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Eakin Elementary
2500 Fairfax Ave.
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Eagles,

"Your life will always move in the direction of your strongest thoughts"
Craig Groeschel, *New York Times* best-selling author

It officially feels like spring! Spring is my favorite season because it is a time when everything feels new and awake. It is wonderful to see how the great weather lifts everyone's spirits and brings a renewed sense of community. I hope that you had an opportunity to get outside and enjoy the weather with your children!

Our quote this week is from Craig Groeschel, *New York Times* best-selling author. His words remind me of the incredible power of our thoughts. Our perspective has the ability to create the world we experience. This year has taught me that even in the midst of challenging times there is opportunity to experience growth and togetherness. As we turn the corner toward the end of the school year, I am overwhelmed with pride by how our Eakin Family has stayed focused on our children and caring for one another. Eakin has and always will be a special place like none other in Nashville. This year we have cemented our place in Eakin's history and I am most excited to finish the year strong and together!

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!

[4/12 Announcements](#)

[4/13 Announcements](#)

[4/14 Announcements](#)

[4/15 Announcements](#)

[4/16 Announcements](#)

TNReady Testing (3rd and 4th Grade)

This past Friday I shared a letter with information on the forthcoming TNReady testing. Every year, the state of Tennessee requires students in grades 3 through 12 to complete a standardized assessment. This year is especially unique due to COVID and the combination of virtual and in-person learning throughout the year. The state has shared that districts meeting the 80% participation rate will not be held accountable for testing results. At Eakin, our goal is for 100% of students to complete the assessment because the results provide valuable information that help us determine individual, grade level, and schoolwide instructional needs.

With that being said, we also understand individual circumstances and feelings. We want every single one of our students to feel safe and supported in doing their best. If you have individual needs, please contact our Dean of Instruction, Kirsten Clark, at kirsten.clark@mnps.org.

For reference, I have attached the letter from Friday with this call out.

TNReady Town Hall

I anticipate that there are many questions regarding state testing. Please know that your questions are welcomed and it is important to me that our families have an opportunity to have your voices heard. As we have done throughout the year, we will be holding a special Town Hall meeting this coming Thursday, April 15th at 6:00. At this meeting, we will answer your questions and address topics most important to our Eakin Family. If you have a question or topic you would like addressed, please share your question using the link [HERE](#). Questions can be submitted anonymously until 8:00 on Monday evening. The link for the meeting can be found [HERE](#).

PE Classes this Week!

We have a busy and fun week ahead in our PE classes! This coming week is both Jump Rope for Heart and our annual Eakin Fun Run. Unfortunately, due to COVID protocols we will be unable to have parents volunteers and spectators. However, as we've continually learned this year our events may be different but they will still provide our students fun memories together! Please see below for information on the Eakin Fun Run and Jump Rope for Heart!

Annual Eakin Fun Run (April 12th-16th)

In person students:

- Students will run for 25 minutes during their PE-W class (If they come to PE-W twice that week, they'll run the first time they come)
- Students are encouraged to wear their blue Eakin shirt they received this year, as well as athletic pants/shorts and tennis shoes
- Parents can donate snacks and drinks for the class
- Parents cannot attend this year due to Covid

Virtual Students:

- Students will meet the first five minutes of class and then will do an "at home" fun run
- If students have a safe space to run, they will run/walk for 25 minutes
- If students do not have a safe space, there is an alternative workout video for them to do

American Heart Association Kid's Heart Challenge

Mark your calendar! Our American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge event will begin THIS 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

April PTO Meeting

The PTO will be hosting its April meeting on Monday, April 19 at 6 p.m. Join via Zoom or watch on Facebook Live. We'll be hearing more about the exciting new ELA curriculum that will be used next year and taking parent questions. We'll also share more information about PTO leadership positions that still need to be filled to help make sure the 2021-2022 school year gets off to a strong start. Please make time to attend, get involved and make your voice heard!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83958581911?pwd=c09FVXI2c05ZN3U4YU1NbDVqNEU3UT09>

Meeting ID: 839 5858 1911

Passcode: 445066

Eakin's Got Talent + Talent Show Watch Party

The pandemic can't stop us from holding this popular Eakin event! Join us Monday, May 3 at 6 p.m. for a talent show watch party. We'll show pre-uploaded videos of some of Eakin's most talented Eagles. Is that your student? Record a 4-minute (or shorter!) video of your student showcasing their talent and submit the video to eakinpto@gmail.com no later than Tuesday, April 27. See the attached flyer for more details.

PTO Leadership Positions—We Need You!

Thank you to all the parents who heeded the call at the March PTO meeting that we need new leaders in the Eakin PTO. There are still some important positions open, including co-president, communications coordinator and clubs coordinator. If you're reading this and think you've got what it takes to volunteer and make a difference at Eakin (Spoiler alert: You do!) then email eakinpto@gmail.com and they'll tell you more about these roles. Honestly, they're whatever you make of them—and I know you'll do great!

Mr. Hartfelder's Karaoke Challenge

At the close of the Talent Show Watch Party on May 3, I will be performing karaoke for the first time in my life. We've selected four songs and YOU get to decide which song I'll sing. In next week's callout, I'll send you the link to the Online School Payments website. On there, you'll find the names of the four songs. To vote, simply make a donation to the song of your choice. The song that raises the most money for Eakin is the song I shall sing!

Computer IT Tag Numbers

This message is for virtual families. We learned that there were some technical difficulties with the system we use to check out student computers. Your child's teacher may be asking them this week for the IT tag on their computer. This information is located on the white barcode tag on the bottom of your child's computer. Thank you for your assistance will helping us ensure that our records are accurate for district accountability.

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

Sincerely,



Executive Principal, Eakin Elementary School