

NOVEMBER



- 5 - Club Choice pick-up, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- 6 - Picture retake day
Phy Ed Fitness Testing
- 7 - Fernbrook apparel orders due
Phy Ed Fitness Testing
- 11 - Veteran's Program, 10 a.m.
(gym)
- 12 - Late Start, 10:50 a.m.
- 14 - Turkey Bingo, 6-9 p.m.
- 19 - School Store
- 20 - PTO meeting, 6:30-8 p.m.
- 26 - No school for students
(mark reporting day)
- 27/28 - No School-
Happy Thanksgiving!

DECEMBER



- 1 - Tri II starts
- 2 - Barnes & Noble Book Fair, all day @ Barnes & Noble
- 3 - School Store
- 11 - Santa's Secret Shop, 3:30-6 p.m.
- 15 - Gr. 1 field trip, 10 a.m.
- 17 - School Store
D.A.R.E. graduation, 1:30 p.m.
- 18 - Kindergarten Winter Frolic Party
- 22-Jan 2 - No School-Winter Break

[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 November!

October was a very busy month at Fernbrook. First of all, I want to thank all of our parents for attending Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 20, 21 and 23! I was able to talk with many of you about your child's conference and the goals that were set for your child. I believe the partnership that is created when parents and the school work together is vital for the success of our students. Our winter conferences are set for January 26, 27 and 29. Mark your calendars now but if you have questions, concerns or comments, please do not wait until January to talk with your child's teacher. Our staff is always willing to meet with you and discuss your child's progress!

For the past month, we have talked about bullying on Fernbrook TV (FBTV) and ways we can stop any form of bullying at Fernbrook. We sometimes hear, "kids will be kids", and "teasing is part of growing up and it makes you stronger". That is NOT how we feel here at Fernbrook. Bullying hurts everyone. Our goal is to create a bully free school for all of our students. On October 15th all teachers discussed bullying with their students and ways that all of us can join together to prevent bullying at our school. Every student signed an anti-bullying pledge in their classroom. The pledge is printed on page four. Discussing the pledge with your child, gives us another opportunity to work together to create a welcoming, respectful, bully free school. Every child deserves a safe and respectful school and together, with the help of everyone, we can achieve our goal!

Fernbrook students and staff worked on two service projects in October. Through the Adopt-A-Park initiative with Maple Grove Parks & Recreation, Fernbrook has adopted the grassy areas around our school and the football field. Twice a year, our students and staff clean up these areas to help beautify our surroundings. We cleaned during the nice weather early in October.

On October 24 Fernbrook students decorated grocery bags for **Make A Difference Day** (October 25). The grocery bags will be used by Open Arms, an organization that provides meals to cancer patients throughout the Twin Cities. We decorated around 950 bags which will only last about two weeks! We hope to work with Open Arms in the future to provide help through their volunteer and other service projects.

PTO is sponsoring Turkey Bingo on Friday, November 14. It is a fun event to meet new families and enjoy some family time. I hope to see you there!

Please remember that my door is always open! Do not hesitate to call me or catch me in the hallway to chat. Have a wonderful month and a Happy Thanksgiving!

(continued on page three)

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

September 15 - November 21 MAP/NWEA new Students
grades 3-6.

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!
-

FERNBROOK RECEIVES DISTRICT 279 FOUNDATION GRANT!

Last spring Fernbrook was awarded \$1500 from the District 279 Foundation for a set of Turning Point Response Clickers. The Turning Point Response System is a tool that enables teachers to provide interactive learning with their students while having the chance to assess the learning at the same time. Teachers create interactive power points for any subject and then students use the Turning Point clickers to type in their answers in a multiple choice format (similar to a TV remote). Once all answers are inputted, students and the teacher will be able to see what percent of the class chose each answer. Next, the correct answer pops up on the screen so students receive immediate feedback. This allows teachers to monitor and adjust instruction, therefore increasing student learning. It works really well for a review before a test, promotes meaningful class discussions and is an excellent way for teachers to formatively assess their student's learning at any given point in time. It is a great way to get every student engaged in the learning process and contributes to our district's strategic plan. Many of our teachers have already used this new technology with students and they love it!

NOTES FROM OUR NURSE

Attention sixth grade parents: it may seem early to be thinking about Jr. High but your children will need immunizations to enter 7th grade. A Td (tetanus diphtheria) and a 2nd Varicella (Chicken Pox) or verification that the child has had the disease will be required. Any time your child is at the physician this school year and gets any immunizations please let me know so that their records can be updated.

The State of Minnesota and District 279 now require that grades 1, 3, 5 be screened for vision and hearing. However, if you have any questions about your child's vision or hearing I can check them throughout the year.

Jo O'Neil, RN, (763)391-8419

PHY ED NEWS

a.m. Kindergarten – Ms. Cook

During October my kindergarten classes have been participating in a variety of fun warm-up exercises and games. In the beginning of the month we spent a few days on dribbling and trapping a soccer ball while moving safely around the gym.



My students did a great job controlling the soccer ball with their feet... Not their hands ☺ My kindergarteners have also been working hard on learning how to perform their locomotor skills of skipping, galloping, leaping, jumping, and hopping. Great Job!!!! Last week they were introduced to overhand throwing. We played a fun game called "Rainstorm" using their overhand throwing technique.

Looking Ahead: Tumbling and Scooter Exploration

Full-day and p.m. Kindergarten - Mrs. Haecherl

The Kindergarteners have been very busy in P.E. doing a variety of activities. They have been practicing various locomotor movements, ie. galloping, skipping, hopping, jogging etc. to music and are looking good! They have had a unit where they did cooperative games such as "Share the Hoop" and "Partner Do". They have also had a unit on ball exploration where they worked on throwing a ball up and catching it, moving the ball around their stomach, figure eight between their legs, etc. They really liked the challenges of that unit! We did a few days of playing with scoops and balls. This can be a very challenging unit to get that ball to come out of that scoop and get it up in the air and back to themselves or to their partner! The last couple of days they have been working on various skills of stick handling using a stick with a foam head on it moving the ball around the gym in control and passing it against the wall. The name of this stick is called a pillow polo stick. Ask your child about it! They have really been having a good time! We also spent a day trying to juggle scarves. A lot of them really got the hang of it! We'll be doing that again next month. On October 28th, the Kindergarteners got to have a very exciting time doing activities in our Haunted Gym. The activities were very kid-friendly and they just loved them! November brings parachute and paddle activities and more fitness activities.

....TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE



1st grade and 2nd grade – Ms. Cook

It's been a busy year already! I introduced "what does it mean to be a good teammate?" this month. We discussed the characteristics of a "good teammate" and came up with team pacts that each color team had to agree to sign. I have displayed these team pacts in the gym for all students to see! We also finished up our soccer unit this month where students were introduced to skills such as dribbling, trapping, passing, and goalkeeping. They practiced individual skills, worked with partners, and played a few fun lead-up team games. Last week we started discussing the importance of keeping our hearts healthy. My students have been practicing finding their PULSE after participating in warm-up activities/exercises. They have also been working on figuring out their Heart Rate and the changes their heart makes based on the level of activity they are participating in. I am so impressed with how well they have been doing calculating their HR on their own!!!! Way to go! We will be finishing our Heart Rate Stations this week ☺

Looking Ahead: Fitness Testing, Tumbling/Apparatus

3rd grade & 4th grade – Mrs. Huber

Welcome back! This year we got off to a great start! Both the 3rd and 4th grades spent the first couple of weeks getting to know the other students in their classrooms by playing a variety of cooperative games and activities in the gym. We then moved outside where the 3rd graders spent some time working on soccer skills such as dribbling, passing and goal tending. We finished the unit with a few games of sideline soccer. It was fun to see them transfer the skills they had just learned into an actual game situation! They did great!

The 4th graders worked on a unit in football, learning such skills as passing, receiving, defending, and passing plays. They finished the unit by playing games of "500" and "4-pass"! Both 3rd & 4th graders are now involved in a unit on team building where they are learning about how to be good team member. We have made team pacts and are discussing how important it is to be respectful, helpful and encouraging towards others! **Looking ahead:** Fitness testing – November 6 & 7

4th grade- Mrs. Haecherl

The 4th graders started off with a few days of activities of getting to know each other and then moved onto a football unit. They worked on their passing, receiving and centering skills. They learned some basics about football and hopefully they got a chance to see a football game or two and could understand some of what was going on in the game and how the game is scored, etc. They had a written test at the end of the unit and they all did a pretty good job. They started working on a fitness unit next and were tested on their physical endurance with the Mile Run and the PACER test. They will run those again in the spring to see if they can improve or maintain their score. They started a unit on floor hockey after that and worked on various skills with sideline hockey games to follow where they got to put the skills they learned into action. They always love the games part of the unit!

On Tuesday, October 28 the 4th graders got to take part in activities in our Haunted Gym. This is a kid-friendly activity and the kids just love it! Ask them about it! November brings their basketball unit and fitness testing on Nov. 7th. Thanks you to all of you who volunteered to help us with the testing! A look ahead: next unit will be basketball where they will get a chance to practice a variety of basketball skills and take part in sideline basketball games with a day of "Turkey Tag" thrown in the day before Thanksgiving break!

5th grade – Mrs. Huber

WELCOME BACK! The 5th graders also had a great start to the new school year! After spending the first few weeks of school reviewing physical education expectations and participating in a variety of cooperative games and activities, we moved outside to begin a unit on soccer. This is always a favorite and after learning/reviewing a few of the basic skills such as dribbling, passing and goal tending, the students spent a few days playing small group (5 on 5) games of soccer. Again, it was fun to see how well they transferred the skills they had learned into an actual game situation!

(Phy Ed continued on the next page)

PHY ED (continued)

Once the weather turned cooler, we headed back inside to work on some fitness activities such as the pacer and we also spent some time developing team pacts and discussing how important it is to be respectful, helpful and encouraging towards others! We are just now starting a unit on LaCrosse, which is a sport that is rapidly becoming a favorite here in the Midwest. We invited one of our district LaCrosse coaches to come for a day to give the students some background and skill instruction. Don't be surprised if your son or daughter asks about joining LaCrosse next spring!

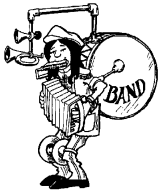
Looking ahead: Fitness testing – November 7 (Volunteers needed!)

6th grade – Mrs. Huber, Ms. Cook, Mrs. Heggstad, Mrs. Haecherl

Welcome back! After spending the first few weeks of school reviewing physical education expectations and participating in a variety of cooperative games and activities, we moved outside to begin a unit on football. The students worked on skills such as punting, passing & receiving, and passing plays. Students learned about the different football positions and finished the unit with modified, small group games of touch football. Once the weather turned cooler, we moved inside to do our pacer run and are now starting a new unit on floor tennis and fitness stations.

Looking ahead: Fitness testing on November 6; Rhythms; basketball

BAND



On September 29, 55 students in the sixth grade undertook the challenge of learning how to play a band instrument here at Fernbrook Elementary. Learning something new is always an exciting time for all students. Band is open to all interested sixth grade students. Once every week, the students meet for a band

lesson with others who play the same instrument as they do. In a short amount of time, this year's band students have already learned some of the basics. They have learned how to put their instrument together, how to care for it, how to hold it and how to produce a sound on it. They have learned the first five notes and most of them can already play a few simple folk songs.

In learning to play a band instrument the students are learning how to read an entirely new language. They are interpreting notes on a staff to determine note values, fingerings, and pitches all at the same time. Participation in band can enhance their skills in areas such as: problem solving, goal setting, concentration, coordination, memory, and self expression as well as develop a better sense of teamwork, poise, self confidence & esteem. That's a lot of benefits from a fun activity!

Band requires an extra effort on the part of its members, but the payoff can be great. Good Luck to the members of the Fernbrook Band!

Mr. Kevin Rassier, Band Director
voice mail: 763-391-7200 #27503
e-mail: rassierk@district279.org

Orchestra News



Sinfonia begins rehearsing this month for our upcoming Pizza Concert on December 2 at Osseo Junior High. Please make sure the dates and times of the rehearsals are marked on your family calendars and you have some carpooling efforts to the rehearsals at Elm Creek Elementary. There is very

little time between the end of the school day and the beginning of the rehearsal, so **carpooling is very important** to get worked out!!

To prepare for the performance, we will have 4 **all-district rehearsals, 4:30-5:45 p.m.** **NOTE: The rehearsals are not all at the same location.**

Monday, November 17	Elm Creek Elementary
Monday, November 24	Elm Creek Elementary
Monday, December 1	Elm Creek Elementary
Tuesday, December 2*	Osseo Junior High

**PIZZA FOR THE STUDENTS, AND THEN THE CONCERT FOLLOW THE DECEMBER 2 REHEARSAL*

5th grade orchestra students are moving right along. We started exercising the bow hand by rolling pencils in the fingers to prepare for holding the bow earlier in October, and now are ready to be playing both arco and pizzicato (with the bow and plucking the string). Soon you should hear some pieces of music that you recognize being practiced and ready to perform for family and friends on the Thanksgiving break!

Remember to mark your calendars for **January 28**, the first **district 5th grade concert** at **Osseo Junior High School**. You will be amazed at the sounds you hear! Please be sure to have a music stand for your child before that time, and label it and the instrument case with the child's name and school.

Elizabeth Pim
Orchestra Director
e-mail: Pime@district279.org

(Wendy's Words continued from page one)

FERNBROOK'S ANTI-BULLYING PLEDGE

We, the students of Fernbrook Elementary School agree to join together to stop bullying.

BY SIGNING THIS PLEDGE I AGREE TO:

Fernbrook Five RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY HONESTY COURAGE CARING	<input type="checkbox"/> Treat others respectfully. <input type="checkbox"/> Try to include those who are left out. <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to bully others. <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to watch, laugh or join in when someone is being bullied. <input type="checkbox"/> Tell an adult if you or someone else is being bullied. <input type="checkbox"/> Help those who are being bullied.
--	--

Date _____ Signed by: _____

MUSIC NOTES from

Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Nielsen
(Mrs. Williams is the music teacher for
grades 3, 4, 5, and 6.)
(Mrs. Nielsen is the music teacher for
grades K, 1, 2, and 6.)



During the month of October, students have been reviewing a core of patriotic songs in preparation for our Veteran's Day celebration on Tuesday, November 11.

Kindergarten: Students in Kindergarten have continued to work on steady beat. We have done physical movement to beat and recently met "Bernard, the Steady Beat Bear" through the song, *The Bear Went Over the Mountain*. We have added non-pitched instruments (woodblocks, triangles, drums, step bells) to *Hickory Dickory Dock* to rehearse performance of beat. Our Halloween songs will involve the exploration of "High and Low" and the dynamic contrasts, Forte (loud) and Piano (soft). Ask your child to sing you *Falling Leaves, Stirring The Stew* or the *Old Black Cat!*

First Grade: Students in first grade have been working on "singing in tune" – producing unison vocal pitches with their voices. We have practiced our steady beats and melodic direction on the Orff instruments, xylophones and metallophones, with the songs *Eency Weency Spider* and *Hot Dog*. Ask us about an "octave"! We have practiced reading quarter notes, quarter rests and recently learned about eighth notes. Some of our favorite songs are *Acha Backa Soda Cracker, My Pumpkin, False Face, Five Little Pumpkins*. We have also learned songs for the Veteran's Day program, *You're a Grand Old Flag* and *America (My Country Tis of Thee)*.

Second Grade: Second graders continue to read and write rhythms and music terms (treble clef, staff, quarter note, quarter rest and two-eighth notes and single eighth note). We were recently introduced to a half note through the song, *Here Comes A Bluebird*. We have reviewed solfege patterns containing sol, mi, and la with our singing voices, hand signs and by playing Orff instruments. Our Halloween songs have given us the opportunity to study dynamics: piano, forte, crescendo and decrescendo. Our favorite songs are *Going Over the Sea, One Dark Night, False Face*. Ask us to sing to you about the continents and oceans of the world!

Third Grade: Third graders have been working hard reviewing the basic elements of melody and rhythm. Students have learned to read and sign the full pentatonic scale (do, re, mi, sol, la, and high do). Third graders enjoy the challenge of daily reading 4-note melodic flashcards. We have also been reviewing quarter note, two eighth notes, half notes, and whole notes. During the month of October, we performed simple analysis of the song literature – extracting familiar melodic and rhythmic patterns. We especially enjoyed singing Halloween songs. Favorite songs were, *"Better Watch Out it's Halloween Night,"* and *"Stirring the Brew."*

Fourth Grade: Fourth grade has begun playing their recorders! It is a very exciting time. Many people perceive the recorder as a toy, but a recorder is a real musical instrument that is capable of making beautiful music. Your fourth grader will learn to make lovely music!

Thus far, students have learned how to hold the recorder, how to place *warm air* into the mouth piece, and are working

on basic tonguing skills. Every student was given a *school recorder* to use at Fernbrook. My hope is that every child will be able to have a second instrument at home. Recorders may be ordered from me. The cost is \$4.75. There was a note that went home in the Wednesday Envelopes about recorder purchasing. If you need another copy, feel free to e-mail me at williamsann@district279.org. I will be more than happy to send you another order form.

Mrs. Williams' Fifth and Sixth Grades: Fifth and sixth grade students have working on vocal development as well as rhythm reading. We have been singing the warm-up, "Sing Legato," and "The Counting Song." Students have been taught how to conduct patterns in 4/4, 2/4, and 3/4 – all in an effort to teach the concepts of "sounds per beat" and "measure." They have also been working on understanding the concept of syncopation. They have learned the round, "Rhythm and Syncopation," as well as the "Syncopation Rap." In the midst of all of this hard work, we haven't forgotten to have fun. We've enjoyed performing patriotic songs, and Halloween tunes.

Mrs. Nielsen's Sixth Grade: Sixth grade students have continued to work on the solfege scale and singing/playing in harmony. We are preparing for our assessment in early November of the major scale (do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do) with in-tune singing voices and hand-signs. Our reading of absolute pitches and meter in 4/4 has continued with a song called *Oh Be Jubilant*. We learned to sing the 2-part song and play a 3-part harmony accompaniment with the Orff instruments. We have reviewed song literature for the Veteran's Day program and are focusing on dynamics and minor modes with our Halloween song material. Singers have done an excellent job singing *The Horseman* and *Ghost of John* in 3 and 4 part rounds.

Important Vocal Music Dates:

(Please check monthly for changes)

- Nov. 11: Veterans Day Celebration
- Dec. 19: Holiday Sing-a-long, 2:30 p.m.
- Mar. 11: 5th Grade Music Program, 2:30 p.m. (student body and guests)
- Mar. 12: 5th Grade Music Program, 10:00 a.m. (guests only)
- April: 6th Grade Composition Recital, time and date TBA
- April 22: 2nd Grade Program, time TBA
- April 23: 2nd Grade Program, time TBA
- May 19: 4th Grade Recorder Concert, 2:30 p.m. (student body and guests)
- May 20: 4th Grade Recorder Concert, 10:00 a.m. (guests only)



Notable Reading:

"Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens. If children hear fine music from the day of their birth and learn to play it, they develop sensitive, discipline and endurance. They get a beautiful heart."

-Shinichi Suzuki



ExCEL News

Mr. Odell

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/CML Calendar

Nov 3-7CML session 3 – Meet 1 (4, 5, 6)
Nov 10-14ExCEL Affective session 4 (B/A)
Nov 17-21ExCEL Affective session 5 (A/B)
Nov 24-25Cluster Training/ make ups
Dec 1-5CML Session 4 – Meet 2 (4, 5, 6)
Dec 8-12ExCEL Affective session 6 (B/A)
Dec 15-19Cluster 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)

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 6th 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.

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 1st 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

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.

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.

The ExCEL teacher will also coordinate the following activities:

- ❖ **CML (Continental Math League)** - grades 2-6. **Selected math students** are given instruction in **problem solving techniques** by the classroom teacher or the ExCEL instructor and they then take part in a **national competition**.
- ❖ **Testing Services** - The ExCEL instructor coordinates the following **testing/observation activities** to facilitate the **identification** of students for service:
 - o **SOI** - Structure of the Intellect testing for grades 1-5 in the winter.
 - o **HP** - Grade 6 High Performance testing in the winter for possible inclusion in the junior high HP classes (English, math, science and social studies).
- ❖ **Consultation Services** - The ExCEL teacher can help provide materials and teaching strategies to parents and classroom teachers thus helping to meet the needs of talented learners.

POW (Puzzle of the Week)



Each week, a puzzle is e-mailed 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

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.

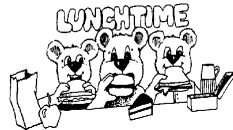
Because we care.....

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).

NOVEMBER 10 LUNCH MENU

"Brunch for Lunch"

- French Toast
- Turkey Sausage
- Mini Cinnamon Rolls
- Oven Baked Potatoes
- Fresh Veggie Sticks
- Assorted Fruit Choices
- Milk Choices



Listed below are the extra items that are offered at times in the Fernbrook kitchen. **Students must purchase a full meal and have money available in their account before buying ala carte items.** If you wish to limit the ala carte items your child purchases, please talk with your child first and if needed let our cashier, Julie Fandel know.

Oven Crisp Fries	\$.75
Dinner Roll	\$.35
Muffin	\$.45
Orange Juice	\$.40
Juice Box	\$.50
Cookie	\$.40
Sweet Roll/Donut	\$.80
Jell-O	\$.30
Fun Fruits	\$.35
Chips	\$.55
Bottled Water	\$.55
Extra Main Lunch	\$1.25
Dessert	\$.65

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Thank you to all volunteers that signed up for fall fitness testing WOW! We needed 60 volunteers and we had an AMAZING 75 volunteers sign up to help. For those of you that didn't get the opportunity to help this fall we hope that you'll consider signing up for the spring fitness testing.

ARE YOU VOLUNTEERING? DID YOU FILL OUT A VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM? Please complete the volunteer interest form. Each year, these forms are replaced; the old forms are archived. You must complete a form if you plan to volunteer in any capacity at Fernbrook. You can pick up a form in the volunteer room. Please, please send in your form so we can keep accurate records and reach you in a timely manner if needed!

SIGN IN LEGIBLY and TALLY YOUR HOURS. We enter volunteer hours into a spreadsheet from the office sign-in sheet. Please sign in COMPLETELY as indicated on the sign-in form, recording your IN SCHOOL and AT HOME hours. It's never too late to record your hours. Please help us keep accurate records of our volunteers.

VOLUNTEERING... It's like a job! We appreciate all the help that our volunteers give each year, yet it is important that volunteers take this commitment seriously by showing up and being on time for their assignments. Just as volunteers set aside their time, teachers also make accommodations to bring a volunteer into the classroom. If a volunteer doesn't show up, the work intended for him/her has to be reassigned or absorbed by the teacher. In addition, students may not receive the special attention that they need. If a volunteer is late, some adjustments have to be made to complete the assignment successfully. It's important for volunteers to understand what goes on "behind the scenes," because if a teacher has had a negative experience with volunteers, it can affect his/her utilization of the program. Without the commitment of our volunteers, we all suffer and so does the program. We really count on and cherish our volunteers! **So, please let us know if you're not able to make it in or if you're going to be late for an assignment. The number to call Monday-Thursday is 763-391-8423, on Friday call the school office at 763-420-8888 press "0".** Thanks for your commitment to volunteering and keeping this program alive!

We can't do what we do without YOU!



"Volunteers Shape our World"

Carol Joelson, Volunteer Coordinator
763-391-8423
Monday-Thursday, 9:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m

