



THE COLT EXPRESS

Edward Harris, Jr. Middle School

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Department News 2-3

Parent University 3

The Place Between LRC - Library 4

Student Activities 5-6

ASB 7

Yearbooks 7

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Thank you for attending Back-to-School Night during September. I hope your visit was informative and questions were answered. The faculty and staff at Edward Harris, Jr. Middle School's primary mission is to daily create and sustain a climate in which active learning can occur. With a strong standards-based academic program and variety of course offerings, along with a dedicated, talented, and student-centered staff, Edward Harris, Jr. Middle School continuously strives to be the "best place to learn, teach, and achieve."

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) will be administered on Saturday, October 21, 2008, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Eighth grade students enrolled in Algebra and Geometry classes are eligible to take this exam. PSAT is a pre-college entrance exam which costs \$10.00. Your child may obtain an application from his/her counselor. Believe it or not, middle school and high school years move swiftly! Your child should begin making career decisions and preparing for college while attending Edward Harris, Jr. Middle School. Students begin to develop study habits in elementary school. In middle school, they begin to polish or refine study habits learned in elementary school.

In order to enhance the quality of our educational program, an on-going home-school partnership is essential. Parent University is a successful monthly home-school partnership program. The purpose of Parent University is to provide an in-depth knowledge of student achievement and success, 7th and 8th-grade curriculum standards and instructional strategies, standardized assessments, post-secondary education and student preparation through interactive learning activities. Parent University meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Students of parents who attend a minimum of seven sessions will receive two elective credits

~ See page 2

Upcoming Events



Parent University	October 1, 2008	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Assembly: Astronaut Duane Carey	October 3, 2008	Assembly Schedule
NASA Star Party	October 4, 2008	9:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Fall Picture Retakes	October 8, 2008	TBD
Fall Sports Rally	October 31, 2008	7th-Grade - 1:20 - 2:05 p.m. 8th-Grade - 2:15 - 3:00 p.m.
Minimum Day - Term 1 Finals	October 23-24, 2008	8:00 a.m. - 12:35p.m.
Parent University	November 5, 2008	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Athletic Fundraiser ~ "Let the Good Times Roll"	November 8, 2008	Doors Open 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2008	NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Vacation	November 26-28, 2008	NO SCHOOL

WHAT'S NEW IN THE MATH DEPARTMENT ~ STAFF ADDITIONS, ABSTRACT CONCEPTS, & MORE!

What's new in the math department? We would like to welcome Ms. Escoto and Ms. Herndon to our team. We are very busy implementing changes in the Pre-Algebra curriculum calendars with the goal of helping more students become prepared to be successful in Algebra during eighth grade.

As parents, you should be aware that middle school math education shifts away from the concrete math instruction of elementary school to abstract concepts. It is a challenging transition for many of our students. This will require patience and perseverance (from you and your child) but will be rewarding as difficult concepts are mastered. Extra help is available in the after-school ZAP and ASES programs. Classroom teachers are also available for extra help; please check with your child's teacher for availability. We look forward to getting to know your children and are dedicated to building math success for all!

COUNSELING CORNER ~ WE'RE HERE TO HELP!



Students have the opportunity to take the PSAT on Saturday, October 18, 2008. PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test™. The test measures critical reading skills, problem-solving skills and writing skills. Taking the PSAT/NMSQT is a great way to receive feedback on student strengths and weaknesses in skills necessary for college study as well as to see how performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college. Seating is limited to the first 60 students who return a completed application and the \$15.00 service fee to the Student Services office. For more information please stop by the Student Services office.

To speak to your student's counselor or to set up an appointment, please contact Student Services at 916/688-0080. Caseloads are by student's last name:

A-D Ms. Jennifer Nguyen **E - Le** Mrs. Curney **Li - R** Mr. Carlos Castillo **S - Z** Lisam Moua

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

On Wednesday, October 8, 2008, the C.O.L.T. Parent Organization will have a parent meeting to discuss 2008 STAR test results and achievement gap. On Saturday, November 8, 2008, we will have our annual athletic fundraiser dinner, "Let the Good Times Roll." Mr. Edward Harris, Jr. will prepare deep fried turkeys and barbeque ribs for this dinner. The athletic students will be waiters and waitresses, EHMS Intermediate Band will perform, and The Garret Perkins Project will provide entertainment. It is an evening you do not want to miss. The donation is \$25.00 per person in advance.. Mark your calendar for all of these worthwhile events.



Do not forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, November 2, 2008. We will begin Pacific Standard Time - "fall back, spring forward."

As you can see, we enjoy staying busy and preparing your child to become a Future College Graduate. Thank you for attending Corral Night, Back-to-School Night, and Parent Lunch Day. I look forward to a successful year and working with you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me at 688-0080 during school hours.

~ Felicia Bessent


PHYSICAL EDUCATION ~ TEACHING A LIFETIME OF HEALTH

Welcome to the Edward Harris, Jr. Middle School Physical Education Program. Our primary goal is to teach all children, from the physically gifted to the physically challenged, how and why they should keep themselves healthy throughout their lifetime. In our physical education program, we provide learning experiences that are developmentally appropriate and increase physical activity.

Our curriculum includes a balance of skills, concepts, game activities, physical fitness designed to enhance the cognitive, motor, and social development of every child. Our classes are designed so that all children are involved in activities that allow them to experience the joy of movement.

Those students who are not currently enrolled in Physical Education will be receiving a Physical Activity Log (P.A.L.) which should be filled out weekly and turned into their PE teacher upon arrival for Term 2.





Do not forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, November 2, 2008. We will begin Pacific Standard Time - "Fall back, Spring forward"

ENRICHMENT CLASSES ~ OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

The Enrichment Department at Edward Harris, Jr. Middle School offers a wide variety of experiences for EHMS students. There really is something for everybody!

Artistic students can explore two and three dimensional art classes or computer aided design in Exploring Technology. Students are also able to learn Spanish (and if they do well, they can enter high school as a Spanish II student), research different careers to prepare for a much more complex future, or help create memories for their middle school experience as a member of the Yearbook Staff. We offer an extensive Music Program that includes various levels of Band and Choir. In the Computer Technology classes, students learn skills from basic keyboarding all the way through web design. EHMS offers students many opportunities to learn poise and public speaking in the Speech or Leadership classes. Students who are already committed to high school and college academic success will learn many strategies for successful studying and planning by enrolling in the AVID program. All classes are eighteen weeks long, with the exception of Yearbook, Leadership, and Band. These classes meet all year long. The Enrichment Department strives to make connections with its complementary departments at Monterey Trail High School. This articulation provides a strong springboard to ensure Edward Harris, Jr. Middle School Students be well prepared for programs offered at MTHS.

CONNECTIONS DEPARTMENT ~ WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

The Connections department at EHMS assists students with disabilities and their families with anything school related. The staff also provides assistance to teachers in accommodating and modifying instruction for students. Our greatest strength has been our communication with staff and parents to the benefit of all students.

Mr. Seymour, with the assistance of Mrs. Ortiz, are back to teach the students in need of independent living skills. Ms. Chapman, who assists students who are deaf or hard of hearing, is currently on maternity leave, but Ms. Ruiz will continue to assist her students. Ms. Francois teaches students with severe disabilities, with the assistance of several outstanding paraprofessionals. A "welcome back" to Margaret Houston, who joins us as the Language, Speech and Hearing Specialist. She is valuable resource to teachers, parents and students.

Four teachers provide consultation and teach students with mild disabilities. Mrs. Brooks, Ms. Delfino, Ms. Latimer and Ms. Richardson all have returned for another year. Mrs. Brooks and Ms. Latimer teach 8th-grade students and Ms. Delfino and Ms. Richardson teach 7th-grade students.

The Connections Department wishes everyone a heartfelt "good luck" for the new school year. We look forward to building our relationship with the community of parents and students. Thank you to everyone for your continued support and good wishes.

PARENT UNIVERSITY ~ GIVES PARENTS THE TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN!

Parent University classes began in September. The purpose of Parent University is to provide an understanding of student achievement and success through interactive activities, using 7th and 8th grade curriculum standards, standardized assessments, and post-secondary education student preparation. Parent University is open to all parents and guardians. Students will receive two credits if both the student and parent/guardian attend seven of the nine workshops. Classes are usually the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Applications can be obtained at Student Services. So...sign up today, it's not too late!



<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
October 1, 2008	7th & 8th -Grade Curriculum Standards: Language Arts and Visual Arts
November 5, 2008	7th & 8th-Grade Curriculum Standards: History and Physical Education
December 3, 2008	School wide Achievement Strategies - Understanding the Young Adolescent Brain
January 7, 2009 <i>(2nd Wednesday)</i>	Strengthening Communication Resolving Conflicts/Bullying/Sexual Harassment
February 4, 2009	"Jump Start to College"
March 4, 2009	NASA Math, Science, Technology and Career Adventuring Discovery Night
April 1, 2009	STAR Test Parent Preview Night
May 7, 2008	Celebration - Edward Harris, Jr. Parent University Graduation

THE PLACE BETWEEN ~ THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

Library operation hours:

The library is open before school from 7:30-7:55 a.m., Monday-Friday. In the afternoon, the hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:00-3:40 p.m. **The library is not open on Thursday after school due to our professional learning day.**

Supporting homework and research:

The library has contracted on-line database services from several companies to assist students with research and homework. These databases are accessed through the library webpage on the school website www.egusd.net/ehms and can be accessed at home on your computer. After accessing the school page, select "library" from the menu. At the top of the page you will see several buttons that link to the databases. Each database requires a password for access. A list of the databases, their passwords, and a brief description of what they offer follows:

Ferguson's Career Guidance Center - provides information about careers and supports our future college graduates in thinking about their future career choices. *User name: Mustangs Password: Colts*

Grolier On-line - offers three encyclopedias: Encyclopedia Americana, Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, The New Book of Knowledge. It also offers two other resources: Lands and Peoples covers cultures and geography and The New Book of Popular Science covers science topics. *User name: Mustangs Password: Colts*

Infotrac - by Gale offers five resources. History Center, US and History Center, World cover people and events for both 7th and 8th grade students. Opposing Viewpoints helps students develop their critical thinking skills for problem-solution papers, persuasive essays and speeches by providing information on both sides of current issues. Student Resource Center Gold has all kinds of information to assist with homework and research. Science Resource Center covers information on science topics.

User Name: elk26740 Password: elk_log

Novelist - provides information about different book titles and authors. It's a great place for students to find books they'd like to read. *User Name: Mustangs Password: Colts*

Fact.com - includes World News Digest, Issues & Controversies, Today's Science, World Almanac, and World Almanac Encyclopedia. *User Name: mustangs Password: colts*

Textbook Update

During textbook distribution, students were provided with information on how to care for their books and avoid damage fines at the end of the term or end of the year. Much of this information is in their student planner.

Textbook Care Hints of the Month:

It is important during our wintry, rainy season to keep textbooks dry. Have your student keep a large garbage bag at the bottom of their back pack. Should it turn out to be a rainy day, your child is prepared to cover his/her books with this bag and keep them dry. Many back packs are not waterproof, so this would be a great time to waterproof your child's back pack to protect all belongings from water damage.



End of Term:

As the end of the term approaches, students may be returning textbooks. Damages are assessed at this time and fines are assigned. Below is the EGUSD list of fines and fees for damages:



\$2.00	Writing in book per occurrence
\$5.00	Repeated writing over whole page
\$5.00	Writing on sides of book, residue from sticky covers
\$5.00	Damage from tape attached to book covers, dirt, stains, scratches, peeling
\$10.00	Broken, torn, or bent covers/corners, broken spine
\$5.00	Barcode, sensitivity strip, spine label removed or damaged.
\$2.00	Per page for missing pages
\$1.00	Per page for torn pages
\$10.00	Broken, torn, or bent covers/corners, broken spine

- 1/3 cost of the book for damage from any liquid, if the book is still usable.
- Full cost of book for damage from any liquid, if pages are stuck together, the book smells, is moldy and/or has mildew, or is unusable as a result of damage.
- Full cost of book for lost or stolen books.

Please contact the library staff if you have any questions.

ATTENDANCE ~ A KEY TO YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS

Schools are responsible for teaching your child. But schools can't do their job if your child is absent. Learning builds day by day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning.

Research shows that children who are in school most of the time do better on state tests. Studies also show that children who are absent more often score lower on state tests. Being late for school hurts a child's learning, too. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year. Children can copy notes or make up an assignment, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive. Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background - one that can only be gained through regular school attendance.

Here's How You Can Improve Your Child's School Attendance

- Talk with your child about the importance of attending school regularly.
- Avoid scheduling family trips or doctors appointments during school hours.
- Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Don't accept excuses for why your child "must" miss or be late for school.
- Discuss with your child what happened at school each day.
- Support school rules and consequences for skipping class and being tardy.
- Show your child why education is important. Give specific examples of how education helps people succeed.
- Lead by example. If children see parents taking off work for no real reason, they may expect to be able to do the same thing.

KCRA KIDS CAN FOOD DRIVE OCTOBER 13-NOVEMBER 7, 2008



Bring in the cans!!!! The KCRA Kids Can Food Drive begins October 13, and runs through November 7, 2008..

The canned food drive supports

our local food closets. In the past, Edward Harris, Jr. Middle School has done an outstanding job in supplying canned foods, so let's set a goal to surpass the previous years and support the Elk Grove community. Last year's average was 2.3 cans per student. Let's aim to bring 5 cans per student this year! We can do it COLTS!!!

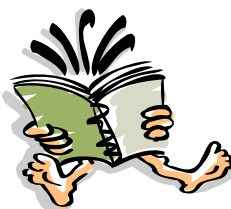
FALL PICTURE RETAKE DAY ~ OCTOBER 8, 2008

Did your student miss out on taking their school pictures? Did you not like the picture they took but still would like the opportunity to purchase another one? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then Fall Picture Retake Day is for you. Picture packets will be available in the student store for those of you who are interested. You can take pictures this day only if you missed the first chance or you would like to purchase another picture. Fall Picture Retake Day is scheduled for October 8, 2008. If you would like to purchase the picture you took earlier this year, please contact Lifetouch at 916/535-7799 and they will assist you.

RED RIBBON WEEK ~ OCTOBER 27 - OCTOBER 31, 2008

Red Ribbon Week begins October 27, through October 31, 2008. This week a variety of groups on campus will join together in the war on drug and tobacco abuse. There will be daily lunchtime activities and a wealth of information available. The ASB will sponsor school-wide classroom activities to help spread the message. All students will receive a memento to remind them to stay clear of drugs and tobacco.

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS READ AS MUCH AS THEY WATCH TV



Research shows that children who spend more than 10 hours a week in front of the television do not read as well as those whose parents set TV limits. These steps will help you encourage your children to spend more time reading:

- **Track TV time.** Have your children keep track of how much time is spent watching TV. You may help your child realize they can afford to spend a lot less time watching TV and more time reading.
- **Be a reading role model.** Make sure your children see you reading and hear you talking about books.
- **Challenge your children** - for a week - to read at least as much as they watch TV.
- **Help your children find interesting books.** Identify your child's interests, then help them find books and magazines on those topics,

EHMS EAST COST TRIP 2008 ~ WASHINGTON D.C., NY, & MORE!



The 5th Annual East Coast Trip is scheduled for June, 2009. You don't want to miss this opportunity to see amazing sights in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City. An amazing trip is planned that includes a baseball game and a Broadway show! If you plan to attend and have not signed up yet, please go to the school news on school loop. All links and forms are available there. If you still need more information, please email Ms. Christopher at tchristo@egusd.net, Ms. Warden at rwarden@egusd.net, or Ms. Grosso at mgrosso@egusd.net. Payment plans are available, and students will be offered a variety of fundraisers to help decrease the cost of the trip. Please be assured that this is an amazing value and something you are your child will remember for a lifetime. How amazing would it be to learn about our great country by going to where it all began? Adults are also welcome to travel!



WORLD KINDNESS WEEK ~ NOVEMBER 3-7, 2008

This week on campus will be devoted to multicultural awareness and acceptance on our campus. World Kindness Week will run from November 3, 2008 through November 7, 2008. An exciting week of activities is planned starting off with a guest speaker who will discuss issues related to cultural awareness and tolerance students face on a day to day basis. Wednesday, November 5, 2008, we will have an extended lunch with a Multicultural Fair, complete with entertainment and food. Also, in conjunction with World Kindness Week, students will participate in Mix-it-up Day on Tuesday, November 4, 2008. Mix-it-Up Day encourages students to mingle and get to know other students on campus. More activities are in the works. If you feel you have something to contribute to this wonderful week, including ideas, services or volunteering, please contact Mr. Williams at jwilliab@egusd.net.



RENAISSANCE WEEK ~ DECEMBER 1-8, 2008

What is Renaissance? Renaissance is our student incentive program for academic achievement, citizenship, stellar attendance, and academic improvement. We recognize the Renaissance Student of the Month every month and they are nominated by a staff member on campus. Every term we celebrate students who achieve a 3.0 or higher, achieve perfect attendance or increase their GPA between terms by at least .5. We hope all students strive to be Renaissance students and this program provides them with tangible incentives to make it that much more fun to push for their personal best. Please encourage your child to shoot for the Renaissance standards of excellence. All of our students are capable of qualifying and we don't want anybody to miss out on the fun. After they receive their report cards, they will have an opportunity to apply for Renaissance. All students who apply and fit the criteria will be accepted. The first official Renaissance week is December 1, through December 5, 2008. We will be celebrating Term 1 success.

ASB IS LOOKING FOR ~ PARENT VOLUNTEERS



Edward Harris, Jr. Middle School is in need of parent volunteers willing to commit to work one day a week in the student store. The student store is an asset that provides funds for many wonderful school functions. It also provides students the convenience to purchase snacks, drinks, school supplies and/or spirit wear. Please contact Ms. Letuligasenoa or Mr. Williams if you are interested in this opportunity.

CLUB DRIVE IN FULL GEAR ~ OCTOBER 3, 2008

The 2008-09 Club Drive will be held on October 3, 2008, during both lunches. Students will have an opportunity to gather information on the clubs and sign up. A variety of clubs are on campus and new ones are encouraged to begin throughout the year. The current Club Lineup is MESA, The Book Club, The Colt Honor Society, The Community Service Club, The HOPE Club, The Anime Club, Club Live, The Travel Club, Kid's for Christ Club, and Teens Tackle Tobacco. These clubs provide a place for students to get connected and have some fun with students who share their same interests. Encourage your children to get involved.

FALL FUNDRAISER ~ SEPTEMBER 25-OCTOBER 10, 2008

We hope you are all impressed with this year's fundraising program. The proceeds from this fundraiser support all of the fabulous student activities held on this campus. Edward Harris, Jr. Middle School cannot do it without your help. Thank you in advance to those of you who will assist in the fundraising effort. All money must be collected and turned into Mr. Williams no later than Friday, October 10. The day that the fundraising items will be returned is yet to be determined, so please remind your child to listen to the bulletin each day, where all the important information is relayed to students.

Student Store Hours

Regular Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday	11:50 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.
Thursday	11:30 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.

Special Schedule

Assembly Schedule	12:25 - 2:00 p.m.
Minimum Day Schedule	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Final Exam Schedule	9:10 - 11:00 a.m.
Rally Schedule	11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

ASB AND WEB LEADERS ~ OFF TO A GREAT START!

This year promises to be one to remember with the Leadership Students leading the way. The ASB and WEB Leaders have gotten us off to a great start and have tons of great plans in the works. The ASB and WEB student leaders and their Advisors worked hard over the summer to insure this year would be a memorable one.

Although we haven't been in school long, the ASB leadership has been in full swing hosting a variety of activities and celebrations, which include Colt Corral Night, WEB Ice Cream Social, the Fall Fundraiser, Spirit Days, Hispanic Heritage Month, Deaf Awareness Week, Patriot Day, Constitution Day...and the list goes on.

The Students in our Leadership program not only get to plan all of these wonderful activities, but they also get to develop their personal leadership skills and styles as they go through the process. They have many responsibilities on campus and represent the student body on many decisions regarding school climate, finance, and student activities. These students will also lead a Senate which will include students from all over the campus that have the opportunity to have a say in the decisions made on campus for the Student Body.

There is no doubt that the 80 leadership students enrolled in these electives on campus will make great contributions and have much success this year.

CELDT TESTING ~ SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 17, 2008

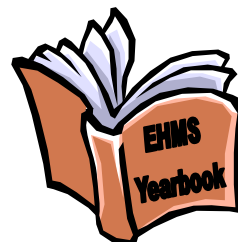
As a reminder, the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) will be administered to those students who have been identified as English Language Learners. The testing window begins in September and ends in October.



Parents/Guardians, if you indicated on your child's registration form that he or she learned a language other than English *before* learning English, then your child is considered an English Language Learner and will be tested. There is an opportunity for your child to be reclassified as Fluent in English (RFEP), so please encourage them to do their best in their Language Arts class, on the CELDT test, and on the CSTs (California Standards Test). Stay tuned for more information about the reclassification process. Also, parents/guardians, we are looking for those of you who are interested in serving on our English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). We need officers as well as participants. Please contact Mrs. Bell at bkempbel@egusd.net as soon as possible.

YEARBOOK ADS ON SALE ~ VISIT JOSTENS.COM

Want to express how you feel about your child? Leave a lasting impression and purchase an ad in the yearbook!



<u>Package #1</u>	<u>Package #2</u>	<u>Package #3</u>
Eighth of a page	Quarter of a page	Half of a page
20-words	35-words	85-words
1 picture	2 pictures	4 pictures
\$30.00	\$60.00	\$120.00

Go to shop.jostens.com

- Choose state, city and then school.
- Click on "Yearbook Recognition Ads"
- Design your ad.
- Make payment online.

YOUR CHILD AND INTERNET SAFETY



The Internet opens up a world of learning possibilities to our children. With those possibilities, however, come some concerns and cautions. EGUSD's top priority is protecting students online and empowering them with skills to lead the way as responsible digital citizens of the 21st century. To assist with this goal, EGUSD has launched the *2WebWatchers* blog. Parents are invited to participate in an ongoing interactive conversation about Internet safety issues.

The *2WebWatchers* blog features informational links on cyber ethics, cyberbullying and Internet safety, with topical weekly posts. Parents who would like some background information on blogging and other web terminology can visit the *New to Blogging?* section or the *Cyber Glossary* resource link. We welcome feedback and comments and look forward to answering questions that parents might have.

To access the blog, go to <http://2WebWatchers.edublogs.org>. All blog comments are moderated and will appear once approved.