



December 2021

“Equitable Education for Every Student”

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## Principal's Message

**Happy Holidays!** We are already half way through the school year as we enter the month of December. It is expected that **EVERYONE** will continue to keep teaching and learning a **PRIORITY** each day at East Sunflower. Not only do we promote the importance of a quality education, we expect our students to be contributing members of our society. By giving, sharing, helping, and sacrificing, our students can make a difference and change the world. Let's teach our children that it is better to **GIVE** than it is to receive and to **COUNT** their blessings. We can impact the world through teaching, learning, giving, and caring! Continue to watch us grow!

Principal S. Washington

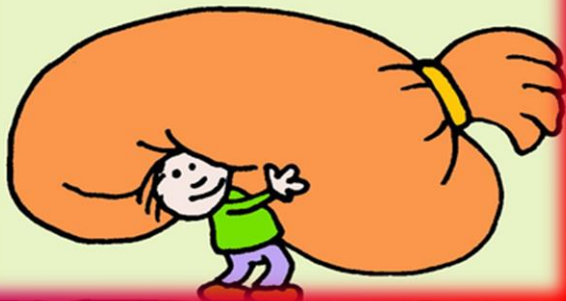
## Counselor's Corner

Season's Greetings from Dr. N. Anderson  
ESE School Counselor

### Character Ed Word of the Month **GENEROSITY**

**GENEROSITY** is the quality of being kind and generous.

**GENEROSITY BRINGS  
THE REWARD OF  
GREAT INCREASE**



## Social and Emotional Health By: Coach Liddell

Hello families, here is some information that you should know or that you may find helpful as we get further into the holiday/winter season. The Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer some recommendations for how to safely participate in the upcoming holidays. These include:

- Protect those not yet eligible for vaccination such as young children by getting yourself and other eligible people around them [vaccinated](#).
- [Wear well-fitting masks](#) over your nose and mouth if you are in public indoor settings and you are not fully vaccinated.
- Even those who are fully vaccinated should wear a mask in public indoor settings in communities with substantial to high transmission.
- Outdoors is safer than indoors.
- Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces.
- If you are sick or have symptoms, don't host or attend a gathering.
- Testing can give you information about your risk of spreading COVID-19.
- Consider using a self-test before joining indoor gatherings with others who are not in your household.
- A positive self-test result means that you have an infection and should avoid indoor gatherings to reduce the risk of spreading disease to someone else.
- A negative self-test result means that you may not have an infection. Repeating the test with at least 24 hours between tests will increase the confidence that you are not infected.
- Ask your healthcare provider if you need help interpreting your test results.

**By working together, we can enjoy safer holidays, travel, and protect our own health as well as the health of our family and friends**

## Upcoming Events

12/9-17/2021

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks Benchmark

12/17/21

- Conclusion of 12 Days of Giving Project

12/20-01-04/2021

- Christmas Break

01/03/2022

- Staff Return/Teacher Workday

01/04/2022

- Students Return/Classes Resume

## It is the Season To Be Reading



The gift of reading is one of the greatest gifts one could give or receive! To be read with or to is an act of love. As we hurry through this season of giving, take a little time to share a book, a poem, or a story with a young person. Also, as we go down those Christmas list wondering what to buy, consider giving a book, a gift that keeps on giving!

As part of the United States of Readers Book Club, and through other activities such as the Reading Fair projects, the RIF book selection, and classroom read aloud, ESE students have had the opportunity to encounter many good books. ESE students' favorites include these books and series: Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish, There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed ... by Lucille Colandro and Jared Lee, If You Give a Mouse ..., by Laura Numeroff, Captain Underpants, by Dave Pilky, I Survived by Lauren Tarshis, The Babysitters' Club by Ann Martin, Pete the Cat by James Dean, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, by Jeff Kinney, and Dog Man, by Dave Pilky. These are great gifts to share!

## FROM THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF ESE

**Congratulations Ms. Theresa Logan** on your graduation and best wishes for your next adventure!" You worked hard and got it done.



## In the Spotlight



**Katisha Limehouse**  
Employee of the Month



**Kimberly Clemmons**  
Staff of the Month



**Deondre Lee -3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
Student of the Month



**Christy Griffin**  
Parent of the Month



## ESE Panthers of the Month



"Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much."

-Helen Keller

## Message from Social Worker T. Jones

### Caring for Christmas



Nearly half of low-income Americans or someone in their household experienced some type of income loss during the pandemic. Because more people are facing hardship this year due to the impacts of COVID-19, more families in your community will likely be in need of assistance this holiday season and into 2022. Whether you're able to adopt a child or simply provide a few items, be on the lookout for these commonly requested items as you tackle your holiday shopping this year: Baby necessities like bottles, blankets, diapers and wipes

- Warm weather attire, like winter coats, mittens, hats and scarves
- Books or board games
- Dolls, action figures or other toys that inspire imaginative play
- School and art supplies
- Personal care items like shampoo, soap, deodorant or hair products
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent and fabric softener
- Gift cards to retail stores
- Pre-paid gas card
- Restaurant or grocery gift certificates



### HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED

When a family becomes homeless, there are two issues that usually occur with the affected children, 1) student attendance decreases and 2) financial situations destroy students' interest in school. The SCCSD recognizes the importance of education for all children and has adopted the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act that addresses the needs of homeless children.

This policy provides assistance for homeless students so that they can continue to be educated despite the challenges they face. If you know families with children who are homeless, please contact the Homeless Liaison at ESE, Tabatha Jones at (662) 569-3137. Your call could be of great assistance to a family in need.







## FAMILY BONDING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



If there's one time of year perfect for family bonding activities, *it's Christmas.*




Maybe it's the smell of fresh sugar cookies taking us back to our grandmother's kitchen when we were little, hearing the sweet innocent voice of our child during their Christmas concert or feeling the gentle tug on our heartstrings, reminding us that another year with our sweet children has passed, but something about the Christmas season seems to bring everything into clearer focus.





*I need to spend more time my kids this holiday season and less time stressing out.*




*I want to create memories they'll always remember in an atmosphere of love and closeness.*









*I want to make time for family bonding and strengthening family relationships.*



Being intentional in setting aside time for family bonding activities during the holidays is a gift to your child that will keep on giving, *throughout your child's life.*



### **Bonding Activities for the Family**

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- Make a family vote and then watch the 'all-time favorite' Christmas movie
  - Have a pizza picnic on a blanket by candlelight at the end of a busy day
  - Savor their smallness with **holiday footprint art**
  - Let your child be the photographer to document a special day
  - Tell the story of the birth of Jesus and [let the kids get in on the action with this nativity](#)
  - Read Christmas stories cuddled in the dark with flashlights
  - Look through family photo albums together
  - Write your child a letter about how they've grown in the past year and what an amazing kid they are



Merry Christmas!

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## Sugar Cookies

Active time 20 minutes

Total time 50 minutes

Make 40 cookies

Ingredients 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup (2 sticks) cold unsalted butter, cut into small cubes  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cups confectioners' sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  kosher salt

## Make It

1. Preheat oven to 350 with racks in upper-third and lower third positions. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper; set aside. Plus, flour, butter, confectioners' sugar, and salt in a food processor until a dough ball begin to form, about 25 pulses.
2. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface; knead until dough is uniform and come together, about 3 times. Roll out dough to about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  -in. thickness. Using a 2-in. round cookie cutter, cut out cookies, rerolling scraps once (you should have about 40 cookies total). Arrange rounds at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. apart on prepared baking sheets.
3. Using a knife, gently score each dough round with a light line across middle of cookie. Working with 1 dough round at a time, hold a bench scraper or a spatula over dough in alignment with the scored line, barely touching the dough with scraper. Sprinkle half of the dough round (using the bench scraper as a barrier) with sanding sugar. Then gently press decorations into dough.
4. Bake cookies until tops are dry but cookies have not started to brown, rotating baking sheet between top and bottom racks halfway through, about 10 minutes. Let cool completely on baking sheets, about 15 minutes.

