WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

NEFF KINDERGARTEN

950 Jenne St, Grand Ledge MI 48837
Phone 517-925-5740 Fax 517-925-5772 Attendance Line 517-925-5333

Mrs. Kelly Smith, Principal

December 8, 2017

Dates to Remember

Wed Dec 13	Domino's Night
Thu Dec 14	Popcorn Sale - Gregory & Promer
Wed Dec 20	Box Top Pick Up
Dec 25 - Jan 5	Holiday Recess No School
Mon Jan 8	School Starts
Wed Jan 10	Domino's Night
Mon Jan 15	MLK Day - No School
Thu Jan 18	PTO Meeting
Fri Feb 2	1/2 Day - No afternoon classes
Wed Feb 14	Count Day Valentine's Day Domino's Night
Mon Feb 19	President's Day
Fri Feb 23	PTO Family Dance & Auction
Tue Mar 6	Conferences 5:00 - 8:00 pm
	Book Fair Open
Thu Mar 8	Conferences 5:00 - 8:00 pm
	Book Fair Open
Fri Mar 9	Conferences 12:30 - 3:30
Sat May 19	Relay for Life - Eaton County

PRINCIPAL'S PRIDE

Snow! We had our first snow of the season on Thursday! The students sure had fun during their recess times. Please make sure your child comes prepared to be outside in the cold, snowy weather! Thank you!

The Relay for Life of Eaton County will be held at Beagle Elementary School on Saturday, May 19, 2018. If you would be interested in being a Team Captain or Co-Captain for Team Neff, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me at smithk@glcomets.net if you are interested and/or have questions. I have additional information I can give to you.

Please be sure to take time to read your child's classroom newsletter/ communications to know what your child is learning as well as for the dates and times of upcoming activities for the next two weeks. Our Holiday break will begin on December 23 and last through January 7.

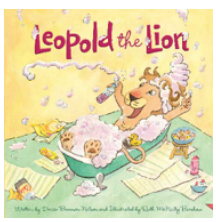
TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES FOR TRANSPORTATION

Versatrans E-Link and MyStop applications are going "live." Please visit the GLPS homepage (glcomets.net) and click on the"Our District" button. Scroll to the bottom to Transportation and click. All that's needed is the student ID number and birthdate. Again, these apps will be used to communicate with GLPS bus passengers.

AUTHOR ILLUSTRATOR VISIT

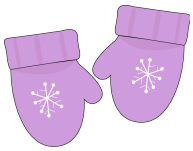
On Friday, January 26, Neff PTO has invited award-winning author/illustrator, Ruth McNally Barshaw to visit students in our Library. Mrs. Barshaw is the illustrator of the popular children's book, Leopold the Lion and is the author and illustrator of a series of chapter books entitled The Ellie McDoodle Diaries.

Students will enjoy hearing about how Mrs. Barshaw was inspired to write and draw. She will also lead them in a directed-drawing of their own! Students may purchase personalized books that Mrs. Barshaw will autograph and "doodle." An order form for purchasing the books is included with the newsletter today (See page below) and a printed copy will be sent home next week. Please return the order form by Monday, December 18. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Cockroft in the Library at 925-5625, or via email at cockroftn@glcomets.net



SNOW GEAR

Please help your child be ready for the snowy weather here at Neff. Together try to listen or watch the weather forecast. Learning about the weather is a great skill. Label ALL snow items including boots, hats and gloves. No boots or snow pants = blacktop only play. Your child needs boots, snow pants, hats and gloves to play on equipment and in the field. We go outside everyday unless the temperature/windchill is 0 degrees or below.



CHANGE OF CLOTHES & EMERGENCY CLOTHES

Please make sure your child has a set of clothes for a backup in their locker. We suggest a gallon zip top bag with a change of underwear, socks, pants and a shirt to have on hand just in case. In Kindergarten we have lots of times that we get wet or messy and need to change.

If your child has borrowed clothes from Neff please return them after they are laundered.

We are always in need of extra clothes for our students. If you would like to make a clothing donation we like to ask for gender neutral pants and shirts (sweat pants and sweat shirts are great), boys or girls underwear and socks. Most of our kids would wear sizes 5 - 7 but we could use a few that are larger. Thank you very much!

PTO FAMILY DANCE AND AUCTION

Hello fellow parents, I am in need of some help procuring items for our silent auction. If you would be willing to contact a list of 10 businesses before December 15, 2017 please sign up below and I will e-mail you the list of businesses. The list will have the name of the businesses as well as contact information for each one. Thank you in advance, Pauline Q

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090B44A4A728AAFE3-silent

GL MUSIC BOOSTERS FOOD DRIVE

If you will be attending upcoming choir concerts at the Grand Ledge High School Auditorium, the Grand Ledge Music Boosters are hosting a food drive. All donations of non-perishable items will be donated to the Grand Ledge Food Bank.

December 18 – Hayes Choir Concert
December 19 – Hayes Choir Concert
December 20 – High School Concert Choir

DOMINO'S PIZZA NIGHTS

Domino's Pizza is helping us host Neff Night at their new downtown Grand Ledge location. One evening a month our GL Domino's is donating a portion of the sales for that day to our school. Our PTO will be using the money that we earn to put toward activities and supplies for our school.

You can order your pizzas and more online, in person (at 327 S Bridge,GL) or by telephone (517-731-6501) on the following nights: All dates are Wednesdays! December 13th, January 10th, February 14th, March 14th, April 11th and May 9th.

Thank you Neff families for helping support Neff Night at Domino's!

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP INFORMATION

If you or a family member would like to volunteer in any way at the school or go on field trips throughout the year you must fill out the Volunteer Application online and complete the background check process. Below you will see the steps to complete this easy process. Thank you for volunteering here at Neff!

1. Go to www.glcomets.net
2. Select the Parent/Student Resources TabSelect, Volunteer Registration
3. Fill in ALL prompts, if it doesn't apply to you please you must add Not Applicable - N/A
4. Check that all information is correct and that you agree to the conditions.
5. Press Submit
6. Bring your Driver's License or State Issued ID to your school office at least one week BEFORE the event. At this

Student Name_____ Teacher_____

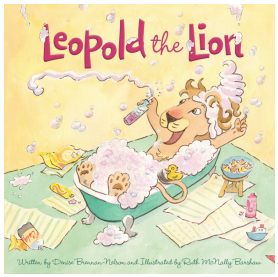
BOOK ORDER FORM

Neff PTO
is bringing award-winning, best-selling author/illustrator

Ruth McNally Barshaw

to the Neff Library on Friday, January 26.

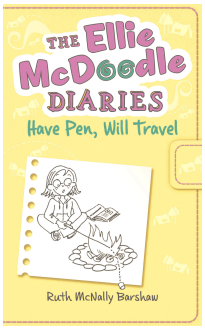
You have the opportunity to purchase a personalized author-autographed book for your child.
Return this order form with your payment to school by **Monday, Decemeber 18.** To have the book personalized, please print the child's name on the line(s) below. Books will be autographed and "doodled".



❑ ***Leopold the Lion (hardcover)*** **$ 13.00**

When Jack and Ella come across a friendly--and talented!--lion in their backyard they are thrilled to take him in as their pet. And they're positive they know just how to care for their new pet, ignoring Grandpa's cheeky asides. But soon Leopold the Lion grows despondent and chubby. Even the circus who lost him won't take him back! Do Jack and Ella know what to do to get Leopold healthy again?

Personalized to _____(Print clearly so name is spelled correctly)

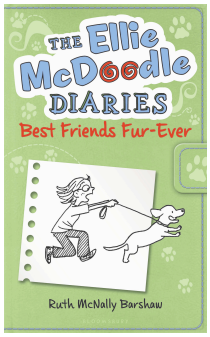


❑ ***Ellie McDoodle Diaries: Have Pen will Travel (hardcover)*** **$ 8.00**

One girl. One sketchbook. One week of camping with the world's most annoying relatives!

Ellie McDougal (better known to her friends as McDoodle) is being held prisoner . . . by her aunt, uncle, three annoying cousins, and baby brother, Ben-Ben. Sentenced to a camping trip to Northern Michigan with them, Ellie is determined to hate every single minute of it. Thank goodness she at least has her sketch journal in which to record all of the excruciating (and, ahem, funny) details. But how will Ellie keep her journal from falling into Er-ick the Enemy's hands? And what will happen if -- inconceivable! -- she actually starts having fun?

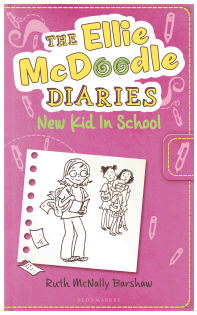
Personalized to _____(Print clearly so name is spelled correctly)



❑ ***Ellie McDoodle Diaries: Best Friends Fur-Ever (paperback)*** **$ 5.00**

When Ellie has to give a report on an exotic pet, she has a hard time picking a topic. When the neighbor asks her to watch her parrot, Ellie decides this would make a perfect animal for her project. The bird, however, doesn't want to learn the lines Ellie is trying to make it speak for her report. Instead, it would rather fly around playing with Ellie's little brother and insulting Ellie. To make matters worse, the parrot flies out the window one afternoon. With the help of some unusual people - a zookeeper, a librarian, some good friends, and her pet-obsessed family - Ellie will try everything she can to get the parrot back.Will Ellie succeed before her neighbor comes home? Will she do well on her report?

Personalized to _____(Print clearly so name is spelled correctly)



❑ ***Ellie McDoodle Diaries: New Kid in Town (hardcover)*** **$ 8.00**

When Ellie's family moves to a new town, she's sure she won't fit in. Nobody else likes to read as much as she does, the other kids at school play "new kid Bingo" behind her back, and even the teachers can't seem to remember her name. But when the students need someone to help them rally against long lunch lines (and bad food), Ellie is on the case. And with shorter lines and better food in sight, can friendship be far behind?
For any kid who's ever felt like an outsider looking in, Ellie's journal captures the frustration, the nervousness, and yes, the occasional happy surprises of making a fresh start.

Personalized to _____(Print clearly so name is spelled correctly)

To order more than one personalized copy of the same title, please use a separate order form.

Total Number of Books Ordered: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: $ _____

If you are sending in cash, please send in the exact amount as we will not be able to make change. Or you may send in a check payable to: *Grand Ledge Public Schools*. Please return form & payment by December 18.

Grand Ledge Community Recreation Presents

Breakfast With

SANTA

Saturday, December 9th

9:00 – 10:30 AM

High School Cafeteria

820 Spring Street

$10/Person

Register Online @ glathletics.com

Click on the Community Rec Tab

Events:

Picture with Santa
Christmas Craft
Letter to Santa
Make Your Own Reindeer Food
Sugar Cookie Decorating
Coloring Station
Christmas Stories (GL Library)

Breakfast Buffet Includes:

Scrambled Eggs,
Sausage, Potatoes, French Toast Sticks
Fruit Tray
Sweet Breads/Danish
Coffee & Juice

Jen Daly – Community Rec Coordinator
(517) 925-5440 – dalyj@glcomets.net

THIRD GRADE READING LAW

A Parent Guide to Public Act 306

EATON REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY

1 What Is The Law All About?

- In an effort to boost reading achievement, Michigan lawmakers passed Public Act 306 in October 2016.
- To help more students be proficient by the end of third grade, the law requires extra support for K-3 students who are not reading at grade level.
- The law also states that a child may be retained in third grade if they are one or more grade levels behind in reading at the end of third grade.

2 What Do I Need To Know As Parent?

- Your child's reading progress will be closely monitored beginning in kindergarten.
- If your child is not reading where expected, a plan to improve reading will be created. This means your child's teacher and school will work with your child to find where your child needs support in his/her reading development and create a plan to support him or her. This plan includes:
  - Extra instruction or support in areas of need.
  - Ongoing checks on reading progress
  - A Read-at-Home plan that encourages you and your child to read and write outside of the school day.
  - Your child may be encouraged to participate in summer reading programs.
- The extra supports in your child's reading improvement plan will occur in small groups during the school day. Your child will not miss regular reading instruction.
- Starting in 2019-2020 school year, in order to be promoted from third to forth grade, your child must score less than one year behind on the state reading assessment, or demonstrate a third grade reading level through an alternate test or portfolio of student work.
- If you are notified your child may be retained, you have the right to meet with school officials and to request, within 30 days, an exemption if in the best interest of your child. The district superintendent will make the final decision.

3 What Can I Do To Support My Child?

Read at home with your child daily with books they enjoy, even in the summer. Some ways to do this:

- Read out loud to your child.
- Listen to your child read.
- Echo read (You read a line, then they repeat) .
- Read together at the same time.
- Reread or retell favorite stories.
- Talk to your child about the reading.

As you read:

- Ask your child to share what they remember.
- Ask questions about the reading.
- Talk about your favorite parts, what you've learned, or who is in the book and what they do.
- Talk about the pictures in the book how they connect to the words on the page.

- Talk to and with your kids a lot: Knowing more words helps kids to understand the words they read better.
- Encourage writing: Let children write the sounds they hear, spelling is developmental and a work in progress.
- Be involved in your child's education and support the reading plan if your child has one.

Eaton RESA Contacts:
Jennifer Eaglin, Early Literacy Specialist, jeaglin@eatonresa.org
Kaytie Palmiter, Early Literacy Specialist, kpalmiter@eatonresa.org

Neff PTO Volunteer Sign Up

We are looking for parents to help with events this year!

*Please circle any and all events you would like to help with. Please star events you are willing to chair or help chair.

- ✓ Fun Run – Sept. 22
- ✓ Staff Appreciation Dinners – during conference weeks
- ✓ Box Tops for Education – every 2-3 months
- ✓ Little Caesars Pizza Kits – March
- ✓ Original Artwork – April
- ✓ Teacher Appreciation Week – May
- ✓ Family Dance – TBD

The PTO meetings are the third Thursday of each month.
We hope to see you at the first meeting on **Sept. 21**.

Child's Name _____

Child's Teacher _____

Parent 1

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Parent 2

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

WONDERING ABOUT PRESCHOOL OPTIONS?

GSRP Preschool Offers:

- Low student/adult ratios (Max 8:1)
- Highly qualified & certified staff
- School-day programming (Monday-Thursday)
- Creative Curriculum focusing on:

  Language development, Literacy, Math, Social Emotional Development, Physical development, Science, Social Studies, Creative Arts

- Licensed by the State of Michigan

Classrooms are located in:

SPACES AVAILABLE IN YOUR DISTRICT!

Charlotte

Eaton Rapids

Grand Ledge

Maple Valley

Potterville

HOW DO I ENROLL?

GSRP is a state funded preschool program for 4 year olds. It specifically serves children from middle income households. It is administered by the State of Michigan.

To enroll, a child must be
4 years old on September 1st.

Decisions for enrollment into GSRP are based on individual family experiences.

- Family income
- Concerns about your child's development
- Challenging behavior
- English as a second language
- Family school difficulties
- Environmental risk
- Single parent home due to divorce, deployment, incarceration, illness.
- Change in guardianship

Learn more and apply at
www.eatonpreschool.org
517.541.8724

EDUStaff

OUR DISTRICT NEEDS YOU!

EDUStaff is an educational staffing company who specializes in providing guest teachers and other employment classes to our partnering school districts. Founded in 2010, EDUStaff has quickly become known in the educational community as providing outstanding customer service to both our partnering districts and our external employees; the guest teacher.

BENEFITS OF BEING A GUEST TEACHER

Becoming a guest teacher provides a number of benefits for those who are interested including:

- ✓ Flexible schedule to accept assignments when you want.
- ✓ Work in your child or grandchild's school.
- ✓ Make a positive difference in your community.

GUEST TEACHER REQUIREMENTS

Per State of Michigan law, the below requirements outline how to become a guest teacher:

- ✓ Current Michigan Teaching Certificate
- ✓ Expired Michigan Teaching Certificate
- ✓ 90-credit hours from a college, university or accredited community college

HOW TO APPLY

Log on to www.EDUStaff.org

For more information contact our customer service department.

www.EDUStaff.org | 877.974.6338