

2.22.16

Dear Community Members:

I hope this email finds you well! Looks like we will get hit with a winter jolt mid-week, so please stay tuned for information and updates. I am sure all of the weather stations will provide copious details on the pending snowmageddon!

I have a couple of pieces of information for you this week.

CONGRATS TO EASTWOOD CHEERLEADERS

The Eastwood and Otsego Cheerleaders raised nearly \$8,000 last Friday's Jump Over Cancer event. In the seven years they have been doing this event, the total is over \$35,000 raised to support cancer research. All of us have been touched by one form of cancer or another, and events like this nationwide will hopefully lead researchers to more and more cures.

I am proud not only of these kids, but Eastwood students and community members in general. I was thinking over the weekend about the fundraising done through our schools that has been used to support individual families as well as causes. Annually, from Root Beer floats to canned food fundraisers to Giving Trees, it is probable that kids and clubs raise and give away between \$25,000 and \$30,000 in cash and merchandise. There are years when that number goes up depending on the specific needs of the community. The Eastwood community should take great pride in the kinds of young people it produces!!

BASEBALL FUNDRAISER

The Eastwood Baseball program is selling Elite Socks as a fundraiser. The sale will run from February 22nd to March 7th. Socks will be sold for \$15 a piece or 3 for \$42. On the form please include the school at which your child attends and send a check or money in an envelope with the form to the [school's office](#). If there are any questions, please contact Coach Leady via email: Kleady@eastwoodschools.org.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER REMINDER

A week or so ago I sent out information regarding a fundraiser to help area districts raise money to put together meals for needy families. This involved students from area Key Club organizations. Here is the link once again to make a donation to their grid. So far they have raised over \$500 dollars from our community! Every little bit helps! Nick and Brian also asked that we thank everyone for their generosity.

<https://www.givinggrid.com/KAHMealsThatMatter/>

A VERY COOL LESSON FROM LUCKEY ELEMENTARY! CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING REPORT FROM MRS. KRAMER'S CLASS

Penguins Visit 2nd Grade Classroom

A virtual visit from penguins that is! Students in Kaylene Kramer's 2nd grade Luckey Elementary classroom participated in a Periscope broadcast with a Toledo Zoo zookeeper and their new baby penguins. For the 2nd graders, who began studying penguins and their habitats in January, this was a great opportunity to make a real-world connection to the penguins they were learning about in class. "The students loved it and thought it was great," said Mrs. Kramer.

Periscope is a live video streaming app available for iOS and Android mobile devices. Think of it as viewing a live TV broadcast...but from a mobile device that allows you (the viewer) to text questions to the reporter in real-time. It's a simple (and free) way to connect classrooms with experts from all over the world.

Along with Mrs. Kramer's constant creativity in using technology to make learning more engaging, the idea for this virtual learning experience was inspired by her students and the content she was teaching at the time. "My class this year loves reading and learning about animals. In January, we started to learn about different penguins and their habitats." When Mrs. Kramer saw the zoo was going to broadcast, or "scope", an event with their baby penguins she decided to try Periscope for the first time.

Before the scope, Mrs. Kramer had the students each come up with a question they would like to ask the zookeeper and put the questions in a jar. Using Periscope's messaging feature, Mrs. Kramer pulled questions from the jar and typed them in the message window during the live feed. The zookeeper was then able to answer the questions during the broadcast. Mrs. Kramer was thrilled to see the excitement of the students. "They loved seeing my name pop up with their questions and having some of their questions answered by the zookeeper. We also messaged that the 2nd graders from Luckey Elementary were watching. The zookeeper took the penguin's flipper and waved to us and said 'hi' to the students at Luckey Elementary."

Using a class iPad or her iPhone, Mrs. Kramer was able to project the scope onto her SmartBoard with her Apple TV so the students were able to easily view the scope.

Learning continued as students honed their research skills using the school Netbooks to find out what penguins eat, what they look like, their predators, and one fact about penguins.

Soon after the first penguin Periscope, the Toledo Zoo went live again to scope the baby penguins going for their first swim. Mrs. Kramer said they were unable to watch it live, but she was able to show students the recording of the event (scopes are saved for a brief time so that followers are able to view the archived video of the live event). This further fueled students' curiosity and provided some extended learning for the students.

What's next for these 2nd graders and Periscope? Mrs. Kramer stated that they have begun watching scopes about the construction of the new Cedar Point roller coaster.

"We watched them use a crane to put the tallest hill of the roller coaster in place. The students loved it! In the spring, we are going to be talking about force and motion in the classroom and I have a fun roller coaster project the students will do. We are hoping to watch more from Cedar Point when the roller coaster is complete and hoping they broadcast some of the coaster test runs so we can feel like we are on it."

With technology and a bit of planning, an entirely new world of learning experiences is open to students. Classrooms can connect face to face with experts (and animals!) on nearly any topic, several times per year and for a fraction of the cost of in-person visits. Most importantly, these virtual experiences can take learning to a whole new level and spark student curiosity that may otherwise not show itself in the classroom. Thank you to Mrs. Kramer for finding a unique technology-enhanced way to engage students. And, thank you to the Eastwood community for supporting our efforts to extend learning for our students through the use of technology. Who knows where these 2nd graders will 'go' next!

That's it for this week! Thanks to Betsy Hood and Cindy Stanfield for the article on Mrs. Kramer's class. Think the kids learned anything???

Best wishes and stay tuned!