



HUSKY HOWLER

Principally Speaking...

Phyllis Spain, Principal

Paul Harper, 8th Grade Assistant Principal

Jay Stafford 7th Grade Assistant Principal



5 Tips for a Successful 2nd Semester

By Jay Stafford

Now that we have completed the 1st Semester of the 2011-2012 school year, students and parents think this is the time to cruise through the rest of the year and rest on our laurels. Not so fast! Here are 5 tips to having a successful 2nd Semester of school.

1. **Break up your studying.** Don't try and cram for hours the night before a test. You will find that you are exhausted and your brain may not function as well when the test is given.
2. **Don't stress yourself out.** Stress can be a huge factor causing anxiety towards testing, projects, homework, and school in general.
3. **Get a good night's sleep.** Many pediatricians say that teenagers need more sleep than most adults and recommend at least 8-10 hours of sleep. Again, if your student doesn't get the right amount for him/her; they can be exhausted during the school day and miss vital information.
4. **Pay attention and ask the right questions.** Paying attention speaks for itself. When students pay attention, the question may not seem out of place, or they learn to ask those higher level critical thinking questions that teachers can use as a "teachable moment" for the class. When students stray off task, class time is not profitable for students or teacher.
5. **Take notes in class.** This is extremely beneficial for all students. Taking notes can ensure that you have the appropriate information for homework and when studying for quizzes and tests. Note taking may take some time to perfect, but is very valuable for students and parents.

Have a great break and let's all have a successful 2nd semester.

Eighth Grade English

We can't believe how quickly the Fall Semester passed! The new SpringBoard books, a new test....lots of changes this year.

The Pre-AP classes just completed an intensive poetry unit using *Out of the Dust* as a study in free verse poetry and other poetry elements.

English 8 finished reading short stories with unexpected twists and turns. We'll start the Spring Semester studying Holocaust narratives.

Our Pre-AP students will also have an outside reading assignment that goes along with the unit.

We wish everyone a fun and restful Winter Break!!



Ereckson Wins Top Honors At Robotics Competition

The Ereckson Middle School Robotics team recently won **first place** for their robot and **second place** for the **BEST Award** category during the state robotics competition sponsored by the University of Texas at Dallas. The event took place on Nov. 18-19 in the Garland Event Center.

BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology), is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization with the mission of inspiring students to pursue careers in engineering, science and technology through participation in a sports-like, science- and engineering-based robotics competitions.

Student teams received kits of equipment and parts, then spent six weeks designing and building their radio-controlled robots and practicing how to make them move.

Fifty-six schools from around Texas and New Mexico competed. Ereckson was one of only four middle schools competing against high schools, homeschools, private schools, science magnet schools and prep schools.

Graham Gadd

Science Department Chair

7th Grade Science/Pre-AP Science

Robotics Sponsor

Ereckson Middle School

graham_gadd@allenisd.org

[My Teacher Website](#) [Robotics Website](#)

Online Science Resource/E-Text:

<http://www.OnlineLearningExchange.com/>

(User name: Student's first initial of first and last name followed by ID#; Password: alleneagles1)



7th Grade English

Ava Reis

7th Grade English Teachers

7th grade English students continue to impress us with their writing! Each day we begin class with writing activities – journals, interpretation of quotes, sentence imitations, quick writes, etc. Our goal is to make writing fun while helping students find their own personal style.

After completing a classificatory essay over the similarities and differences between the short story “The Birds” by Daphne du Maurier and the blockbuster film The Birds directed by Alfred Hitchcock, Pre-AP students completed a project depicting different scenes from the story and movie. Our halls were filled with interesting information on birds. Most students would agree that they will never look at birds in quite the same way again!

Students have also been writing personal narrative as well as expository essays. Our objective here is to teach students to differentiate between the two and then to compose their own. Our students’ knowledge of voice, word choice, and other skills is becoming evident.

This nine weeks on-level students have read the Charles Dickens’ play *A Christmas Carol* while Pre-AP students studied the novel. They were introduced to the circumstances behind Charles Dickens’ writing of this classic story. It is interesting to learn that Dickens wrote this story because of his interest in social reform, and the popularity of the story changed the way Christmas was celebrated forever.

Ereckson PTA

Thank you to all of our wonderful **EMS** Parents and Staff! By shopping at Watters Creek and turning in your receipts, You helped raise **\$900** for our PTA to support programs for our students!

Happy Holidays!

Amanda Woodrel, EMS
PTA president



7th grade Pre-AP Reading

Ondria Gerard Gadd

The 7th grade reading classes have enjoyed their 2nd nine week study of **myths, legends, poetry, plays, and media**. We have studied well, and now we are all ready for a wonderful, holiday break.

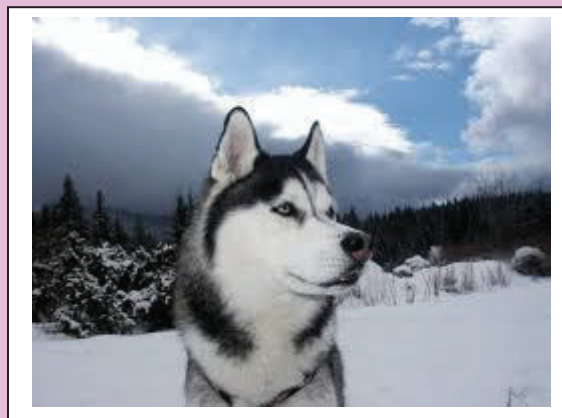
When we return to school for the 3rd 9 weeks, we will begin our *Tangerine* novel unit. If your student did not purchase *Tangerine* through his or her reading class, please remember to purchase it before returning in January.

We have asked Pre-AP reading students to have the book finished, or at the very least half of the book finished, before they return.

(In case you were wondering: the school district requires parents to purchase reading materials in middle school because the paperback books are considered consumables and as such, are purchased by parents.

They would be too costly as hard cover books and they would not last multiple years of use as paperbacks. Accommodations are made for students who are unable to pay due to financial circumstances.)

On behalf of all the reading teachers, I'd like to wish you all a restful, safe holiday.



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reminders, updates and pictures.

Send us yours!

You'll find us by searching:
Ereckson PTA.

*You can also find information
on our website:*

www.errecksonpta.org. Or

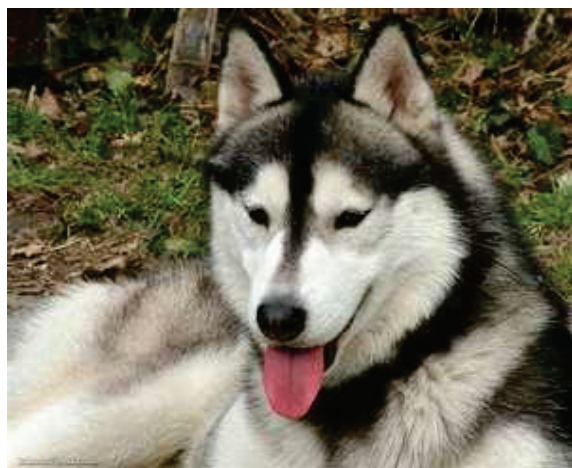
<http://www.allenisd.org/errecksonms>



Section 504 Child Find and Non-discrimination Statement

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Allen ISD has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students.

Allen ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or disability in providing education or providing access to benefits of educational services, activities, and programs.



Ereckson Middle School Newsletter

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