



January 12, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we soon begin our 2nd semester of school, I would like to take an opportunity to share some upcoming programs and events with all of you. Your involvement in your child's education is the key to their success!

HOMEWORK HELP: Marlene McNamee, a certified teacher, is available Monday – Thursday after school until 3:15 PM to assist your child with homework. Mrs. McNamee will have your child sign in and out of the homework help room, and keep a record of their attendance. We are now able to set up an email or phone contact to keep you informed if your child is not attending the homework help room. *Please contact your child's teacher, or the school office, to register your child for the Homework Help Room.* (786-7462)

PTO APPRECIATION DINNER: The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is sponsoring a parent and student appreciation spaghetti dinner. It is an opportunity for families to gather and visit other EMS families and view student projects and artwork. *The dinner is January 22nd, Thursday at 5:00PM.* More information is on the handout included in this letter.

POWERSCHOOL: Your child's grades and attendance can be accessed daily on-line through PowerSchool program. If you do not have your password, contact the school office. The daily bulletins keep you up to date on activities, clubs and other important information.

www.powerschool.com or www.escanabaschool.com (hit the PowerSchool button)

Over 85% of our students' records have been accessed this semester, which shows that PowerSchool is a powerful tool for assisting families.

STUDENT CLUBS: Our PTO continues to sponsor several clubs for your child:

- **Guitar Club:** Meets every Monday after school. Advisor: Pastor Paul Mai
- **Automotive Club:** Starting in mid-January. Advisor: Mr. Dave Salminen
- **Cooking Club:** Meets on Wednesdays after school. Next sign up in mid-January
- **Sewing Club:** Students will learn how to make a tote bag. There will be 3 after school sessions in February. Watch the daily bulletin for announcements!
- **Drama Club:** This club will begin in March.

“SCHOOL TO WATCH”: The Escanaba Middle School is a finalist in the Michigan Middle Schools to Watch program. We are excited to be selected as a finalist and a team of educators will be visiting us in February to evaluate our school and determine if we will be honored as a Michigan School to Watch! We will keep you all posted!

We hope to see you at student activities, PTO meetings and events, because involved parents lead to successful students!

Sincerely,

