Dear Essex Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that it is October already and the fall season is in full swing! It is such a pleasure to visit classrooms at this time of the year when classroom communities are developed and students are excited and willing to share their learning with others. At all grade levels, I see our teachers implementing innovative and engaging lessons and our students learning new ways to solve problems and think critically. I am excited by the teaching and learning here at EES.

In September, students in grades 2-6 participated in the administration of a norm referenced assessment entitled Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). This formative assessment serves as a benchmark of academic information for teachers to measure individual student growth. It will further empower teachers to plan lessons that are directed at particular strengths and areas of growth for each student. More detailed information regarding your child's MAP data will be available at October parent/teacher conferences held October 23 and 24. Please be certain to schedule a time to meet with your child’s teacher at conference time.

I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with many of you at our recent curriculum nights. I left the building those evenings with a renewed sense of the great importance of the work we do as partners with you in your child’s education. Parent, school and community involvement in education correlates to higher academic achievement for all students. When parents and schools create and sustain strong partnerships, our children and the community reap the benefits. Communications in this partnership is the key, and as always, please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

There are many exciting events planned for the Fall including the annual Harvest Festival scheduled for Sunday, October 5th. This is the primary PTO fundraiser for the year and I look forward to seeing you at this fun filled event. On October 31st, the annual indoor Costume parade will take place for all K-3 students. Please look for more details in this newsletter.

Thank you again for entrusting your children to our care. We are proud of all of our EES students and staff.

With Warm Regards,
Scott T. Jeffrey, Principal

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**Upcoming Events**

**October 5** - Harvest Festival 12-4
**October 17** - Visiting Authors Susan Stevens Crummel & Janet Stevens(Book Orders due by 10/6)
**October 22-24** PTO Book Fair
**October 23 & 24** Parent Teacher Conferences
**October 31** - Halloween Parade

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Authors Susan Stevens Crummel and Author/Illustrator Janet Stevens come to EES – see page 2
Author **Susan Stevens Crummel &**
Author/Illustrator **Janet Stevens** are coming to
**Essex Elementary School**
**Friday, October 17!**

**Student Presentations!**
This dynamic sister duo will talk about the creative process of writing and illustrating, share the experience of writing stories in collaboration, ‘perform’ some of their books using puppets and props, and involve kids in drawing a book character. Classroom teachers will be reading several of Susan and Janet's books with students prior to their visit.

**Book Signing**
Books can be preordered from RJ Julia Booksellers. Order Forms must be returned to the school by **Monday, October 6**. If you already own a book by Susan Stevens Crummel or Janet Stevens, students may bring their copy to be signed.

**Harvest Festival**
Come join us on Sunday, October 5th, from noon to 4pm. for the Essex Elementary School PTO Annual Harvest Festival. All are invited to this fun-filled afternoon of food, games, and activities. The event will take place **RAIN or SHINE**. The ever popular Cakewalk, Adrenaline Rush Obstacle Course, Inflatable Fire Truck Slide, Cookie Decorating, Crafts, Silent Auction, Harvest Table and GREAT Food will be held on the school grounds. Admission is free, with tickets sold for activities and food. All Harvest Festival proceeds help fund the school’s community cultural arts program, educational field trips, enhancements to the school grounds, and other onsite programs.

Authors Susan Stevens Crummel and Author/Illustrator Janet Stevens come to EES-see page 2
Parent/Teacher Conferences
Parent/Teacher conferences are right around the corner. This year’s conferences will be held over two days: October 23rd and 24th. These are early release days for students and conferences will begin at 1:15pm on each of the two days. Your child’s teacher will be contacting you to make an appointment. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with your child’s teacher and open the lines of communication that are so important to our home/school partnership.

Halloween Grade Level Parade and Parties
The annual Halloween Parade and grade level parties will take place inside the building again this year with a parade route that will take our festive students throughout the building to display their creative costumes for all visitors. We welcome your presence at the Halloween Parade and classroom parties for students in grades K-3. We ask that all visitors sign in and provide identification upon request when entering the building. Please observe the following agenda for your child’s grade level.

Grades PreK, K, and 1st  12:30 – 1:30 pm
1:30 – 1:00 Halloween Costume Parade
1:00 – 1:30 Classroom Party

Grades 2 – 3  2:00 – 2:45 pm
2:00 - 2:20 Halloween Costume Parade
2:20 - 2:45 Classroom Party

Grades 4 – 6
Students in Grades 4-6 do not wear costumes on this day, however, room parents and teachers will be coordinating activities that will take place in the classrooms.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
Fire Prevention Week is the week of October 6-10th. It is sponsored by the Essex Fire Department. There will be an assembly on October 9th, and students will be bringing home information about fire safety to be shared with their families, including a fire safety and home evacuation plan.

Oct. 22th – Oct. 24th
The EES PTO in conjunction with Scholastic Book Fair will host the annual Fall Book Fair October 22th to the 24th. The hours are from 7-3 each day. New and used books will be available for purchase. Mark your calendars and don’t forget to send in the volunteer form. With the support of our parents and school community, this PTO fundraiser will be a continued success!

October 2014 Newsletter
Authors Susan Stevens Crummel and Author/Illustrator Janet Stevens come to EES-see page 2
New Faces at EES

Chris Hutchins
Network Tech

Emily Dreher
Special Education

Erica Fleischman
6th Grade Teacher

Christie Ruel
Paraeducator

Shannah Balogh
6th Grade Teacher

Cindy Breitenbach
Kindergarten

Renee Mitchill
Library Media Specialist

Megan O’Berr
Paraeducator

Authors Susan Stevens Crummel and Author/Illustrator Janet Stevens come to EES-see page 2
Before School Care Now Available at EES!

The Valley Shore Y offers a quality child care program at Essex Elementary School that follows the school calendar. We focus on the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility which is modeled by our staff as they care for your children in a safe state-licensed program. Each day we provide homework assistance, physical activity, group and individual games, arts and crafts and an after school snack. Coverage is available until 6PM. *New this year, the Y is also offering a before school care starting at 7AM and until the start of the school day. Prior registration is required. For more information call Kathy Scholl the School Age Director for the Y at 860-399-9622 ext. 118.

Morning Drop-Off

Drop Off time is between 8:10-8:25. Parents are asked to enter EES from Main Street at the front of the building and proceed through the front circle. This is a drop-off zone only and parents should not be exiting their vehicle to assist their child. If you need to assist your child with instruments, projects, etc., please park in a designated space and walk to the main entrance.

All Students must exit from the passenger side of the vehicle. If that is not possible, then you must park in a parking space and walk your child to the main door. **NO students should exit from a vehicle from the driver’s side of the car.**

Cafeteria Notes:

Now Accepting Credit Card Payment

Again this year, we will be using a computerized system in the cafeteria. For the system to be effective, we request that you send a check/cash to the school for the amount of money you wish credited to your child’s account. Please place a check or cash in an envelope that is clearly marked with your child’s full name and the teacher’s name. New this year, we are now accepting online payments for student lunches. **Online credit card payment** is designed to allow parents to make quick and easy payments to their children's school accounts. Please visit our district website at [www.reg4.k12.ct.us](http://www.reg4.k12.ct.us) and select the link on the homepage. All a la carte items are paid for with cash so that students are only buying a treat when parents have approved the purchase and provided money. We ask that all families maintain a positive balance in their child’s lunch account. Regular reminders will be sent home via email and/or letter once your child’s balance falls below the $8.75 level.

Authors Susan Stevens Crummel and Author/Illustrator Janet Stevens come to EES-see page 2