

Good Morning Evergreen Families,

I was very happy to see so many students wearing blue this past Tuesday in recognition of our Law Enforcement Officers, and more specifically, Deputy Ortman. Deputy Ortman serves the community of Allendale as APS's Resource Officer and we are so grateful for the time and attention he invests in our students and families. Also, thank you for keeping an eye on the communications that we send home... based on the number of students in blue, it is clear that our school-home communications are working quite well!

Here are a few more items that I want to draw your attention to:

### **Winter has Arrived!**

First, I want to wish you a happy new year and hope your holidays were special. I had an unusual experience over the Christmas holiday in that my family went to the outdoor pickleball courts three different times, including January 1, to play Pickleball. There were some definite upsides to the warmer weather over break but we knew it was only a matter of time until we experienced Michigan winter! With the wintery weather upon us, please be sure to send your students to school with all of the necessary cold-weather gear so that they can have a great time outdoors for recess. As a reminder, our recess policy states that recesses will be outdoors unless the windchill is at 0 degrees or below.

### **January and Learning**

Entering the middle of January, our staff will dive deep into their curriculum which will create a very rich learning time for our students. In a couple of weeks, the staff will meet in small groups to review student progress data and make adjustments to students' learning plans based on their first-semester progress. We always appreciate anything you can do at home to foster your child's love of learning, whether that's through reading good books together, exploring the beauty and wonder of nature and science, or playing games that encourage the use of mathematics!

### **Records Days and Report Cards**

Thursday, January 18 and Friday, January 19 are half-days for our students and are designated as "Records Days" which give our teaching staff additional time to finalize students' grades and report cards. Report cards will be sent home with students on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 24. Please note that the release time for Evergreen students is 12:01 on half-days.

### **Attendance: Every Day Counts for Your Child's Success**

Did you know that regular school attendance is directly linked to academic achievement? When students attend school consistently, they not only build a strong foundation of knowledge but also develop important life skills such as time management, responsibility, and a love for learning. Your child's daily presence contributes to a positive and supportive classroom environment, creating a vibrant community of learners.

As family members, your involvement in your child's education is invaluable. By ensuring your child attends school regularly, you are playing a crucial role in their academic and personal development. Consistent attendance sets the stage for future success, building the skills and habits that will serve them well throughout their educational journey and beyond. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your child's education. Together, we can make the second half of the school year a fantastic and enriching experience for all!

## Pre-School Registration and Open House

On January 18, the Allendale Early Childhood Center will hold its Preschool Open House event from 5:30-7:00 pm. The online registration for pre-school will open at 8:00 pm. You can find the link to the registration page on the attached flyer.

## Student Activities

- Allendale Little League  
Sign-ups for Little League are open. If you register your child before February 23, you are eligible to receive the Early Bird Pricing. Allendale Little League has teams ranging from T-ball through Seniors, as well as Junior Softball. The deadline for registration is March 8. Check out the webpage for more information: [www.allendalelittleleague.org](http://www.allendalelittleleague.org)
- Total Trek Quest Registration  
TTQ is a fun, high-energy after-school running program designed for boys in 3rd-5th grade. They will focus on developing a healthy lifestyle, resisting peer pressure, along with building positive peer relationships. Registration is online @ [www.arborcircle.org](http://www.arborcircle.org) Register Fee: \$50.00.
- Girls On the Run Registration  
Girls On The Run registration is now open. If you have a daughter who is in 3rd - 5th grade and would like to join a team of girls who are working on being joyful, healthy, and confident then this is a great program for her. Registration can be accessed via their website [www.getrwm.org](http://www.getrwm.org) or this link: [2024 Girl Registration Link](#).

## Reminders:

- January PTO Meeting  
Our next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. Please plan to join us in the Evergreen media center at 6:00 pm to learn about the variety of events the PTO has held so far this year and to get involved in some of the upcoming events in the new year. There are a variety of ways to be involved, we hope to see you there!
- APS PTO Boots and Bling Family Dance  
Right around the corner is the PTO's "Boots and Bling Family Dance" (January 20, 2024, @ Allendale High School from 2-4 pm or 6-8 pm). There are two dance times, both with the same theme and activities for families to choose what time fits them best. The PTO needs some helpers before, during, and after. Please see the attached flyer for more information, the dances are sponsored by our wonderful APS PTO! Please note - this event replaces the Sweetheart and Shamrock dances. This will be the only family dance event for this school year.  
[Volunteer Sign-Up Link](#)  
[Amazon Wish List Link](#)
- New Attendance/Absence Component  
In our continuous effort to refine our processes and procedures, we have decided to add a new component to our attendance process that we hope will streamline things a bit. We have added a new attendance email address and would like to request that, any time your child is going to be absent, you either call the office or send an email message through our attendance email address. The attendance email address is [evattendance@apsfalcons.net](mailto:evattendance@apsfalcons.net) or you can go to Evergreen's webpage and find a link along the right-hand side of the

screen: <https://www.allendale.k12.mi.us/schools/elementary/>. Thank you for your help with this.

Respectfully,

Doug Bol, Principal  
Evergreen Elementary School