

BASSWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ISD 279 – Osseo Area Schools

NOVEMBER, 2009 NEWSLETTER

Dennis Palm, Principal
15425 Bass Lake Road
Maple Grove, MN 55311
(763)494-3858
www.district279.org/elem/bw



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 **Daylight Savings Ends** – turn clocks back one hour
- 6 4th Grade Field Trip to MN History Center
- 10 4:00PM – BW PTO General Meeting
- 17 9-11:30AM – 6th Grade Field Trip to OSH to see play
2:30PM - BW/OAK Chorus Concert @ BW for students
7:00PM – BW/OAK Chorus Concert @ BW
- 20 6:30-8:30PM - Turkey Bingo & Sally Foster Fundraiser Pickup
- 26/27 **NO SCHOOL** – Thanksgiving Break

COMING UP IN DECEMBER

- 3 End of 1st Trimester
Picture Retakes and Activity Pictures taken today
- 4 **NO SCHOOL** – Report Card Marking Day
- 7 2nd Trimester begins
- 9 **Report Cards** go home with all students
- 17 2:10pm – 2nd Grade Winter Frolic Party
- 18 **Last day before Winter Break**
Box Top Collection Day
After 2pm - Winter parties in participating grade levels

December 21-January 1 **WINTER BREAK**
January 4 School **resumes** after Winter Break



NOTES FROM THE BASSWOOD OFFICE

**Message Line Number
(763)494-3858**

(Available 24 hours a day - 7 days a week)



Please use Basswood's main telephone number to report a student's absence or if they are going to be late to school (extension 1). Use the attendance line to report an illness, an appointment, if you are going on vacation or for any other reason that is making your child miss school. You can request homework at this time also, but remember that your child has to be gone **MORE than 1 day** for us to honor your request.

Thank you to the many parents who are using the attendance line.

It saves phone calls every morning and we appreciate it.

When a student is late coming to school they either need a parent to come into the building to check them in, bring a signed note from the parent explaining why they are late OR call the school office prior to the student arriving late. If this does not occur, the school office will contact the parent.

Thank you for your cooperation.

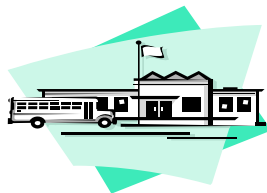


WITH COLDER WEATHER JUST AROUND THE CORNER, we would like to remind parents to please send your child dressed appropriately for the weather. The district uses the 0 degree temperature as our guideline. Students remain in the classroom for recess any time the "wind chill" factor falls below -5 degrees or the temperature is 0. All students will be expected to go outside for recess everyday, weather permitting, unless a student has a valid written medical excuse from a doctor.

PLEASE NOTE:

For the safety of our students, please remember that **ALL visitors must check in at the office** and get a visitor's pass before proceeding to other areas in the building. If you are dropping something off at school for your child, please do this through the office to minimize interruptions to the classroom. We have students that come at 10:00AM to make these deliveries.

We greatly appreciate your assistance and understanding in this matter! Thank you.



OASIS 2009-2010

Osseo Area Source of Information and Support

Information and Support Group for Parents of Children with ADHD, ADD, LD, EBD,
ODD, OCD, anxiety, autism, depression, and other learning and behavior differences

Weaver Lake Elementary School-Media Center
15900 Weaver Lake Road, Maple Grove (763) 420-3337

Tuesday 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Meet at 6:30 p.m. prior to our meeting, for a time of support and sharing with other parents.

Share your concerns, or just listen. Get the support of others who have struggled and found solutions. This part of our meeting is facilitated by Sue Sullivan, experienced teacher and parent.

11/10/09- Promoting Resiliency in Children and Teens with special needs- Our speaker will be sharing her passion for promoting health and wellness in students of all ages. She will give us ways to teach children self-care skills that can empower them to more effectively deal with a variety of mind and body challenges. **Rebecca Kajander BSN, MPH, CPNP**, a Certified Pediatric Nurse specializes in using an integrative approach to help children and adolescents deal with medical, health and emotional issues. She is the author of Living with ADHD: A Guide for Coping with Attention Deficit Disorder, and co-author with Timothy Culbert, MD of Be the Boss of your Stress, Be the Boss of Your Pain, and Be the Boss of Your Sleep

Mark your calendar for these upcoming dates in 2010.

1/12/10; 2/9/10; 3/9/10; 4/13/10; 5/11/10

****If you would like to be on the OASIS e-mail list to receive notice of upcoming programs, please contact Michele Vance at michelevance@hotmail.com**

Questions: Contact: Michele Vance (651-631-3219) michelevance@hotmail.com; or Sue Sullivan (763-494-3240) sullivans@district279.org; Michelle Spurrier spurrierm@district279.org,

CHILDCARE: contact Michele Vance 651-631-3219 (michelevance@hotmail.com) or Weaver Lake Elementary 763-420-3337 prior to the meeting. OASIS is sponsored by Weaver Lake Elem. School, ISD 279 Dept. of Special Education, The 279 Foundation, District 279 Community Education and supported by volunteer parent and professional facilitation. These programs are open to all parents, caregivers, and staff.

FROM THE KITCHEN- Pauline Nygard, Cook Manager

November 11 – School Planned Menu

Hamburger Patty on whole grain white bun
Fixings
Hot Vegetable
Carrot Sticks
Bag of Baked Chips
Fruit and Milk Choices



November 16 – Brunch for Lunch

Scrambled Eggs
Oven Crisp Potato Patty
Smucker's Waffle with Syrup
Veggie Sticks
Fruit and Milk Choices

Please feel free to call our cashier, Donna Wood, at 763-315-6417 if you need a balance update on your student's account or have any other lunch account questions. Her hours are 9:45-2:00-please leave a message with a phone number she can reach you at, and she will return your call. You may also email her at woodd@district279.org. Thanks!



Do you have an instrument at your house that is no longer being played?

Consider donating the instrument to the ISD 279 – Osseo Area Schools Music Department. We are prepared to clean it up, make any necessary repairs, and lend it to a student who wouldn't otherwise be able to participate in the program.

Flutes	Trumpets	Violins
Clarinets	Trombones	Violas
Alto Saxophones	Euphoniums	Cellos
Acoustic Guitars	Percussion Kits	Double Bases



Instrument drop off sites:

- Your student's orchestra or band teacher.
- The main office at any elementary, jr. high, or high school during school hours.
- The Educational Service Center, 11200 – 93rd Avenue North, 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
The person accepting your donation will provide a gift letter for tax purposes.

We would appreciate receiving donated instruments by December 16, 2009.

Questions? Contact Wendy Barden, Music Coordinator (763) 391-7266 or bardenw@district279.org.

News from the Volunteer Coordinator – Jane Williams Direct Line: 315-6419

Thank you to everyone who took part in our health screenings in October. The three days of hearing and vision screenings went very smoothly, thanks to our great team of volunteers. We will be conducting the rescreening session on Thursday, November 5th. Please let me know if you can help us on that day (763-315-6419).

Many volunteer hours have already been put into the Sally Foster fundraiser, and we are grateful for everyone's help. The Sally Foster orders will be available for pick-up on Friday, November 20th, which is also the date of Turkey Bingo! Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events, and don't forget to return your volunteer slips, if you are able to help with either the order pick-up, or Turkey Bingo.

It is *still not too late* to return your Volunteer Application Form (from the yellow handbook that went home the first week of school). Please let me know if you need a new copy. It is important that I receive an *updated form from each family every year*. Thank you!



**Notes from
MaryBeth Patton, RNC
Direct Line: 315-7670**



Hearing and Vision screenings: A heartfelt “thank you” to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped out with the hearing and vision screenings of 2nd through 5th grade students on October 6-8th! I truly appreciate the time and effort all of the volunteers and our Volunteer Coordinator, Jane Williams, put into running the entire process. I am extremely grateful to have such wonderful and supportive parents to help out with our students’ and staff needs!! Thank you, once again!

- *For those students who were absent during the October screenings*, we will complete their hearing and vision screenings at the November 5th re-screenings. *If your child wears glasses*, especially for distance, please make sure that he/she wears them to this screening.
- *Referral letters for vision and/or hearing* will be sent home after the re-screenings are completed on student’s who did not pass their screening(s). *If you receive a referral letter on your child, please return the letter to the health office when the referral is completed.* I will update their health file with this information.

Help your child stay healthy: With the weather getting colder, please make sure to send your child to school wearing appropriate outside clothing of coats, hats, gloves/mittens and boots. ☺

Clothing notice: If your child has been provided with a change of clothing from the health office, please wash and return the items as soon as possible. Thank you. ☺

Parents of 6th grade students: Now is a good time to make sure your child is current on *state required immunizations* needed before entering 7th grade.

- ***State requirements for 7th grade entry in 2010 are as follows:***
 - Td/Tdap (at age 11 or older),
 - MMR #2,
 - Varicella #2 or *documentation* that your child has had the chicken pox disease, and the
 - Hepatitis B series. This series of 3 shots takes 6 months to complete. If your child is still in need of this series, plan your appointments now to get this series completed on time.
- ***If your child will be having a physical exam this school year***, I have the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Sports Qualifying Physical exam form that can be taken to your child’s doctor appointment which can be filled out by his/her physician. If your child plans on participating in extracurricular sporting activities when in Jr. High, I highly recommend you take this form with you. This physical is valid for 3 years.
- ***If you have questions*** regarding your child’s immunization status and/or would like a sports physical form, please don’t hesitate to stop in to see me or call the health office at 315-7670.



November 2009 Gifted Education News



Marji Olson

olsonmarji@district279.org

Needs Based Classes (NBC) Information

Week(s) of:

- November 2-6 NBC #1, session 4
- November 9-13 NBC #2, session 1
- November 16-20 NBC #2, session 2
- November 23-25 NBC #2, session 3
- November 30-December 3 NBC #2, session 4

NBC #1: Grades 2-6 - Affective

NBC #2

- Gr. 2 Bubble Physics
- Gr. 3 Inventing
- Gr. 4 Physics: Rube Goldberg/Marble Run
- Gr. 5 Engineering: Bridges
- Gr. 6 Forensics: Crime Scene Investigation

Collaboration in the Classroom (CBS) Information

- November 2 – November 30 Ongoing GE collaboration with classroom teachers

During collaborative sessions, the GE teacher will continue to work with classroom teachers in planning for differentiated instruction.

Changes in Gifted Education Programming

Please refer to the October newsletter and our district website for detailed information regarding Gifted Education 279.

Fall conferences

Thank you to those of you who were able to make Gifted Education part of your fall conference schedule. If you have questions, concerns, and/or a need for clarification regarding GE programs, please contact me.

Information for sixth graders

Regarding junior high classes for next year's seventh graders:

- **The first trimester grades earned by sixth graders are a critical factor in determining placement in seventh grade classes.**

Young Scientist Roundtable: An enrichment opportunity for all District 279 families

Your participation in each month's Young Scientist Roundtable is funded by Gifted Education 279. Future dates are listed below; also attached is information regarding the valuable November 10 opportunity!

Mark your calendars: Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Tuesday, December 1, 2009
Tuesday, January 5, 2010
Tuesday, February 9, 2010
Tuesday, March 2, 2010
Tuesday, April 13, 2010



Gifted Education 279 on the Web

Information regarding Gifted Education is linked to the district homepage and continues to be a work-in-progress. We are encouraged that so many parents and community members continue to check this important link as a means of staying "in the loop" regarding GE. At this time, please continue to access this information through the Talented and Gifted department link on the district homepage (see below).

For more information about GE Services, please access our web site:

<http://www.district279.org/services/TalentedGifted/GeneralInformation/>

YOUNG SCIENTIST ROUNDTABLE

Wayzata Central Middle School
305 Vicksburg Lane
Plymouth MN 55447
7:00—8:00 pm
www.wayzata.k12.mn.us/ysr

Located at Vicksburg & Gleason Lake Drive. From 494 & 394, go west on 394 to the County Road 15 EAST exit. Go right at the YIELD sign. Continue to the next stop sign at Vicksburg Lane and turn left. Turn left into the parking lot. Watch for Young Scientist Roundtable signs!

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Mr. Casey Carlson

Mechanical Engineer, ReconRobotics, Inc

Title: "Mobile Robots: Where Did They Come From &
Where Are They Going?" "

Robots have come a long way since the early part of the 20th century. They have become integrated into our everyday lives. And new advances in technology have given robots the ability to do things they could never do before. What are robots doing today? What is coming next for robotics? This presentation will explore these questions and ask a few more for future roboticists to explore!

And don't forget - Teen Roundtable

8:10-8:40 pm

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to meet with the speaker after the presentation to discuss the topic in more depth.



Young Scientist Roundtable is funded in part by the General Mills Foundation, the Vernon James Pick Foundation and FilmTec Corporation.

Questions? Call Charlene Barghini at 763-745-5208
charlene.barghini@wayzata.k12.mn.us

A Wayzata Public Schools Community Education Service

Counselor's Newsletter

Katie Gerdts, Licensed School Counselor

Classroom Guidance Lessons

I began working in classrooms during the month of October, and have the chance to visit each classroom at least once. The character trait for September was Respect, so the first lesson focused on treating ourselves and others with respect.

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners read the book **Let's Be Enemies** by Janice May Udry.

The book describes two young boys, James and John, who are best friends -- or at least they used to be. They shared pretzels, umbrellas, and even chicken pox. Now James always wants to be boss, and John doesn't want to be friends anymore. But when he goes to James' house to tell him so, something unexpected happens...they become friends once again! This book emphasizes that children often make, break, and renew friendships, all in the process of self-discovery and practice. Students were able to practice being respectful by role-playing with my stuffed animals, Stella the Giraffe and Oliver the Frog.

First Grade

First graders read the book **Arthur's Eyes** by Marc Brown.

Arthur's Eyes is a tale about Arthur not only getting his first pair of glasses, but also learning to be proud to wear them. Arthur is teased by his fellow classmates and is embarrassed of having to wear glasses. He soon learns that wearing glasses improves his school performance, and this eventually leads to his acceptance by his classmates. This book shows children the value of being different as well as the importance of showing others the respect they deserve. The class engaged in a discussion on how Arthur's friends were disrespectful, and students gave examples of how his friends should have treated him.

Each class also completed an activity called "What would a good friend do?" Students role-played what a good friend would do based on a situation I read to them. One situation, for example, read "A student spills all of his/her crayons on the floor."

Second Grade

Second graders read the book **The Brand New Kid** by Katie Couric. Couric, host of the CBS Evening News, wrote this energetic book to teach children about respect and tolerance. When second grader Lazlo S. Gasky, who speaks and looks different from everyone else, arrives at Brookhaven School, the other kids are quick to both tease and alienate him. Some weeks later, when Ellie McSnelly sees Lazlo's tearful mother, the girl makes kind gestures towards him that Lazlo happily returns many times over. Ellie soon inspires others to extend a hand in friendship.

Students engaged in an activity about empathy and respect through Lazlo's story. They crumpled a paper heart each time Lazlo was disrespected, and smoothed the heart each time he was treated with kindness. Students then discussed what happens to our hearts when others say and do hurtful things.

Third Grade

Third graders read the book **Henry and the Kite Dragon** by Bruce Edward Hall.

Eight-year-old Henry lives in New York City's Chinatown, next to the Little Italy neighborhood. He and his friends love to visit the kite maker, Grandfather Chin, to help him paste and paint the kites, which Grandfather Chin flies from his roof in dramatic swoops, sometimes chasing pigeons. Then some boys from Little Italy begin to throw rocks that destroy the kites. Henry confronts the boys, and learns that they keep pet pigeons--the very birds that Grandfather Chin has chased with his kites. Together, the children work out a deal for air space: kites in the morning; pet pigeons in the afternoon.

Following the story, the class had a discussion on how each group of kids misunderstood, and in turn, disrespected one another. The students talked about alternate ways of handling the conflict, ways that would show respect and tolerance. The class defined respect and gave examples of how to show respect to others in school.

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders read the book **Chrysanthemum** by Kevin Henkes.

Chrysanthemum feels that her name is absolutely perfect. She likes how it looks and how it sounds. However, when Chrysanthemum starts school, her classmates make fun of her name. One student in particular, Victoria, makes it her goal to continually ridicule poor little Chrysanthemum day in and day out. Although her parents try and comfort her, the taunting continues. It seems that Chrysanthemum is doomed to be unhappy until she meets the music teacher, Mrs. DelphiniumTwinkle, who has an equally long and unique name.

Students connected with Chrysanthemum and had a discussion on how others were disrespectful and cruel to her. The classes reflected on their own feelings about respectful behavior by taking a respect survey. Using the book as a springboard, the class then engaged on an introductory lesson on being ASSERTIVE. The assertiveness lessons will carry through October and into November.

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders read the book **Thank You, Mr. Falker** by Patricia Polacco.

In this story, Polacco shares her childhood triumph over dyslexia and being bullied. Trisha is eager to learn to read. However, when she looks at words and numbers, everything is a jumble. Trisha endures the cruel taunts of classmates who call her "dumb," and falls behind in her studies. Finally, the encouragement and efforts of a new fifth grade teacher, Mr. Falker, trigger a monumental turning point in Trisha's life. She begins to blossom and develop all of her talents, including reading.

This book was read in two sessions. During the first session, students completed a "Respect Mixer" activity that involved getting to know their classmates. The class dug deeper into the book in the second session, and had a discussion about the disrespect and bullying that Trisha endured. The focus shifted from respect to responsibility, and students began learning how to recognize bullying.

Sixth graders read the book **Crow Boy** by Taro Yashima

In a small Japanese village, Chibi, the main character, is an outcast at school because he is different from the other children. Day after day, Chibi is faced with feelings of isolation and rejection. When Chibi reaches sixth grade, his teacher, Mr. Isobe, reaches out to him and learns about Chibi's interests and family life. When Chibi's experiences as a boy living in the mountains come out during a school talent show, the other students realize how wrong they were about him.

Crow Boy was used to discuss respect and tolerance for differences. Each time Chibi was disrespected, I ripped a piece of him (from a paper cut-out) and handed it to a student. Once the story was over, students needed to tape him back together. The message was that the words and actions of others can tear us apart. Although relationships can be repaired, we are never quite the same. Students also spent time talking about the "Golden Rule," and how the Golden Rule is represented throughout the world.

Needs Assessment

Thank you to those families who completed the Parents' Needs Assessment that was sent home a few weeks ago. The feedback I am receiving is helping me determine how to best address the needs of students at Basswood. If you have not turned in the Needs Assessment, and would like to give me your input and feedback, you may still do so. Have your child turn the completed form into his/her classroom teacher. If you would like another copy, you can call or email me.

Your input and support is greatly appreciated!

"Banana Split" Groups

Based on the input of teachers and parents, I am beginning to set up a support group called "Banana Split." The group is made up of students (from the same grade level) who are experiencing a family change, or have had a family change in the recent or distant past. The purpose of the group is to allow students a chance to connect with others that may have similar experiences, and allow kids to support and talk to one another in a private, safe setting.

"Banana Split" groups will meet once a week for about 8 weeks. The objectives for the group include:

- Expressing feelings about family change
- Identifying coping strategies
- Identifying and expressing common concerns and frustrations
- Learning and understanding positive ways to work together with the family

If you are interested in having your child join a "Banana Split" group, please contact me by Friday, November 6. I would like to begin these groups soon... Thank you!