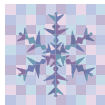


Fernbrook Elementary

January 7, 2009

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

JANUARY



- 9 - Just Read Give Away
- 14 - Late Start Day, 10:50 a.m.
- 15 - PTO Board meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 16 - Gr. 5 field trip, 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
- 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.

FEBRUARY



- 4 - School Store
- 5 & 6- No half-day kindergarten (conference release day)
- 12 - Valentine Parties, primary grades
- 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.
- 27 - Family Fun Carnival, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

[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 New Year!

All of us at Fernbrook hope you had a holiday season filled with family, friends, peace and joy. Thanks to all of you that donated food and items to our Caring Tree. Your efforts contributed to the enjoyment of others during the holidays. This is just one more way that our Fernbrook community is committed to helping others.

January generally brings colder weather and bitter temperatures. It is important that each child is dressed warmly and safely for the weather. We go outside for recess every day unless the wind chill is -5 degrees or colder. Please help your child remember to bring and wear hats, coats, mittens, snow pants and boots.

Children should not arrive at school earlier than 8:40 a.m. The first bell rings at 8:40 a.m. and at that time the doors open for the day. We do not want children standing in the cold waiting until it is time to enter the building. Many parents pick up their children from school. The final bell rings at 3:20 p.m. If you are picking up your child, please be at the front entrance by that time. We know how crowded our pick up is especially on cold days. Please follow the procedure and wait behind others in line. Safety of our students is our goal!

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for January 22nd 4-9 p.m., January 26th 4-9 p.m. and January 27th 4-6 p.m. **This is a change from our previous reporting of times.** 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. Please look for conference forms in this envelope to sign up for a conference time with your child's teacher.

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.
- Write down your questions. Once the conversation gets started it's easy to forget.
- Discuss an action plan. Ask the teacher if you can do anything at home to reinforce what's happening in the classroom.

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be available during conference times as well. Have a warm January and I look forward to seeing you at the end of the month.

**LATE START REMINDER:
10:50 a.m.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**

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.

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.



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).

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.)

JANUARY LUNCH MENU


Monday, January 12, 2009
Brunch for Lunch

French Toast Sticks
Turkey Sausage links
Oven Crisp Potato Pattie
Fresh Veggie Sticks
Bread Choice
Fresh Fruit & Sauce Choices
Milk Choice



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

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

Jan. 20	Regular meeting		8:00 p.m.
Feb. 3	Regular meeting		8:00 p.m.
Feb. 17	Regular meeting		8:00 p.m.
Mar. 3	Regular meeting		8:00 p.m.

**** 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.

Thank you,
2009 Carnival Chairs

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Just a few January housekeeping rules:

Always wear your nametag while volunteering. If you need a new one please let me know.

Remember when you are done volunteering and taking your child home please be sure you've notified the teacher and wait for them **by the front office after school**.

If you cannot make it to your volunteering assignment please call and let the **teacher** know.

Thanks for volunteering!

Parents ~ Do you get tired of fighting the crowds when it comes time to buy your back to school supplies for your children? If so, this is a great opportunity for you to get involved and take the stress of back to school shopping away. The PTO is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the "School Tool Box" project. The "School Tool Box" project is a back to school supply kit that contains all the supplies your child will need to start the school year off. As the coordinator of this project you would need to take orders for the kits and then when they come in organize the orders and distribute them to the students at the fall open house. *This is something that can be done at home.* If you have any questions please contact me joelsonc@district279.org or Steffany Fleming at 763-416-6001.

During the month of January parent volunteers will be presenting works of art from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Be sure to ask your children to share with you what they have learned from the volunteers. Thank you to all of the art volunteers for giving of their time and talents.

Carol Joelson, Volunteer Coordinator
763-391-8423

Monday-Thursday, 9:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m

Attention 6th Grade Parents:

Your child should have brought home a letter in their Wednesday envelope December 10 stating what immunizations they will need in order to be compliant for starting 7th grade next Fall. If your child did not get a letter it indicates that they are already in compliance. A flyer stating all requirements for 7th grade also went home. Please return all immunization or health records to Fernbrook as long as your child attends here and their school records will be updated and go directly to the Jr. High. Thanks for your help and call with any question.

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



ORCHESTRA

The 5th Grade Concert is fast approaching. We are looking forward to demonstrating for parents the concepts and songs we have learned. Please mark your calendars for the first orchestra concert, **January 28**. It will be at **Osseo Junior High** starting at 6:30 p.m. *Please have your child to Osseo Junior High by 6:00 to provide adequate time to tune, warm up, and set up.*

The 6th grade students did a wonderful job on their first concert. Now that winter break is over, we will complete the lesson book and make sure we are familiar with all the concepts needed for Junior High. We will work to extend our playing range, bow use, working for better tone production, and finally we will begin learning how to tune our own instruments.

Please don't hesitate to send me or e-mail if you have any questions. Thank you parents for taking the time to listen to your child practice at home.



Elizabeth Pim
voice mail: 763-391-7200 #27502
pime@district279.org

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. Parents may also contact the ISD 279 Enrollment Center at 763-585-7350 for additional information.

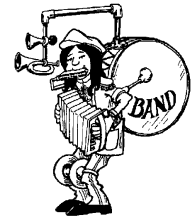
BAND

One of the most exciting and enjoyable activities for students in band is when we begin to combine all of the different instruments into a full band and play together. At Fernbrook we have met as a full band once so far.

At our first full band practice students played unison melodies from their lesson books and song sheets. By our next rehearsal however, the band will begin to play full band arrangements. In these songs there are as many as 6-7 different melodies and/or rhythms occurring simultaneously. Students must know their individual part well in order to perform it while those around them are often playing something completely different. Band students learn how their individual part fits in with the rest of the band parts to form the complete work. A real team effort is required.

In weekly lessons the band students are busy learning the notes and rhythms they will need to know in order to play the concert music. There is also a "testing" song on each page that students need to play to earn points towards their grade in band.

Band requires a lot of extra effort on the part of the band students. It is great to see and hear their effort pay off as they progress individually and as a group.



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

AIRSOFT GUNS **DON'T BELONG AT SCHOOL**

If your child has an airsoft gun (a gun that shoots little plastic balls), please take extra care to keep it at home. These types of guns are not toys; in fact, law enforcement officials classify them as dangerous weapons, and discharge of such guns within city limits is generally illegal.

Guns of any type (including airsoft, pellet, and BB guns) are prohibited by school board procedure, so they're not allowed at school or on school property (including school buses). Possession or use of an airsoft, pellet, or BB gun on school property or at any school activity is a serious violation that may result in both school and legal consequences.

You can help us promote safe and healthy learning environments by talking with your child about the importance of keeping these items at home.

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

Jan 5-9	CML Session 5 – Meet for all grades
Jan 12-16	Seminar 2 – Session 1
Jan 19-23	Seminar 2 – Session 2
Jan 26-30	Seminar 2 – Session 3
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

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 second CML meet.


5 out of 6

Kyle Anderson, Emily Dehn, Hubert Lin, Nick Love, Ben Shoults, Ryan Stieg, Nolan, Luke Smith, Chris Wagner, Luke Zibley, Alex Kara, Gavin Coey and Noah Solle

6 out of 6

Collin Abeln, Lexi Anundson, Taylor Colliton, Bailie Frizell, Trevor Giff, Nigel Hoyt, Sydney Kara, Eric Kopen, McKenna Peplinski, Austin Blesi, Evan Ditter, Jesse Taavola, Reed Trende and Palmer Kraus

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

THINKING IS THE GOAL OF EDUCATION!

PHY ED

Grades 1 and 2 - Mrs. Cook

We have been very busy these past few months in PE class! Fitness testing went very well in November for all students.... and we will continue to work on improving our fitness scores for our Spring testing!! In December, my 1st and 2nd graders have worked really hard on their tumbling unit. First, they started the unit out practicing different animal walks that had them working on their coordination, flexibility and upper body strength. Then, they were introduced to different static and dynamic balances, as well, as jump turns/pirouettes. They also practiced their log roll, pencil roll, and egg rolls. Finally, they have been working on their forward rolls and tripod balances. Last week each student had to put together a 4-skill routine that they presented in front of class! All students did a wonderful job sharing their favorite skills with their classmates! We are finishing up December with an apparatus unit that consists of climbing ropes, cargo net, balance beams, and other balancing stations! Very fun ☺
Looking Ahead: Volleyball and bowling



A.M. Kindergarten – Mrs. Cook

This month my kindergarten classes have continued to work on improving their locomotor skills and fitness level. We also have been working on a variety of stations. We spent some time on tumbling skills which consisted of balances, stretches, and animal walks. It was fun to see each student displaying their own individual skills as they practiced across the tumbling mats! We also had a day where we experimented using hula hoops, paddles, scoops, juggling scarves, frisbees, and scooters. Students had a great time working individually and in partner groups throughout the stations!
Looking Ahead: Overhand/Underhand throwing, kicking, and bowling



Mrs. Carr's Kindergarten and P.M. Kindergarten - Mrs. Haecherl

The kindergarteners continued to work on movement activities including moving in their own personal space. They also spent a few days doing various tumbling skills such as the log roll, pencil roll, egg roll as well as animal walks. Paddle exploration with beanbag frogs and yarn balls was the next activity tried by the kindergarteners. They really liked playing with the beanbag frogs! Station activities were also a big hit with them. They learned how to safely move on a scooter, throw a

frisbee, and hula with a hula hoop, and juggle scarves.

Looking ahead: balloon activities as well as underhand and overhand throwing over a net.

Grade 4- Mrs. Haecherl

The 4th graders started the month out working on their hockey skills. Stick handling, passing and goaltending were some of the skills they tackled. They also learned the strategies of a hockey game. The 4th graders also worked on their basketball unit this month. They did a variety of skills in dribbling and passing. They worked hard on learning the components of a set shot and did quite well. They also learned basketball terms and how they relate to the game. They spent a couple of days playing sideline basketball and incorporated the terms they learned into the game. The 4th graders are continuing to work on their cardiovascular endurance through gradually increasing the length of time they run. They will be assessed in the spring on continuous movement.
Looking ahead: next unit will be their volleyball unit and bowling.



Grades3-6 –Mrs.Huber

The 3rd-6th graders did a nice job with fitness testing in November and will soon be setting goals they can work towards for the spring fitness testing. Thanks again to all the parent volunteers who gave their time to this event!! In November, the 5th graders learned about the game of LaCrosse. After learning the skills, they played in a game of LaCrosse and did very well! Third and fourth graders practiced their tumbling skills and finished the unit by developing and performing their own tumbling routine. The 3rd through 5th grades just finished up with a unit on basketball. They spent time practicing such skills as dribbling, passing, set-shots and lay-ups. Some of the games they finished up with and enjoyed the most included "around the world", "lightning" and "hoop basketball".

After fitness testing, the 6th graders started a unit on floor tennis and then moved right into rhythms. During the rhythms unit, the students worked on swing dancing, tai bo, Hip-hop and creating their own line dances. Students had fun and did well in developing their own line dances!

LOOKING AHEAD: Volleyball and bowli for all grades!



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.)*

This month, as part of our District 279 Vocal Music Curriculum, students in grades K-6 had the opportunity to learn about different cultures' music, and their winter celebrations. All Fernbrook students participated in the annual, "Holiday Sing-a-long," on December 19.

The objectives of the sing-a-long were as follows:

- *Students will enjoy music.*
- *Students will perform songs in tune.*
- *Students will experience the rich cultural diversity of holiday/winter music.*
- *Students will further experience the sense of community between their fellow Fernbrook students and teachers.*

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students continue to study melodic movement through singing, instrument playing and body movement. We also are continuing our exploration of steady beat (quarter note) and no sound on a beat (quarter rest). We have learned the names of non-pitched percussion instrument, how to play the instrument and how to follow a score. Ask us to sing you Hanukkah Is Here, Santa's Helpers, or Jingle Bells.

First Grade

First grade has been working on singing in tune through songs for the Holiday Sing-A-Long. We have also read rhythm patters with quarter notes, quarter rests and eighth notes. We have been reviewing non-pitched percussion instruments and added "sound effects" to Up On The Housetop. We would love to show you our songs, Candles of Channukah, Must Be Santa, and I Have Lost My Jingle Bell!

Second Grade

Second grade students have been working on reading, singing and performing the solfege pitches sol, mi, la, and do. Participating in these activities as helped us to make excellent progress with singing in tune! We have studied the "Nutcracker Ballet" and have done movement to the March, Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Trepak, Arabian Dance, Chinese Dance and Dance of the Flowers. We are preparing for the Holiday Sing-A-Long and are making wonderful progress on Jolly Old St. Nicholas, Deck The Hall, Candles of Channukah, and a dance with Jingle Bells.

Third Grade

Third grade has been studying Tchaikovsky's, "Nutcracker." We have learned the story as well as watched the ballet segments on Utube. While listening, students have followed visual "maps." The maps help the children understand the concept of compositional form as well as instrument identification. Students have viewed PowerPoint presentations about various holidays. In particular, students learned about the Mexican holiday,

"Los Posadas," and learned a famous song in Spanish. Students have learned a song with sign language. The boys and girls have also had lots of fun preparing for the sing-a-long.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade has been working very hard on playing recorders. All students have now studied the notes, G, A, B, E and high D. They were evaluated on their ability to play these notes within a song context. Practice at home is crucial. All students have "take home" sheets in their music folder and should have a "home recorder." If you do not have a home recorder, I still have a *few* available for purchase. The boys and girls had lots of fun sharing their recorder playing with FB students at the holiday sing-a-long.

Mrs. Williams' Fifth and Sixth Grades

Fifth and sixth grade students have been working on sight-singing, and rhythm reading. Students have been having fun playing rhythm patterns on the African drums. Drumming activities will continue throughout January and will provide a great tool for improvisation and eventual composition. The students also had a wonderful time preparing for the sing-a-long. They learned songs in Spanish, songs with sign language, as well as songs for fun.

Mrs. Niensens' Sixth Grades

Sixth Grade students have been studying the composer, George Fredrick Handel. We compared "Bouree" and "Minuet", two of Handel's pieces and enjoy listening to the "Hallelujah Chorus". Our focus in December has been on singing in harmony: rounds, partner songs and two-part songs. We have worked on "Winter Fantasy", a partner song with "Jingle Bells", and have sung "O Hannukah" and "Winter Wonderland" in two-part harmony. Preparation for the Holiday Sing-Long has also been a focus for December. We will continue to explore rhythms and harmony with a drum unit in January.

Important Vocal Music Dates:

(Please check monthly for changes)

April 22: Grade 2 Program, time TBA

April 23: Grade 2 Program, time TBA

May 19: Grade 4Recorder Concert, 2:30 p.m. (FB student body and guests)

May 20: Grade 4 Recorder Concert, 10:00 a.m. (guests only)



Notable Reading:

When we sing the song ourselves, shaping the tones and rhythms and words into an expressive whole, it becomes part of our long-term memories, available for joy and solace throughout our lives.

-Alice Parker, *Anatomy of a Melody*