

December



- 3 - School Spirit Day
- 4 - No school for students (mark reporting day)
- 7 - Tri II starts
- 10 - Santa's Secret Shop, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- 14 - Gr. 1 field trip, 10 a.m.
- 16 - School Store
- 17 - Kindergarten winter party
Gr. 1-3 winter party
- 18 - School Sing Along, afternoon
- 21-Jan 1 – Winter Break

January



- 4 – Return to school
- 5 - D.A.R.E. graduation, 1:45 p.m.
- 6 - School Store
- 7 - MGF D visit, Gr. 5, 9:15 a.m.
- 8 - School Spirit Day
- 11 - Author visit, Gr. K-2, 9 a.m.- noon
- 18 - No school/Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 19 - Conferences, 4-9 p.m.
- 20 - School Store
- 21 - Conferences, 4-9 p.m.
- 25 - Conferences, 4-6 p.m.
PTO Board meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 28 - Gr. 3 field trip, 9 a.m.-2:15 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-Odell, Principal



By Collin Hemze

Happy Holidays!!

Our first trimester comes to an end on Thursday and your child's first trimester progress reports go home on December 9th. Your involvement in reviewing progress reports is very important. Sharing your pleasure with positive areas and celebrating hard work is the first step. Talk about the good marks and comments – let your child know how proud you are with their hard work and efforts. Children are motivated by their personal success and pride. Your support is essential as we begin the second trimester of the year. If you have any questions, please send a note/email to your child's teacher or give him/her a call. Teachers and parents working together create a strong partnership for student learning.

Our PTO Family Event **Santa's Secret Shop** will be held **December 10th from 4:30–7:30 p.m.** This is a great opportunity for children to "shop" by themselves for family members and friends. Check out the PTO flyer for additional information.

Please remember we will continue to accept donations for our **Giving Tree until December 14th**. We are collecting food items to be donated to C.R.O.S.S., an organization that helps families in need. The items needed include canned fruits and vegetables, cake and bread mixes, stuffing, Jell-O and pudding, gravy mixes, flour, sugar, pie filling, macaroni, stews and canned meats, cereals, meal mixes, peanut butter, jelly, soups, pasta and sauce mixes, canned tuna, evaporated milk and baby formula. These items go to local families in need of assistance this holiday season.

Our last student day before Winter Break will be Friday, December 18th. We will resume school again on Monday, January 4th. All of us here at Fernbrook want to wish you and your family the happiest of holidays. Have safe travels and the warmest of times! Take care and I will see you in January.



Happy Holidays to all our families...

From the Fernbrook Staff!

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

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

Nov. 4	Regular meeting	8:00 p.m.
Nov. 17	School Board work session Regular meeting	6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Dec. 1	Regular meeting	8:00 p.m.

NOTES FROM NURSE JO...

HELP PREVENT THE FLU: HAND SANITIZER DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Our school is running low on our supply of alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and our suppliers are struggling to meet the high demand for the product. Therefore, we are asking parents/guardians to consider donating 8 oz. bottles of alcohol-based hand sanitizer for use in our school. The most common brand is Purell, but the brand name doesn't matter; any brand that has 62-65% alcohol base will be effective.

Please consider donating one or more bottles (8 oz preferred) to Fernbrook; you or your child can drop off the supplies in the school office. Thank you!

2010-11 KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHTS

Families with incoming kindergarten students for the 2010-11 school year are invited to join us for Kindergarten Information Nights, **Tuesday, December 1 or Thursday, December 3 from 6-7:30 p.m.**

Dec. 1 will be held at Cedar Island Elementary, Willow Lane Early Childhood Center, or Garden City (Hmong).

Dec. 3 will be held at Cedar Island Elementary, Willow Lane Early Childhood Center, and Fair Oaks Elementary (Spanish).

A free light meal will be served at both locations from 5:15-5:45 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 9:15 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 (specify if flu like symptoms)

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

HOTLINE 4 HOMEWORK...

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 (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.

Nature News

Winter nature lessons are underway for Kindergarten through 4th grade classrooms.

Kindergarten -Gall Study
1st Grade - Animals in Winter
2nd Grade - Animal Tracks
3rd Grade - Minnesota Deer
4th Grade - The Water Cycle
5th Grade - Orienteering
6th Grade - Geocaching



The 5th and 6th grade nature lessons will be held after winter break when we usually have more snow. Volunteers will be needed to help groups of 5th grade students use a map and compass to find their way through an orienteering course set up around the baseball fields. Sixth grade students will use GPS units to find hidden treasure boxes hidden in the nature areas around the school and volunteers will be needed to guide them. There is no experience required; volunteers will be trained 15 minutes before each classrooms meet for the outdoor portion. Please consider helping out and watch for more information in Wednesday envelopes.

Snowshoeing

Our winter hikes for Grades 1-6 will be snowshoe hikes. Students need to have their winter gear including a winter coat, gloves, hats, boots, as well as, waterproof pants like snow pants or wind pants to protect them from snow that kicks up against the back of their legs.



Usually student groups snowshoe after winter break. However, if we get a lot of snow (at least 6 inches) early, we will be able to snowshoe at that time. If students are prepared, those classrooms will be able to take advantage of the snow!

Volunteers will be requested by teachers for Grades 1-4 to help put the snowshoes on students and join us for the hike! It is a fun activity and we would love to have you join us if you can!

Nature Committee

The Nature Committee is looking for parents that would like to join this group. This group of staff and parents will develop new ideas for our Nature Program, help develop our nature areas so they can be utilized best and plan possible nature events at Fernbrook.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S CORNER

*"Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to **run** over to Fernbrook and help the physical education department with fitness testing. It **lifted** a lot off our shoulders and we **sat right up** and took notice! We appreciate your **flexibility** with the testing. Thank you for using **your muscles to push up** your schedules and make yourself available!"*

Jodi Cook, Julie Haecherl, Kris Huber and Carol Joelson



50 Reasons to Volunteer

Add sunshine to someone's day* Answer a need* Show that you care* Enjoy new experiences* Feel good about yourself* Better your school* See others smile* Stay young at heart* HAVE FUN* Learn about life* Teach others* Keep active* Help students* Enrich your life* Promote art project* Meet new people* Reach out to others* Put caring into action* Build a better future* Tackle new challenges* Be part of a team* Bridge the generation gap* Gain new insights* Change someone's life* Put your skills to work* Inspire others* Spread joy* Make dreams come true* Set a positive example* Ease someone's burden* Help those who can't help themselves* Blaze a trail* Be a part of a solution* Develop new talents* Motivate others* Take pride in giving* Make the world a better place*

We are thankful for all of our volunteers!

Thank you to the families who attended the **Staff Variety Show**. We hope you were able to relax, laugh, and enjoy. We appreciate you sharing your evening with many Fernbrook families and staff. With your support the staff raised \$3,400.00 for Fernbrook Families Helping Families, all this in one night. Thank you for your continued support!

Carol Joelson, Volunteer Coordinator
763-391-8423

joelsonc@district279.org
Monday-Thursday, 9:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m

FERNBROOK FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES



Fernbrook Families Helping Families is a Fernbrook group which raises funds to support families in need, both financially and non-financially.

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).

GIFTED EDUCATION NEWS

Pam Klein
kleinp@district279.org



Needs Based Classes (NBC) Information

Week(s) of:	<u>NBC#2</u>	
Nov. 30-Dec.3	session 3	Gr. 2 Bubble Physics
Dec. 7-11	session 4	Gr. 3 Inventors
Dec. 14-18	session 5	Gr. 4 Physics: Rube Goldberg/Marble Run
		Gr. 5 Engineering: Bridges
		Gr. 6 Forensics: Crime Scene Investigation

Collaboration in the Classroom (CBS) Information

December 1-18 Ongoing GE collaboration with classroom teachers

During collaborative sessions, the GE teacher will continue to work with classroom teachers in planning for differentiated instruction.

Information for first grade parents

The Gifted Education teacher is collaborating with each first grade teacher in the classroom this year to begin identifying students with the greatest need for rigor and providing instruction for all students. During the 2010-2011 school year the Gifted Education teacher will continue to provide enrichment instruction in each second grade and collaborate with the second grade teacher. Testing for Gifted Education service will not be necessary for this year's first graders.

Information for second through fifth graders

January is the time when testing for Gifted Education pull-out service takes place. Teachers in grades two through five will soon begin the data-collection process in preparation for identifying those students with the greatest need for pull-out enrichment in the 2010-2011 school year. More information will be sent home through the Wednesday envelope.

Information for sixth graders

It's time to make plans for 7th grade. High Performance brochures have been included in recent Wednesday envelopes to pave the way for the next step in the process. In the report card envelope of each 6th grader, there will be an application for High Performance classes. HP classes are available at all junior high schools in the subject areas of English, science, social studies and math. Interested students and their families should complete the application form and return it to school on or before December 16, 2009. Be sure to read the math portion carefully regarding automatic placement.

Young Scientist Roundtable: An enrichment opportunity for all Fernbrook families

Your participation in each month's Young Scientist Roundtable is funded by Gifted Education 279. Future dates are listed below; also attached is information regarding the valuable December 1 opportunity!

Mark your calendars:

Tuesday, December 1, 2009
Tuesday, January 5, 2010
Tuesday, February 9, 2010
Tuesday, March 2, 2010
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

For more information about GE Services, please access our web site:

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



YOUNG SCIENTIST ROUNDTABLE

Wayzata Central Middle School
305 Vicksburg Lane
Plymouth MN 55447
7:00-8:00 p.m.
www.wayzata.k12.mn.us/ysr

Located at Vicksburg & Gleason Lake Drive. From 494 & 394, go west on 394 to the County Road 15 EAST exit. Go right at the YIELD sign. Continue to the next stop sign at Vicksburg Lane and turn left. Turn left into the parking lot. Watch for Young Scientist Roundtable signs!

Tuesday, December 1, 2009
Dr. Charles Woodward
Astronomy Department
University of Minnesota
Title: "Water on the Moon"

And don't forget – Teen Roundtable 8:10-8:40 p.m.

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to meet with the speaker after the presentation to discuss the topic in more depth.

Young Scientist Roundtable is funded in part by the General Mills Foundation, the Vernon James Pick Foundation and FilmTec Corporation.

Questions? Call Charlene Barghini at 763-745-5208
charlene.barghini@wayzata.k12.mn.us

MUSIC NOTES from

Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Nielsen



(Mrs. Williams is the music teacher for grades 1, 4, 5, and 6.)
(Mrs. Nielsen is the music teacher for grades K, 2, 3 & 6.)

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students continue to study steady beat through movement and non-pitched percussion instruments. We will soon be playing non-pitched percussion instruments with the song, *10 Little Angels*. One of our favorite songs to practice the dynamics Forte (loud) and Piano (soft) is *The Old Black Cat*. Our Thanksgiving songs have focused on the concepts High and Low through singing and movement activities. Ask us to sing you the following songs: *Five Fat Turkey's*, *Thanksgiving Day*, or *I'm A Very Fine Turkey*.

First Grade

First grade was having fun working on finding their singing voices. We played games such as "Lucy Locket," which helps the children match the pitches of sol, mi, and la. We also had fun singing special Thanksgiving songs. Ask to hear, "Five Fat Turkeys," "The Turkey Ran Away," and "There Are Many Things I'm Thankful For." Students also had fun learning how to write treble clefs and quarter notes on the staff, and writing their first musical composition!

Second Grade

Second grade students have been working on reading, writing and singing the solfege pitches *do*, *mi*, *sol*, and *la*. Ask us to sing you *Mouse*, *Mousie* or *Here Comes A Bluebird*. We practiced creating the dynamic contrasts crescendo and decrescendo in the songs *One Dark Night* and *On Halloween Night*. We recently were introduced to the solfege syllable, *re* and we'd love to share our game song *Long Legged Sailor* with you! Second graders continue to practice quarter notes, quarter rest, eighth notes and recently learned about a half note and rest. We have also reviewed the non-pitched percussion instruments in the song *Over The River and Through the Wood*.

Third Grade

Third graders have been working on reading, singing and playing solfege patterns containing *do*, *re*, *mi*, *sol*, *la* and high *do*. Ask us to sing and hand sign the song *Little Tommy Tinker!* We have created new verses to *No More Pie* and read the solfege syllables to learn a partner song with one of our favorite songs *Jubilee*. We are reading quarter, eighth, half notes and their equivalent rests. We recently studied the rhythm of an orchestral piece *In The Hall Of the Mountain King!* We have been singing on the song *My Country Tis of Thee* and have sung it with a computer program called *Singing Challenge, Lifetime Music Making*. We have had fun tracking our voice by watching our pitch and rhythm on the computer screen as we sing into a microphone.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade has been working very hard on recorder. They have learned the notes B, A, and G, and were recently assessed on the ability to play, "Hot Cross Buns," "Ice Cream Cone," and "Merrily We Roll Along." They have been doing a great job playing their instruments! Students have received a new recorder packet. They now will begin learning the "C" note and adding the right hand with the "E" note.

Mrs. Williams' Fifth and Sixth Grades

Fifth and Sixth grade has been continuing working on their music reading skill (both melodic and rhythmic). Students were also exposed to the music and culture of Native Americans. We had fun listening to the Native American flute music of R. Carlos Nakai. Students were recently assessed on their ability to identify notes, and write rhythms. We will be carrying these concepts through to our musical compositions.

Next month, students will be analyzing holiday sing-a-long songs for their key signatures, harmony, and form. We also will be discussing these in the context of musical composition and cultural components

Mrs. Nielsen's Sixth Grade

Sixth grade students have been reviewing absolute pitch names and known rhythm patterns containing quarter notes, eighth notes and half notes and their equivalent rests. We are focusing on sixteenth note combinations through our singing voices, body percussion and instrument playing activities. We learned *Toembai*, sang it in a 3 part round and learned an Orff orchestration to practice sixteenth note combinations. We rehearsed expressive singing techniques with our fall songs, *Ah Poor Bird*, *Ghost of John* and *Abram Brown*. We are now working on singing in harmony and sixteenth note rhythms in the songs *Drill Ye Tarriers Drill* and *A Zing-a Za*. We can also walk the steady beat and move to sixteenth note rhythm patterns with the poem 10 Tom Toms!

Important Vocal Music Dates:

(Please check monthly for changes)



Holiday School Sing-a-long

Dec. 18: (K-6 will be split into 2 sessions:
2:10-2:40 and 2:20-2:50)

5th Grade Program:

March 23: 2:00-2:45, Performance for 3, 4, 6, and guests
March 24: 9:40-10:25, Performance for morning K, and guests

2nd Grade Program:

April 13: 7:00 p.m. Performance for families

4th Grade Program:

May 10: 1:15-1:45 Dress Rehearsal for PM Kdgn, gr. 1 & 2
May 11: 2:00-2:30 Performance for Gr. 3, 5, 6 and guests
May 12: 9:40-10:10 Performance for morning K, and guests



Notable Reading:

"Singing exaggerates the language of reading. The students find their voices in the rhythm and the bounce of language using music as an alternative approach to reading."

- Dr. Marie Briqqs



UNITING COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE