

MARCH



- 5 - Phy Ed Fitness testing, Gr. 4,5,6
Gr. 6 Tri Activity, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 6 - No school for students
(mark reporting day)
Dist. 279 Blood Drive at
Edinbrook Elementary,
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 9 - Tri II starts
- 10 - Author visit to FB, Gr. 4 & 5
- 11 - Author visit to FB, Gr. 5 & 6
- 12 - Cookie Dough Fund Raiser starts
PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m. (Rm.
13)
- 18 - School Store
- 26 - School Spring Pictures
Classroom Pictures
Children's Chorus Tour
Cookie Dough Fund Raiser ends

APRIL



- 2 - Gr. 2 field trip, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 6-10 – Spring Break/no school
- 14 - PTO Board meeting, 6 p.m.
- 15 - MCA II testing, Gr. 3-6
- 16 - MCA II testing, Gr. 3-6

(calendar continued on page 6)

[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 Shea Kelly

I cannot believe that it is March already! March is usually a time for a slight warm up which means slush and icy puddles. Please encourage your child(ren) to bring snow pants and boots everyday for recess. It might not be a bad idea to also send in an extra set of clothes and socks. It's really enjoyable to be outside in the snow but not a lot of fun to sit in wet clothes in the afternoon. We have a few extra things but not enough for everyone.

March is a very busy month at Fernbrook. It is Music in our Schools month and we have many exciting activities planned. On Fridays, students will be taking time during the morning announcements to listen to short segments of classical music. Our March PTO General Meeting will be held on March 12th and I will be presenting the 2009-10 budget and staffing information. The meeting starts at 6:30 pm in Room 13. Please join us!

March is also a time that we begin to plan for spring and the 2009-10 school year. You will find a Classroom Input sheet in this newsletter. This input form is for parents to provide additional information to classroom teachers and myself as we form class lists for the fall. Please remember to fill out the form completely and refrain from naming individual teachers. We use this information as we create classrooms that are balanced across the grade level. If you have any questions about this process, please call me.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns. Have a wonderful March!!

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTENERS

AND THEIR PARENTS

FOR THE 2009-10 SCHOOL YEAR

Thursday, April 30

4 p.m.

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.

DISTRICT BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, March 6,
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Edinbrook Elementary School
8925 Zane Ave N, Brooklyn Park MN.

To make an appointment contact Deb Odell at 763-391-8402, odell@district279.org or Matthew Pruner at 651-332-7170, mpruner@mbc.org

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).

CLASSROOM PICTURES

Classroom pictures will be taken on **Thursday, March 26**. Order forms will come home March 18.



NEW THIS YEAR...SPRING STUDENT PICTURES - OPTIONAL

Families have the option of having their student individually photographed on Thursday, March 26 with new background choices. Watch for a flyer in Wednesday envelopes March 18 for you to mark and return.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this year's Valentine's Day parties. We appreciate all that you do!

Fernbrook's Carnival was a HUGE success!! Thank you to the carnival committee for all your hard work and time that you put into planning this. It was a great family fun night.

Carol Joelson, Volunteer Coordinator
763-391-8423
joelsonc@district279.org
Monday-Thursday, 9:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m

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 20th 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 27th 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. Parents may also contact the ISD 279 Enrollment Center at 763-585-7350 for additional information.

UNCERTAIN WEATHER/PLAYGROUND CONDITIONS

Parents and students: With our uncertain Minnesota weather upon us it makes it difficult to know what our recess weather/playground will be like. It is very important that our students are **properly clothed** to be outside at recess time.

Wearing **layered clothing** allows our students to add or subtract as needed. **Boots** are still important on our playground to keep feet dry. Sending an **extra pair of socks** in your child's backpack is a good idea so they have dry socks if needed after recess.

Parents, please be sure your student has the appropriate clothing. Thank you for paying attention to this matter.

"THE FLY NEWS" STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Our student newspaper is available on our school website on the same page as our School Newsletter.



NATURALIST NEWS

Winter Nature Lessons

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with snowshoeing, 5th grade orienteering, and 6th grade geocaching lessons. Your enthusiasm and guidance contribute to making it a great experience for the students. Many parents have become regular helpers even if their child is not in the class. If you are interested in doing this, please let me know and I will contact you when we need you.



It has been a challenging winter for our outdoor nature program. When we had snow, it was bitter cold and then when it was warm, the snow melted and it rained. We had a few good weeks that we were able to get most of our classes completed and many classrooms snowshoed in the nature areas bordering our school. There are still a good number of days before winter is over even though signs of spring are occurring. If your child's classroom has not snowshoed, I will make every effort to make sure they get outside if we get new snow. Our Family Snowshoe Hike was cancelled due to lack of snow. I will not reschedule a new hike and hope that next year there will be better conditions.



During March we will see many more signs of spring besides warmer temperatures. Watch for large flocks of waxwings eating fruits and berries. Fruits and berries do provide are lower in nutrition than insects and seeds, so waxwings need to eat huge amounts. You may have heard an owl hooting in the evening or pre-dawn hours. Great horned owls are among the earliest breeders and will occupy nests in late February to early March. They will often nest in empty crow and hawk nests or in tree cavities. As the temperatures warm, chipmunks, raccoons and muskrats will be out and about searching for food again. Watch for pussy willows blooming along the wetland areas.

I have had a lot of questions about coyotes in Maple Grove. Yes, there are coyotes here. Coyotes are fairly shy and try to avoid humans. There are plenty of small mammals for them to eat in the Maple Grove nature areas. However, when a coyote has a den with pups, they will be protective and guard the den. Many people have told me about coyotes approaching them while walking with a dog. The Three Rivers Parks District Wildlife Manager recommends that dogs be kept on a leash while on walks.

Spring Nature Lessons

I am looking forward to our spring nature lessons which will be held in April and May. I will be inviting parents to help with our Native Tree Planting and the Mississippi River Study at the Coon Rapids Dam. Please watch for more information in April.

Kindergarten: Spring Hike
1st Grade: Rot N Recycling/Worm Study & Hike
2nd Grade: Animal Classification & Hike
3rd Grade: Compass Course & Hike
4th Grade: Pond Study
5th Grade: Native Tree Planting
6th Grade: Mississippi River Study at Coon Rapids Dam

Colleen Hazen
School Naturalist

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.

March 10 – ADHD or not? Getting a good evaluation. Depression, anxiety, poor sleep hygiene, and learning disabilities can often mimic symptoms of ADHD. This workshop will address the top ten questions parents should ask before their child has an evaluation. Additionally, information regarding the components of a thorough assessment, and why each is important, will be covered. **Nancy Foster, M.A.** is in the final stages of her doctoral program and dissertation. She is researching ADD and dyslexia and is currently the training supervisor at the Clinic for Attention, Learning, and Memory in Minneapolis. Most notably, she is a mother of a young adult with Asperger's and learning struggles.

ANNOUNCING

THE AUTISM (ASD) LENDING LIBRARY

Did you know the district has an ASD Lending Library with over 1,000 books, videos, DVDs, and CDs? These materials are available to staff and parents of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders serviced through District #279. Materials range from early preschool years to high school and beyond.

Thanks to money donated by the Maple Grove Fire Fighters Relief Association our district has the best school ASD lending library in the state.

You can access the library and all its materials by visiting Weaver Lake Elementary, Room 38, 1500 Weaver Lake Road, Maple Grove or requesting items through your child's Autism Specialist or Special Ed. Teacher. Call if you have questions at 763-420-3337.

PHY ED NEWS

Mrs. Carr's and afternoon Kindergarten - Mrs. Haecherl



The Kindergarteners had a great time doing balloon activities including tapping them over a net, to their partner and with paddles. After balloon activities they got a chance to spend a few days bowling. They were pretty excited about this unit! They learned how to underhand roll the ball to the pins and what excitement when they got a spare or a strike! They also learned how to set up the ten pins and take turns while they worked with their group. Their next activity was parachute play. They learned how to shake it softly and then vigorously while jumping in place. They also played "popcorn", "mountain", and "tent time" with the parachute. They had lots of fun! Currently they are learning a variety of movements for their rhythms unit. They especially like the Hokey Pokey and the Chicken Dance. Other dances they will be working on include the Bunny Hop and Jump Jim Jo to name a few.

A.M. Kindergarten – Ms. Cook

My kindergarten classes have been very busy these past few months! We spent a few days on balloon activities where they practiced tapping the balloon in the air using different body parts and objects while staying in control. We then played a few games using small beach balls and the volleyball net to work on striking an object using an underhand/overhand technique. Next, we spent a few days using our colorful, fun parachute! Students enjoy shaking the parachute, making waves, hiding underneath, and crawling on top of the parachute. We also played a fun game called "Cat and Mouse" which my students enjoy ☺ Then we spent a few days on bowling. Each team had a chance to work together to underhand roll the ball and try to knock down all ten pins. They had to take turns and rotate around their lane to make sure everyone got a few chances! There were a lot of STRIKES and SPARES!!! We just started working on our rhythms unit and students are learning how to listen and move to music. We had a great time with the Hokey Pokey, Saints go Marching In, and Chicken Dance so far! Looking forward to practicing a few circle dances, the Bunny Hop and the all-time favorite Cha-Cha Slide!

Grades 1 and 2 - Ms. Cook

In January we started our Volleyball unit where my students were able to practice their skills of overhead passing (setting), forearm passing, and underhand serving. They started the unit using balloons to individually practice the correct techniques to perform their VB skills. They then worked with partners and in small groups as their skills progressed. They also had a chance to practice their volleyball skills over an official Volleyball net. I was so impressed with my student's abilities to self-toss and then perform a set, forearm pass, or underhand serve in order to get the ball over the net!!! Great job 1st and 2nd graders ☺ After our VB unit we started our Bowling unit, which was so much fun! Sundance, our local bowling alley, supplies us with bowling equipment from their port-a-bowl program for this unit! My students spent a few days bingo



bowling and then we had our ever so popular Moonlight Bowling day where we bowled for candy!!! It was fun to see student's working on their 2 step approach and getting those strikes and spares ☺ Also, throughout the past month my 1st and 2nd graders have been training for their Continuous Movement test coming up in March. First grade jogs for 10 minutes and second grade for 12 minutes!! In the past few weeks I have seen such an improvement in their cardiovascular endurance and strength. Way to go!!!!

Looking Ahead: Rhythms, Continuous Movement, and Fitness Testing



Grades 3, 4, & 5 – Mrs. Huber

The 3rd-5th graders spent the month of January learning and practicing different volleyball skills such as the forearm pass (bump), the overhead pass (set) and the underhand serve (5th grade also learned the overhand serve). We also learned about the different rules in volleyball and how to score. We finished our unit with actual games (3rd grade played a modified game). 5th grade also participated in a low-key volleyball tournament and had fun with that.

After volleyball, all the students participated in a bowling unit. We were provided with pins, balls and lanes from Sundance Bowling Center and the students were taught either the 3-step or 4-step approach. We also learned a little about the history of bowling, etiquette (how we should behave while we bowl) and how to score. We finished with a fun day of "moonlight bowling". Always a favorite!

As of mid February, the 3rd and 4th graders have been working on a unit in hockey. They have been learning stick handling, passing, and goal tending and will finish the unit with some games of sideline hockey. The 5th graders have been working on a rhythms unit and have been learning about "tinikling" which is a dance originating in the Phillipine Islands. This is a dance involving long poles that are tapped together in a rhythm and the students learn basic steps to move through these poles. Looking ahead: 3rd & 4th grades – Rhythms & 4-square. 5th grade – Hockey and Tennis.

Grade 4 - Mrs. Haecherl

The 4th graders have been working hard these past couple of months. They started out working on their volleyball unit. They worked on skills such as the forearm pass, overhead pass and underhand serve. Underhand serving was a skill that they were assessed on and they all did a nice job. At the end of the unit they played volleyball games where they worked on the rules of the game. Bowling was their next unit. They worked on learning the 4 step approach and used it in the games they played over the next few days. They ended the unit playing moonlight bowling and this was a hit with all the students!

PHY ED NEWS (continued)

They are currently in their tumbling unit. They are learning a variety of balances, rolls, jumps and turns. They will be making up a routine using eight of the skills they learned and then show it to their class. They have also been increasing their jogging time to prepare for their continuous movement assessment. This is an assessment for cardiovascular endurance. They have been really working hard on this. A look ahead: rhythms

Grade 6 –

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

In January, all 6th grade classes participated in a volleyball unit. This is a favorite for everyone, whatever the age! The students spent the first half of the unit working on basic skills such as the forearm and overhead passing. They reviewed/learned the underhand/overhand serve and then were assessed on their overhand serve. At the end of the unit, our students were able to play games using their skills, keeping score, and rotating around the court. During these games, good sportsmanship was stressed and overall the students did a nice job demonstrating this!

During the first few weeks of February our students participated in their bowling unit. At Fernbrook we are fortunate enough to borrow bowling equipment from the port-a-bowl program sponsored by Sundance Bowling center. Our students were taught the 4 step approach, bowling etiquette, and how to score a 10 frame game! We finished the bowling unit with a fun day of moonlight bowling.

We just got started on our basketball unit. During this unit our students are working on improving their fundamental skills of dribbling, passing, and shooting. We will also be assessing our 6th graders on their ability to demonstrate a right/left hand lay-up. To end the unit we will have our students playing a variety of lead-up basketball games and some smaller team games to work on their skills.

Our 6th graders are training for their Continuous Movement test that is coming up the first week in March. They will be jogging continuously for 20 minutes for this test!!! Also, we have our Spring Fitness Testing coming up that same week in March!

MARCH LUNCH MENU

Friday, March 13, 2009

Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza
Lettuce Salad & dressings
Hot vegetable
Veggie sticks
Assorted Fruit choices
Milk choices
Dessert

Alternate: Yogurt Cup with String Cheese or Pumpkin Seeds



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

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

March 17 School Board Work Session 6:00 p.m.
Regular meeting 8:00 p.m.

March 31 Regular meeting 8:00 p.m.

GRASP



Grand Rapids Academic Summer Program

Phone: 616-819-2548:

Fax: 616-819-2545

The GRASP program is a 9-week correspondence summer program in math and reading for children who have completed kindergarten to 8th grade. The program seeks to help students retain skills learned during the school year by providing review exercises. Students should enroll at the grade just completed or the level that is appropriate for them. Lessons are scored, recorded, and returned. There is an award system. Awards are mailed soon after Labor Day.

To enroll your child/ren, you must complete the enrollment form and forward it with the enrollment fee to the address indicated. The fees for the summer 2009 are \$37 for one subject and \$61 for both subjects for each child.

Enrollment forms are available by calling 616-819-2548 or may be printed from the Web site: www.grpublicschools.org/grasp Sample pages and objectives may be viewed on this Web site.

Return form and fee to:

GRASP, 2550 Burritt NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Deadline:

Enrollment must be POSTMARKED by June 12, 2009

***District 279 does not endorse the GRASP program.
Information about District 279 summer programs may
be found online at***

www.district279.org/services/communityeducation

(calendar continued from page one)

APRIL

21 - MCA II testing, Gr. 3-6



22 - MCA II testing, Gr. 3-6

24 - No school for students/staff workshop

28 - Gr. 5 field trip
Walk for the Cure (during student's phy ed time)

29 - Walk for the Cure (during student's phy ed time)

30 - Kindergarten Orientation, 4 p.m.

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.)*

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students continue to study melodic direction through singing, instrument playing and body movement. We were introduced to an "octave", an 8 note scale, on the Orff instruments with a song called *The Snowman*. We have also begun to read quarter notes and quarter rests with movement and play them on instruments with the song *Bow Belinda*. We have individually sung new rhyming verses to *A-Hunting We Will Go*. Our next focus will be on "same and different" parts of a song. Ask us to sing and show you the movements to the song, *Bluebird, Bluebird*.

First Grade

First grade enjoyed a drum unit practicing their steady beats in January. We played and sang the songs *GoGo, Ifetayo* and *Pigs Like Mud!*. We have also practiced rhythm patterns with quarter note, eighth note and quarter rest on non-pitched percussion instruments. Students have been introduced to the solfege pitches, *sol, mi* and *la*. We can sing them, sign them with Curwin hand signs and write them on the staff. *Lucy Locket* and *Doggie Doggie Where's Your Bone?* are two of our favorites. We had much fun with the Valentine game songs, *Cinderella* and *Heel, Toe on the Line*.

Second Grade

Second grade students have been working reading and playing rhythm patterns, ostinato (rhythm or melodic pattern that repeats) patterns and creating harmony. We also have been studying solfege patterns, *sol, mi, la, do* and recently added *re* to our knowledge base. We have used the Curwin hand signs, played patterns on the Orff instruments and put them in accompaniment patterns with our songs. We are currently playing three different ostinato patterns at the same time while singing a song. As us to sing you one of our current songs, *Jingle At The Window, Ai Hai Yo, Deta, Deta*, (in Japanese) *I Bought Me A Cat* or *Yankee Doodle*.

Third Grade

Third grade has been working very hard on learning basic pentatonic solfege patterns (do, re, mi, sol, la, and high do), as well as reading rhythms. Each class period students practice singing two-bar patterns, with Curwin hand signs. The goal is that each student is to perform the patterns in-tune with proper hand signals. Beginning in January, we've also made an effort to move from the "ta-ti-ti" method of rhythm reading, to the traditional counting scheme (1 and 2 and, etc.). We also have had lots fun reviewing Valentine and patriotic songs.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade has been working very hard on learning basic pentatonic solfege patterns (do, re, mi, sol, la, and high do), as well as playing recorder. Each class period

students practice singing two-bar patterns, with Curwin hand signs. The goal is that each student is to perform the patterns in-tune with proper hand signals. On recorder, students have been learning how to read a "system" of music. Reading music in *systems* allows for student to understand how harmony is created. We've been playing recorder harmony with American folk-song literature.

Mrs. Williams' Fifth and Sixth Grades

Fifth and Sixth grade have been working very hard on learning basic pentatonic solfege patterns (do, re, mi, sol, la, and high do), as well as playing African drums. Each class period students practice singing two-bar patterns, with Curwin hand signs. The basic goal is that each student is to perform the patterns in-tune with proper hand signals. While playing African drums, fifth and sixth graders continue to discover the concept of complementary rhythm patterns. They have successfully learned to play, "*Ensemble 3 - High Life*," and have learned the Liberian song, *Banuwa* - with ethnic dancing!

Mrs. Niensens' Sixth Grade

Sixth grade students have been worked on singing and playing in harmony with an African drum unit in January. We sang *Siyahamba* and *Jambo, Karibu kwa Afrika*, in two part harmony, and played Ensemble 1, Ensemble 3, and Desert Fire on the drums. We worked with rondo form in a piece called *Dolphinart's Rondo*. We performed rhythm patterns with body percussion, on the drums, improvised on the Orff instruments and performed movement to patterns. We are in the process of creating a *Fernbrook Six Rondo* composition. Students created an A section by writing a 16 beat rhythm pattern and transferred it to body percussion. For the B section, individual students will create and write a melody to perform on an Orff instrument. Students will complete a C section next trimester.

We have also worked on sight-reading new song literature with known solfege pitches *sol, mi, la, do, re, fa* and *ti*. Students have done a wonderful job using Curwin hand signs and their rhythm and melodic skills to learn new song material.

Important Vocal Music Dates:

(Please check monthly for changes)

- April 22: 2nd Grade Program, 2:15 p.m.
- April 23: 2nd Grade Program, 10:45 a.m.
- May 19: 4th Grade Recorder Concert, 2:30 p.m. (FB student body and guests)
- May 20: 4th Grade Recorder Concert, 10:00 a.m. (guests only)



Notable Reading:

Listening to music stimulates the brain, increasing the neural connections. Participating in music enhances brain development and increases the brain's efficiency. The brain's capacity increases during musical activity because synapses are strengthened and connections are built between neurons.

- "A Cognitive Crescendo: How Music Affects our Brain Function," Angela Hampton

TAG 279 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

Mar 2-5 Winter Seminar – 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)
April 6-10 Spring Break
 April 13-17 Cluster Meetings/Makeup sessions
 April 20-23 Spring Seminar – Session 1
 April 27-May 1 Spring Seminar – Session 2

TAG IDENTIFICATION

ExCEL Testing schedule (Grades 1-5)

Mon, Mar 23	Grade 1 (Rahja).....	9:10 - 11:45
Tues, Mar 24	Grade 1 (Lee).....	9:10 - 11:45
Wed, Mar 25	Grade 1 (Melville).....	9:10 - 11:45
Thurs, Mar 26	Grade 1 (Swanson).....	9:10 - 11:45
Fri, Mar 27	Grade 1 (Hanson).....	9:10 - 11:45
Mon, Mar 30	Grade 2 (All).....	9:10 - 11:45
Tues, Mar 31	Grade 3 (Webster, Larson).....	9:10 - 11:45
Wed, Apr 1	Grade 3 (Mickelson, Muehlbauer, Viken).....	9:10 - 11:45
Thurs, Apr 2	Grade 4 (All).....	9:10 - 11:45
Thurs, Apr 2	Grade 5 (All).....	12:30 - 3:00

HP Testing schedule (Grade 6):

Mon, Mar 9.....	(Mr. Richards)
Tues, Mar 10.....	(Mrs. Cullinan)
Wed, Mar 11.....	(All students) except for math only)
Thurs, March 12.....	(Mrs. Schutte)
Fri, March 13.....	(Mr. Klein and makeups)

There is **no specific way to prepare** for these tests; however, we recommend students be **well rested** and that they **eat a nutritious breakfast** the day of the assessment.

If your child is ill on our testing day, please keep her/him home and contact Mr. Odell to make arrangements for a makeup test.

**THINKING IS THE
GOAL OF EDUCATION!**

CONTINENTAL MATH LEAGUE



CML is a challenging academic problem solving competition for math students in grades 2-6. In CML class, students learn the strategies for problem solving in math. They will compete in meets against students across the country. 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. Each meet contains 6 extremely rigorous math challenges. Selection took place in September and classes began 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

Baillie Frizell, McKenna Peplinski, Taylor Colliton, Brandon Baumer, Nick Forsythe, Evan Ditter, Jesse Taavola, Nolan Miller, Zach Tracy, Nicholas Collins, Jayden Roehl, Aaron Hare, Sikai Yang, Paige Cassibo, Jack Delmore, Brooke Fleming, Jack Berndt, Joey Firestone, Kennedy Miedema, Karim Thabet, Trevor Kukkonen, Nathan Buegler, Eli Hoff, Carter Penny, Connor Sharp, Sharada Srivasta, Sydney Windsor, Alex Sharp, Riley Cassibo, Carson MacLeod, Logan Dahl and Logan Penny.

6 out of 6

Zach Majorowicz, Dylan Phimister, Sydney Kara, Collin Abeln, Hubert Lin, Lexi Anundson, Emily Dehn, Ben Shoults, Samantha Welch, Reed Trende, Gail Fraser, and Gavin Coey.

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.

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

FINANCIAL STRESS AFFECTS EVERYONE

The state of our country's economy is affecting everyone and can be stressful for families. The following information was originally prepared by Kelly Deines, school social worker, and may be helpful, whether your family needs support or can offer support to others.

-Terry Tompkins, Fernbrook School Social Worker

How to Talk to our Children about the Economic

Crisis: From The University of Minnesota Extension, February 13, 2009, "Job Loss Affects the Entire Family."

Parents may feel overwhelmed with their own problems when they have lost their jobs, but it is a parent's role to help the children cope with the stress. Following are some tips that will assist parents in helping their children:

- You can help your children best by helping yourself first. Try to get a handle on your own stress. Provide children with information about the family's situation in a way that is age appropriate. Do not keep the income loss a secret from children, despite the urge to protect them.
- Recognize symptoms of stress affecting your children, including sleeplessness, diarrhea, withdrawal, headaches, or angry outbursts.
- Parents who do not feel they are effective in helping their children are encouraged to talk to the children's teachers, school psychologist, clergy, or mental health professional.
- Eat balanced meals, get adequate rest and get plenty of exercise to guard against health problems.
- Try to keep major changes at a minimum. Too many changes at once can be overwhelming. However, some changes, such as a move, may be unavoidable.
- Help your children focus on positive aspects of their lives.
- Hold family discussions on how income loss affects available money for extra activities and allowances. Discuss how each person will help control family spending.
- Spend time together as a family doing low-cost or no-cost activities.

What to Say to the Kids About Financial Stress:

From Wall Street Journal, September 24, 2008, "When Tough Times Weigh on the Kids" By Sue Shellenbarger

Ages 5-9: "Daddy (or Mommy) is a little worried about things at work, but we're taking care of it and our family is going to be OK."

Ages 10-13: "You've seen the news about how the economy is having some troubles. I'm working extra hard to help us get through this."

Ages 14-17: "The weak economy has hurt our business, but we've been through this before. I'm working hard on some new possibilities."

Ways we can help others:

From <http://www.Doinggoodtogether.com> Look for no-cost ways you and your family can make a difference. Here are ideas for how you can help your community, even without writing a check:

- Demand for food assistance is increasing. Can you spearhead a drive in your neighborhood for your local food shelf?
- Losing a job is traumatic. If you know a family coping with unemployment, be specific in your intention to help, such as offering an evening of free childcare or sharing a home-cooked meal.
- Advocate for vulnerable children and families by calling, e-mailing, or writing your representatives.

Useful Community Resources:

- ✓ United Way 211 – call 211 and give a description of your needs, they will connect you to resources.
- ✓ District 279 Free/Reduced Lunch form – if your income has changed, consider completing a new form.

Area Food Shelves:

CEAP

6840 78th Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park MN 55429
763-566-9600

CROSS

12915 Weinand Circle
Rogers, MN 55374
763-425-1050

Other Economic Assistance:

Salvation Army

10011 Noble Parkway
Brooklyn Park MN 55443
763-425-0517

Health Care Assistance:

Minnesota Health Care Programs

www.dhs.state.mn.us/healthcare
612-596-1300

Portico Healthnet

651-603-5100
www.porticohealthnet.org

Medication Assistance:

www.rxhope.com
www.needymeds.com
www.pparx.org or 1-888-4PPA-NOW

2009-10 CLASSROOM INPUT FORM

This is the time of year when we begin thinking about next year's classroom placement. We consider many variables such as academic achievement, behavioral factors, children who should not be together, special education needs of children, personality and style of receiving teacher, balance of number of boys and girls, and work/study skills. IF YOU FEEL YOUR CHILD HAS SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS we would appreciate receiving from you any information that would assist us in making a good classroom placement decision for your child. If you feel it is appropriate, complete the information below and **return to school by April 15, 2009**. *Please be aware that we may not be able to fulfill all requests.*

PLEASE DO NOT LIST INDIVIDUAL NAMES OF TEACHERS as we cannot honor specific teacher requests.

Child's name _____ Grade next year _____

Parent signature _____ Home phone # _____

All parent input will be strongly considered.

1. *Please share any of your child's unique educational, emotional, or social needs (including positive or negative relationships with specific children) you feel should receive special consideration when assigning a classroom.*

2. Please describe the environment that would contribute most significantly to your child's continuing education progress.

3. *Please list any family information or situations and/or any special health concerns that you believe important for us to be aware of as we assign your child to a classroom.*

ARE YOUR CHILDREN *NOT* RETURNING TO FERNBROOK NEXT SCHOOL YEAR?

If your child(ren) will NOT be attending Fernbrook school next school year (2009-10), we would appreciate receiving that information **as soon as you know**. This applies, but is not limited to:

- 1) families moving to another school boundary within the district,
- 2) families moving out of the district,
- 3) families moving out of the state or country, or
- 4) families who are not moving but whose child(ren) will attend a different school.



Please use the form below to notify us. Thank you!

Student name: _____ Current grade _____

Student name: _____ Current grade _____

Student name: _____ Current grade _____

1) _____ moving to another school area in the Osseo District. My address will be: _____

2) _____ moving out of the Osseo District. My address will be: _____

3) _____ moving out of the state/country. Moving to _____

4) _____ not moving but child(ren) will attend a different school. They will attend _____

because of (i.e. in-district transfer, going to private school, etc.) _____

Date of move/change: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

ARE YOU MOVING BEFORE JUNE 5TH?

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS NEEDED AT SCHOOL IF YOUR FAMILY IS MOVING BEFORE THIS SCHOOL YEAR (2008-09) IS OVER.

_____ We will be moving but want our child(ren) to finish this school year at Fernbrook. Date of move: _____

New address is: _____

_____ We will be moving and our child(ren) **will not** finish this school year at Fernbrook. Date of move: _____

New address is: _____

Last day my child(ren) will attend school at Fernbrook is _____.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

**PLEASE RETURN TO FERNBROOK
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**



Effective date: ____/____/____
month date year

Daycare/Kidstop Transportation Form

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This form is required for every daycare student. We use this information to assess transportation needs, determine eligibility, and plan busing for students who are in daycare before and/or after school (whether through the district's Kidstop program or a private provider). If your child does not need transportation provided by the school district, please complete this form and check "bus not needed." For incoming kindergarten students: Please bring this form, along with your other enrollment-related forms, to your child's school as soon as possible, but no later than May 7. For students in grades 1-6: Please return this completed form to your child's school by April 17.

Parents/Guardians with shared custody situations should contact Shirley Purdy in transportation at 763-391-7044.

School _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

Child's Name _____ Grade _____

KINDERGARTEN AM PM Full Day Kindergarten Extra

Home Address _____ Home Phone _____
Address Apt/Unit # City Zip Code

Daycare Provider _____ Daycare Phone _____
Address _____
Address Apt/Unit # City Zip Code

Student will be coming from:	home address	daycare address	Kidstop	bus not needed
Student will be returning to:	home address	daycare address	Kidstop	bus not needed

I certify that my child attends/will attend the daycare listed above and that all information is accurate.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Today's Date

IF THIS INFORMATION CHANGES, PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL SECRETARY.

Consistent bus stops are necessary for the safety of the students. Students are not allowed to make changes regarding pick-up or delivery stops. *Example: riding a school bus to a friend's house*

Special transportation arrangements may be considered for daycare students. A student may be:

- picked up at the home, attend school and be delivered to daycare;
- picked up at daycare and delivered to the home; or
- picked up at daycare and delivered to daycare.

The above transportation arrangements can be made under the following conditions:

1. Both addresses are within the attendance area of the school.
2. Both addresses are outside the one mile walking limit for students in grades 1-6 or one-half mile walking limit for kindergarten students.
3. The pattern is regular, providing the same pick-up address and the same drop-off address every day.