

# Acorn News

Fair Oaks Office 763-533-2246 April, 2009

[www.district279.org/](http://www.district279.org/)



## April Dates to Remember:

April 6-10	NO SCHOOL/Spring Break
April 17	Fair Oaks Carnival, 6:00- 8:30 pm
April 24	NO SCHOOL/Teacher Workshop
April 28	FO PTO Meeting, 6:00 pm
April 30	First Grade Program, 10:30 am
May 6	Kindergarten Round-up 10:00 - 11:30 am



## NO SCHOOL

APRIL 6-10  
SPRING BREAK  
-and-  
Friday, April 24  
Teacher Workshop Day

## It's Carnival Time!!!

Friday, April 17th  
6:00-8:30 p.m.  
All families welcome



## 3rd Grade MCA & MTELL Testing

Just a reminder that all 3rd graders will be taking the MCA/MTELL Tests  
MCA-II Math Tests .....Wednesday, April 15th- 10-11:30 a.m. & 1 - 2:30 p.m.  
Thursday, April 16th- 10-11:30 a.m. & 1-2:30 p.m.  
MTELL-(Math Test for English Language Learners)...April 15th-10-11:30 a.m.  
MCA-II Reading Tests.....Tuesday, April 21st- 10-11:30 a.m. & 1 - 2:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 22nd- 10-11:30 a.m. & 1-2:30 p.m.

Please make sure your 3rd grader arrives at school on time, well rested and ready to do their very best.

## AFTER SCHOOL STUDENT PICK-UP:



Parents picking up students in the far parking lot need to park your cars in a parking spot and come to the building to get your students.

Think  
Spring!!!



### Character Education

Each month at Fair Oaks the students and staff work on a new character trait. The trait for the month of April is:

Empathy

ISD 279  
OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS  
UNITING COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

A message from Dave Warner  
School Counselor

- Our school character education trait for the month focuses on empathy. This is a very challenging trait for young minds to understand. Any reinforcing of this trait at home would be very helpful.

Recent Classroom Guidance Lessons

- Students in kindergarten have been learning more about random acts of kindness.
- In 1<sup>st</sup> grade we have been discussing who we can trust and turn to if we have something to report. Students have really shown that they know many people that they can go to for help if it's needed.
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students have been learning more about self-esteem. They have been brainstorming ways to increase the self-esteem in other people as well as themselves.



Kindergarten Orientation

Wednesday, May 6th  
10:00–11:30 a.m.



If you have a child who will be in kindergarten next fall or know of a neighbor with a child who will be 5 years old by September 1st, this is your day.

Come and enjoy a morning at school meeting the principal, teachers and staff, touring the classrooms and the building and taking a bus ride. If you have paperwork to complete, you can take care of it at this time also or you can bring it to the Fair Oaks office anytime from 7:30-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you need an enrollment packet or assistance in completing the forms please call 763-533-2246 and we will make an appointment to help you.

Along with the enrollment forms we will need to have the following documents:

- Birth Certificate, I-94, passport, or Baptismal Certificate
- Immunizations
- Proof of Residency (Photo ID & Address verification)
- Early Childhood Screening Document (Call 763-391-8776 to make an appt.)

## Autism Grant

Doris Lemanski, Autism Connect teacher at Fair Oaks Elementary, and Mary Twomey, Autism Connect teacher at Brooklyn Junior High, both work with students who need support to understand the nuances of socializing and behavior regulation. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) now affects 1:150 of the population. ASD is a lifelong challenge that affects the ability of the person with ASD to understand another person's perspective, to communicate successfully, and to interact socially.

After writing a grant in order to implement a technique called "video modeling", they received a Qwest grant for the 2008-2009 school year.

The grant financed the purchase of video cameras and other equipment for each of the classrooms. With this equipment, they have been able to use and pilot a research-based video self-modeling (VSM) intervention strategy for students in a self-contained autism classroom. They videotape students and help these students self model positive academic and social behavior.

### **OASIS 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

ences

Weaver Lake Elementary School-Media Center

**15900 Weaver Lake Road, 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.**

**Tuesday 7-9:00 p.m.**

**4/14/09-Understanding Nonverbal Learning Disorders-** We hear about dyslexia and reading disorders (academic learning disorders) but are less familiar with nonverbal learning problems. These nonverbal difficulties can greatly interfere with academic success and social interactions (especially as children progress through middle school and high school). Learn what nonverbal learning disorders are, what they look like at various stages of development, and finally how parents and teachers can help children with NLD while also attending to social skills needs in general. **Ellie Covin Psy.D.L.P.** specializes in comprehensive cognitive, neuropsychological, and social emotional evaluations to address neurobehavioral concerns, including ADHD giftedness, learning disabilities, and other emotional and behavioral differences at Pediatric Consultation Specialists in Maple Grove and Plymouth.

**Questions:** Contact: Michele Vance (651-631-3219) [michelevance@hotmail.com](mailto:michelevance@hotmail.com); Shannon Ross (763-315-7664)

## Keep your daughters and sons in school on April 23

Instead of participating in "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day", please send your child to school.

Good attendance is linked to student achievement. Arranging a visit to your work place during the summer months will support your child's learning more than taking him or her out of school on a regular instructional day. "Take Our Daughters and Sons to work Day" is not considered an excused absence in the Osseo area Schools.

### Notes from Nurse Rhianon



#### *Food Allergies - It's on the Rise*

**Food allergies:** Did you know that food allergies are on the rise? If not, it's something to think about when sending daily snacks or special treats to be shared with others, especially foods containing peanuts/tree nuts. Reading food labels for these food allergens and avoiding sending them to school is a good idea!

Ninety percent of food allergies are to: peanuts, tree nuts (i.e. almonds, pistachios, walnuts, pecans, and cashews), milk, eggs, shellfish, fish, wheat, or soy. Food allergies occur when the person's immune system thinks a particular food is harmful. If the allergic individual comes in contact with or eats the food, the immune system tries to fight the food source by releasing large amounts of chemicals and histamine. This reaction to the "harmful" food source is called an allergic reaction and can vary from mild to severe (life-threatening). Currently there is no cure for food allergies. The only way to prevent an allergic reaction is to avoid the food source. With this in mind, please be sure your child thoroughly washes his/her hands before coming to school. Thanks for your help in keeping our students healthy at Fair Oaks Elementary.

#### Alternative Birthday treat ideas:

- **Food-free treats** such as bookmarks, pencils, fun pens, stickers, friendship bracelets, crazy straws, etc.
- **Peanut/nut-free treats** (remember to read labels) such as Nerds, Laffy Taffy, Sweet Tarts, Starburst fruit chews, Kemps popsicles, JelSert Flavor-Ice, etc.



Additional information on food allergies can be found at [www.foodallergy.org](http://www.foodallergy.org) or [www.fankids.org](http://www.fankids.org)

- **Emergency information reminder:** If you have moved or recently changed your phone number (home, cell, or work), please notify your child's school. The safety of all of our students is top priority. If something should happen at school, we need to be able to reach you. Please call the school office at 763-533-2246 with any changes.
- As the weather starts to get warmer, the playground tends to get wetter. Please send a change of clothes along with your child (ren) to keep in their locker if they need to change.
- Please return any clothes that your child (ren) has borrowed from the health office after they have been laundered.