

# Acorn News

Fair Oaks Office 763-533-2246

February, 2009

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



## February Dates to Remember:

- 2 Conferences, 7:30-8:50 & 4:30-7:00 p.m.
- 10 Conferences, 7:30-8:50 & 4:30-7:00 p.m.
- 12 Conferences, 7:30-8:50 & 4:30-7:00 p.m.
- 13 **NO SCHOOL/Licensed Staff Workshop**
- 16 **NO SCHOOL/President's Day**
- 19 Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser, 3:00—?
- 24 PTO, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 26 R.I.F. Book Distribution

## Kindergarten

### Enrollment

If you have a child who will be 5 years old before September 1, 2009, it is time to begin the enrollment process.

Please call or stop by the FO office if you have a kindergartener and have not received a brown enrollment packet or need help in completing the paperwork. — 763-533-2246 —



## Conferences

- Monday, February 2
- Tuesday, February 10
- Thursday, February 12

## Character Education

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

**Responsibility**



## NEWS FROM OUR MEDIA CENTER:

FO students are very excited about coming to the media center and they are finding wonderful books to take home and read. Unfortunately, several books have been returned this month with ripped pages, coloring on the pages, and damage from water or food and we have had to throw them away. Please help your child find a safe place to keep their library books – some place where babies and animals can't rip or chew the pages, and food cannot be spilled on the covers. Talk with your children about taking good care of books and being responsible for the items in their care. Fines will be assessed for damaged or lost books based on the damage and the replacement cost of the book. Thank you for helping us keep our media center full of wonderful books for all our FO students to enjoy!

Mrs. Kimmes

Library Media Specialist

ISD 279  
OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS  
UNITING COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

**A message from Dave Warner**  
**School Counselor**

Recent Classroom Guidance Lessons

Students in kindergarten have been learning more about using their words to be able to communicate how they are feeling.

- In 1<sup>st</sup> grade we have been discussing random acts of kindness. Students have been brainstorming kind acts that they can do for others and then putting those thoughts into action.
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade we have been working on making wise decisions. During these discussions we talk about how you must first stop and think before you go ahead and do something. Then, after you make your decision and carry it out, we discuss how you need to think about whether your decision was a good one or not.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been learning more about organization and better ways to study.

New Lunch/Recess Groups are starting up

Several new groups will be starting very soon. 2 groups in particular are a family changes/divorce group for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and a friendship group for 1<sup>st</sup> grade. If either group is of interest to you and your child please let me know and I can give you further information.

PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Person: Pam Thoren  
Phone Number: (763) 391-8764

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Parents - Are you looking for a quality preschool program? Check out the District 279 Pre-school 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>

## Notes from Nurse Rhianon

- As the weather continues to be cold, please remember to send your children appropriately dressed for school. Hats, gloves, snow pants, socks and boots! All children are required to go outside unless the wind-chill is 5 below zero.
- Initial Vision and Hearing screening was completed in November and rechecks are done. Referral letters have been sent home for students needing additional screening. Please take this seriously as your child may not be seeing or hearing as well as they could.
- If your child has borrowed clothes from the Health Office please return after they have been laundered.
- Hand washing is the most important way to prevent the spread of infection.




SCRUB, SCRUB, SCRUB!

- Just a reminder as to when to keep children home from school **(they should be free of these symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school)**
  - Fever of 100.0 or higher
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Rash of any sort, (should be seen by physician before returning to school)



- Any communicable disease
- Please feel free to contact me with any health concerns and questions! 763-549-2352
- Please remember that if you have changed your phone number we need this updated in our system as this is our only means of communication if there is an emergency with your child.

Please call the office to update your number. 763-533-2246



**NO SCHOOL**  
Friday, February 13th &  
Monday, February 16th

## February 2009 TAG & Enrichment News

### Week(s) of:

Feb. 2-6	ExCEL Seminar 2 Session #4
Feb. 9-13	CML All grades have a meet
Feb. 16-20	Beyond Words Grade 1
Feb. 23-27	ExCEL Seminar 2 Session #5

### Acronyms and abbreviations:

**TAG** = Talented And Gifted  
**ExCEL** = Extended Curriculum for Elementary Learners  
**CML** = Continental Math League

### ExCEL Seminars:

**Grade 2:** Research: Insects! Students will learn each step of the research process by studying an insect.

**Grade 3:** Public Speaking: Storytelling: Students will learn storytelling and performance strategies.

### 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.*

### **TAG Identification Information:**

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 and 3, 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 Tricia Rutz at Palmer Lake or Fair Oaks Elementary.

Please contact Tricia Rutz at [rutztr@district279.org](mailto:rutztr@district279.org) if you have additional questions.

**For more information about TAG Program Services, please access our web site:**

<http://www.district279.org/services/TalentedGifted/>

### **Mission**

Our mission is to inspire and prepare all students with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning.



## 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

**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.**

**1/13/09- Help Your Child Feel Connected- Recognizing Attachment Needs of Stressed Children through Ages and Stages-**This interactive workshop will explore how parents and teachers can help children develop critical social and emotional skills for life in today's complex world, through enhancing attachment relationships at school and home. Learn the difference between Reactive Attachment Disorder, secure attachment, and attachment at risk, and how these relate to a child's success. How can a classroom strengthen a child sense of connection and security, so vital for coping with new demands? **Krista Nelson LICSW, LMFT**, Project Coordinator of Center for Children with RAD at the Wilder Foundation

**2/10/09-Headaches stomachaches, 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.

**3/10/09-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.

**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.

**5/12/09-Bullying and Its Effect on Students-**Bullying is recognized as a major cause of violence and can impair the physical and mental health of children. Most often the attention falls on the bully and the victim, but research is now showing that the bystanders, both adult and children, have the potential to have the most impact on addressing the situation. This workshop identifies how bystanders are affected by the incident, their roles, and strategies for adults and children to move from bystander to action. **Donna McDonald, LSW**, is a Licensed Social Worker with over 15 years experience in children/family mental health and is the Violence Prevention Coordinator for Anoka County Community Health

**Questions:** Contact: Michele Vance (651-631-3219) [michelevance@hotmail.com](mailto:michelevance@hotmail.com); Shannon Ross (763-315-7664) [rosss@district279.org](mailto:rosss@district279.org) ; or Sue Sullivan (763-494-3240)

**CHILDCARE:** contact Michele Vance 651-631-3219 ([michelevance@hotmail.com](mailto:michelevance@hotmail.com)) or Weaver Lake Elementary 763-420-3337 prior to the meeting. OASIS is sponsored by Weaver Lake Elem. School, ISD 279 Dept. of Special Education, The 279 Foundation, District 279 Community Education and supported by volunteer parent and professional facilitation. These programs are open to all parents, caregivers, and staff.