



THE ESSA GAZETTE

A MONTHLY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE III

ESSA STUDENTS IMPRESS AT THE WINTER PROGRAM!

Our school's annual Winter Program was held on the evening of Friday, December 17. What a treat it was to welcome so many guests to our new building for this special performance! In fact, attendance was even higher than anticipated, and it was standing room only. Our students were so excited to have such tremendous support from their friends and family! Attendees were treated to vocal and dance performances produced by ESSA faculty Lisa Zehring and Tawnya White, as well an original play written and performed by Mrs. Johnson's students. All the classes did such an amazing job, and it was a wonderful way to usher in our Winter Break. Thank you all for joining us that evening and for being such an enthusiastic audience!

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WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



Elite Scholars STEAM Academy Cordially Invites You to Our
2021 WINTER PROGRAM
Friday, December 17, 5:30 - 7 pm



Vocals: "Silver Bells" & "Tin Getting Nuts" for Christmas (Zink)
Dance: "We Are Santa's Elves" (Zink)
Dance: "Tut Tut" (Zink)
Vocals: "Jingle Bells" & "White Christmas" (Goggin)
Dance: "Jingle Bell Rock" (Zink's Pre-K)
--- 10-Minute Intermission ---
Play: "Believe in Santa" (Johnson)
--- 10-Minute Intermission ---
Dance: "Little Saint Nick" (Johnson)
Dance: "A Holly Jolly Christmas" (Goggin)
Vocals: "Jingle Bells" & "Jingle Bell Rock" (Zink)
Vocal Duet: "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" - Camille Bennett & Kenneth White (Johnson)
Vocals: "Deck the Halls" & "Auld Lang Syne" (Johnson)



Thank you all for joining us for this special event and for your continued support of our students.
And from our ESSA family to yours, we wish you the happiest of holidays!



January 3 - Classes Resume After Winter Break

January 12 - PTO Meeting (4:30 PM)

January 17 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (NO SCHOOL)

Third Week of January - After School STEAM Club Begins (Mrs. Johnson)

January 28 - STEAM Night/Science Fair (5:30 pm - 7 pm)



GETTING TO KNOW YOU: MRS. TAWNYA WHITE

As one of our valued part-time faculty members, Mrs. Tawnya White teaches the basics of dance to all of our classes. From her, they learn the fundamentals of ballet; our middle schoolers also are introduced to tap. But dance is so much more than a profession for Mrs. White--it's been a lifelong passion!

Young Tawnya was born at Travis Air Force Base in California, then moved to St. Louis when she was 2. She attended St. Louis Public schools, and from a young age was heavily involved in music and athletics. She began playing the violin at age 9, and later played both the violin and the clarinet in her school's symphonic and marching bands. Also at age 9, she began studying dance and gymnastics in the Lindenwood National Youth Summer Sports Program; she continued in the program for 6 years. When she was 15, she received a full scholarship to study at the Pelagie Wren School of Dance; while there, she was a member of the Pelagie Wren Dance Troupe as well as The Sophisticated Ladies & a Gent. Her first role as an instructor came at 16, when she became a Dance and Gymnastics Instructor/Group Leader for the Lindenwood/Maryville National Youth Summer Sports Program, something she continued for 3 years. It was just the first of her many teaching experiences!

At 17, Tawnya was cross-enrolled at both Stephens College and Columbia College, where she studied Theatrical Dance. While there, she also danced as a Centaurette. She then transferred to Webster College (now Webster University). During that time, she was a professional cheerleader for the St. Louis Steamers (a Major Indoor Soccer League team) as a member of The Steamers Steam Heat Dancers; she was also an NFL cheerleader with the St. Louis Cardinals Big Red Line Dancers.

Tawnya entered the US Army and served for 4 years as a Pharmacy Specialist while stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany. This is also where she met and married her husband of 31 years, Arnold. They were both on active duty in Desert Storm. While in Germany, she continued to dance, and was a member of both the West Side Dance Troupe and Terpsichore. She and Arnold loved living in Europe, and they traveled extensively. Eventually, Arnold's own military career brought them back to the US. When he was stationed in Colorado, Mrs. White was a civilian pharmacy tech. The couple moved to North Dakota, where they celebrated the birth of their daughter, Kelly. Mrs. White was a certified fitness instructor and taught dance there as well. The Whites were then stationed in Omaha, where she continued working as a fitness instructor and a cheerleading coach on base.

The family moved to Scott Air Force Base in 2000, where Arnold retired from the military. Mrs. White definitely did not retire, however! Instead, she became busier than ever, concurrently teaching gymnastics and dance at World Class Gymnastics for 14 years and dance at Midwest Dance Academy for 12 years. She also is in her 20th year of teaching at Taylor's Academy of Dance. Since 2003, she's taught gymnastics at O'Fallon Park Rec; she's also taught dance and gymnastics at Scott Air Force Base since 2014. Mrs. White also began teaching dance at ESSA in 2014, and loves working with our students! One of her favorite parts? The sheer excitement of seeing a student dance for the very first time and watching their skills develop as they grow.

Mrs. White stays so busy with work that some of her hobbies are simply relaxing, binging on TV shows, and getting some sleep! She also continues to enjoy traveling. When she joined the Army, she was 12 credits short of earning her degree, so Mrs. White returned to Webster University after 30 years to complete her studies, proudly graduating with her BA in Dance. But her favorite way to spend her time? Visiting her daughter in New York City, where Kelly is a professional dancer, having followed in her mother's truly talented--and graceful--footsteps.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH: CIENNA LLOYD

At 8 years old, Cienna Lloyd is one of ESSA's third graders, and she's thriving in Mr. Gagne's class. She was selected as November's Student of the Month because of how polite, helpful, and sweet she is to others in her class. Cienna also tries her best at her work, and she's a caring and loyal friend!

Cienna has been at ESSA for several years now, and was joined last year by her younger brother, Calvin, who is in Mrs. Zink's Pre-K. She's enthusiastic about what ESSA offers, and especially enjoys hands-on learning experiences like making helicopters, bridges, and being in the Auto Aerodynamics Design Club, where students were given the opportunity to design and race their own cars. Cienna had this to say about such projects: "If you don't know about things or how they work, you'll learn about it at ESSA!" She's clearly curious about the world around her, and her favorite subject is Science. Researching various topics in the computer lab is also one of her favorite activities at school.

Cienna stated that she loves learning about the world, and she hopes to one day become an archaeologist. She'd love to discover items like ancient pottery, which could be used to help learn about the people who came before us.

When she's not in school, Cienna likes to spend her time on art projects. She said that she'll gather extra materials such as cardboard and use them to try and create something new. One such creation was a chair! She also enjoys playing mancala or using her phone to play challenging games, like a new coloring app she recently discovered. One of her favorite things to enjoy with her family is visiting a variety of restaurants. Cienna especially likes eating at Shogun, because the food is prepared right in front of you! She also loves visiting places where she can be active, like Urban Air and waterparks.

Cienna is very close to her family, and lives with her mom (Shannon), dad (Ryan), and younger brother (Calvin). Her family also shares a home with her grandparents, her Uncle Donnie, and two pets--a Great Dane named Bella and a black cat named Midnight.

Congratulations, Cienna!

CIENNA'S FAVORITE THINGS

Colors: Pink, Purple, & Magenta

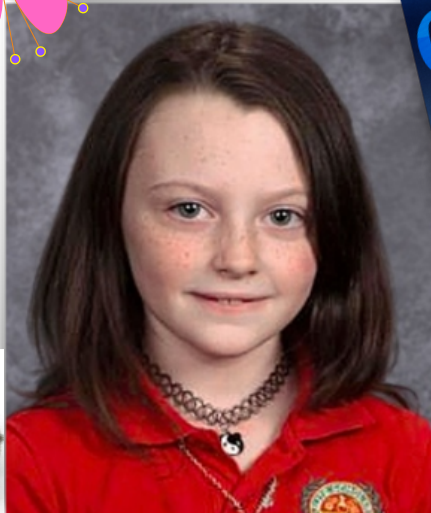
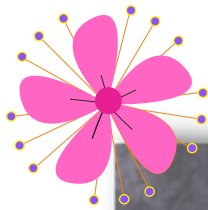
Food: Cookies--Especially Chocolate Chip

Animal: Cats--Especially Kittens

Books: The Wings of Fire Series

Movie: Soul

Place: Waterparks



STUDENT OF THE MONTH: RYAN DAVIS

Ryan Davis has been an ESSA student since 2016, and he believes, "This is the school that's helped me learn." He's now in Mrs. Johnson's 6th grade class, and she chose him as the December Student of the Month because of his exceptional character. Ryan describes himself as a "quiet kid"--but that definitely doesn't prevent him from being a successful student! Mrs. Johnson said that Ryan is "the perfect example of demonstrating a respectful attitude. He is well behaved in and out of the classroom. He consistently exhibits awesome citizenship and follows all the school rules and procedures. He never complains. He is courteous, mannerable, and always willing to help with tasks. I admire his character and integrity." That is high praise for such a young man!

Some of Ryan's favorite parts of school are the STEAM activities, spending time outside, and lunch ("I really like food!"). He also enjoys math--although he's not a huge fan of division. Ryan recently participated in the Auto Aerodynamics Design Club, which is excellent preparation for his career goal: He hopes to one day become an engineer and design cars! The car he designed was orange with black and gray stripes. He's also interested in becoming a YouTuber who plays video games.

At home, he's really interested in doing craft projects. Right now, he's working on creating a model ceiling fan by making the blades and brackets out of cardstock. It's his own design--not a kit! Ryan also enjoys riding his scooter, playing video games, and watching videos. Another favorite pastime is exploring the architecture and design features of big buildings.

Ryan lives in Collinsville, and he shares homes with his mom, Tiffany, and dad, Rico. He also had a Beta fish named Blueberry.

Congratulations, Ryan!



RYAN'S FAVORITE THINGS

Colors: Cyan

Food: French Fries

Animals & Living Creatures: Bees,
Dogs, & Cats

Books: The Dog Man Series

Video Game: Roblox

Place: Florida Beaches



The ESSA family definitely had the holiday spirit this year! In addition to the Winter Program, there were other events that kept us busy this December: Mrs. Zink's class performance at the Fairview Heights Senior Luncheon, the 2021 Swansea Fire Department Lighted Christmas Parade, and ESSA's Santa's Cottage event!



THE PTO PAGES



Have great ideas and a desire to help your child's school? It's not too late to get involved with the PTO! All parents are cordially invited and encouraged to join. We have a busy, eventful year ahead, and we look forward to your fresh ideas and helping hands. **The PTO meets the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30.** And keep an eye on the PTO board and lobby table for ways to get involved! Together, we can achieve so much for our students!



OUR 2ND ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION WILL BE TAKING PLACE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 19 FROM 5:30 - 8:30 PM. DETAILS WILL BE FORTHCOMING, BUT MARK^a YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THIS FUN AND CHALLENGING EVENT!

Download the RaiseRight app to get started! **SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL!** It's fast and easy.



NO FEES!

Just buy what you're already buying! Use the ESSA code to get started.

Turn your shopping cart into cash--all year long! And no more clipping. Yes, there's an app for that!

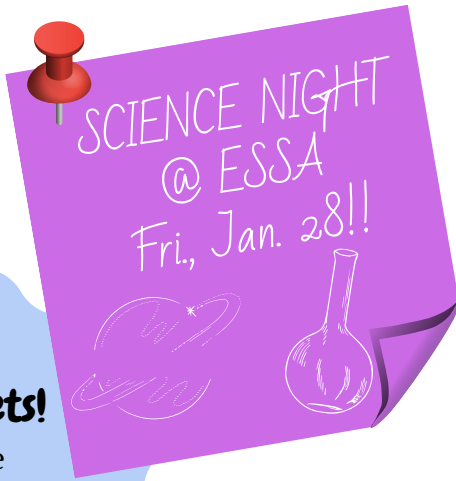




WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Daily Don't Forgets!

- Water Bottle
- Lunch
- Extra Masks
- Clothes (PreK-2nd)



All About...Snow Days!



In the event of a significant snow fall or other weather event, we will inform you about a school closing as soon as possible. We'll immediately send out a ClassDojo message, and we'll also post the information on the following networks:



STEAMing through History: NOVEMBER/DECEMBER



November 21, 1783 - The first free balloon flight took place in Paris as Jean Francois Pilatre de Rozier and Marquis Francois Laurent d'Arlandes ascended in a Montgolfier hot air balloon. Their flight lasted about 25 minutes and carried them nearly six miles at a height of about 300 feet over Paris. Benjamin Franklin was one of the spectators.



November 8, 1895 - X-rays (electromagnetic rays) were discovered by Wilhelm Roentgen at the University of Wuerzburg in Germany.

December 21, 1846 - Anesthesia was used for the first time in Britain during an operation at University College Hospital in London. The surgery was performed by Robert Liston, who amputated the leg of a servant.



December 2, 1942 - Physicists led by Enrico Fermi carried out the world's first successful nuclear chain reaction at the University of Chicago.