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APRIL 4, 2021

Eakin Elementary  
2500 Fairfax Ave.  
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Eagles,

**“The conductor of an orchestra doesn’t make a sound. They depend on their ability to make other people powerful”**  
Benjamin Zander, English conductor and musical director of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra

I hope that everyone had a wonderful and restful long weekend! The weather this weekend was beautiful and I hope you had a chance to get outside and run around with your children. To me there is nothing sweeter than hearing the laughter of your child as they run around in the sunshine. It is a wonderful reminder that the sweetest moments in life present themselves in the simplest ways.

Our quote this week is from Benjamin Zander, conductor and musical director for the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. His words remind me of the role that we play in the lives of our children. We are to serve as the conductor in our children’s lives and teach them to make their own music. Each of our children are unique in their own way and have a special song in their hearts that only they can share with the world. It is my hope that as an Eakin Family we teach our children to play loudly and proudly so the entire world can hear.

Now on to the information for the week:

#### **Morning Announcements**

Starting our morning together as an Eakin family is one of the many highlights of my day! We will be continuing virtual announcements throughout the remainder of the year, at least. We will begin promptly at 8:00 each morning. So grab your breakfast and be ready to start each day as an Eakin Family!

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#### **TNReady Testing (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Every year Eakin students in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade take the state required TNReady assessment. The assessment is an important way to determine learning needs for students, identify school priorities, and demonstrate student achievement across the state. Due to COVID, districts will be held harmless for achievement scores if 80% of students complete the assessment. If less than 80% of students in tested grades complete the assessment, the state may hold schools accountable for scores. For Eakin, I am incredibly confident in our teachers and students! Regardless of the 80% participation rate, I know our students will shine. However, it is important to make sure that our results reflect our entire student body.

Testing this year is only available in person. For our students learning in person, the assessment will be administered during the normal school day. For our students learning virtually, this means they will be asked to enter the building on testing days. We are still finalizing our testing COVID protocols, but I can assure you that we will take every precaution to keep our children and proctors safe. We are currently looking at designating an entrance and separate space in the school for our virtual students to test.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade virtual teachers will be contacting families to gather information on testing needs. Our goal is for 100% of our students in testing grades to complete TNReady. However, we also are sensitive to the health and safety needs for our families that have chosen to remain virtual for the year.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will be sharing testing dates soon with families, if they have not already. Additionally, I will send out TCAP specific information in a call out soon. Finally, I want to recognize and celebrate our teachers and students for how incredibly safe and successful we have been with in person learning. With the news that TNReady will only be administered in person this year I am encouraged that we can have all of our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders in a safe and welcoming testing environment!

#### Q4 Materials Pick-up (Virtual)

Virtual families are to pick up report cards, Q4 materials, and return any remaining anchor texts during the following times. Materials pick up will occur in the car rider loop in front of the main office. The last scheduled pick up is tomorrow, April 5<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

#### PE Classes Need Cups!

Thank you to everyone who donated cups this past fall for our in-person students. Our PE teachers have used the cups to help keep students hydrated and refreshed during class. They are in need of some more cups so if you can donate some, please do! You can send cups with your child to school or bring some by the main office. Thank you for your generosity!

#### American Heart Association Kid's Heart Challenge

Mark your calendar! Our American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge event will begin NEXT WEEK. You can help our class win the Classroom Challenge! Our goal is to have 100% of our students registered online. Here is how you can help: Take the challenge and register: <http://www2.heart.org/goto/eakin> or search, "Kids Heart Challenge" in your app store. The class per grade level with the MOST students taking heart healthy challenges online will win an Amazon gift card. Let us encourage our students to have healthy and kind hearts together! **Due to COVID, we are only accepting online donations. No paper money can be brought into the school.**

#### Next Steps:

1. Go online and download the app
2. Register and take the challenge
3. Send 10 emails to friends and family

Please contact Coach Warren at [abigail.warren@mnps.org](mailto:abigail.warren@mnps.org) with any questions.

#### "Virtual Recess" for virtual students

Ms. Reynolds, Ms. Frank, and Ms. Bulbulkaya are offering "Virtual Recess" for our virtual students! These recesses will occur every other week. Dates, times, and links are included below. **Please contact your child's teacher with questions.**

Grade	Time/ Staff (every other week)	Meeting Link
Kindergarten	Fridays 9:35-10:05 with Ms. Bulbulkaya April 9, April 23, May 7, May 21	<a href="#">Kindergarten Recess Link</a>
First	Tuesdays at 10:50-11:20 With Ms. Frank March 23, April 6, April 20, May 4, May 18	<a href="#">First Grade Recess Link</a>
Second	Mondays 2:00-2:30 with Ms. Bulbulkaya March 22, April 5, April 19, May 3, May 17	<a href="#">Second Grade Recess Link</a>
Third	Thursdays 11:10-11:40 with Ms. Reynolds March 25, April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20	<a href="#">Third Grade Recess Link</a>
Fourth	Thursday 11:45-12:15 with Ms. Reynolds Every Thursday! 😊	<a href="#">Fourth Grade Recess Link</a>

**Gifted and Talented Screeners (Repeat)**

Screening for the Gifted & Talented Program in MNPS will take place in April and May 2021 for students in grades K-3 who were scheduled to be screened in the Spring of 2020 as well any student who met quantitative and qualitative criteria during the 2020-2021 school year. The Office of Gifted and Talented compiled an initial list of students using district and school data. This list will be provided to classroom teachers prior to the testing list being finalized. Teacher recommendations for students who are not currently on the list will be taken into consideration using both quantitative and qualitative data. The Office of Gifted and Talented will inform parents of students who meet the criteria for testing via email. The Gifted & Talented Teacher will provide a list to teachers and school leaders of students who will be screened. For additional information, you may contact [tiffani.norman@mnps.org](mailto:tiffani.norman@mnps.org), the Gifted and Talented teacher at Eakin.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone bright and early tomorrow for morning announcements! Have a wonderful Sunday!

Sincerely,



*Executive Principal, Eakin Elementary School*