



# ELROY ELEMENTARY NEWS



## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### HOLIDAY MUSIC VIDEO AND FUNDRAISER



Like years in the past, we come together to create wonderful music together and help those in need during the holiday season. Even though this year is like no other, we still have each other! This year, we have been met with challenges we never had to experience before. However, with new challenges comes new possibilities and ideas. Because we are not allowed to sing, we cannot have a concert, but that will not stop us from making music! Instead of singing, students will be making a music video using American Sign Language to sign our song, "Snow is Falling" by Mary Donnelly.

Not only are the Elementary Concerts wonderful presentations of students' musical abilities, the concerts allow us to teach the students to give back. Last year we had an extremely successful food drive, and we would like to do another. However, due to Covid-19, we can only collect monetary donations. So, because we are going to be filming the hallways and entering the classrooms, we want to throw a "Holiday Door Dash!"

With the help of our amazing art teacher, Mrs. Graff, each classroom will decorate their door and presents celebrating the different winter holidays will be outside of the doors for students to put money donations into. The classroom with the most donations when we start recording the video will have a feature at the end of the video! We will be collecting money for the HDS Center, or the Center for Hearing and Deaf Services located on Fifth Avenue in Pittsburgh.

Dear Parents and Students, It's hard to believe that we are already into the month of December! Despite a few hiccups with connectivity issues, learning has been largely successful as we have consistently had nearly 100% participation on Canvas. As we move into Quarter 2, we cannot stress enough the importance of student engagement in learning. Course content is progressing and it is imperative for students to keep up with their school work. Parents, please be sure to check your child's progress on Canvas and connect with their teachers for help.

We are so proud of our students for their ongoing efforts to navigate new systems and learn in new ways. They demonstrate their commitment to school by showing up daily in their live classes and engaging in independent learning online.

**Attendance** We are so proud of our students for their daily attendance in hybrid and remote classes. In September our average weekly attendance was 97%. We are seeing similar numbers in October and November. We want to thank you for your partnership in supporting the hybrid and online learning experiences by making sure they are "up and on" each day.

As always, I encourage you to please continue to refer to the county website, and our school website, at [www.bb-sd.com](http://www.bb-sd.com) for additional information. In closing, I want to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your family good health and a wonderfully holiday season. I feel confident that when we all return together, it will be with a greater sense of belonging and a renewed perspective on all of the values that make Elroy Elementary School such a special place. Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Pagan



# SPOTLIGHT ON KINDERGARTEN



Kindergarten students began the year, like others, with having an unusually different kind of start of the school year. After learning about social distancing, staying in their own "bubble," the importance of wearing a mask, and washing hands more frequently, they were ready to take off with the curriculum. Since then, they have already learned most of their alphabet letters. They have been practicing word building, learning high frequency words, numbers to 20, sequencing, among other Language Arts and Math skills.

The students have adapted very well with the changes and transitions in the days for hybrid learning. Remote students are doing well with their learning from home. While some fun activities must be omitted, there is still ways in which we, the Kindergarten teachers, keep learning fun and interesting for our students.



## COUNSELORS CORNER

Hello!

Can you believe it is December already! This year is flying by. Things sure have been different around here. I really do miss seeing all of our students here at school. With all of these changes comes a lot of stress. I'm sure you are feeling it and the kids are feeling it. We have all had to make a lot of adjustments and have had a lot of disappointments. So how can we get through the Holidays this year, with all of these changes and still find peace and joy in them? Here are some tips:

❄️ Manage your expectations for the Holidays. We already know that things are going to look a little bit different this year. Set your mind to that now. Talk to your family ahead of time about how things may be a bit different than in the past so they know what to expect as well.

❄️ Have a positive outlook on the changes. Even though things will be different, they can still be great. We can have fun as a family, connect with our loved ones virtually, maybe come up with a fun online game to play or do a virtual gift exchange. This is the year to make new traditions and create new memories.

❄️ Reflect on what and who is really important to you. Plan to make time for those activities and those people.

## PATHS LESSONS



PATHS lessons continue in the classroom and online. We finished up November talking about Gratitude. As we make our way through December, we will continue to focus on identifying our feelings, learning to control our strong, uncomfortable feelings, learning new ways to calm down when we are upset and problem solving techniques.

### Small Group Counseling

Small Group Counseling has been a bit of a challenge this year. If your student is interested in joining a small group, either in person or online, to learn new coping skills, work through grief, or learn to make friends, please email me at any time.



<https://sites.google.com/view/bbsd-elementary-counseling/home>

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