

Acorn News

Fair Oaks Office 763-533-2246

March, 2009

www.district279.org/elem/fo



March Dates to Remember:

- 4 Character Education Assembly,
10:00 a.m.
- 5 Literacy Night, 5:00-7:30 p.m.
- 6 NO SCHOOL/Mark Reporting Day
- 9 Trimester III Begins
- 31 PTO Meeting, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

To all the families who have pre-registered:

Literacy Night

Thursday, March 5th

5:00-7:30 p.m.

Dinner served 5:00-5:45

(Cost \$1.00 per person)



A night of FUN!



**NO LATEX BALLOONS
ALLOWED!**

**IF YOU HAVE QUES-
TIONS, PLEASE
CHECK WITH BUILD-
ING NURSE**

**Thanks for Helping Us
Keep Our School Safe for
Everyone!**



Happy
St. Patrick's
Day

Character Education

Each month at Fair Oaks the stu-
dents and staff work on a new
character trait. The trait for the
month of March is:

Empathy

Kindergarten

Enrollment

If you have a child who will be 5 years old before
September 1, 2009, it is time to begin the enroll-
ment 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 —



NO SCHOOL
Friday, March 6
Mark Reporting Day

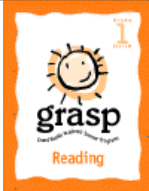
ISD 279
OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS
UNITING COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

A message from Dave Warner

School Counselor

Recent Classroom Guidance Lessons

- Students in kindergarten have been learning more about how to follow multi-step directions so that they are all ready for the upcoming demands of 1st grade.
- In 1st grade we have been discussing ways to make difficult 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.
- In 2nd grade students have been learning about where they can get help if they are faced with a difficult decision or situation.
- 3rd graders have been practicing ways to be better at listening in class. Too often important information is lost in the classroom because of a lack of listening. In these 3rd grade lessons, we have talked about this and how it can hurt their grades. To help our students become even more attentive in class we have discussed and practiced a listening tool called the FEVER. The FEVER stands for:
 - Facing the speaker
 - Eyes on the speaker
 - Voices off
 - Expression



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, re-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/community_education.

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, 15900 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.



March 2009 TAG & Enrichment News

Week(s) of:

- March 16-20 CML
- March 23-27 CogAT Testing (grade 1)

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.

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 and Fair Oaks Elementary.

Please contact Tricia Rutz at rutzt@district279.org if you have additional questions.

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.

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.

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

CHILDCARE: contact Michele Vance 651-631-3219 (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.