

# Fernbrook Elementary

February 5, 2009

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

## FEBRUARY



- 6- No half-day kindergarten (conference release) Just Read Give Away
- 9 - National African American Parent Involvement Day
- 11 - Jr. High counselors present to sixth graders, 11:30-12:00
- 12 - Valentine Parties, primary grades, 1:45-2:45 p.m.
- 13 - No school for students (Licensed staff workshop)
- 16 - No school (President's Day)
- 18 - School Store
- 19 - PTO general meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
PTO Board meeting, 6 p.m.  
Family Snowshoeing Night, 6-8 p.m.
- 27 - Family Fun Carnival, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- 28 - DI Tournament (MGSH)



## MARCH

- 2 - MGF D visits kindergarten, 10:05 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
- 4 - School Store  
Phy Ed Fitness testing
- 5 - Phy Ed Fitness testing

*(calendar continued on page three)*

*[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*



*By Zaynab Kassam*

*Happy February!!*

February is a very busy month and we are planning a number of activities for students and parents. Many of you may know that February is I LOVE TO READ MONTH, BLACK HISTORY MONTH and our FERNBROOK FAMILY FUN CARNIVAL!

February is "I Love to Read Month!" Our school wide theme is **Go Graphic! The Evolution of the Comic.**

We will take students on an evolutionary journey through comic strips, comic books, and graphic novels. At the end of the month students will create either single or multiple panel comic strips to display in the media center.

A few activities going on this month are weekly mini-lessons by Mrs. Haugo on FBTV; Drop Everything And Read time every Friday; door decorating; displaying comic book collections; creating our own comic strips.

February is also Black History Month! For the past four years, we have intentionally opened our school and classrooms to parents for NAAPID (National African American Parent Involvement Day) which is a nationally recognized effort. NAAPID, a national non-profit organization started this tradition about 12 years ago in Ann Arbor, Michigan to welcome parents to school during the school day. Although that focus had been on African American parents (during Black History month), the intent of NAAPID is not mutually exclusive. NAAPID encourages schools to open their doors to ALL parents for the day. Here at Fernbrook, we support our Parents As Partners and recognize this initiative by inviting ALL of our parents to a short morning gathering. ALL parents are encouraged to visit our school the morning of Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

9:00 – 9:30 Coffee and Conversation – Room 13

9:30 – 10:00 Visit your child (ren)'s classroom. (Your time will be spent doing whatever the classroom does normally during this time. It could be morning meeting, math, reading or even phy ed or music.)

Please join us if you are interested!!

Our Fernbrook Family Carnival is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30 p.m. It is a fun family event for all. Unfortunately this year I will not be able to attend. I have a district commitment out of town for a workshop on Professional Learning Communities. Have an enjoyable evening!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions and/or concerns. Have a warm and wonderful February.

## 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!



## 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).*

**\*\* Fernbrook Family Carnival \*\***  
**February 27, 2009**

**Contributions needed...**

We are collecting contributions for our school Carnival! If you wish to make a donation, please send it to school with your child marked "Carnival '09".



**Examples of contributions:**

**Toy Walk:** Toys appropriate for Grades K-6 valued at \$1-\$10, new hard cover or paperback books and company/community donations or promotional items such as stuffed logo toys, T-shirts, etc.

**Grab Bags:** Small toys valued at \$.50-\$1, promotional items such as caps, pencils, key chains, etc.

**Silent Auction/Chance Board:** Adult prizes, craft items, promotional services (i.e. car wash, tune-ups, housecleaning, restaurant coupons) etc.

We appreciate your continued support! If you have questions, comments or ideas for us please send an email to us at [carnivalfb@gmail.com](mailto:carnivalfb@gmail.com).

Thank you,  
2009 Carnival Chairs

**O.A.S.I.S. 2008-09**

**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.

7:00-9:00 p.m.

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

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.

**February 10 - Headaches, stomach aches, dizziness joint pains, or is it anxiety?**

This session will review somatic complaints, commonly seen in children and help us understand the overlap of anxiety and somatic symptoms. Treatment plans using a mind-body perspective will be addressed. **Kate Pfaffinger, MSPH, PHD, LP** is a pediatric psychologist whose practice includes students with anxiety disorders and/or somatic complaints.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S CORNER**

It's not too early to start thinking about volunteering to help out with some of the PTO events for 2009-10. A few areas that we need someone to chair or co-chair are **Santa's Secret Shop** which is held in December and **Bookfair** which is held around the school conference nights twice a year.

Planning for these fun events will not start until fall 2009. Please contact Lisa Baer at [lisa.baer@comcast.net](mailto:lisa.baer@comcast.net) or Kathy Baumgartner at [maxnkathy@comcast.net](mailto:maxnkathy@comcast.net) if you are interested in chairing or would like more information.

PITCH IN – A Little Bit Goes a Long Way  
You make the call  
Volunteer today!

The media center is still in need of volunteers like YOU!

Thank you to all the art volunteers for taking time out of your busy schedules during the month of January to present reproductions of art from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. *Great job!* Parents, make sure you ask your children to tell you what they learned from each of the presentations.

Thank you to all the parents that **donated winter clothing!** We are in good shape now!

Carnival will be here soon. Mark your calendars for Friday, *February 27<sup>th</sup>*! Make sure you sign up to Volunteer!

Thank you for all that you do!

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

*(calendar continued from page one)*

**MARCH**

- 6 - No school for students (mark reporting day)
- 9 - Tri II starts
- 12 - PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m. (media center)
- 18 - School Store
- 26 - School Spring Pictures  
Classroom Pictures  
Children's Chorus Tour

## **ORCHESTRA NEWS**



This trimester students in both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade have been or will be receiving new music for our district concerts in the Spring. Students are also pushing on in their books building new skills for playing.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra had a wonderful district wide concert on January 28. The first concert is always so exciting, and it is wonderful to see how much these students have gained in less than a half a year. Now the students will be working on even stronger bow techniques, longer pieces of music, harmonizing melodies and other new skills. Students may have extra music and hand outs to manage. Please watch for these and help your child to work on organizing materials so music does not get lost, and it all gets practiced!

The Sinfonia students are starting to get their spring concert music yet should continue to keep their fall music handy for our spring tour which comes in May. The music for spring is challenging, and will give students much to practice. Don't let them forget to work in their lesson books also, to continue building the skills that help them play this new music!!

Spring concerts are:

5 <sup>th</sup> grade	April 29, Osseo Junior High
Sinfonia (6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	April 20, Osseo Junior High
Sinfonia "McTour"	May 7 during the school day

Elizabeth Pim

[Pime@district279.org](mailto:Pime@district279.org)

Voice mail: 763-391-7200 ext. 27502

## **PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Parents – Are you looking for a quality preschool program? Check out the District 279 Preschool Programs. District 279 and its Community Education Department team up to sponsor three great preschool programs.

- Must be the appropriate age by September 1, 2009.
- Children can feel safe away from mom and dad, while learning and having fun!
- Our quality preschools will stimulate your child's imagination and physical, social, and emotional development.

*Discovery for 3, 4, and 5 year olds* requires parent involvement one day each week. Two locations are available—one in Brooklyn Center and one in Maple Grove. Offers sliding fee schedule. Lottery registration begins February 20<sup>th</sup> and continues until classes fill. Call 763.391.8777 for *Discovery Preschool* information.

*More For 3s and 4s* is for 3, 4 and 5 year olds. Parents provide transportation to and from school. Fee based tuition (payable in quarterly payments). Lottery registration begins February 27<sup>th</sup> and continues until classes fill. Families residing outside the Osseo Area

Schools District boundaries are welcome to apply. Call 763.391.8764 for *More For 3s and 4s Preschool* information.

*Be Four School Readiness* is for 4 year olds. Priority for acceptance into the program will be given to those children with little or no previous preschool experience. Parents are required to take part in activities such as open house, conferences, evening events, and take-home projects. Parents are encouraged to transport. Bus transportation is available on a need basis only for children residing in the Osseo Area School attendance area. There is a \$400 fee for busing. Tuition fees will be based on family income and size. Call 763.391.8764 for *Be Four School Readiness* information.

Check out our web site for registration forms, applications and further information at <http://www.district279.org/ecfe>

*CONTACT PERSON: PAM THOREN*

*PHONE NUMBER: (763) 391-8764*

## **EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN AN OPTION FOR SOME CHILDREN**

Children who turn five years of age too late in the calendar year to be eligible for traditional kindergarten enrollment may qualify for early entrance under provisions adopted by ISD 279-Osseo Area Schools. Early entrance may be an appropriate option for children who are ready for a curriculum that is more challenging than preschool.

To be considered for early entrance to kindergarten, children must turn five years of age from September 2 through November 1, 2009. The evaluation process starts with a written application, followed by various assessments that help identify children who are intellectually and developmentally ready for kindergarten.

Early childhood screening (available to all children as soon as they turn three years old) must be completed prior to applying for early entrance to kindergarten. To schedule a screening appointment, call 763-391-8776; parents are urged to arrange for screening as soon as possible.

Applications for early entrance to kindergarten in the Osseo Area Schools are due by April 15, 2009. More details are available in Policy and Procedure 549, available on the district web site, [www.district279.org](http://www.district279.org). Parents may also contact the ISD 279 Enrollment Center at 763-585-7350 for additional information.

# TAG ExCEL News

279  
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.

## ExCEL/CML Calendar

Feb 2-6 ..... Seminar 2 – Session 4  
**Feb 9-13..... CML Session 6 – Meet for all grades**  
 Feb 17-20.....Cluster Training/Makeup sessions  
 Feb 23-27 ..... Seminar 2 – Session 5  
 Mar 2-5 ..... Seminar 2 – Session 6  
**Mar 9-13 ..... High Performance Testing (Grade 6)**  
**Mar 16-20..... CML Session 7 – Meet for all grades**  
 Mar 23-27 ..... CoGAT (ExCEL testing Gr. 1-2)  
 Mar 30-Apr 3..... CoGAT (ExCEL testing Gr. 3-5)

## SEMINAR 2 (Jan-Mar)

Grade 2 ..... RESEARCH: *Insects*  
 Grade 3 ..... PUBLIC SPEAKING: *Storytelling*  
 Grade 4 ..... RESEARCH: *Authors in Jeopardy*  
 Grade 5 ..... RESEARCH: *Biographies*  
 Grade 6 ..... JOURNALISM: *Front Page*

## TAG IDENTIFICATION

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

Thank you to parents of first grade students seeking testing for their children who have returned the completed "Permission-to-Test" form and "Parent Information Form." This testing has been rescheduled to take place in March.

Testing for participation in Talented and Gifted programs for students in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 will take place in March, also. If you are interested in a packet of information to

review gifted characteristics in consideration of testing for your child, please contact Mr. Odell.

All parents of sixth graders have received two informational flyers through the Wednesday envelope. The report card envelope contained additional information and the application for possible placement in HP English, HP science, HP social studies, and HP math. Sixth graders will test in March for junior high placement in high performance classes. Thank you to all families who have promptly returned applications.

Please note that testing dates for all students have been moved to March and Seminars in grades one through six will be conducted in January.

## CONTINENTAL MATH LEAGUE

**C**M L 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 their January CML meet.

### 5 out of 6

Lexi Anundson, Mitch Berg, Taylor Colliton, Sam Kjome, Ben Shoults, Austin Blesi, Grace Kelly, Jesse Taavola, Chris Wagner, Tai Schmahl, Jack Delmore, Taylor Nelson, Mark Redman, Jacob Collins, Bryce Ferrin, Gabe Forsythe, Tora Husar, Sadie Gardner, Mariah Jallad, Connor Sharp, Nathan Buegler, Carter Penny, Zach Majorowicz, Sharada Srivatsa, Rebecca Lin, Sydney Windsor, Ethan Hill, Emily Shilson, Eli Hoff and Jack Spading.

### 6 out of 6

Collin Abeln, Emily Dehn, Baillie Frizell, Trevor Giffit, Jada Gilbert, Sydney Kara, Hubert Lin, McKenna Peplinski, Evan Ditter, Reed Trende, Luke Zibley, Sikai Yang, Garrison Kizzier, Trevor Kukkonen, Logan Penny and Samantha Carroll.

## 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'. 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!**

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

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

Feb. 17	Regular meeting	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 24	School Board Work Session	6:00 p.m.
Mar. 3	Regular meeting	8:00 p.m.

## BOOK FAIR



Thank you to ALL who volunteered to help with the Book Fair. It is because of you that each Fair is a success! I want to apologize for the two letters and the confusion with dates. I know that some of you volunteered and did not get called to work but thank you for being available and I hope you will volunteer again for

Book Fair. We all do this to help make Fernbrook a great place for all of our kids.

*Amy Smith, chair person*

## A FACE OF COURAGE

What would you have the courage to do if you knew that you could not fail?

Speaker, principal and author, Tommy Watson, will be presenting this free program at Park Center IB World School, 7300 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park on **February 7, 2009**. Refreshments from 5-5:30 p.m. with program to follow 5:30-6:30 p.m.

*(Sponsored by District 279 Community Education.)*

## DRESS FOR WINTER!

Parents and students: With our cold Minnesota weather upon us it is vitally 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.



## Naturalist News

### Family Snowshoe Night

On **Thursday, February 19** from **6:00-8:00 p.m.** I will lead a hike through the nature area next to the school property for Fernbrook families. We will hike from 6:00-7:30 and have refreshments and a snack in Room 47 after our hike. We have a limited number of snowshoes for adults and children and need to know boot size for each person attending. Please return the Family Snowshoe Night registration form ASAP. The registration form was sent in your Wednesday envelope last week.

### Nature Lessons

As the School Naturalist I meet with each classroom during the three seasons that school is in session. During September and October students had the following fall nature lessons, which included a hike outside for all classes except 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Kindergarten – Hike with Naturalist  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Amazing Animal Senses  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Insect Study & Collection  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Animal Habitats  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Wild Edibles  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Forestry  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Soil Science



Our winter lessons include an indoor lesson and a snowshoe hike along the wetland areas located on the school property. During November, January and February the students had or will have the following winter lessons.

Kindergarten – Gall Study  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Animals in Winter  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Animal Tracking  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Deer in Minnesota  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade – The Water Cycle  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Orienteering  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Geocaching

Students need to have proper outdoor apparel for snowshoeing including winter jacket, snow pants or wind pants (snowshoes kick snow up onto back of pants), boots, hat and gloves. Volunteers are needed to help students put on snowshoes and are invited to snowshoe with the students. Volunteers will be needed for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade winter nature lessons. Please watch for a flyer to come home requesting your help.

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered during our classes and helped with our snowshoe hikes!

*Colleen Hazen  
School Naturalist*

