



Pearl River School District

EVANS PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

40 Marion Place

Pearl River, New York 10965-2505

www.pearlriver.org

Phone: 845-620- 3950 – Fax: 845-620-7570

lynchp@pearlriver.org

Peggy Lynch
Principal

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Dear Evans Park Families:

It is my pleasure to communicate to you that, as we approach the end of the first quarter of the school year, the children at Evans Park are learning actively and working enthusiastically to follow expectations. Teachers are once again collaborating to integrate resources and remodel lessons to increase opportunities for critical thinking and creative problem solving. As you know, the *Flexible Learning Exchange* periods include time each day for students to explore, write, read, use technology and interact with peers across classes. Book clubs, math challenges, coding, STEM activities and shared google slides and documents are evident in this work, in classrooms, small group instruction spaces and the Maker Space. Kindergarten through second grade students are enjoying their new science *scopes*, exploring content through hands-on experiences.

This year we are exploring improvements in scheduling, adding a ninety minute, uninterrupted block of time for literacy instruction. Teaching assistant support is available during some of those periods and Ms. Eidman, our academic support teacher, is moving into classrooms as well, collaborating and providing lesson modeling. In the third grade, teachers have designated a brief period of that block for decoding, encoding (phonics) instruction across classes, grouping the children based on a continuum of readiness. A focus on writing instruction is prominent; teachers are working with a consultant, a new resource and each other to foster growth and motivation in this very important curricular area.

The month of November provides parents several opportunities to take a look at student learning. During *American Education Week*, on November 14th, you are invited to your child's class for a first-hand look at instruction. On November 15th, you will receive a progress report for the first quarter and, on November 17th or November 29th, meet with the children's teachers to bring that progress report to life. We are proud of the efforts of students and staff and hope that you will be able to pay a visit and share your impressions with your children.

In early December, in conjunction with our always generous PTA, we will have a series of Mathematics assemblies, one for each grade level, and a *Family Math Night* provided by a nationally recognized organization. Look for details about that soon.

We are looking forward to seeing you at school over the next few weeks.

Sincerely,
Peggy Lynch