

Essex Fells School
Studies Pass Into Character

WELCOME BACK

Bengal Families

2020-2021

"Bengal Strong"

www.efsk-6.org

Download our APP—EFSNJ

Dear Parents:

The Essex Fells School staff and I welcome you! We hope you are having a healthy and enjoyable summer and look forward to another exciting and productive year at Essex Fells School. This mailing includes all back to school information. Please fill out and return all necessary paperwork with your child on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Our website homepage www.efsk-6.org contains the summer homework packets (to be completed and brought to school the first day). Future correspondence will be through our Week-At-A-Glance (WAAG) Newsletter which is sent via our alert system, as well as through our EFSNJ APP which can be downloaded free. The first issue will be published on Thursday, September 10. Be sure to view this document weekly for important and up-to-date school information. Therefore, it is imperative that current email addresses and phone numbers are accurate in our system. Cellphone numbers should be used as the primary contact number to enable text reminders. Thank you in advance for partnering with EFS to show we are "Bengal Strong" during these unprecedented times.

Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal

IMPORTANT

The following forms, included in this outreach, are to be completed and must be returned with your child on the first day of school, September 8, 2020.



- General Contact/Dismissal Information
- Allergies & Treatment Permission
- Return to School Screening Form

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL
 *** IMMEDIATELY ***
 OF ANY CHANGES TO THE
 INFORMATION.

See the *Our School* section of the school website for more Health Services information.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL TIMES for September 8—October 2

| | |
|---------------|--|
| PreK AM: | 8:30-10:30 |
| PreK PM: | 10:40-12:40 |
| | No rolling pick up - drop off and pick up at external preschool classroom door |
| Grades 6 & 3: | 8:30-8:40 drop off 12:45-12:55 pick up |
| Grades 5 & 2: | 8:40-8:50 drop off 12:55-1:05 pick up |
| Grades 4 & 1: | 8:50-9:00 drop off 1:05-1:15 pick up |
| Grade K: | 9:00-9:10 drop off 1:15-1:25 pick up |

No lunch served. Please send snack with all students PreK-6.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

- K-6 students must utilize rolling drop-off/pick-up unless walking/biking to school.
- Students should come to school wearing a mask daily. Gator masks and bandanas are not permitted.
- All students line up for temperature checks and hand/shoe sanitization within physical distancing markers prior to homeroom.
- K-3: Art Room Entrance
- 4-6: Media Center Entrance
- PreK: Outside PreK Playground Entrance
- Please refer to school reopening document on our website for further details. www.efsk-6.org

- **PHOTO PERMISSION**—EFS utilizes the school website, local media, Instagram, and building displays to share current events, including student photos. If you wish for your child(ren) not to be included, please send a letter to the main office.
- **SURVEY PERMISSION**—EFS will be utilizing student and staff surveys to glean insight on school climate and culture. If you wish for your child(ren) not to be included, please send a letter to the main office.
- **PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK**—The handbook will be sent home the first week of school. Please read and sign with your child indicating you both are familiar with the expectations it sets forth for all students. Please send the signature page back to school.
- **TINY TREASURES**—Before/After School information and registration forms are available on our website under "Our School" then "Extended Day."

ABSENCES

Parents are requested to report a child's absence by calling the school office (973) 226-0505, (Option #1 or x208). You may leave a message at any time prior to the start of school. Homework requests must also be made at 8:30am or before, and fulfilled requests will be available at the office for pick-up at 3:05pm. Homework requested after 8:30am will not be compiled by the teacher.



**** Attendance calls must contain detailed reasons for the absence.****

It is important that you call the school to inform us of your child's absence by 8:30am. If we have not heard from you by 9:15am, you will receive a call via our automated absence verification system. After 10:00am emergency numbers will be called until we can confirm the safety of your child.

This procedure does not replace the requirement that a child, upon returning to school, must bring in a written excuse signed by the parent and explaining the absence. The note must be given to your child's classroom teacher. A doctor's note is requested for an extended illness, 2 days or more.

LANGUAGE SELECTION FOR GRADES 4-6

Essex Fells School will continue to have a language instructor instructing the students in Spanish. In addition, for further enrichment, the school will provide the language program Duolingo for practice.

Students in **grades 4-6** will be given the opportunity to use Duolingo to learn an additional language of either **French or Italian**, or they can choose to stay with **Spanish** to enhance their Spanish instruction. The decision for the additional language is for the year and no changes can be made.

Please email Mrs. Castellano at JCastellano@efsk-6.org by September 8 **only** if you choose to have your child learn **French or Italian**. There is no need to email her if you would like your child to use Duolingo for Spanish practice.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

**** No visitors will be permitted into the school without a prior appointment. ****



When you want to enter the school, please ring the bell located to the left of the front doors and announce yourself and the reason for your visit. Wait for the buzzer and enter through the door on your left. Visitor contact tracing forms will be filled out to obtain a visitor badge. Please sign out before leaving the school.

Drop-Off Station

A drop-off station has been set up outside the Main Entrance of the building to place any forgotten items such as lunch. Please mark with your child's name and teacher.

PTA/ EFFEE

*Please look for PTA and EFFEE information in our weekly electronic newsletter titled **Week-At-A-Glance (WAAG)**.*

- *PTA First Meeting (9/17, 9:30am, remote)*
- *EFFEE First Meeting (9/22, 7:30pm, remote)*

A snack will be need for all students from 9/8-10/2. Bring lunch from home beginning 10/5—until further notice.

In order to maintain a safe and healthy environment, I am reminding all parents that the following personal items are not permitted for use in school at any time:

- Cell phones and all electronic devices, in accordance with BOE policy
 - Toys/Sports Equipment
 - Trading Cards
 - Gum, Candy, Soda, Fast Food
- Hats, backless shoes, inappropriate clothing, in accordance with BOE policy
- Or any other item that could disturb the educational process of the classroom!

Bicycles, skateboards, and scooters must be left in the racks in the drop-off zones and helmets must be worn if using them as transportation to/from school.

Thank you for your support!

MARKING PERIODS / REPORT CARDS

| <u>Trimester</u> | <u>1st</u> | <u>2nd</u> | <u>3rd</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| Parent-Teacher Conferences | October 21 & 22 | As needed | March 24 & 25 |
| Mid Marking Period | October 16 | January 29 | April 30 |
| Marking Period ends | December 4 | March 12 | June 18 |
| Report Cards accessible | December 11 | March 19 | June 18 |

*Parent Portal will remain open; however grades P-2 and "Specials" grades will be updated at mid-marking period.

Celebrations



In order to maintain a healthy learning environment, please follow these birthday rules:

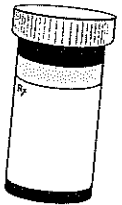
If you choose to send in a treat to share with the class for your child's birthday, please refrain from sending cakes, balloons, candles, cameras & goodie bags. Fruit, vegetables, granola bars, pencils, and other small treats are recommended. Party invitations may not be distributed in school unless all students are invited.

Please be mindful as there may be allergies in your child's class. Reach out to your child's teacher to be safe and certain.

**** Due to COVID concerns, we are highly recommending non-edible celebration items for 2020-2021.**

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

- Students may not administer any medication, including lozenges, without the supervision of the school nurse and proper documentation. Please check the school website under *Our School — Health Services* for more information.
- In the event of an injury, the nurse must be notified by a Doctor's Note of any restrictions such as PE activity, the use of crutches, ace bandages, walking boot, etc.
- **All medication must be kept in the nurse's office.**
- Students will be individually escorted to the nurse's office.
- An isolation room within the nurse's office will be utilized, if needed.
- Masks are mandatory. Nurse Renz will provide support with mask wearing, if needed.



LUNCHTIME

All students must bring a lunch from home beginning October 5, 2020.

Schedule: * *Period 5 (11:20am-12:10pm): Grades 4-6* * *Period 6 (12:10pm—1:00pm): Grades K-3*

DOs and DON'Ts — To encourage health and safety at EFS, we would like to remind the students of the following:

DO ...

- Respect all adults: parent volunteers, paraprofessionals, and custodial staff
- Respect our school by disposing of garbage in the appropriate receptacles
- Respect your peers by being kind and considerate

DON'T ...

- Forget to bring a healthy lunch ... **soda, candy, fast food and glass bottle containers ARE NOT PERMITTED**
- Forget to say please and thank you
- Fail to listen to all instructions and follow school rules

IMPORTANT SCHOOL NUMBERS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| General Office—Mrs. Leggett | 973-226-0505 x211 |
| Business Office—Mrs. Evangelista | 973-226-0505 x200 |
| Nurse's Office/Attendance—Mrs. Renz | 973-226-0505 x208 |
| Child Study Team—Mrs. Smith | 973-226-0505 x229 |

From the Business Office

The following information can be found on the Administration section of the school website:

Integrated Pest Management Notice
School Nutrition Program Information / Application
AHERA—Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act

Essex Fells School

102 Hawthorne Road, Essex Fells, NJ 07021

COVID-19 Return-to-School Screening

Student:

Date:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Phone:

The 2020–2021 school year in the Essex Fells School is scheduled to begin on **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**. In preparation for re-opening in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, this form must be completed for each student before he or she may report to school. Families with multiple children must complete a separate form for each.

1. Governor Murphy has announced a 14-day quarantine travel advisory for individuals traveling to or returning to New Jersey from states with increasing rates of COVID-19.

I certify that my child has not returned from any state listed in the latest version of the Governor's travel advisory since August 26, 2020.

Parent/Guardian Initials

2. Consistent with New Jersey's reopening guidelines, the Essex Fells School will not admit students, staff members, or visitors who present with COVID symptoms. According to public health authorities, symptoms include:

- Fever of $\geq 99.5^{\circ}\text{F}$
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

I certify that my child is not exhibiting or has been exposed to any of the above-named symptoms that are not otherwise explained by a known medical condition.

Parent/Guardian Initials

3. Health agencies recommend that one of the most reliable methods to screen for COVID is to measure a person's temperature. Fever-reducing medication can interfere with this screening method and produce a false-negative result.

I certify that I will not dispense any fever-reducing medication to my child for three hours before the start of any school day unless indicated by a doctor's note.

Parent/Guardian Initials

Essex Fells School

ROLLING DROP-OFF / PICK-UP

Please share the following Rolling Drop-off/Pick-up information with all parties responsible for picking up your child(ren) from school.

- * From Roseland Avenue proceed up Park Lane and bear left at the island following Park Lane around to Essex Road
- * Keep right on Essex Road being sure you do not block any driveways and are not idling for more than 3 minutes as per NJ law
- * Remain at the Hilltop/Essex intersection until guided up the right side of the road and proceed to the gate for pick-up
- * The Essex Road line-up begins no earlier than 3:00pm for dismissal at 3:05pm
- * Your nametag must hang from your rearview mirror at all times
- * Volunteers will guide you to numbered cones where your child(ren) will be called by name to enter the vehicle
- * You will be asked to circle the block if your child(ren) is/are not ready for pick-up
- * Impress upon your child(ren) that they must look for your vehicle as it approaches the pick-up zone
- * Maintain safe and courteous driving during student pick-up

PARENT CHANGE OF PLANS REGARDING PICK-UP

If, on any given day, afternoon plans change and your child will be going home with someone else or needs to be dismissed early, it is necessary that the office and teacher have a note regarding that change brought in that same day!

Students leaving early must be signed out by a dismissal-approved adult by the main office. ID may be requested by school personnel to ensure student safety.

The main office must be notified of any alternative pick-up arrangements varying from the Dismissal Form, as emails may not be intercepted by the teacher prior to the end of the school day.

All children should be given the instruction to return to the school office with a teacher if no one arrives for pick-up at dismissal time.

*Parents, we urge you NOT to take any children home without prior permission—even as a help. Please simply remind those children to return to the school office.
Thank you.*

**ESSEX FELLS SCHOOL
2020-2021
Arrival & Dismissal Times**

| EARLY DISMISSAL Tuesday, September 8 - Friday, October 2 | FULL DAY Commencing Monday, October 5 |
|--|--|
| <p>PreK AM: 8:30-10:30 PreK PM: 10:40-12:40 No rolling pick up - drop off and pick up at external preschool classroom door</p> <p>Grades 6 & 3: 8:30-8:40 drop off 12:45-12:55 pick up</p> <p>Grades 5 & 2: 8:40-8:50 drop off 12:55-1:05 pick up</p> <p>Grades 4 & 1: 8:50-9:00 drop off 1:05-1:15 pick up</p> <p>Grade K: 9:00-9:10 drop off 1:15-1:25 pick up</p> <p>No lunch served – Please send snack with all students PreK-6.</p> | <p>PreK AM: 8:30-11:30 PreK PM: 12:00-3:00 No rolling pick up - drop off and pick up at external preschool classroom door</p> <p>Grades 6 & 3: 8:30-8:40 drop off 2:30-2:40 pick up</p> <p>Grades 5 & 2: 8:40-8:50 drop off 2:40-2:50 pick up</p> <p>Grades 4 & 1: 8:50-9:00 drop off 2:50-3:00 pick up</p> <p>Grade K: 9:00-9:10 drop off 3:00-3:10 pick up</p> |
| For Unscheduled Shortened Days | DELAYED OPENING |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><u>Extended Day News</u></p> <p>Due to inclement weather:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the event of a delayed opening, there is NO BEFORECARE. Children should arrive to school at 10:30am. • If there is an early dismissal due to inclement weather, there is NO AFTERCARE. Children must be picked up at early dismissal time. • Please make sure Tiny Treasures has all your emergency contacts on file in case you can't get here to pick up your child on time due to weather. </div> | <p>PreK AM: 10:30-12:30 PreK PM: 1:00-3:00 No rolling pick up - drop off and pick up at external preschool classroom door</p> <p>Grades 6 & 3: 10:30-10:40 drop off 2:30-2:40 pick up</p> <p>Grades 5 & 2: 10:40-10:50 drop off 2:40-2:50 pick up</p> <p>Grades 4 & 1: 10:50-11:00 drop off 2:50-3:00 pick up</p> <p>Grade K: 11:00-11:10 drop off 3:00-3:10 pick up</p> |

Essex Fells School
School Calendar
2020-2021

Revised

| | | | Teachers | Students |
|------------------|-----------------|---|----------|----------|
| 2020 | | | | |
| September | | | | |
| 1 | Tuesday | Staff Only – Orientation Day | 19 | 16 |
| 2 | Wednesday | Staff Only – Professional Development (PD) | | |
| 3 | Thursday | Staff Only – PD ½ Day – 12:45pm Dismissal | | |
| 4-7 | Fri. – Mon. | School Closed – Labor Day Weekend | | |
| 8-18 | Tues. – Fri. | First 2 Weeks – Students – Early Dismissal / Staff Afternoon PD | | |
| 16 | Wednesday | Early Dismissal – Back-to-School Night (Remote) | | |
| 21-30 | Mon. – Wed. | Second 2 Weeks – Early Dismissal – Students – Remote PM | | |
| 28 | Monday | School Closed – Yom Kippur | | |
| October | | | | |
| 1-2 | Thurs. & Fri. | Early Dismissal – Students – Remote PM | 22 | 22 |
| 5 | Monday | Full days commence | | |
| 12 | Monday | Early Dismissal – Students – Staff Afternoon PD | | |
| 21-22 | Wed. & Thurs. | Early Dismissal – Students – Parent/Teacher Conf. (Remote) | | |
| 30 | Friday | Halloween – Early Dismissal – Students / Staff Afternoon PD | | |
| November | | | | |
| 3 | Tuesday | Election Day – Remote Learning Only | 17 | 17 |
| 5-6 | Thurs. & Fri. | School Closed – NJEA Convention | | |
| 25 | Wednesday | Early Dismissal | | |
| 26-27 | Thurs. & Fri. | School Closed – Thanksgiving | | |
| December | | | | |
| 23 | Wednesday | Early Dismissal | 17 | 17 |
| 24-31 | Thurs. – Thurs. | School Closed – Holiday Break | | |
| 2021 | | | | |
| January | | | | |
| 1 | Friday | School Closed – New Year's Day | 20 | 20 |
| 18 | Monday | Early Dismissal – MLK Day of Service (Remote) | | |
| February | | | | |
| 12 | Friday | Early Dismissal | 19 | 18 |
| 15 | Monday | School Closed – Winter Break | | |
| 16 | Tuesday | School Closed for Students – Staff PD | | |
| March | | | | |
| 24-25 | Wed. & Thurs. | Early Dismissal – Students – Parent/Teacher Conf.(Remote) | 23 | 23 |
| April | | | | |
| 2-9 | Fri. – Fri. | School Closed – Spring Break | 16 | 16 |
| May | | | | |
| 7 | Friday | Early Dismissal – Teacher Appreciation | 20 | 20 |
| 31 | Monday | School Closed – Memorial Day | | |
| June | | | | |
| 18 | Friday | Early Dismissal | 14 | 14 |
| | | Last Day for Students & Staff | | |
| | | Grade 6 Graduation | | |
| | | | 187 | 183 |

The calendar includes 3 snow days and is subject to change at the discretion of the Board of Education.
Adopted by the Essex Fells Board of Education – 8/19/20

General Contact/Dismissal Information

2020-2021 School Year

One form must be filled out for each child.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Last Name: | First Name: |
| Current Street Address: | Teacher/Grade/HR: |

STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide contact information for any adult with whom your child is allowed to leave school. In the event of an emergency, parents/guardians will be contacted first; however, two additional numbers must be provided. The school office must be notified of any special dismissal circumstances.

*** Please note that the primary number in our alert notification system must be the cell phone number. ***

| Name | Relationship to student | * Cell phone number for alert notification * | Home phone number | Work phone number | E-mail |
|------|-------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 1. | Parent | | | | |
| 2. | Parent | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | |

For official school use only.

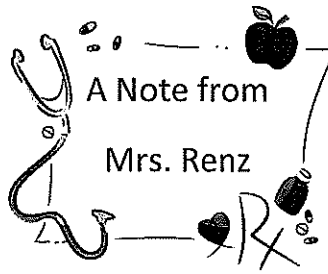
_____ My child will be picked up at dismissal on the following days: ___M ___T ___W ___Th ___F

_____ My child has permission to walk/ride a bike home from school at dismissal on the following days: ___M ___T ___W ___Th ___F

_____ My child will be dismissed to the rolling pick-up line on the following days: ___M ___T ___W ___Th ___F

_____ My child will attend Tiny Treasures on the following days: ___M ___T ___W ___Th ___F

Parent's Signature



Dear Essex Fells Families:

I hope you are enjoying your summer break and staying healthy! In preparation for the 2020-2021 School Year, kindly provide an **Annual Physical Exam with Updated Immunization Record and a Medical Update/Treatment Permission Form** for each child in your family. Please provide an **Asthma/Allergy Action Plan** if your child has allergies or asthma. If your child experiences any change to their medical status over the course of the school year, kindly notify me as soon as possible to ensure a healthy community.

- 1.) Kindly send in a copy of your child's most recent **Annual Physical Exam including a copy of your child's Updated Vaccination Record.**
The American Academy of Pediatrics states: "Ensuring that routine vaccination is maintained or reinitiated during the COVID-19 pandemic is essential for protecting individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks. For the upcoming influenza season, influenza vaccination will be paramount to reduce the impact of respiratory illnesses in the population during the COVID-19 pandemic."
 - a. Children in Pre-School are required by law to receive a flu shot in addition to their annual immunizations.
https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/cc_preschool_requirements-parents.pdf
 - b. Children entering Kindergarten will be receiving immunizations at their annual check-up.
<https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/k12-parents.pdf>
 - c. Children in 6th grade will be required to receive a Tdap and Meningitis Vaccine.
<https://nj.gov/health/cd/documents/k12-parents.pdf>
 - d. All Children will be strongly encouraged to receive a flu vaccine.
 - e. If your child has a religious exemption, kindly submit a written letter. If your child has a medical exemption, kindly submit a letter from your physician.
- 2.) Kindly complete the **Medical Information/Treatment Permission Form** in its entirety. This information is essential when caring for your child at school.
- 3.) If your child has **Asthma or Allergies**, kindly have your child's physician complete the **Asthma and/or Allergy Action Plans.** This form is required each school year.

Returning to school this year will be much more focused on student health and safety. I will work collaboratively with each family to ensure that the children remain healthy. It is a partnership. Please adhere to the updated health policies regarding quarantine, isolation and screening your child for symptoms of, or exposure to COVID-19, avoiding travel to parts of the country that are high risk, keeping your child home when there is suspicion of any illness and notifying me immediately of any illness to reduce further spread within the school. We encourage families to be vigilant about providing contact information with local contacts, who would be able to pick up your child should they become ill, within 30 minutes of the initial call. While this has always been a school policy, it will be especially important this year to prevent transmission of illness to students and staff.

In addition to providing nursing care and teaching, I will conduct health screenings for each student that will include, your child's height, weight, vision, hearing, blood pressure and scoliosis. You will be notified if a physician's follow-up is necessary.

In a research article entitled *Health and Academic Achievement*, the CDC states that "Healthy students are better on all levels of academic achievement: academic performance, education behavior, and cognitive skills and attitudes." I am committed to fostering healthy children so that they can perform to their best academic ability. Together we will partner to maintain a healthy community at Essex Fells School!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any health, wellness, safety and/or any other questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,
Mary Renz, MSN, RN, CSN
Essex Fells School Nurse
mrenz@efsk-6.org
973-226-0505 x208

Essex Fells School
Medical Information and Treatment Permission Form

Child's Name: _____ Grade/Teacher: _____

Primary Contact: _____ Phone #: _____

Please list all your child's allergies to food(s), drug(s), plant(s), animal(s) etc.:

All cuts will be cleaned with soap and water

Circle **Yes** or No - for the following to be offered/used if needed

For cuts and scrapes

Yes or No - Neosporin

Yes or No - Bacitracin

Yes or No - Band-Aid No hurt / Bactine Sting-Free Wash

For Poison Ivy

Yes or No - Calamine, Calagel

For rashes, bug bites, skin irritation(s)

Yes or No - Calamine, Caladryl Clear, hydrocortisone cream

For sore throat and/or coughs

Yes or No - Cough drop/Throat lozenges

For canker sores and/or gum pain

Yes or No - Oragel/Anbesol/Orabase

For muscle soreness

Yes or No - Ben Gay/Mineral Ice

For stomach upset

Yes or No - Tums

Yes or No - Cheerios

List any chronic medical conditions (diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, other)

Has your child ever had surgery? Yes or No If yes, please list _____

Please check the appropriate box for the follow:

Medications Taken?

List Allergies (medicine, food or other)

Type of reaction/Describe

None Yes

None Yes Yes- Life threatening

(Rash, hives, shock, etc.)

Last Eye Exam (month/year) _____

Glasses/Contacts Yes or No

Last Dental Exam (month/year) _____

Braces/Retainer Yes or No

Any school restrictions? Yes or No If yes, please explain: _____

Primary Doctor _____

Telephone _____

Dentist _____

Telephone _____

Preferred Hospital _____ Address _____

Telephone _____

Does this child have any health insurance including NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid, Medicare, private or other?

Yes _____ If Yes, name of insurance company _____

No _____ NJ FamilyCare provides free or low cost health insurance for uninsured children and certain low income parents.

For more information call 800-701-0710 or visit www.njfamilycare.org to apply online.

You may release my name and address to the NJ FamilyCare Program to contact me about health insurance.

Written consent required pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (b)(1) and 34 C.F.R. 99.30 (b).

I, the undersigned, do hereby authorize officials of New Jersey Public Schools to contact directly the persons named on this card and do authorize the named physicians to render such treatment as may be deemed necessary in an emergency; for the health of said child. In the event that physicians, other persons named on this card, or parents cannot be contacted, the school officials are hereby authorized to take whatever action is deemed necessary in their judgment, for the health of the aforesaid child. I will not hold the school district financially responsible for the emergency care and/or transportation for said child.

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Date _____



Essex Fells School PTA
102 Hawthorne Road
Essex Fells, NJ 07021
www.efspta.org

Dear Essex Fells Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year and a new year of PTA! The mission of the PTA is to provide support to our faculty, school administration and our children through a variety of PTA sponsored events and initiatives.

If this is your first year at Essex Fells Elementary School or if you are a seasoned Bengal family, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to each of you. As I begin my term as your PTA President, I am looking forward to strengthening the partnership we have established with our Superintendent/Principal, Mrs. Gadaleta, and our exceptional teachers and staff. Our goal is to continue to provide an unmatched learning experience for our children with the support from our entire community. I encourage each and every one of you to become a part of our team! You can support the Essex Fells PTA by:

- Becoming a PTA member
- Volunteering for specific events
- Financial Donations

The PTA meets typically on the first Thursday of every month, at 9:30am, remotely. If you are unable to attend a meeting, the minutes are posted on the PTA website www.efspta.org. There you will also find list of committees to signup for, news of upcoming events, sales, and many more. In addition, to stay informed, please read the PTA Press portion of the school's Week At A Glance (WAAG) newsletter and our Sunday weekly update emails.

Essex Fells Elementary School is a special place because of the efforts of its community members. I encourage you all to find a way to contribute, as we are only as strong as our cumulative efforts. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Let's have a great year!

Cindy Mehta and the PTA Board

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Cindy Mehta | Nicole Skopak | Farrah Carnahan | Lindsey Mazzara |
| PTA President | PTA Vice President | PTA Secretary | PTA Treasurer |
| (917) 517-7321 | (973) 454-4861 | (973) 464-8415 | (708) 903-1207 |
| cmehta012@gmail.com | zook327@hotmail.com | farrahdc@gmail.com | lindseymazzara@gmail.com |



Essex Fells School PTA
102 Hawthorne Road
Essex Fells, NJ 07021
www.efspta.org

TO USE MOBILEARQ:

MobileArq is our school's online directory. It is where you can find the names and contact information for EFS families and staff. We also use MobileArq to order pasta and pizza lunches, pay PTA dues, make classroom contributions, participate in PTA fundraisers and more.

If you are a new family, or have not used MobileArq in the past, you need to visit <https://essexfells.mobilearq.com> and click on Parent Registration. The code is **essexfells** (case sensitive). Once logged on, please review and update your family information. If you would like to download the app to your smartphone, go to the app store and search for MobileArq.

If you are a returning family who has used MobileArq in the past, you can continue using the directory with your existing login and password. Please login and review your family information for accuracy. If you need to edit your information, go to Settings (the wheel at the top right) and click Edit Profile.

If you have any problems or questions regarding MobileArq please contact Ashley Moran at ashleymoran26@gmail.com

Also on MobileArq:

- **Classroom Contributions:** This fee helps to fund the class parties, which class parents will organize with the teachers for your children to enjoy. We ask that you pay this fee for each of your children.
- **PTA Dues:** This is a per family fee. Paying your PTA dues ensures you become a member and allows you to volunteer and participate in all PTA sponsored events.
- **Teacher Gifts:** This donation goes towards staff wide **holiday and end-of-school gifts**. On behalf of the all the families, the PTA purchases gift cards for all staff members. Gifts are given in December and in June.
- **PPE masks and accessories:** Support the EFS PTA by visiting the "online stores" section of MobileArq to order masks, lanyards, mums and more!

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Cindy Mehta | Nicole Skopak | Farrah Carnahan | Lindsey Mazzara |
| PTA President | PTA Vice President | PTA Secretary | PTA Treasurer |
| (917) 517-7321 | (973) 454-4861 | (973) 464-8415 | (708) 903-1207 |
| cmehta012@gmail.com | zook327@hotmail.com | farrahdc@gmail.com | lindseymazzara@gmail.com |



**Essex Fells
Foundation**
for Educational
Excellence

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Tricia MacEvoy
Past Presidents

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope that you and your family are healthy and that you have been enjoying the summer despite the stresses of COVID-19.

For over 25 years, the Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence (the "EFFEE" or the "Foundation") has provided the Essex Fells School ("EFS") and its student body with vital support and enriching programs that would otherwise not be possible within the school's budget.

Notwithstanding this unusual school year due to COVID-19, the Foundation is still busy – striving to provide a *foundation* for educational excellence within the current environment. The Foundation has been working in partnership with school leadership to achieve that goal as well as to deliver enriching and exciting school programs that our students and families have come to expect, such as the Variety Show and spring musical. From STEAM and Communication grants to Character Education and Arts & Culture grants, the Foundation plays an integral role in preserving and enhancing the quality of education at EFS. This year will be no different.

Social Emotional Well-Being Grant

Even before the school started, the Foundation was proud to sponsor a Social Emotional Well-Being grant. All students were invited to join Mrs. Codella and Ms. Santin, the EFS Art Therapists, for an optional gathering for each grade level on **Thursday, August 27th or Friday, August 28th**. This grant was designed for students to get acclimated socially and emotionally before school begins. We hope that this was a positive experience for all.

Enrichment Classes

During these ever changing times, we are waiting to announce any Enrichment offerings until school is underway. Please know that we hope to continue offering fun and stimulating options that will keep our kids moving and creating. For your convenience, we will once again offer online registration and payment for classes via the MobileArq platform. Stay tuned!

Virtual Assembly

Following the success of last spring's well received virtual Music Technology Assembly with award-winning composer, producer, sound designer, and recording artist Brett Daniels, the Foundation is excited to sponsor another virtual assembly on September 21 with Brandon Lee White – the Youth Mover. This high-energy, entertaining, and anti-bullying character education program is designed to motivate and encourage students to laugh, think, and grow.

Please be sure to visit our website at www.effee.org for details about the mission of the Foundation and how this important organization supports our school community through grants, assemblies, and Enrichment offerings.

We wish you a healthy and great start to the school year!

Sincerely,

Laura Z. D'Avella & the Trustees of the Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence

The Essex Fells Foundation for Educational Excellence is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.