.

Whether you're able to adopt a child or simply provide a few items, be on the lookout for these commonly requested items as you tackle your holiday shopping this year: Baby necessities like bottles, blankets, diapers and wipes

- Warm weather attire, like winter coats, mittens, hats and scarves
- Books or board games
- Dolls, action figures or other toys that inspire imaginative play
- School and art supplies
- Personal care items like shampoo, soap, deodorant or hair products
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent and fabric softener
- Gift cards to retail stores
- Pre-paid gas card
- Restaurant or grocery gift certificates



### HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED

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.






## FAMILY BONDING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

If there's one time of year perfect for family bonding activities, *it's Christmas.*




Maybe it's the smell of fresh sugar cookies taking us back to our grandmother's kitchen when we were little, hearing the sweet innocent voice of our child during their Christmas concert or feeling the gentle tug on our heartstrings, reminding us that another year with our sweet children has passed, but something about the Christmas season seems to bring everything into clearer focus.




*I need to spend more time my kids this holiday season and less time stressing out.*





*I want to create memories they'll always remember in an atmosphere of love and closeness.*









*I want to make time for family bonding and strengthening family relationships.*



Being intentional in setting aside time for family bonding activities during the holidays is a gift to your child that will keep on giving, *throughout your child's life.*



### **Bonding Activities for the Family**

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- Make a family vote and then watch the 'all-time favorite' Christmas movie
  - Have a pizza picnic on a blanket by candlelight at the end of a busy day
  - Savor their smallness with **holiday footprint art**
  - Let your child be the photographer to document a special day
  - Tell the story of the birth of Jesus and [let the kids get in on the action with this nativity](#)
  - Read Christmas stories cuddled in the dark with flashlights
  - Look through family photo albums together
  - Write your child a letter about how they've grown in the past year and what an amazing kid they are



Merry Christmas!

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## Sugar Cookies

Active time 20 minutes

Total time 50 minutes

Make 40 cookies

Ingredients 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup (2 sticks) cold unsalted butter, cut into small cubes  
¾ cups confectioners' sugar  
½ kosher salt

## Make It

1. Preheat oven to 350 with racks in upper-third and lower third positions. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper; set aside. Plus, flour, butter, confectioners' sugar, and salt in a food processor until a dough ball begin to form, about 25 pulses.
2. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface; knead until dough is uniform and come together, about 3 times. Roll out dough to about a ¼ -in. thickness. Using a 2-in. round cookie cutter, cut out cookies, rerolling scraps once (you should have about 40 cookies total). Arrange rounds at least ½ in. apart on prepared baking sheets.
3. Using a knife, gently score each dough round with a light line across middle of cookie. Working with 1 dough round at a time, hold a bench scraper or a spatula over dough in alignment with the scored line, barely touching the dough with scraper. Sprinkle half of the dough round (using the bench scraper as a barrier) with sanding sugar. Then gently press decorations into dough.
4. Bake cookies until tops are dry but cookies have not started to brown, rotating baking sheet between top and bottom racks halfway through, about 10 minutes. Let cool completely on baking sheets, about 15 minutes.

