



EYESTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Educational Excellence in a Kind, Loving Environment

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Dear Eyestone Parents,

Happy New Year! We've had a great first couple weeks, with the students coming back rested and ready to go!

PBIS and Cougar Paw Stickers

Along with other schools in PSD, Eyestone is currently working on implementing PBIS at our site. PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) is a comprehensive program that involves evaluating multiple facets of a school's "discipline" system through the lens of research-based best practices. While we normally think of a discipline system as consisting of "rules" – and consequences for breaking them – research shows that a more effective, complete system includes a strong component for explicitly teaching, acknowledging, and recognizing positive behaviors as well.

Eyestone already has some strong pieces in place that fit this model. Our *Character Traits* (Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Caring, and Citizenship) are taught to students and promoted/recognized on announcements, through monthly *Cougar Pride* (character trait) awards at each grade level, and monthly "*Pawsitive Character*" slips. *Time to Teach* involves instructing students on the guidelines and reasons behind them for the classroom and "common areas" (hallways, cafeteria, playground, and bus), including specific examples of positive, negative, and "almost but not quite" behaviors for each.

One aspect of the research involves the messages we give to children (and even each other), showing that people naturally tend to give far more negative statements and recognitions than positive ones, even though students typically exhibit positive behaviors 80-90% or more of the time. When students are recognized more often for what they are doing right, they tend to notice this more in themselves and others, to take pride in their actions, and to exhibit positive behaviors even more frequently.

A new component we are starting this week at Eyestone is a sticker system for recognizing students quickly and easily for exhibiting the character traits throughout their school day. All school personnel are "armed" with sheets of purple paw print stickers. As they observe students exhibiting positive behaviors around the school, the staff member will stick a paw print on the student's shirt and let them know which of our five *Character Traits* the student is demonstrating. When the student gets back to his or her classroom, he or she fills out a slip. Slips will go onto a bulletin board on Respect Ave.

on Fridays. When the board is full, all students will earn a popular activity, the first being Pajama Day. Each grade level has a specific color, so you'll be able to see this on the board. Once the board is full and the activity is awarded to the students, slips will be returned to students to bring home. (We will announce the date of the award activity – such as Pajama Day – at least a week in advance so that your family can plan ahead as needed.) When your child comes home with a sticker, you can use the opportunity to ask them which trait they received it for and give them a kudo for their great behavior! (You will want to remove stickers before washing clothes – many students like to stick these onto their planners or to a sheet or chart at home.)

Wellington Schools Safety and Security

Your child's safety is our primary concern each and every day. To ensure that we are always prepared for an emergency—and to make every effort to keep you fully informed—the Wellington schools, along with the security department of PSD, have put together the attached document. Please read it carefully and file it somewhere that you can access it in the future. The document will outline what the response at school will be in the case of an emergency.

Safety drills scheduled for this semester at Eyestone include a Fire Drill, Tornado Drill, and Lockdown drill. Security upgrades to our facility this summer (along with a number of other mill/bond-funded projects) will include a remodeled entry (similar to that currently found only at the newest PSD schools – Rice, Bethke, Bacon, and Zach) and a full-perimeter external/internal video camera system (similar to those found at PSD middle and high schools).

If you have any questions concerning the document or the drills we will be holding, please contact me either by email (dsobson@psdschools.org) or by phone (970-488-8600).

Thanks for all your support for student safety and well-being!

Welcome back!



David Sobson
Eyestone Principal

