



Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

www.evesham.k12.nj.us · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent
Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

January 28, 2022

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Highlights: Schools Update/Great Kindness Week; Community Input Meetings for Residents Who Experience Disabilities; SAVE THE DATE: "All In" Disabilities Awareness Night on March 24; Evesham Education Foundation Fundraiser: "Double Down on Evesham Education" Feb. 25; Friendly reminders from prior Updates (including free food distribution tomorrow, Jan. 29).

****All ETSD Schools Closed Saturday, Jan. 29 and Sunday, Jan. 30 due to Snow****

Schools Update/Great Kindness Week

We stayed open all month despite covid activity in our region and community that was higher than this time last year, and despite staff shortages putting additional stress on already stretched and hard-working staff and administrators. We've kept going, and not just going but finding the capacity for activities and events that make the education deeper and more whole. Take this week, Great Kindness Week in full swing, Kindness Korner, making gifts, cards, Kindness Snowflakes, messages, and more, across all schools. Kindness is a fun and earnest effort in our district. Kindness starts small, and can have big effects. We never know when kindness can lift spirits or even save a life.

Among kindness-related resources in my Jan. 20th Update for Families was this link to our Jan. 18th Community Conversation about Hate: <https://www.jlink-snj.org/jcrc/videos/conversationabout hate>. I'd encourage you to view it if you haven't yet, and would like to again express my gratitude to the panel participants, Congressman Andy Kim, Mayor Jacky Veasy, Rabbi Jerry David of Temple Emanuel, Missionary Wakas Khurshed of Al-Nasr Mosque, Father Joe Wallace of Christ the Redeemer Parish, and Priest Sudhir Jha of India Temple Association, as well as to the Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey and Helen Kirschbaum, the Director of their Raab/Goodwin Holocaust Education Center, for their tremendous work.



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Another resource was a link to an online discussion yesterday, on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, between the Jewish Community Relations Council and Pastor Chris Edmonds from Tennessee, whose father as a US soldier in World War II was a hero, a rescuer. What he did, did not become known until after his death in 1985. The men involved were all children once, raised to be kind and noble and strong enough to stand up for others, or not. The story:

The Germans captured thousands of American GIs during the Battle of the Bulge. The men were marched to POW camps in Germany, and divided into three groups – officers, non-commissioned officers (NCOs), and enlisted men. The NCOs were taken to a separate camp. There were 1,000 men in this group. The highest ranking NCO was Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds from Knoxville, Tennessee. Upon arrival, the commandant ordered all Jewish POWs to present themselves the next morning. Master Sgt. Edmonds ordered all 1,000 American POWs to stand in formation outside of their barracks. The next day, when the commandant saw all 1,000 GIs standing in front of the barracks, he turned to Edmonds and demanded: “They cannot all be Jews!” To this, Master Sgt. Edmonds said, “We are all Jews.” The commandant immediately drew his pistol and aimed it at Edmonds. Roddie Edmonds did not back down and replied: “According to the Geneva Convention, we only have to give our name, rank and serial number. If you shoot me, you will have to shoot all of us, and after the war you will be tried for war crimes.” The commandant turned around and left. There were 200 Jewish GIs among the 1,000 American POWs. This act by Master Sgt. Edmonds saved 200 lives.

<https://jfr.org/rescuer-stories/edmonds-master-sgt-roddie/>

If this story inspires you, I would encourage you to check out *Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust* by Gay Block and Malka Drucker, with a foreword by the great Cynthia Ozick.

Thank you to all our staff for their passion, dedication, and creativity during Great Kindness Week and every week when it comes to helping our students learn and show kindness. Kindness, all of us together, kids, staff, families, now, yesterday, tomorrow. Among what we can control in life, is the choice to be kind.



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Community Input Meetings for Residents Who Experience Disabilities

Township residents who experience disabilities are invited to share information about their experiences in Evesham during two upcoming Evesham Township Community Input Meetings. The meetings are also open to family members of those who experience disabilities and other residents who want to contribute to this important conversation.

Meetings will be held both in-person and virtually on Jan. 31 at 6:30 pm and Feb. 15 at 1 pm. The in-person portion of the meetings will be held in the Evesham Township Municipal Building. To attend either meeting virtually, use this Zoom link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b7wXq8nSRH2bAFQ6jbhGOw

(After the first meeting is complete, the date/time listed on the Zoom link will change to the second meeting. Your registration will be valid for either meeting.)

Learn more via this [Community Input Meetings](#) flier or our township website:

<https://evesham-nj.org/government/news/531-evesham-to-host-community-input-meetings-for-residents-who-experience-disabilities-on-jan-31-and-feb-15>

SAVE THE DATE: “All In” Disabilities Awareness Night on March 24

Our ETSD Special Services Department is currently collaborating with the Evesham Township Police Department and other first responders to conduct a Disabilities Awareness Night on March 24. Our goal is to promote awareness and foster an inclusive environment, supporting all individuals to meet their potential as valued members of our community. When a community is all in, everyone is included. More details to follow! (rain date March 31)

Evesham Education Foundation Fundraiser: “Double Down on Evesham Education” Feb. 25

This February 25, join a night of fun at The Mansion in Voorhees featuring casino-style games, food, DJ, baskets, auctions, a limited-seating Poker Tournament, and more. Please visit the Evesham Education Foundation website to purchase tickets and for more details including sponsorships available. <https://eveshameducationfoundation.org>

Evesham Education Foundation is a vital, non-profit organization run by dedicated community and business leaders that raises money for the students and schools of Evesham, funding programs including the Coordinated Arts Program for Primary Students (CAPPS), the Genesis Counseling Program, the Metamorphosis Program, Literacy Support Program for Primary Grade Students, Tier III Enrichment Extensions, Art Goes to School, Smart Boards, and Sports Uniforms.



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Friendly reminders from prior Updates

- NEW: [Free Food Distribution 1.29.22](#)
- COVID testing at the Blue Barn, 1004 Tuckerton Rd., Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 8 am - 2 pm, and Sun, 12 pm - 6 pm. [Burl Co COVID Testing Sites.pdf](#)
- Community Activities: https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/community/community_activities
- [Weather-Related Information for ETSD Parents, 2021-22](#)
- [Free Dental Services for Ages 13 & Under, 2.4.22](#)
- Feb. 25–Evesham Education Fundraiser <https://eveshameducationfoundation.org>

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith
Superintendent of Schools