



Wings of Excellence

Eagle Ridge Elementary School
"Soaring for Excellence"

January 2009

220 North ABC Street
Milledgeville, Georgia

My Family

(A Free Verse Poem)

By **Kendrious Lamar**

You don't know me,
but I know you.
I have not seen you
in so many years
but my mom tells me



Everything
that I need to know about you.
I just wanted to meet you
in person
at Thanksgiving,
But **AGAIN,**
you did not come.

A Mom's Love

(A Free Verse Poem)

By **Jayla Hill**

Only two days old,
in a cold hospital room.
My mom sat, holding me,
Worried.



With her arms around me tight,
still, I cried.
The fret wouldn't leave her heart.
The surgery was closer than she thought.
She has told me the story
Of how her tears dropped on my own.
Now, the memory fades a little at a time
as I grow older.
I touch the scar that still remains on my body.
This story
I will have
Forever.

A Word from Our Principal

The year is certainly going by very rapidly. We have accomplished a lot during our first half, but our journey has only just begun. We appreciate all that you have done to assist with school-wide projects that have been tackled thus far this year.

We continue to explore new territory as we work diligently on improving academic achievement which is our main focus for the year. We continue to work extremely hard to help each student reach his/her full academic potential. Academic achievement is also our first and main indicator of AYP; attendance is our second. Therefore, we remind parents of the importance of making sure your child comes to school daily and progresses to best of his/her ability. All students in grades 1-5 must pass the reading portion of the CRCT for promotion; fifth graders must also pass math. We continue to seek parental support in accomplishing our goal to make AYP this year. Parents are reminded that they must stay active in their child's education. Visit the classroom, talk to the teacher, review progress reports, become familiar with the curriculum, ask questions, and review skills learned at school with your child. Children learn best when skills are reinforced and practiced. Please monitor your child's progress, schedule a set time for **daily** homework and read to or with your child daily. Challenge your child academically at home by providing a variety of reading and academic materials. **Help us to ensure that your child reaches his/her full academic potential.**

Thanks for your continued support as we continue to "soar for excellence" at Eagle Ridge Elementary.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Scott

Important Dates

January 19, 2009	Holiday
January 21, 2009	School Council Meeting
February 9, 2009	Midterm
February 14, 2009	Valentine Dance
February 16, 2009	Holiday
February 17, 2009	Progress Reports
February 24, 2009	PTO meeting
March 13, 2009	Third Grading Period ends
Mar 30-Apr 4, 2009	Spring Break

Contributing authors and illustrators for this edition of *Wings of Excellence* are students from the classes of Ms. Queen, Ms. Tyson, Ms. Gray, Ms. Sowell, Ms. Ellison, Ms. Channell, Ms. Lightsey, Ms. Powell, Ms. Vinson, Ms. Meeks, and Ms. Clay.

Kindergarten



Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like some popcorn and some meat for Christmas. Please bring my Mama and sisters some chicken and rice, and my Auntie Maria some medicine. Thank you.

Love, **Apollo King**

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. Please bring me a flashlight and a Barbie House. I would also like a piano. Thank you.

Love, **Krysta Tanner**

Dear Santa,

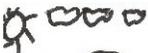
How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like a phone, a Barbie, a grill, a car, and a Barbie house. Thank you.

Love, **Aryca Hawkins**

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like a trampoline, a doll, a house for me, and a cupcake. Thank you.

Love, **Shakyla Dennis**



by T'Asia Warren

My Mom and Me
By: **Neya Norman**

We play games. We jump on the trampoline.

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like a cat and a monkey for Christmas. I would like to have an Easy Baker Oven too. Thank you.

Love, **Charity Cowins**



Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like some Ben Ten for Christmas. Thank you.

Love, **Javon Green**

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like a Sunday truck, a Gameboy and a video game. Thank you.

Love, **Prince Wilson**

My Cat
By **T'Asia Warren**

He loves to play with me.
He loves me.

My Cat
By: **Shayla Davis**

My cat likes to play with me. My cat likes to stay with me.

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. Please bring me some good cards, and a baby doll. Thank you.

Love, **Anica Roberts**

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I want a car and some cards for Christmas. Thank you.

Love, **Daijah Skinner**

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I want a baby doll to be real. Thank you.

Love, **Ashley Farlar**

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like a toy giraffe and a wagon. Thank you.

Love, **Travis Batchelor**

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like a ball. Thank you.

Love, **Karuna Patel**

Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like a doggie and a music box. Nicky wants a truck. Thank you.

Love, **Gianna Dykes**

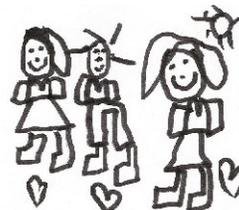
Dear Santa,

How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like a guitar for Christmas and a puppy. Thank you.

Love, **Javan Mitchell**

My Mom and Dad
By **Nakisha Wells**

My Mom and Dad go shopping. My Mom and Dad love me.



by Nakisha Wells

My Brother and Sister
By: **Ke'Asia Simpson**

They take me to buy candy. They buy me candy.

My Cousin
By: **Aylexys Butts**

We play together. We play ball.

My Doggies
By: **Ashley Phillips**

My dog's name is Titi. My other dog's name is Mimi.

By Ashley Phillips





First Grade

Mrs. Sowell's first grade class wrote persuasive letters to President- Elect Barack Obama.

Dear Mr. Obama,

Congratulations on winning the election. We had an election at our school. You got the most votes and won. Are you going to help people when they are dying? I think you should help them by nursing them back to health.

Sincerely,

Domingo Sousa

by Prevail Alexander



Dear Mr. Obama,

Congratulations on winning the election. Our school had an election. You got the most votes and won. Did you have a good Thanksgiving? I hope you can help the hungry people by giving them more money for food.

Sincerely,

Prevail Alexander

Dear Mr. Obama,

Congratulations on winning the election. Our school had an election. You got the most votes and won. How does it feel to win the election? Are you happy to be President? Did you have a good Thanksgiving? Will you help old people walk across the street?

Sincerely,

Jakeem Cochran

Dear Mr. Obama,

Congratulations on winning the election. Our school had an election. You got the most votes and won. How does it feel to win the election? You can help everybody in the whole wide world to live in peace.

Sincerely,

Mary Sousa



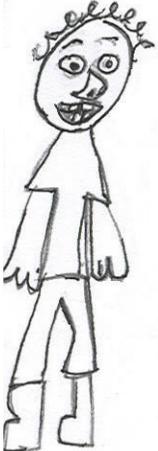
By Mary Sousa

Dear Mr. Obama,

Congratulations on winning the election. Our school had an election. You got the most votes and won. Did you have a good Thanksgiving? What do your children look like? I hope you fight the other people that try to kill you.

Sincerely,

Demonte' McCrary



by Keasia Fraley

Dear Mr. Obama,

Congratulations on winning the election. Our school had an election. You got the most votes and won. What do you children look like? How is your family? I hope you will help people not to do bad things.

Sincerely,

Keasia Fraley

Thanksgiving

On Thanksgiving I like to eat turkey. I really like turkey. My Dad likes turkey.

By: **Jaylan Mason**

Pets

One day my fish looked at my food. I like fish. They are my favorite pet. Pets are not nice sometimes.

By: **Jaden Harmon**

Seasons

My favorite season is fall. I like the leaves. The leaves are red, orange, and yellow. They have apples on them. In the fall I jump in the red, orange, and yellow leaves.

By: **Emprise Armstrong**



Second Grade

Desmond Driskell DaMarco Farley

Claus
Happy
Reindeer
Igloo
Saint Nick
Tree
Merry
A wonderful time
Santa

Claus
Holiday
Red bows
Icicles
Santa
Terrific
Merry
Amazing
Sing Christmas songs



Cyaira Vest

Christmas
Happy New Year
Reindeer and sleigh
I want a pony
Santa Claus
Toys for you
Merry Christmas
A lot of fun
St. Nick

Alexis Lundy



Christmas
Holiday
Reindeer come on Christmas Day
I have a lot of presents
Santa claus
Toys
Merry
Angel
Super fun



Third Grade

Acrostic by Tyrec Ray

E-nergy
L-eaping
F-alling

S-inging
A-sking questions
N-ice
T-all
A-ll around

The Adventures of Logan
By Logan Nicoson

I was in the heart of Africa. I was looking for a treasure. Suddenly a boulder came tumbling after me. I escaped! Then I scooped up my treasure and ran away.

Suddenly a guy appeared and took the treasure from me. I grabbed my whip and took it back. I had enough excitement so I went home. I am already planning my next adventure. Would you like to come?



Fourth Grade

Christmas Is...

The smell of the cookies my mom makes
The taste of snowflakes
The sight of kids playing
The sound of Christmas carols
The feel of giving

Noah Fleming



Christmas Is...

The smell of my mom's cupcakes
The taste of sugar cookies melting in your mouth
The sight of lights shining from the tree
The sound of the fireplace blazing
The feel of my family holding hands

Shamarcus Terrell

Christmas Is...

The smell of Santa's cookies
The taste of milk and cookies
The sight of Santa's reindeer
The sound of Santa's bells
The feeling of joy

KeAza Hall

Christmas Is...

The smell of apple pie
The taste of gingerbread cookies
The sight of ice
The sound of bells
The feel of my grandparents' hands

Onesha Griner

Christmas Is...

The smell of hot chocolate
The taste of marshmallows
The sight of Christmas lights
The sound of the toys wrapped
The feel of the toys

Justin Jones

Christmas Is...

The smell of pie
The taste of water
The sight of snow
The sound of wind
The feel of ice

Radarius Shropshire

Christmas Is...

The smell of my mom baking cookies
The taste of the good looking cookies
The sight of all of my presents
The sound of the smooth music
The feel of a furry white rug

Akira Mosley

Christmas Is...

The smell of cookies
The taste of milk
The sight of joy
The sound of happy
The feel of Jesus in me

Brandon Moats

Christmas Is...

The smell of milk and cookies with
The taste of oatmeal and
The look of Santa.
The sounds of reindeer stomping on the rooftop
The feel of a bag full of toys

Jemerria Reeves



Christmas Is...

The smell of my mom's perfume
The taste of chocolate
The sight of family
The sound of laughter
The feel of love

Taja Woods

Christmas Is...

The smell of peppermint
The taste of candy
The sight of shiny balls
The sound of jingle bells
The feel of warm mittens

Tariq Taylor

Christmas Is...

The smell of my mommy's supper
The taste of my daddy's chocolate chip cookies
The sight of my aunt's puppy
The sound of my sister's voice before she wrecked
The feel of my nanny's hands

Angel Reed



by Amiya Northern
1st grade



Fourth Grade

My Best Christmas Ever!

By: Tyree Ingram

Last year on Christmas I had the best Christmas ever. I enjoyed all the presents I got from everyone. I also love going to visit my family. We always share Christmas with my grandma and grandpa. When my family gets together we sing Christmas songs. My brother and sisters and I worked together to get my mother a surprise. I love that the best.



My Best Christmas Ever!

By: Jimmy Adams

My very best Christmas was in 2007. I got three remote controlled cars, a rubic cube, a bike, a trampoline, swing seat, basketball and goal, a toy pirate ship and pirates. The thing I liked the most was that I got to go to all of my grandparents' houses. To me that is the best part of Christmas, spending it with family members that you don't see every day.

My Best Christmas Ever!

By: Nickya King

My special Christmas was when I spent the night over at my Aunt Toni's and we had so much fun. We decorated the Christmas tree. When we were putting the lights on the tree my cousin Megan got tangled up in the string of lights and we had to get her out. Then we went to bed. When I woke up the next morning I went home. When I walked in the tree was up and full of presents. We opened them and everyone was so happy.

My Best Christmas Ever!

By: Keyona Lundy

This past Christmas was the best Christmas ever. I spent time with my family and friends. I was so happy to see my family members that I have not seen in the longest time. I know that love was all around. I felt loved, safe, happy, and grateful. Christmas is not about presents. It is about love and hope. That is why I love Christmas!

My Best Christmas Ever!

By: DaQuan Miller



My best Christmas was in 2007. I love it best because I got to spend it with my family and my dad. I got a lot of presents, but the best gift I got was my family and my brothers. My grandma came too. That is why it was my best Christmas.

Fifth Grade



Softball

(A Free Verse Poem)

By **Sutton Long**

STRIKE 3!
I'M OUT!

If **silence** can be

Heard,

I hear it from the bleachers.

I know I have disappointed them,

I see my teammate's faces.

I know I let them down.

I rush to the bathroom,

I think I'm going to cry.

I don't want to,

but here they come...

Tears streaming down my face

What do my teammates think of me now?

Unknown

(A Free Verse Poem)

By **Ashlin Clay**

Walking down the
Hallway

In my room I hear

Noises

Sounds coming from my

Closet

I look around, but

No one is home.

I open my closet...

NOTHING

Suddenly, breathing from behind

ME,

Frozen, Scared, I finally turn

Around.....

Life Goes On

(A Free Verse Poem)

By **Ayanna Smith**



In my family,

people get married

and move away.

We always get together,

several times a year.

This Thanksgiving wasn't as crowded
as the years before.

We all go our different ways.

It is sad but comforting to know

That no matter what,

we will always be family.

*The gatherings may be smaller,
but the family is not.*

I Need the Stories

(A Free Verse Poem)

By **Elantra Driskell**

*My mom tells stories
about him.*

*But my heart aches
to hear more.*

*I'm scared to ask for
one more story.*

*Because, my uncle,
her brother,*

He is not here anymore.

*And I don't want to make her
cry.*



Welcome to ERE, Mrs. Thorne!

Although we are sad to see Mrs. Digby leave, we are excited to greet our new media specialist. Her name is Mrs. Thorne. She has come to Eagle Ridge from Creekside. She has been a teacher for the past 18+ years, and now she will finally become a media specialist which she trained for many years ago. She has also worked at Jordye Bacon School in Hinesville, Georgia, The Learning Center, Northside, and most recently, Creekside.

Mrs. Thorne said that she decided to become a librarian because she had always enjoyed books and spent many days throughout her education volunteering to help in the library. She loves sharing books with children. Since she is a librarian we had to ask what her favorite book was. She said her favorite book is almost always the book that she is reading at the time. She reads daily, so narrowing it down would be difficult. She likes all types of genres. She also said that if she were not a librarian that she would continue to be a teacher.

On a more personal note, Mrs. Thorne is originally from Bogota, Colombia. Wow, that's a long way away! In fact, it's all the way in place South America. Her husband's name is Mark, and he is a welder. They have two children, Ryan who is 14 and Dylan who is 10. They also have 2 dogs and 2 cats. Her biggest and busiest hobby is spending time with her children. She also enjoys reading, of course. Her whole family enjoys traveling to different places and camping.

We hope you enjoyed getting to know our new media specialist. She invites anyone and everyone stop by and visit with her at the library. Join us in welcoming Mrs. Thorne to our school!

By: **Sutton Long and Mrs. Meeks**

The Camping Trip By **Audrey Harris**



“Wake up sweetie,” whispered my mom as she rubbed my back. As slow as a snail I slipped out of my soft comfy bed. I lazily slide on my comfortable jeans and crawl into my big blue shirt. I step into my comfy red crocs and all of a sudden I get a whiff of sizzling bacon and chocolate pancakes! I was as happy as a bunny with a carrot! I slithered into my white rocking chair on the patio and eat my scrumptious breakfast. Excited as a squirrel with an acorn, I grabbed my camping gear and ran out the door. I jumped into our beige Ford truck ready for a camping adventure.

My dad and I rode down to my friend's house so she could go with us. We rode for quite a while until we finally reached the campsite. When we arrived, we immediately decided to go on a hike through the woods. We saw lots of beautiful things while on our hike. We headed back for camp when we saw big gray clouds crawling in the sky. We thought they were just rain clouds but they started to swirl into a funnel shape. We were terrified. We ran all the way back to camp and my dad called the forest ranger to see what in the world was going on. He advised us to head back home because it didn't look like the weather would be clearing up anytime soon.

We didn't let this spoil our weekend. My friend and I went back home and camped out in the living room. Fun with friends can happen anywhere!



Sutton Long interviewing Mrs. Maria Thorne, ERE's new Media Specialist