



# PANTHER PRESS

## June 2018 – Days Park

### Director's Message

Dear EVCS Families,

June has arrived, and it's hard to believe that the 2017-2018 school year is coming to a close. As summer approaches, families often ask what their children can practice over the break, to keep skills sharp before returning in September. Classroom teachers will be providing you with reading lists and work to prevent "summer slide" as the end of year draws near.

I'd like to share with you another summer "work packet," inspired by Betsy Eggart, a first-grade teacher in Pensacola, Florida.

- Write a handwritten letter or note to a family member or friend. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope to encourage the recipient to write back. In an age of text messages and emails, take a moment to bring back the joy and art of giving and receiving a message written by hand.
- Read, read, read, read, read. And read some more. Under trees, in the car, on the sofa or chair, in bed, in the park, anywhere and everywhere – encourage as much reading as possible.
- Sit at a table and enjoy a meal together – technology free. Phones off, iPads away. Take turns talking and listening to one another. Encourage and recognize good table manners, too!
- Slow down. In 2018, our adult lives can sometimes go at warp speed. Summer can mean less time "going and doing" and more time "just being." Enjoy a more relaxed pace of life.

On behalf of everyone at EVCS, thank you, families, for another exceptional school year. We have much to celebrate and be proud of this year. A few of this year's highlights include:

- An instrumental music program for students in Grades 5-8, including end-of-year concerts for ensembles, chorus, and orchestra, led by our superb music teaching team.
- A thriving program of extracurricular clubs and activities, including Chess, Yoga, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer Shots, Girls on the Run, and Library.

- Abundant field trips and curriculum-based projects to connect our students to local and global communities.
- The addition of our own in-house related-service providers in Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Therapy, and School Counseling.
- The addition of our Assistant Director, Mr. Phillips.
- Shared events and connections between the Days Park and Hertel campus, most notably the first annual *Family Heritage Night*, which celebrated the rich and diverse fabric of our EVCS community.

Finally, we want to extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2018. This year marks the final year that we promote a single-class cohort of students at EVCS. Many of these students have been together since they entered Kindergarten in 2009, and the bonds between them are strong. It has been our privilege to know them, to teach them, to celebrate their accomplishments, and to watch them grow into fine young adults. We are proud to announce that the members of the Class of 2018 will attend excellent high schools next year:

Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart  
 Buffalo Seminary  
 Canisius High School  
 Emerson School of Hospitality  
 Hutchinson Technical High School  
 Leonardo Da Vinci High School  
 Lewis J. Bennett School of Innovative Technology  
 Mount Mercy Academy  
 Nichols School  
 St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute

This year, two EVCS students have been granted full high school scholarships through The John R. Oishei Foundation High School Scholarship Award.

We are honored that our students are invited to attend a host of outstanding schools as they move on to the next chapter of their educational journey. This is evidence of the commitment and dedication of the entire school community's focus on preparing our students for future success.

Again, I thank you, families, for your partnership in ensuring that the quality of education provided at Elmwood Village Charter School remains of the highest caliber. As we look ahead to the 2018-2019 school year, we anticipate many more opportunities for enriching our students' academic and social-emotional lives at EVCS. We welcome your ongoing input and involvement as we work diligently to ensure the highest quality educational experience for every student.

With gratitude,  
 Danielle Bruno  
 Director