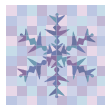


**DECEMBER**



- 10 - Final Day for Giving Tree donations
- 11 - Santa's Secret Shop, 4:30-7:30 p.m. (note time change)
- 15 - Gr. 1 field trip, 10 a.m.
- 16 - NVJH presentation to Gr. 5 & 6, 2:10 p.m.
- 17 - School Store  
D.A.R.E. graduation, 1:30 p.m.
- 18 - Kindergarten Winter Frolic Party  
Gr. 1-3 winter parties,  
1:45-2:45 p.m.
- 19 - All-School Sing-Along,  
2-2:40 p.m.
- 22-Jan 2 – No School-Winter Break

**JANUARY**



- 5 - First day back to school after winter break
- 7 - School Store
- 14 - Late Start Day, 10:50 a.m.

*(calendar continued on page two)*

*[This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please contact Dean Olson at 763-391-7191/7250 (TTY) to make your request. Examples of alternate formats may include: large print, Braille, audio cassette, etc.]*

**WWW.Wendy's Words of Welcome**

*From: Wendy Biallas, Principal*



Happy Holidays!!

Our first trimester came to an end last week and your child's first trimester progress reports go home today. Your involvement in reviewing progress reports is very important. Sharing your pleasure with positive areas and celebrating hard work is the first step. Talk about the good marks and comments – let your child know how proud you are with their hard work and efforts. Children are motivated by their personal success and pride. Your support is essential as we begin the second trimester of the year. If you have any questions, please send a note/email to your child's teacher or give him/her a call. Teachers and parents working together create a strong partnership for student learning.

Our PTO Family Event **Santa's Secret Shop** will be held **Thursday, December 11 from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.** This is a great opportunity for children to "shop" by themselves for family members and friends. Check out the PTO flyer for additional information.

Please remember we will continue to accept donations for our **Giving Tree until December 10**. We are collecting food items to be donated to C.R.O.S.S., an organization that helps families in need. The items needed include canned fruits and vegetables, cake and bread mixes, stuffing, Jell-O and pudding, gravy mixes, flour, sugar, pie filling, macaroni, stews and canned meats, cereals, meal mixes, peanut butter, jelly, soups, pasta and sauce mixes, canned tuna, evaporated milk and baby formula. These items go to local families in need of assistance this holiday season.

Our last student day before Winter Break will be Friday, December 19. We will resume school again on Monday, January 5. All of us here at Fernbrook want to wish you and your family the happiest of holidays. Have safe travels and the warmest of times! Take care and I will see you in January.



**DRESS FOR WINTER!**

Parents and students: With our cold Minnesota weather upon us it is **vitaly important** that our students are adequately clothed to be outside at recess time. Parents, please be sure your student has the appropriate jackets, snow pants, boots, mittens, scarves, and hats.



## FERNBROOK PHONE SYSTEM



The main office school number (763-420-8888) is connected to an automated answering system. Please listen carefully and proceed as directed. Your options will be as follows:

Press 1 To report a student absent from or late to school

Press 0 To reach the school office

### \*ATTENDANCE REPORTING

**STUDENT ABSENCES:** *Any students who is late to or absent from school for any reason must be called in by a parent/guardian.* It's best to call before 9:00 a.m. by the day of the occurrence.

When reporting **STUDENT ABSENT/LATE** please leave the following information:

- Your name and relationship to student
- Student's name and grade
- Teacher's name
- Reason for being absent/late

You may **DIRECT DIAL** the following:

NURSE..... 763-391-8419  
VOICEMAIL FOR STAFF ..... 763-391-7200  
FAX MACHINE ..... 763-391-8420  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR..... 763-391-8423  
KIDSTOP PROGRAM ..... 763-391-8415

### 2008-09 TESTING SCHEDULE

MCA –II Math grades 3-6 April 15 & 16

MCA-II Reading grades 3-6 April 21 & 22

MAP/ NWEA grades 2-6 April 27-May 22

MCA-II Science grade 5 May 18-22

*Please make every attempt to ensure your child is in school on these testing days.*

### HOTLINE 4 HOMEWORK...

is a FREE telephone helpline which links students and parents with teachers who provide assistance with homework problems in any subject.

**Call 612-529-9622**  
**Between 4:30-8:00 p.m.**  
**Monday-Thursday**



#### Homework tips:

- Write the assignments down as they are given by your teacher.
- Take home all books and supplies needed to do your work.
- Find a quiet place at home to work.
- Schedule fun activities (e.g. play, TV) after homework is done.
- Have your friends call you before or after your study time.
- Take pride in your work—do your homework carefully and neatly!

### NOTES FROM OUR NURSE

We have had a few cases of head lice in the school. Head lice are tiny insects (1/10-1/8 inch) that make their home in human hair. Please remind your child not to share, hats, combs, coats, scarves etc. Anyone can get head lice and it is not a sign of being dirty. The telltale sign is persistent itching of the scalp. The nits or eggs are most often found at the back of the head and neck, behind the ears. Do not confuse them with dandruff or an accumulation of hair products. Dandruff can easily be flicked off the hair. Nits are firmly attached to individual hairs. Lice do not have wings and do not fly or jump. If you do discover that your child has head lice you can talk to your physician or a pharmacist about treatments. Head lice can not live off of the human body for more than two days. They do not live on pets. Preventing the return of the head lice will include several housekeeping duties such as washing bedding in hot water and drying in a hot dryer. Recently worn clothes need to be washed in hot water as well. Clothing or bedding that can not be washed may be dry cleaned or sealed in a double bag for two weeks. Floors and furniture need to be vacuumed. Insecticides are not recommended. If you have any questions, please call.



Jo O'Neil, RN  
763-391-8419

*(calendar continued from page one)*

### JANUARY

19 - No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

21 - School Store

22 - Conferences, 4-9 p.m.

26 - Conferences, 4-9 p.m.

27 - Conferences, 4-6 p.m.



## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND

Band students at Fernbrook Elementary have been working very hard learning to play their instruments. It is very exciting to see the improvement that is made each lesson.

Students continue to meet in small group sections of like instruments for lessons. In December, we will try to combine all of the students for our first rehearsal as a full school band. Students are always excited to play as a full group. It gives them a chance to hear all of the different timbres that make up the band. Being part of a band involves group & individual effort.

In class, students are working hard to complete lesson material. Individually, students have been displaying their performance skill by playing predetermined "testing" lines in their lesson book. There are 25 such songs throughout the book. Students can earn up to 3 points per line by playing the correct notes, the correct rhythm/ tapping foot, and the correct articulations (tonguing and slurring). Special awards will be given for students earning enough points by the end of the school year.

Practice time outside of school is also very important. Students are asked to practice at least 20 minutes, 4-5 times a week. This is quite a commitment on the part of the student.

As you can see, the band is working very hard to learn how to play their instruments. They are exploring and developing one of the 7 intelligences-MUSIC. Studies have shown that the learning of an instrument is directly related to success in other academic areas. Music makes you smarter! So, keep it up, band members!

Mr. Kevin Rassier, *Band Director*  
EC, FB, RL, RC  
Voice mail: 763-391-7200 ext. 27503  
e-mail: [RassierK@District279.org](mailto:RassierK@District279.org)



## PTO NOTES FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

We have had such a great fall here at Fernbrook! The school has been busy with all the fundraisers and volunteering opportunities. There has been something for everyone to participate in one way or another. We have had three fundraisers and one large family event already this trimester. Our Gold C event made over \$3,500, and Club's Choice made \$12,104. Our first annual Flyer Fun Run cleared \$11,415 (those matching corporate gifts really help!) and Turkey Bingo family night profited almost \$2,500. Our family events are not meant to be fundraisers but it is always nice to make some money while having fun too!

We hope to see you at the **Barnes and Noble Book Fair, Tuesday, December 2**. A portion of all your purchases that day go to Fernbrook. It's a great time to make a dent in your holiday shopping.

Don't forget about "**Santa's Secret Shop**" which is scheduled for **Thursday, December 11** from **4:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

We hope everyone is enjoying their year at Fernbrook and we wish you all a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. If you have questions or comments about anything PTO-related, please contact either of us.

Regards,

Laura Winge and Steffany Fleming, PTO Co- Presidents  
[laurawinge@comcast.net](mailto:laurawinge@comcast.net)  
[flemingts@comcast.net](mailto:flemingts@comcast.net)

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## ORCHESTRA NEWS

Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are gearing up for their demonstration concert. The concert is the evening of Wednesday, January 28, Please plan to arrive at Osseo Jr. High School with your child between 5:55 and 6:05 p.m. for tuning and set up. The concert will begin at 6:30 pm.

**To this concert students must bring:**

- 1. A music stand**
- 2. Lesson book and scale page**
- 3. Their instrument**
- 4. Rock stop (cellos and basses)**

Students are playing on two strings now (bassists are on 3 strings) and have started to learn to hold and use the bow. You should be hearing familiar melodies this month, and students should be able to do family performances. Playing for visiting family and friends is a great way for students to shine!

Sinfonia (6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra)

We had a marvelous performance together on December 2, and now can relax a bit as we expand our technical skills and add more music to our knowledge base. The holiday season is a great one for students to get out and play for other people, with many churches having special services for children and family visiting. Encourage your student to play some of their pieces for you this month and enjoy their achievements!

With the holiday season upon us, this is a good time to think of gifts that make playing instruments easier and more fun. Here is a list of some items that you might want to check out at a local music store:

Colored music stands  
Chromatic tuners  
Metronomes  
Rosin  
Colorful rock stops (bass/cello)  
Shoulder rests (Kun or Viva are good choices)  
Music – Some suggestions would be:  
    Christmas Kaleidoscope  
    Basic Fiddlers Philharmonic



Ms. Elizabeth Pim, Orchestra Director  
Voice mail: 763-391-7200 ext. 27502  
e-mail: [PimE@District279.org](mailto:PimE@District279.org)

# TAG EXCEL News

Mr. Odell

[www.district279.org/services/TalentedGifted/](http://www.district279.org/services/TalentedGifted/)

## Year of Transition:

As the Talented and Gifted Strategic Planning Committee completes their work from the program implementation scheduled for 2009-2010 school year, programmatic plans will be shared. The new department mission statement communicates alignment with the District 279 mission and gifted education research:

The mission of the Osseo Area Schools' Talented and Gifted services is to recognize and appropriately serve the academic, social and emotional needs of its gifted/talented students so that they may grow and learn, achieve their dreams, contribute to community and engage in a lifetime of learning. Gifted/talented students, found in all the diverse cultures of our community, are those children and youth who demonstrate high performance or show the potential for high performance relative to others of their age, experience or environment.

## ExCEL Program – In General

ExCEL is a pull-out program offered by District 279 TAG (Talented and Gifted) department, funded at the discretion of the school board, for students in need of curriculum differentiation who have been identified for placement in seminars either through formal identification or nomination by classroom teachers. The ExCEL instructor meets with small groups of students (12 or less) weekly, for approximately 1.25 to 1.5 hours to develop cognitive, 'how to learn', research, written, oral, visual communication, and product creation skills through a variety of challenging activities. These are typically enrichment activities, not acceleration. Since the students are working on challenging activities while in the ExCEL room, teachers are asked to eliminate, reduce or modify the classroom assignment. For example; the last half of the math assignment or every other problem on a worksheet, etc.

## ExCEL/CML Calendar

Dec 1-5 ..... CML Session 4 – Meet 2 (4, 5, 6)  
Dec 8-12 ..... ExCEL Affective session 6 (B/A)  
Dec 15-19 ..... Cluster Training/make ups

## SEMINAR 1 (Oct-Dec)

### ExCEL Seminar #1: Grades 2-6- Affective

The fall Affective seminar has been redesigned to be a six week seminar for core and talent pool students. Seminar registration to provide student choice in the remaining seminars will take place later this fall. This is a change in the timeline.

## TESTING (HP – Grade 6 and ExCEL Grades 1-5)

### ExCEL testing: Grades 1-5

Testing for placement in the ExCEL program will take place in January with nominations taking place later this fall. Letters will be sent out to parents of all 1<sup>st</sup> grade students in November. Parents of children in Grades 2-5 should contact the classroom teacher if you wish to have their child evaluated for the ExCEL program or contact me

## High Performance Testing: Grade 6

Each year, High Performance classes are offered at our junior high schools in the subject areas of English, math, science and social studies. In late November, application packets will be sent to the home of all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. During January, 2008, the assessment portion of the High Performance (HP) application process will be administered during the school day at the students' home elementary school. The **first trimester grades** earned by sixth grade students are a **critical factor** in determining placement in the HP classes

## CONTINENTAL MATH LEAGUE



CML is a challenging academic problem solving competition for math students in grades 2-6. There are 3 meets (January, February, March) for grades 2, 3 and 5 meets (November, December, January, February, March) for grades 4, 5, and 6. This year, in addition to classroom instruction and testing, Mr. Odell is teaching a CML class for identified top students (12-15) in grades 2-6. Each meet contains 6 extremely rigorous math challenges. Selection took place in September and classes begin in October. Answers to each homework assignment can be accessed through the FB website on the ExCEL classroom link. Please contact Mr. Odell with questions.

Congratulations to the following students for earning a 5 or 6 on the first CML meet.

### 5 out of 6

Collin Abeln, Lexi Anundson, Taylor Colliton, Daniel Cortez, Emily Dehn, Ethan Henricks, Haley Hoekstra, Sophie Samson, Ben Shoults, Ryan Stieg, Austin Blesi, Lauren Bright, Nick Collins, Sarah Ericson, grace Kelly, Ryan Knight, Nolan Miller, Luke Smith, Sara Spanjers, Jesse Taavola, Chris wagner, Madelyn Wuestewald, and Alex Yahn.

### 6 out of 6

Gavin Coey, Evan Ditter, Reed Trende, Luke Zibley, Kyle Anderson, Brandon Baumer, Mitch Berg, Sam Caswell, Nick Forsythe, Baillie Frizell, Trevor Giff, Sydney Kara, Sam Kjome, Eric Kopen, Hubert Lin, McKenna Peplinski

## POW (Puzzle of the Week)

Each week, a puzzle is emailed to interested problem-solvers.



Sometimes they are math related, sometimes language arts activities, sometimes they are visual spatial activities. They are generally aimed at students in grades 4, 5 and 6 but can be a fun family activity. There is no grade or credit for these puzzles as they are 'just for fun', but if it is turned in to me, the student will receive a 'hardy handshake' of congratulations. If you wish to receive POW each week via computer please send me an email and I will add you to the distribution list. You will need Acrobat Reader (a free internet download) to access this material. **Join us in the fun of problem solving.**

Please contact Mr. Odell with any questions or concerns.

763/420-8888 or [odellm@district279.org](mailto:odellm@district279.org)

**THINKING IS THE  
GOAL OF EDUCATION!**



## **FERNBROOK FAMILIES** **HELPING FAMILIES**

Fernbrook Families Helping Families is a group which raises funds to support families in need, both financially and non-financially. We have a Caring Committee which consists of a small group of Fernbrook staff members. The funds for this support are provided by a Staff Variety Show every other year and donations made solely for this purpose. Some of the ways in which Fernbrook families have been supported include: plants, balloon bouquets, cards, gift cards, clothing, hospital parking and funds for other family incidentals.

Requests and needs are handled in a confidential manner. Requests may come directly to the committee or they may be referred by staff members. The Fernbrook Caring Committee encourages our Fernbrook community to let them know if they can be of help during a difficult time.

Because we care.....

*If you have any concerns regarding your family or another family in need, please call Miss Swanson or Mrs. Fouquette at Fernbrook (763-420-8888).*

### **DECEMBER 17 LUNCH MENU**

#### **"Kitchen Manager's Choice"**

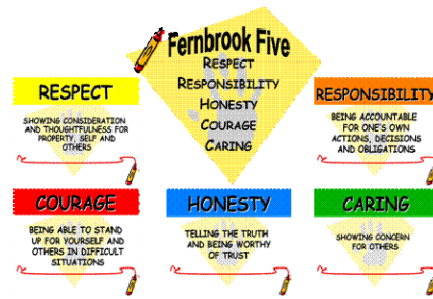
- Chicken Fajitas
- Rice
- Steamed vegetables
- Ice cream treat
- Milk Choices



### **SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

*Meetings are held at the ESC Board room  
located at 11200 – 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue N  
Maple Grove MN 55369*

- |         |   |           |
|---------|---|-----------|
| Dec. 16 | Work Session<br>(at ESC Forum room)                   | 6:00 p.m. |
|         | Regular meeting                                       | 8:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 6  | Listening Session<br>(at ESC Forum room)              | 7:00 p.m. |
|         | Organizational meeting followed by<br>regular meeting | 8:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 3  | Listening Session<br>(at ESC Forum room)              | 7:00 p.m. |
|         | Organizational meeting followed by<br>regular meeting | 8:00 p.m. |



## **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S CORNER**

*If you want to touch the past  
Touch a rock.*

*If you want to touch the present  
Touch a rose.*

*If you want to touch the future  
Touch a life.*

*--author unknown*

Volunteers, thank you for touching the lives of our students and staff at Fernbrook Elementary. Thanks for all you do!

**Carol Joelson, Volunteer Coordinator**  
**763-391-8423**

**Monday-Thursday, 9:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM ALL OF US  
AT FERNBROOK ELEMENTARY  
TO ALL OUR FAMILIES!!!**

