



# In Otter News

DECEMBER 2023



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Greetings Everyone!

Throughout the month of December, students will be learning about the life skills of “encouragement” and “generosity.” As a school, we will be collecting winter clothing items for Martha’s Closet, along with gifts for families in our community. December activities include study trips, dress-up days, holiday shop, and skating party. As we enter the winter season, information links on school delays, closings, and synchronous learning days are also provided. I thank you for taking the time to participate and appreciate your support. I wish you all a joyous and safe holiday season.

Sincerely, Mr. Zern



## IMPORTANT dates and events

### **December 1**

River Rally

### **December 4 - 8**

Holiday Shop

### **December 4**

2nd Grade Field Trip  
History Museum/Coliseum

### **December 7**

Skating Party 6-8pm

### **December 11**

Board Meeting

### **December 12**

PTO Meeting 6pm

### **December 13**

5th Grade Field Trip  
Biz Town

### **December 13**

3rd Grade Field Trip  
Embassy Theater

### **December 14**

3rd Grade Winter Program  
6pm

### **December 15**

Popcorn Day

### **December 15**

ASP Field Trip  
Darlington/Pizza Hut

### **December 22**

Make Up Day - if needed

### **December 25 - January 5**

School Closed



# Eel River Science Fair

February 6th, 2024

project walk through 5:00 - 6:00 PM  
awards ceremony will begin at 6:00 PM

Eel River Gymnasium

Enter through doors 11 & 12

*makeup day is February 8th*

Here at Eel River, our 3rd Graders will celebrate the season with a winter themed musical titled "Flakes!" We will be performing Thursday, December 14th at 6:00 pm in the gym. To make sure everything and everyone is ready to go, please make sure your child is in their classrooms by 5:45. Performance dress code is anything white to resemble snow flakes! We look forward to showing you all of the great things we are doing in music here at Eel River!!

Sincerely,

Brittany Taylor, Music Teacher

[Brittany.taylor@nacs.k12.in.us](mailto:Brittany.taylor@nacs.k12.in.us)

260- 338-5393 ext. 6581



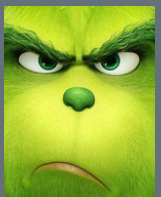
## November 28 was Giving Tuesday.

A community member made a generous donation to pay for all outstanding cafeteria balances in the NACS district. They also made a donation to the Angel Fund which helps students with future unpaid balances.

**A very big THANK YOU!**

## DRESS UP DAYS TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

- Friday, December 15 - Ugly Holiday Sweater Day
- Monday, December 18 - Festive Hair and Hat Day
- Tuesday, December 19 - Fun Flannel Day
- Wednesday, December 20 - Long Winter's Nap Pajama Day (shoes need to be worn)
- Thursday, December 21 - Grinch Day



# SCHOOL DELAYS, CLOSINGS, AND SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING INFORMATION

As we move further into the winter months, school cancellations due to weather may result in a synchronous learning day. On these days students will access their learning using their devices and will receive live instruction from their teacher. Synchronous learning days count as a day of school and will not be made up. Students will have three days to complete their synchronous learning activities and assignments. Please contact your child's teacher if you have issues or questions regarding access and/or assignments.

Synchronous learning information for parents posted on the NACS website  
<https://www.nacs.k12.in.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=21016704&pageId=21965671>

Weather guidelines for parents posted on the NACS website  
[https://www.nacs.k12.in.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_21016594/File/School%20Delay%20and%20Closing%20Information%2020191030.pdf](https://www.nacs.k12.in.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_21016594/File/School%20Delay%20and%20Closing%20Information%2020191030.pdf)



## **Cold weather preparedness and recess policies**

Please ensure that your student is dressed appropriately for the cold when coming to school. This includes a winter coat, hat, gloves, and proper footwear. We will be going outside for recess and breaks as much as possible during the winter months. Our recess weather guidelines are listed below:

Students will attend an outdoor recess daily unless weather does not permit.

Only students with proper attire (snow pants, boots, etc.) will be allowed to play in the snow-covered areas of the playground.

Outdoor recess will be attended as scheduled unless the following conditions exist:

- 1.) Excessive wind, rain, sleet, or snow.
- 2.) Temperature is below 10 degrees with wind-chill factor

Parents requesting their child not attend outdoor recess due to illness or other circumstances need to contact Mr. Zern in the office.

If your student is in need of cold weather items (coats, hats, gloves, boots) contact the office for assistance.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Synchronous Learning**

### **1. Why are we moving from eLearning to synchronous learning during inclement weather?**

In the event that inclement weather prevents onsite attendance, synchronous learning will provide real-time instruction and interaction between staff and students. This format will also better support the flow of learning for the content and concepts being discussed in the classroom within that specific window of time.

### **2. How will students access instruction during synchronous learning days?**

Students will attend live class sessions through Google Meet. Teachers will post their Google Meet links on their Canvas pages along with all other applicable information for the day of virtual instruction.

### **3. Will the number of synchronous learning days be unlimited?**

No. Should we experience severe inclement weather causing us to miss extended days of school, we will utilize traditional make-up days in conjunction with the synchronous learning days. For this reason, make-up dates have remained on our school calendar.

### **4. What about children whose parent(s) must attend work during the day or who have limited access to the internet?**

Synchronous lessons/activities will be recorded and posted so that students who are unable to attend live sessions may access this information at a later time. Flexibility and extended time will be provided to students who are unable to access the live instruction.

### **5. What are the times for accessing live sessions?**

Elementary School: 9:30 a.m. - Noon

Middle School: 9:00 a.m. - 12:55 p.m.

High School: 9:00 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

(Middle and high school students will follow class schedules that mirror their normal daily schedules.)

### **6. How will students with IEPs and/or ILPs be supported?**

Special education and ELL staff members will attend live sessions to support students much like they do during a day of onsite learning. Students will receive the support and services in their IEP/ILP as appropriate for the synchronous environment. Additionally, office hours will be provided in the afternoon of synchronous learning days to provide additional support to students. Students with more intensive services or modifications may be provided with alternative options for accessing services/support.

### **7. Will there be additional assignments outside of the live class session times?**

It is possible that students will be assigned homework as they would during a normal day of onsite attendance. At the elementary level, instruction from missed related arts classes will be provided through short videos and/or activities.

### **8. What if my child faces technical difficulties during synchronous learning?**

Parents can access technical support information through our website at <https://www.nacs.k12.in.us/parents>. If the website does not provide the support that you need and/or you do not have an internet connection, then please call our tech office at 260-338-5320.

# Eel River Spirit Wear Store

The 2023 Holiday Sale is just around the corner! We will have new designs and product lines that will make great gifts for the entire family. All Holiday Sale orders are guaranteed to arrive by December 23rd!

Now is the perfect time to think about placing orders for teachers and staff holiday gifts. Popular gift options include Camelbak water bottles, coffee tumblers, tote bags and gift cards

- **Sale Dates: November 6th - December 8th**

## **EEL RIVER**

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## **SPIRIT WEAR STORE**



1ST PLACE   
Spiritwear

**ORDER AT 1STPLACE.SALE/35671**



11/29/23

Dear Parents:

Boomerang Backpacks is a local nonprofit organization whose mission is “to provide weekend nourishment to elementary students struggling with food insecurities while educating others about service projects and philanthropy.” This is a “self-select” program so anyone who has need can participate. If this program could help someone in your family, please sign the form below and return it to your school. Although this program may not apply to your personal situation, we appreciate you taking the time to understand the benefits of the program.

The “backpacks” will be filled with non-perishable foods and sent home on Friday afternoons with your child. Our goal is to provide children with some shelf-stable, easy to handle food over the weekends (typically 2 breakfast items & a protein rich meal). There is no cost for you to participate as Boomerang Backpacks is supported through contributions from private donors, company sponsorships, grants and volunteers.

Your child will pick up a Boomerang Backpack on Friday afternoons at school in a disposable bag so there is no need to return any supplies each week. We only need your permission and cooperation for your child to participate.

This form needs to be returned to school by [Monday, December 4, 2023](#).

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to participate in the Boomerang Backpack program.

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of our children in [GRADES K-5](#):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For more information about the organization, please visit the website at [www.boomerangbackpacks.org](http://www.boomerangbackpacks.org). In addition to program details, there is also a secure portal for making a contribution if your child is not in need of the program but you wish to support one of your children’s classmates (anonymously, of course) so they may have food to eat this year. Thank you!