

Eastgate Dictionary

WELCOME TO EASTGATE!!!

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 may 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 contact us! We hope you and your student will be very happy at Eastgate. We are glad to include you in our wonderful community.

The following websites are great resources:

www.eastgatepta.org

Eastgate PTA website

www.bsd405.org/eastgate

Eastgate Elementary website

Name	Description
After School Programs	After-school activities, such as Art, Lego Club and Chess Club at Eastgate after school hours. Parents/Guardians responsible for any tuition or fees for the programs; see program flyers for details.
Art Docent	PTA Volunteer program. Volunteers organize monthly art projects in each classroom highlighting famous artists. Training available.
Assemblies	Presentation of some sort, usually educational- or awards-based, with the whole school in one area.
Attendance Line	Please call 425-456-5104 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 every day of a child’s illness or absence.
Auction	Eastgate’s primary fundraiser. The auction is held every other year and raises funds for PTA programs such as VIPP, Young Author’s Day and Family Fun Night.
Ballet	Refers to the 4 th grade residency partnership with Pacific Northwest Ballet. All 4 th 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.
Birthdays	A student’s birthday may be celebrated in the classroom. Teachers celebrate in different ways (such as a special story time). Please check with your classroom teacher before bringing/sending in anything as individual classrooms vary.
Book Fair	In late November or early December, the school librarian (Nancy Foster) 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).
Box Tops or Labels for Education	Very easy fundraiser! Get money for your school on things you already buy! Cut the “Box Tops for Education” coupons off General Mills products and/or the Labels for Education tabs off Campbell’s family products then send them to school office. This often raises \$500 or more per year, and you can have friends and family save too - it all adds up!

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Brightspace	Brightspace is an online tool where teachers can place information for students and parents to view anytime, anywhere. Brightspace is an interactive learning management system where teachers add items for students to see, and it can be the complete curriculum to just calendar dates as the content is up to the teacher. The site password protected; go to https://d2l.bsd405.org/ to learn more.
BSF (Bellevue Schools Foundation)	Foundation established to support all of the Bellevue School District schools. Conducts fundraisers and is closely allied to the school district and distributes funds through a grant program.
Bus	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: http://www.bsd405.org/eastgate/resources/bus-routes/ .
Choir	The Eastgate Music teacher (Rachel Quatrone) sponsors a choir for 4th and 5th graders. The choir meets before school one day per week at 8:00 in the music room. Students must have a signed permission slip to participate, which can be obtained at the school office.
Conferences	Parent-teacher conferences are private meetings held between parents and a teacher sometime in the fall, and 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.
Counselor/ Psychologist	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, IEPs, etc. Please feel free to contact your teacher or the counselor/psychologist with any questions.
Curriculum Night	Sometimes called "Back to School Night," a schoolwide evening with every classroom teacher hosting a discussion of the year's planned learning.
Directory	PTA-published student phone, address and email directory. Great way to find a friend's phone numbers for play dates. Families have the option to opt-out if they prefer.
Drills	Fire, Earthquake, Shelter In Place and Lock-Down drills are conducted to prepare students what to do in the event of any of these emergencies.
Early Dismissal	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.
Easy Money Programs	PTA fund raising methods that include Albertson's, Loyalty Cards, General Mills Box Tops, Matthew's Receipts, Toner Cartridges and Cell Phones. Save these items, turn them in and the PTA makes money.
Emergency Contact Information	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.

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Emergency Dismissal	<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"> ◆ Emergency School Closure Info Line: 425-456-4111 ◆ Signing up for email/text alerts online at: http://www.bsd405.org/help/stayconnected/ ◆ http://www.schoolreport.org will also show weather closures.
Emergency Prep	<p>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.</p>
ELL (English Language Learners)	<p>English Language Learners. Students whose native language is not English and are not fluent in English receive special instructional time. The ELL program offered at Eastgate, and most other elementary schools, consists of an ELL teacher supporting them in their regular classroom.</p>
Family Fun Night	<p>PTA-sponsored springtime tradition involving dinner and fun activities for the family.</p>
Field Day	<p>Christian Barnes, 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, water and popsicles.</p>
Field Trips	<p>A fieldtrip 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 3rd 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.</p>
Free and Reduced Lunch	<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 go to https://www.bsd405.org/departments/nutrition-services/free-reduced/</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>
Gifted Programs	<p>The Gifted Program provides self-contained services for identified students needing academic services at an advanced level and accelerated pace due to their ability to comprehend and process information. Gifted services provide instruction in the core content areas of language arts, social studies, science and math by teachers with training or experience working with gifted learners in a classroom of like-ability peers. Students are provided differentiated instruction to meet their cognitive and academic needs at the appropriate level.</p>
Grants	<p>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.</p>

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Homework	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.
Hospitality	PTA Executive Committee position. Helps to plan and host PTA events such as the Teacher Luncheons and Back-to-School Coffee.
IEP	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 if you think your child is in need of these services.
Kid Mail	Weekly packet sent home via the oldest child 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 usually on Thursday mornings, and each class is generally assigned 2 weeks per year.
Legislative Chair	PTA position to monitor and support Legislative activity that affects our school.
Library	The Eastgate school librarian is Nancy Foster. Students in grades K-4 receive 40 minutes of library instruction per week. 5 th 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.
Loyalty Cards	Fundraising method. Loyalty cards from stores, such as Albertsons, QFC and Safeway can be registered to earn money for Eastgate! Find out more on our website at http://www.eastgatepta.org/shop-and-save.html .
Lunch	Students may bring their own lunch or purchase lunch in the school cafeteria. Lunch is \$3.00, and milk is \$0.50. Menus are sent home monthly and are also available at www.bsd405.org .
Marine Biology Field Trip	This fieldtrip is taken by 5 th 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.
Matthew's Thriftway Receipts	Easy fundraising. 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.
Nurse	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.

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OT or Occupational Therapist	An OT is at Eastgate one day per week to provide services for children with IEPs. These services might include training in small and large motor skills. Contact your teacher for more information.
PACE (Parents and Community Businesses for Education)	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 www.4pace.com for more information.
Parent Teacher Liaison (PTL)	Formally called a “room parent” or “Head Room Parent” (HRP). The PTL ensures that families are being communicated with as directed by their teacher and through forwarding communications from the PTA. The function of the PTL is also to delegate and assign activities as needed for the classroom (which can all be done via email).
PayPAMS	An online service available to families to pay for and manage lunch balances electronically. There is no charge to register, and a convenience fee of \$1.95 per student is charged for each payment submitted online. www.paypams.com
Picture Day	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, and photos are available for purchase.
Principal’s Newsletter: Eagle Sighting	Newsletter written by Principal Steve Lesco. “Eagle Sighting” will be sent home weekly via email every Friday and will list the upcoming events.
PRISM	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 Spiritridge Elementary. Only qualifying students are in PRISM classrooms.
Progress Reports/ Report Cards	Teachers prepare progress reports/report cards for all students 3 times per year – Fall, Spring and end of year.
PT or Physical Therapist	A PT is at Eastgate one day per week to provide services for children with IEPs. These services might include training in small and large motor skills. Contact your teacher for more information
PTA	Parent Teacher Association. This group funds and provides volunteers for many services for the school including social events and schoolwide programs such as VIPP 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 Malinda Elien or Jenny Dunn Long.
PTA Budget	Planned revenue and expenses for PTA. Revenue comes from PTA dues, Fall Fundraiser and an Auction which is held every other year. Expenses include \$300 for each classroom teacher to supplement the school budget, Young Author’s Program, 4 th Grade Ballet Residency, School Directory, Social Events, funding for special services such as reading assistance and a variety of other programs.

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Reflections	Statewide art, photography poetry, and music contest sponsored by PTA. All students are eligible, and every year is a different theme. See www.eastgatepta.org for details.
Smarter Balanced Assessment	New statewide standardized test replacing the MSP. Administered in the Spring to 3 rd , 4 th and 5 th graders. See more online at https://www.bsd405.org/2015/04/have-questions-regarding-smarter-balanced-assessments-start-here/
SLP or Speech and Language Pathologist	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.
Specialists	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.
STEM	Stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. It is a special curriculum starting 2015-16 school year. See more on the BSD website: https://www.bsd405.org/about/initiatives/instructional-initiatives/ or the PTA Pinterest board https://www.pinterest.com/eastgatepta/what-is-stem/ .
Talent Show	PTA sponsored student entertainment event showcasing students who volunteer. Most rehearsals are held during lunch recess. Usually scheduled in early Spring. For more information, see www.eastgatepta.org
Teacher Appreciation Week	For a week in the spring, the PTA plans and coordinates events to express our thanks to teachers and staff. For more information, see www.eastgatepta.org on the programs page.
Teacher Gifts	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 handmade gift, a gift certificate to a bookstore or Lakeshore Learning. Gifts to staff must be less than \$25 in value, and 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.
Toner and Cell Phone Recycling	PTA sponsored fundraising 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).
VIBES	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.
VIPP	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.

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Walk About Program	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.
Walk-a-thon	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 prizes for the students.
Yearbook	PTA volunteers produce a schoolwide 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.
Young Authors Day (YAD)	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 Angela Anderson (angelandsn@outlook.com) if you have any questions or comments regarding this document.

You can contact the PTA by emailing contactus@eastgatepta.org.

The following websites are great resources:

www.eastgatepta.org
Eastgate PTA website

www.bsd405.org
School District website