

# Eastgate Dictionary

## WELCOME TO EASTGATE!!!

### Eastgate Dictionary

This “Eastgate Dictionary” is intended to give you a quick overview of some of the terms that may be unique to Eastgate or unique to an elementary school. (Let us know of terms we have missed so they can be included next time.) If you have any questions please feel free to ask another PTA officer, your classroom teacher, a parent at the bus stop or call us! We hope you and your student will be very happy at Eastgate. We are glad to include you in our wonderful community.

New Family Welcome Chairman

Megan Clarke  
643-8642

The following websites are great resources:

**[www.eastgatepta.org](http://www.eastgatepta.org)**  
Eastgate PTA website

**[www.bsd405.org](http://www.bsd405.org)**  
School District website

Name	Description
<b>Albertson's Preferred Card</b>	Fund raising method. You can obtain a Preferred card from Albertson's and link the card to Eastgate PTA. When you purchase groceries at Albertsons. Percentage of purchase is donated to Eastgate. Often raises \$2,000 per year. Albertson's cards can be used at any Albertsons - so out-of-state relatives can help Eastgate too. Go to <a href="http://www.eastgatepta.org">www.eastgatepta.org</a> and select the \$ Raising page and look for the link for Albertsons's Community Partners. Eastgate PTA number is 49000108575.
<b>Art Docent or Art Imagination</b>	PTA Volunteer program. Volunteers organize monthly art projects in each classroom highlighting famous artists. Training available.
<b>Assemblies</b>	PTA funds a portion of the school assemblies each year. Varies from cultural presentations to motivational speakers, etc.
<b>Attendance Line</b>	Please call 456-5104 if your child will be late or absent and leave a message. These messages are checked against the attendance taken in each classroom and families are contacted if there student is absent without a message. Please call everyday of a child's illness or absence.
<b>Auction</b>	Eastgate's primary fundraiser. The auction is held every other year and raises funds for PTA programs such as VIP <sup>2</sup> , Young Author's, Family Fun Night, and the school's "wish list".
<b>Ballet</b>	Refers to the 4 <sup>th</sup> grade residency partnership with Pacific Northwest Ballet. All fourth grade students receive 6 weeks of instruction during school hours. Students perform as a class with PNB dancers at McCaw Hall in Seattle and at Eastgate.
<b>Birthdays</b>	Families often send a snack to the classroom to celebrate their child's birthday, although it is certainly not required. It is best if items are very easy to serve, and already in individualized portions. Healthy and nutritious snacks are preferred (e.g. bagels and cream cheese, low-sugar muffins, fruit and yogurt dip, etc.) <b>Please check with your classroom teacher before bringing in anything as individual classrooms vary.</b>

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Book Club</b>	Boys Book Club and Girls Book Club for 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> grade students. Hosted by the school librarian, Mrs. Bordeaux and classroom teachers. Students and their parents read a book (provided by the club) and meet once a month to discuss the book. Excellent way to share your love of reading and get to know your child's peers. Optional, after school hours program.
<b>Book Fair</b>	In late November or early December the school librarian, Judy Bordeaux, hosts a Scholastic Book Fair. Scholastic sells terrific children's books at very reasonable prices and part of the proceeds benefit our school library. Teacher "wish lists" are available at the fair and this is a great way to thank your teacher for their hard work and contribute to the classroom reading materials. (Scholastic Book Order forms go home periodically in most classrooms.)
<b>Box Tops</b>	Fundraiser. Cut the "Box Tops for Education" coupons off of General Mills products and send to school office via your child. Often raises \$500 or more per year. Have friends and family save too, it all adds up!
<b>Bellevue Schools Foundation (BSF)</b>	Foundation established to support all of the Bellevue School District schools. Conducts fundraisers and is closely allied to the school district. Distributes funds through a grant program.
<b>Bus</b>	Many students ride the school bus to and from school. Your child may ride the bus home with a friend only with your permission. Students should bring a note from home to the school office in the morning. The office staff will provide your student with a "bus pass" to give the driver. For more information, including bus stops and rules see the school district web site: <a href="http://www.bsd405.org/Default.aspx?tabid=228">http://www.bsd405.org/Default.aspx?tabid=228</a>
<b>Choir</b>	The Eastgate Music teacher, Joanne Whang, sponsors a choir for 4th and 5th graders. The choir meets before school one day per week at 8:15 in the music room. Students must have a signed permission slip to participate, which can be obtained at the school office.
<b>Conferences</b>	Parent-teacher conferences are private meetings held between parents and a teacher sometime in the fall. All students will have a fall conference. This is an opportunity for you and the teacher to discuss your student's strengths and areas for improvement. In the spring and throughout the remainder of the year your teacher will contact you if a conference is necessary. However, you are welcome and encouraged to contact your teacher at any time if you wish to schedule a conference. Translators are available for parents who are not fluent in English.
<b>Construction Club</b>	PTA Volunteer program for students. Once a week during lunch recess children are able to build with Legos and K'nex. Very popular with students.
<b>Counselor/Psychologist</b>	The school counselor's job is to help students with educationally related issues and challenges. The school psychologist's primary job is to administer specific testing to assess students' for special services such as Enrichment, IEP's, etc. Please feel free to contact your teacher or the counselor/psychologist with any questions.
<b>Curriculum Night</b>	Sometimes called "Back to School Night". A school-wide evening with every classroom teacher hosting a discussion of the year's planned learning.

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<b>Directory</b>	PTA published student phone, address, and email directory. Great way to find friend's phone numbers for play dates.
<b>Drills</b>	Fire, Earthquake and Lock Down drills are conducted to prepare students what to do in the event of any of these emergencies.
<b>Early Dismissal</b>	On Wednesdays school is dismissed at 1:10. These Early Dismissal days allow teachers time to work together in grade level teams, attend special training and work together as a school.
<b>Easy Money Programs</b>	PTA fund raising methods that include Albertson's, General Mills Box Tops, Matthew's Receipts, Toner Cartridges and Cell Phones. Save these items, turn them in and the PTA makes money.
<b>Emergency Contact Information</b>	Contact information for parents, guardians and other adults to be used in the event of an emergency during the school day, such as injury or illness. Please contact the school immediately if this information changes.
<b>Emergency Dismissal</b>	<p>The two best ways to find out about school closures or emergency dismissals due to weather or other emergencies are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Emergency School Closure Info Line 456.4111</li> <li>◆ <a href="http://www.bsd405.org">www.bsd405.org</a> - click on "Emergency Info" on the left</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.schoolreport.org">www.schoolreport.org</a></p>
<b>Emergency Prep</b>	PTA works with the school to fund and organize all the necessary plans and materials to provide for our children in the event of a major emergency such as earthquake. A shipping container on the east playground is stocked with a 3-day supply of food and water for the entire school.
<b>Enrichment</b>	Program for 2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grade students who pass a test given by the school district and qualify for "gifted" services. Students are pulled from their regular classroom for 5 hours per week and provided transportation to a neighboring school. "Nominations" are made by parents or by teachers in November and testing occurs from Jan-March. Students who test at a very high level qualify for the "PRISM" program. (See "PRISM" for more information.)
<b>ESL</b>	<p>English as a Second Language. Students whose native language is not English and are not fluent in English receive special instructional time. Eastgate has two ESL support programs: <b>1.</b> Beginning level students spend about 10 hours per week studying English in a separate classroom. Students from several area elementary schools are bused to Eastgate in the morning to join Eastgate beginning English students. Families may elect for their students to return to their home school for the afternoon, or to remain at Eastgate. Nearly all students return to their home school. <b>2.</b> The second ESL program offered at Eastgate, and most other elementary schools, consists of an ESL teacher supporting them in their regular classroom.</p>
<b>Family Fun Night</b>	PTA sponsored spring-time tradition involving a BBQ and fun activities for the family.
<b>Field Day</b>	Sandy Perenchio, our PE Teacher organizes a fun afternoon the last week of school where the children play with various PE Equipment and can go from station to station. PTA provides many volunteers.

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Field Trips</b>	A field trip is when a classroom, along with chaperones, travels to another location for a fun learning event. Common field trips are to museums, theatres and outdoor learning centers. Kindergarten through 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms must travel by bus, but all other grades usually travel with volunteer parent drivers. Volunteering to chaperone on a field trip is a fun way to share time with your child and help out the school. Students are only allowed to sit in seats with a seat belt and no air bag.
<b>Free and Reduced Lunch</b>	<p>Some students are eligible to receive lunch and/or breakfast for free or at a reduced rate. The identity of students participating in this program is completely confidential. Applications are available in the school office or on the <a href="http://www.bsd405.org">www.bsd405.org</a> website. (Click on “Nutrition Services” on the left.)</p> <p>This term is also frequently used to refer to the percentage of students who receive a free or reduced price lunch. Students qualify for this program based on family income. The percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch at a school is used to determine several state and federal funding levels.</p>
<b>Gifted Programs</b>	See “Enrichment” and “PRISM”.
<b>Grants</b>	Generally refers to applications for money from the Bellevue Schools Foundation. Teachers or teams of teachers and parents write the grants to request funding for programs or materials not funded by the school district.
<b>Homework</b>	Homework varies by class and grade, but almost always includes nightly reading. Some teachers assign homework on a daily basis, and some weekly. Homework is generally viewed as a way to extend classroom learning, see if students are able to apply concepts learned in class and sometimes to complete time-consuming tasks such as handwriting practice. If you have any questions or concerns about the homework, please contact your classroom teacher as soon as possible. It is important to communicate these concerns as soon as possible.
<b>Hospitality</b>	PTA Executive Committee position. Helps to plan and host PTA events such as the Teacher Luncheons and Back to School Coffee.
<b>IEP</b>	Individual Education Plan. Specialized and individualized plan developed for students needing extra services beyond Enrichment, ELL or LAP. For example, a student may need to use a keyboard for writing rather than a pen or pencil to accommodate a disability or difficulty. Plan is developed in cooperation with the classroom teacher, special education teacher, school nurse, school counselor and parents. Contact your classroom teacher or Gail McDonald if you think your child is in need of these services.
<b>Legislative Issues</b>	PTA position to monitor and support Legislative activity that affects our school.
<b>Library</b>	The Eastgate school librarian is Judy Bordeaux. Students in grades K-4 receive 40 minutes of library instruction per week. 5 <sup>th</sup> graders complete several research projects throughout the year in the library. Library books can be checked out only if the previous week’s books have been checked in. PTA helps to organize volunteers to re-shelve books, cover books and assist students with research.

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	Students may bring their own lunch or purchase lunch in the school cafeteria. Lunch is \$2.75. Milk is \$0.50. Menus are sent home monthly and are also available at <a href="http://www.bsd405.org">www.bsd405.org</a> .
<b>Marine Biology Field Trip</b>	This field trip is taken by 5 <sup>th</sup> graders. They spend a day out on Puget Sound investigating sea life up close with a Marine Biologist. A portion of this field trip is funded either by BSF or by the PTA.
<b>Matthew's Thriftway Receipts</b>	Easy fund raising. Matthew's Thriftway Market, located on Lakemont Blvd, will contribute 1% of the net sales from all receipts we turn in. You can drop the receipts in the bins at school or send them to school with your children.
<b>The Measurements of Student Progress</b>	New state-wide standardized test, replacing the WASL. Administered in May to 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , and 5 <sup>th</sup> graders.
<b>Nurse</b>	The school nurse's office is staffed by trained parent volunteers 4 days a week during lunch/recess. The official school nurse is at Eastgate on Tuesdays.
<b>OT or Occupational Therapist</b>	An OT is at Eastgate one day per week to provide services for children. These services might include training in small and large motor skills. Contact your teacher for more information.
<b>PACE (Parents and Community Businesses for Education)</b>	A PTA fundraising program. Register any VISA or MasterCard for \$25 and \$10 goes directly to Eastgate. Get 20% cash back on your first purchase at each local PACE business when you use the registered credit card. Every time you shop at any of the PACE participating businesses, they contribute 5% of the purchase to Eastgate. See <a href="http://www.4pace.com">www.4pace.com</a> for more information.
<b>PayPAMS</b>	An online service available to families to pay for and manage lunch balances electronically. There is no charge to register. A convenience fee of \$1.95 per student is charged for each payment submitted online. <a href="http://www.paypams.com">www.paypams.com</a>
<b>Picture Day</b>	All students have an individual and a class picture taken, regardless of whether parents have ordered photos. These pictures are printed in the school yearbook. Photos are available for purchase.
<b>Principal's Newsletter</b>	Newsletter written by Gail McDonald, principal. Sent home with students once a month. Eastgate Happenings will be sent home weekly via email every Friday and will list the upcoming events.
<b>PRISM</b>	Students who test at a very high level on a school administered qualifying test are eligible. PRISM is a separate, all-day program housed at Stevenson Elementary. Only qualifying students are in PRISM classrooms.
<b>Progress Reports/ Report Cards</b>	Teachers prepare progress reports/report cards for all students 3 times per year – Fall, Spring and end of year.
<b>PT or Physical Therapist</b>	A PT is at Eastgate one day per week to provide services for children. These services might include training in small and large motor skills. Contact your teacher for more information

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>PTA</b>	Parent Teacher Association. This group funds and provides volunteers for many services for the school including social events and school-wide programs such as VIP <sup>2</sup> and Young Authors Day. These volunteers help the school to stretch their resources. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information contact PTA President Abby Stanton at 425-644-9589.
<b>PTA Budget</b>	Planned revenue and expenses for PTA. Revenue comes from PTA dues, Fall Fundraiser and an Auction, which is held every other year. Expenses include \$400 for each classroom teacher to supplement the school budget, Young Author's Program, 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Ballet Residency, School Directory, Social Events, funding for special services such as reading assistance and a variety of other programs.
<b>Reflections</b>	State-wide art, photography, poetry, and music contest sponsored by PTA. All students are eligible.
<b>Room Parents</b>	Parents who volunteer in their student's classroom. Often help to plan parties, but also assist teacher with office tasks, student assistance and "other duties as assigned". The "Head Room Parent" is responsible for ensuring that each classroom has someone to plan the 3 traditional parties: Halloween, Winter Break, and Valentine's Day.
<b>Science Fair</b>	Voluntary program open to all students. Students bring projects demonstrating an experiment they did following the "scientific method" to the gym. Both school-time and evening events. Handouts with ideas and guidelines are distributed a few weeks before. This is NOT a contest - no prizes are awarded, but ALL students receive a ribbon. Usually scheduled in early winter. Funded and organized by the PTA
<b>SLP or Speech and Language Pathologist</b>	A speech therapist is at Eastgate one day per week to provide services to students. If you think your child is in need of these services please contact your classroom teacher or phone 456-5100 and ask to leave a message for the speech therapist.
<b>Specialists</b>	Bellevue full-day elementary students in grades K-4 receive 40 minutes of instruction per week with each of the 4 specialist teachers: Library, P.E., Music, and Art. Students in grade 5 receive 40 minutes of P.E. and Art per week and 80 minutes of Band or Orchestra. All 5th graders are required to play an instrument in Band or Orchestra.
<b>Student Banking</b>	PTA Volunteer program for students. It allows children to set up savings account, free of charge, and to deposit nominal funds into their own bank account. The children not only learn the importance of saving money, but they can also practice their math skills by adding up their deposits. Funds must be withdrawn at a branch and the account is transferable to another school, provided that school runs the same program. *This program was sponsored by Washington Mutual Bank, and is currently suspended.
<b>Talent Show</b>	PTA sponsored student entertainment event showcasing students who volunteer. Most rehearsals are held during lunch recess. Usually scheduled in early Spring.
<b>Talon</b>	PTA newsletter that is sent home to every family generally once a month. Articles can be submitted by anyone to the VP of Communications.

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Name	Description
<b>Teacher Appreciation Week</b>	For a week in the spring the PTA plans and coordinates events to express our thanks to teachers and staff.
<b>Teacher Gifts</b>	It is not unusual for students to give their teachers a small token of thanks at Winter Break and/or the end of the year. The tradition at Eastgate is for gifts to be a small token of appreciation such as a hand-made gift, a gift certificate to a bookstore or Lakeshore Learning. Gifts to staff must be less than \$25 in value. It is perfectly acceptable to not give a gift. A heartfelt letter, with copies to the principal, is often the most meaningful expression of thanks.
<b>Teacher Websites</b>	The Bellevue School District has added websites for each teacher to be able to communicate with their students parents. These sites are in the process of being established and some teachers may use them more than others. You can find them by going to: <a href="http://www.bsd405.org/default.aspx?tabid=1103">http://www.bsd405.org/default.aspx?tabid=1103</a>
<b>Thursday Papers (aka Kid Mail)</b>	Weekly packet sent home via the <b>oldest child</b> in each family. Includes Eastgate specific info, as well as flyers from local youth activity groups such as Park and Rec, YMCA, etc. Papers are sorted and stapled by volunteers from classrooms on Thursday mornings - each class is generally assigned 2 weeks per year.
<b>Toner and Cell Phone Recycling</b>	PTA sponsored fund raising program. Turn in your empty Laser and Ink Jet toner cartridges or any old cell phones and in return we earn money. Usually brings in about \$200 per year.
<b>VIBES</b>	Volunteers In Bellevue's Education System. Program coordinated by the School District. Volunteers are assigned to work with specific students as a mentor. Generally must commit to one hour per week. VIBES volunteers often stay with the same student for several years and can include parents, grandparents or any other adults in the community. All volunteers are screened by the Washington State patrol.
<b>VIP<sup>2</sup></b>	Visiting Instructor PTA Program. Provides students and teachers with additional support and acceleration in the areas of reading, writing and math from certified teacher(s). This program is funded through a PTA grant.
<b>Walk About Program</b>	PTA Volunteer Program. Parents, grandparents or others are encouraged to walk the playground during the lunch hour. This provides staff with another set of eyes and ears and many kids love talking and walking with the volunteers.
<b>Walk-a-thon</b>	PTA sponsored fall fundraiser. Students collect pledges and then walk laps around the school during a 2 hour timeframe. There's a DJ, snacks, water and fun for the students.
<b>WASL</b>	Washington Assessment of Student Learning. Former state-wide test, replaced with "The Measurements of Student Progress".
<b>Yearbook</b>	PTA volunteers produce a school wide yearbook available for purchase at the end of the year. Includes class photos as well as lots of others. Yearbook includes photos of students taken during "Picture Day". All students' pictures are in the yearbook whether or not you purchase school pictures.

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Name	Description
<b>Young Authors</b>	PTA sponsored program. All students produce their own “published book”. Process includes rough draft, editing, and illustration. Culminates in a special day with a visit from a well-known children’s author. Funded and organized by the PTA. Island Books on Mercer Island (a fun, independent bookstore) helps finance this program through sales of the visiting author’s books, signed and personalized by the author.

Please contact Megan Clarke (meganhclarke@comcast.net or 643-8642) if you have any questions or comments regarding this document.

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