

October 1, 2008

Fernbrook Elementary School  
9661 Fernbrook Ln. N.  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
[www.district279.org/elem/fb/](http://www.district279.org/elem/fb/)  
Tele: 763-420-8888  
Fax: 763-391-8420

**OCTOBER**



- 6 - Picture Day
- 8 - Flyer Fun Run (rain date 10-9)
- 10 - No school for students  
Licensed staff workshop
- 16/17 – No school for students
- 20 - Conferences, 4-9 p.m.  
Book Fair, 4-9 p.m.
- 21 - Conference 4-6 p.m.  
Book Fair, 4-6 p.m.
- 23 - Conferences, 4-9 p.m.  
Book Fair, 4-9 p.m.
- 29 - Half-day kdgn Fall Festival  
Celebration
- 30 - No half-day kindergarten
- 31 - No half-day kindergarten  
Gr. 1-3, all-day kdgn Fall  
Festival

**NOVEMBER**



- 6 - Picture retake day  
Phy Ed Fitness Testing
- 7 - Phy Ed Fitness Testing
- 12 - Late Start, 10:50 a.m.
- 14 - Turkey Bingo, 6-9 p.m.
- 26 - No school for students (mark  
reporting day)
- 27/28 – No School-Happy  
Thanksgiving!

*[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*



The 2008-09 school year is off to a great start! We have had four successful weeks of learning and our staff and students are back on track like we never had a summer break!

We conducted "drill week" last week where we had a drill everyday from September 16th – September 19<sup>th</sup>. We practiced evacuations (fire drills), a severe weather (tornado) drill and lockdown drills. The staff did an excellent job of reviewing the procedures and the students followed the procedures without mishap. We feel prepared for any of these emergencies at Fernbrook. We did not practice however, an actual evacuation to our alternative site. If, for any reason, we needed to evacuate to another location, Maple Grove Senior High School is our alternative evacuation site. Parents would be able to meet us at MGSB and pick up their child(ren).

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held October 20<sup>th</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup> this month from 4-9 pm and October 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-6 pm. Individual grade levels will also hold additional times for parents that are not able to attend those evenings. Parents report that their parent/teacher conference is one of the most valuable events they attend all year. It is a wonderful opportunity to discuss with your child's teacher your child's progress and to set goals for the upcoming school year. Conference forms were sent home last week, so if you have not signed up for a conference, please contact your child's teacher to reserve a time. Here are just a few tips to keep in mind as you prepare for your child's conference:

- Talk to your child before the conference. Ask them if they have any questions for you to ask.
- Think of things the teacher needs to know about your child then tell them!
- Write down your questions. Once the conversation gets started it's easy to forget.
- Create an action plan. Ask the teacher if you can do anything at home to reinforce what's happening in the classroom.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> Fernbrook had our first PTO meeting of the year. It was great to see so many parents and many new Kindergarten parents! I spoke about the transition this year and we voted to accept the proposed bylaws and proposed budget. The two documents will be posted on our website.

We had our first Fernbrook Site Council meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>. We have set aside a time frame during each meeting for any comments from parents or staff members who would like to speak to the council. This may be an opportunity to bring projects or new ideas to the group. If you would like time at our meeting, please contact me so I can add the topic to our agenda.

Please remember if you have any questions, compliments or concerns to call me or stop in. My door is always open!! Have a GREAT October.

## 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 9:15 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...

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 (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 neat!

## **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S CORNER**

Thank you to those of you that have sent in your volunteer application forms. If you haven't sent yours in, it's not too late. Please send these sheets back as this is the tool I use to contact you and also for making volunteer nametags. We always need help with classroom activities, projects, events, and fundraising programs (PTO). Please sign up to help, even if it is for a few hours.

Everyone makes a difference!



### **TURKEY BINGO!**

**Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

In order to have this fun filled family event we need a chair person. There are notes from previous bingos for you to follow and/or you can start your own notebook. Call a neighbor and ask him/her to co-chair with you. This is a great family fun night and we would like to keep it on the calendar. If you can help us out please give me a call.

Please get involved, stay involved and ENJOY!

*"Volunteers Shape our World"*

**THE VOLUNTEER OFFICE IS LOCATED IN ROOM 46.**

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

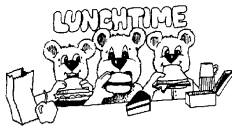


## **FERNBROOK FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES**

Fernbrook Families Helping Families is a Fernbrook group which raises funds to support families in need, both financially and non-financially.

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).

**MORE FOR 3s & 4s** is an Osseo Area Schools' Community Education Preschool Program and is designed to prepare your child for elementary school. Limited openings are still available for the 4 year old program located at Fernbrook Elementary. Children will attend Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for two and one half hour sessions either morning or afternoon. Fee based tuition (payable in quarterly payments). Visit our web site [www.district279.org/ecfe](http://www.district279.org/ecfe) to obtain a registration form or call 763-391-8764.



### **Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Brunch for Lunch  
French Toast  
Oven Crisp Potato

Veggie Sticks  
Fresh Fruit & Sauce Choices

Alt: Hamburger on Wheat Bun

## **Fernbrook Physical Education**

Mrs. Huber, Mrs. Haecherl, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Heggstad

### **Important dates coming up:**

Fernbrook Flyer Fun Run: Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> (rain date Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>)

Elm Creek Autumn Fun Run: Oct. 11th

Haunted Gym: Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> and 29th

Fall Fitness Testing (Grades 1-6): Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CORNER**



For those of you I have not had the opportunity to meet, my name is Jill Hauck-Arnold and I am the Occupational Therapist here at Fernbrook Elementary. Many children, whether in special or regular education have "sensory processing issues". I'd like to share some information with you that may benefit ALL students.



### **"Backpacks"**

Backpacks are wonderful "tools" if used appropriately. If they are too large or heavy, they can impact the developing skeletal systems and postures. Help our students learn that back packs need to:

- End above the waist
- Must be worn on BOTH shoulders
- Have snug shoulder straps
- Have the heaviest books closest to the child's back
- NEVER exceed 15% of the child's weight
- Be periodically cleaned out

I also use backpacks here at school for some of my students as part of their therapy. Many of my students have difficulties "calming" themselves. I implement a variety of strategies to assist them. One of them is having them carry a "weighted backpack" between classes and around the school. This is considered a "heavy work activity". This "weight" provides input to their sensory systems which aids in the "calming" of the sensory systems. The students are then more focused and engaged and thus can then increase their attention to tasks. I have a list of "Heavy Work Activities" for home & school. These activities assist in providing "calming" input for all children that have tendencies to become "revved up" or "busy" when over stimulated. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in a copy.

Jill Hauck-Arnold, OTR/L  
Occupational Therapist  
[www.Hauck-ArnoldJ@District279.org](mailto:www.Hauck-ArnoldJ@District279.org)

## **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.)*

We have had a wonderful month of music making! Students have been reviewing the basics that lead to good singing practices. They have been experimenting with "The Singer's Toolbox:" Posture, Mouth Positions, Vowels, Breath, Listening, Musicianship, Facial Expression, Thinking about the Lyrics, and Feeling the Music in their Hearts. It also should be noted that during the month of October, students will be reviewing a core of patriotic songs in preparation for our Veteran's Day celebration.

### **Kindergarten**

Students in Kindergarten have been enjoying music exploration with their voices and bodies. We have explored our singing, reading, whisper and calling voices and have been introduced to activities involving steady beat. We will soon begin playing non-pitched percussion instruments to show our knowledge of beat. Ask to hear "Hello There", "Peanut Butter and Jelly", "Do What I'm Doing," and "Good Queen Nielsen".

### **First Grade**

Students in first grade have also been reviewing their singing, reading, whisper and calling voices and steady beat. We've had fun getting to know the names of our new friends by singing the songs, "Old King Glory" and "Pollyanna". We have practiced our steady beats on the bass xylophones and bass metallophones and met Bernard Bear who loves to sing "The Bear Went Over the Mountain". We are beginning to study fast and slow beat through the songs "When The Train Comes Along" and "Clickety Clack".

### **Second Grade**

Second graders are reviewing rhythms and basic music terminology (treble clef, staff, quarter note, quarter rest and two-eighth notes). We have practiced our steady beats with our new friends by singing "Everybody's Welcome" and have been working on our singing voices with a patriotic song called "There Are Many Flags" in honor of Constitution Day. We will be reviewing solfège patterns (sol, me and la) and beginning playing Orff instruments in the coming weeks. Ask us about the story of our song "Bill Grogan's Goat". It's one of our favorites!

### **Third Grade**

Third grade has been studying the "Singer's Toolbox" (see above), and reviewing simple tone matching, and music reading patterns. Ask your singer to perform in Swahili, English, Spanish, Japanese, Romanian, Chinese, and Arabic. Students have also been reviewing basic solfège reading. Third graders have been practicing singing patterns comprised of Sol/Mi/La/Do. We've had lots fun reading and singing songs such as, "Lil' Liza Jane," and "Rocky Mountain."

### **Fourth Grade**

In addition to the "Singer's Toolbox," students have been working on reviewing melodic solfège patterns sol, mi, la, and do. They have also been singing the "C-Major Scale" with both solfège and absolute pitch names (A, B, C, D, E, F, G). For recorder preparation much emphasis has been placed on naming note on the treble staff. Some song favorites studied thus far have been, "Let Music Surround You," and "Won't You Sit Down Lord?" We will also be doing a rhythmic review prior to playing recorders.

### **Mrs. Williams' Fifth and Sixth Grades**

All students were individually assessed on their ability to perform major and minor scales with appropriate solfège hand signs. Students have also been concentrating on pitch memorization (A440), rhythm reading, as well as terms and symbols review. Despite all of the testing, we've managed to still "keep it light" and have lots of fun making great music!

### **Mrs. Nielsen's Sixth Graders:**

Sixth grade students have been focusing on the solfège scale and singing in harmony. We have sung an ascending and descending scale in a canon (round) and are reading solfège patterns to figure out the melody for new song literature. We reviewed non-pitched instruments and our knowledge of absolute pitches in the song "A Fly and A Flea". Students played a bass xylophone or bass metallophone ostinato with the song and used non-pitched percussion instruments parts to highlight specific words in the song. We then read absolute pitch names and played the melody on an Orff instrument. The final product was awesome! We're also working on vowel production and concentrating on consonants in our song literature.

### **Important Vocal Music Dates:**

*(Please check monthly for changes)*

Nov. 11: Veterans Day Celebration

Dec, 19: Holiday Sing-a-long, 2:30 PM

Mar. 11: 5th Grade Music Program, 2:30 PM (FB student body and guests)

Mar. 12: 5th Grade Music Program, 10:00 AM (guests only)

April: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Composition Recital, Time and Date TBA

April 22: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Program, time TBA

April 23: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Program, time TBA

May 19: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Recorder Concert, 2:30 PM (FB student body and guests)

May 20: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Recorder Concert, 10:00 AM (guests only)

*Members, please check regularly for updates.*



### **Notable Reading:**

*"Let music surround you. Let it fill your heart. Those who singing in harmony, never grow apart."*

*Fran Addicott*

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



In addition to their regular music class in school, all 6th graders have the opportunity to join the school band. Band is open to all 6th graders who have an interest in learning how to play a band instrument.

During the first week of school, all students in 6th grade attended a demonstration performance in which the different instruments of the band were introduced and played. The purpose of the demo was for all students to learn more about the wind and percussion instruments that make up the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band. It was also intended to help interested students better decide which instrument they would like to play this year.

At the conclusion of the demonstration, students were given a chance to ask questions about the different instruments and were all given a letter to bring home to parents concerning this opportunity for their child. Students and parents that decided that they were interested in band were then asked to return the registration form and attend an informational meeting.

After students returned the registration material for 6<sup>th</sup> grade band, a conference will be held with each student to select an instrument. **Band lessons at Fernbrook will begin on September 29<sup>th</sup>.** Band meets once per week during the school day. Students have lessons in small groups of like instruments. After a couple of months the band starts to meet as a school band. Later in the year we will be combining the band students from several elementary schools to perform an evening concert.

If you have a child in the 6th grade that would like to be a part of the band and for some reason you missed the information that came home earlier, please contact Mr. Rassier at school ASAP. Students must be involved in band in 6th grade in order to take band in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mr. Kevin Rassier, *Band Director*  
voice mail: 763-391-7200 #27503  
email: [rassierk@district279.org](mailto:rassierk@district279.org)

## FALL FESTIVAL



**Half-day Kindergarten** will have their Fall Festival party on **Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** (morning group at 10:00 a.m., afternoon group at 2:00 p.m.). **There will be NO school-wide parade for kindergarten.**

**All-day Kindergarten** will have their Fall Festival party on **Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Grades 1-3** will have their Fall Festival party on **Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Kindergarten through third grade students have been allowed to wear costumes, however, **children will not be allowed to wear costumes that stereotype or ridicule cultures or groups, or that reflect the "blood and guts" or gory-violent characterizations. This includes masks from "scream", Freddie Krueger, etc. It also includes masks and costumes that parody horror movies.** Also, in keeping with the district's zero-tolerance policy regarding weapons, we ask that guns, swords, etc. **not** be a part of the costume. We ask that costumes focus more on the FUN AND CARTOON CHARACTERS OF THE SEASON, PERHAPS LOOKING AT YOUR CHILD(REN)'S FAVORITE BOOK CHARACTER, ETC. If your child's costume requires make-up, we ask that it be applied at home in the morning. Due to time constraints, parents will not be able to go to classrooms to help apply make-up before the parade.

A short (15 minute) parade will take place at 1:45 p.m. in the cafeteria. Spectators wishing to attend should sign-in at the table in the hallway, get a visitor's badge, and proceed to the cafeteria. Please stand behind the designated cones.

**Spectators**, not previously assigned as a volunteer for the classroom parties, need to sign-out and leave the building immediately following the parade.

**Volunteers** pre-assigned to classroom parties, please sign-in as a volunteer and wear your volunteer badge. Please do not proceed to the classrooms until 2:15 p.m.

Thanks to everyone for adhering to the guidelines. They are instituted to maintain an optimum learning and safe environment.

Grades 4-6 will have Tri parties.

