



DEERWOOD NEWSLETTER

1480 DEERWOOD DRIVE * EAGAN, MINNESOTA 55122

PHONE: (651) 683-6801 * FAX: (651) 683-6808 * WEBSITE: WWW.DISTRICT196.ORG/DW

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

I want to welcome all families and students back for another year of learning at Deerwood Elementary. I enjoyed meeting many of you at our open house on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

The beginning of another school year is always an exciting and special time for anyone involved in education. The school truly comes to life as we fill our halls with students ready to learn.

There will be many ways in which we will communicate with the Deerwood Community this coming school year. Each month we will send all families a copy of the Deerwood Newsletter. **Some of you may choose to have it delivered via e-mail (see page 7).** It will include important dates, upcoming events and special news about Deerwood. Secondly, I encourage all families to sign up for the Deerwood "Backpack Online" Service. Periodically, important information will be sent out via e-mail to all registered families. To sign up, go to our website at www.district196.org/dw/

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Lisa Martin	First Grade Teacher
Rebecca Rademacher	First Grade Teacher
Heather Danich	First Grade Teacher
Donna Idstrom	Fifth Grade Teacher
Angie Asher-Carlson	Math Recovery
Anne Schonhardt	Reading Recovery

Listed under "Upcoming Events" are the various grade level "Back-to-School" meetings scheduled during the month of September. These meetings will be brief overviews of the grade level curriculum, classroom procedures and homework expectations. Due to limited space we ask that only the parents attend these meetings. I strongly recommend that you attend these meetings.

We are off to a great start at Deerwood Elementary and I look forward to visiting with you sometime during the school year.

Miles Hauge

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14

Grade 2 Back-to-School Night - 6:00 p.m.

September 16

Grade 4 Back-to-School Night - 6:00 p.m.

September 17

Lifetouch Picture Day

September 17

Kind. Back-to-School Night - 6:00 p.m.

September 18

Project Playfit Day

September 21-October 21

MAP Tests - Grades 2-5

September 22-October 9

OLSAT 8 - Grades 3-5

September 21

Grade 3 Back-to-School Night - 6:00 p.m.

September 22

Grade 5 Back-to-School Night - 6:00 p.m.

September 22

Booster Club Meeting - 6:30-8:00 p.m.

September 23

Innisbrook Fundraiser Kickoff - 2:00 p.m.

October 3

T.C. Marathon Youth Running Event

October 5

Innisbrook Fundraiser Ends

October 6

Title I Information Night - 6:30 p.m.

October 8

Site Council Meeting - 3:30-5:30 p.m.



REMINDER:

Picture Day - Thursday, September 17



**LINDY
PFALTZGRAFF
VOLUNTEER COORD.**

**PHONE:
651-406-8556**

**E-MAIL:
DW.VOLUNTEER@
DISTRICT196.ORG**

**FUNDRAISING
REMINDERS**

There are a variety of fund-raising opportunities that go on throughout the entire year at Deerwood, and the best part is, they don't require a great deal of work on your part!



KOWALSKI'S RECEIPTS

Simply place your Kowalski's receipts in Deerwood's box, located by the exit, and every quarter, we receive a donation based on the NUMBER of receipts, not the dollar amount. Don't forget, receipts from the Starbucks located inside the store count, too!



**KEMPS AND LAND 'O
LAKES MILK CAPS**

Please collect your cleaned milk caps and have your child place them in the box directly inside the front entrance!

VOLUNTEERING AT DEERWOOD

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer, and are looking forward to the start of another year at Deerwood as much as I am! I am anxious to meet many of the new families joining Deerwood, and am here to help you get involved with the many volunteer opportunities that we have available. I hope you take a moment to enjoy our new "spruced" up front entrance. Thank you to the Booster Club for providing the enclosed bulletin board. We hope that parents and staff will find it useful! When you are volunteering, please remember to sign in at the Greeter table, or on the Volunteer Sign-in sheets located on the counter BEHIND Mrs. Galloway's desk, and put on a nametag. To ensure that your help is acknowledged, please remember to print neatly!

Volunteer Leaders: The following people will be heading up the various activities and committees at Deerwood this year. These activities could not happen without the efforts of these committed parents, and as you can see, there are a number of areas in need of a leader this year. If you would be interested in heading up one of these open areas, please contact me as soon as possible! **Thanks to you all!**

Activity	Name	Activity	Name
1st Grade Coordinator	Kate Cahill	<i>Fall Conference Meal</i>	<i>Your Name Here!</i>
2nd Grade Coordinator	Lindy Pfaltzgraff	<i>Fall Conference Meal</i>	<i>Your Name Here!</i>
3rd Grade Coordinator	Heather Wright	Holiday Treat Buffet	Kristi O'Brien
4th Grade Coordinator	Lisa Connelly	<i>Winter Conference Meal</i>	<i>Your Name Here!</i>
5th Grade Coordinator	Cathy Lutz	<i>Winter Conference Meal</i>	<i>Your Name Here!</i>
Art Adventure	Kathy McMonagle	Staff Appreciation Brunch	Sharon Meekin
Book Fair	EvaMarie Edwards	<i>Pizza Night</i>	Kim Sabo
Lunchroom Coordinator	<i>Your Name Here!</i>	Noodles Night	Cyndee Markel
Library Help	Julia Heinzen	School Toolbox	Megan Bard-Pankow
Box Tops	Jennifer O'Rourke	Food Perspectives	Doreen Runquist
Kemps/Land 'O Lakes	Tony & Ronna Coleman	Innisbrook	Kathy McMonagle, Susan Graves & Laura Duffy
Cookbooks	Kristi O'Brien	<i>Winter Social</i>	<i>Your Name Here!</i>
Deerwood Merchandise	Linda Anderson	Spring Plant Sale	Jan Johnson
Ice Cream Social	Cathy Lutz	Basket Raffle	Lisa Connelly
		Jog-a-thon	I. Van Beynen & M. Turner

Volunteer Sign Up

You should have all received a form in the mail before school started, describing the many volunteer opportunities we have available throughout the year. Sign-up sheets were also displayed at Open House. If you were unable to attend, and didn't get a chance to sign up for volunteer opportunities, you can still return the form that was mailed home by having your child give it to his/her teacher as soon as possible. You are also welcome to call or email me to inquire where your help is needed. Extra copies of the volunteer sign-up forms are available in the office.

Fundraising at Deerwood

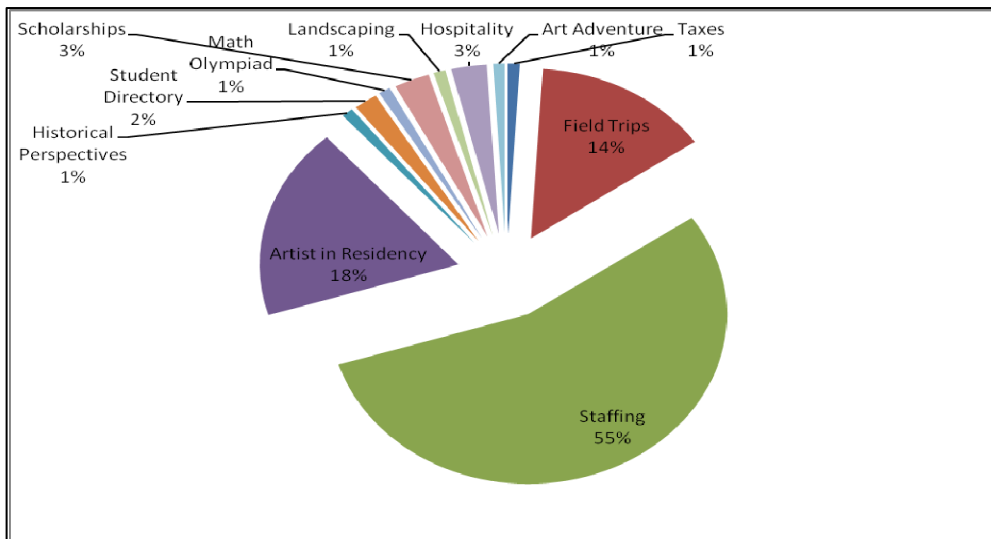
Deerwood offers several fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Detailed information will be sent home prior to the start of each fundraiser. Participation in all fundraisers is completely voluntary, and should be guided by what you feel comfortable contributing.

FUNDRAISING AT DEERWOOD ELEMENTARY

Deerwood offers several fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Detailed information will be sent home prior to the start of each fundraiser. Participation in all fundraisers is completely voluntary, and should be guided by what you feel comfortable contributing.

Where Does Our Money Go?

The chart below shows how we spent our fundraising money over the 2008-2009 school year. The money we raise helps fund everything from additional staffing, to a variety of educational opportunities that our students could not experience without the additional funds. Thank you to all of you who choose to participate in our Innisbrook fundraiser, which will generate over 50% of our funds for the year!



DEERWOOD BOOSTER CLUB MEETINGS

The Deerwood Booster Club will be holding meetings every other month. At these meetings, we will discuss ways to help support the school through various fundraisers, enhance the students' educational experience by offering a variety of educational opportunities, provide support for staff, and help promote a sense of school spirit.

All parents, guardians and staff members of Deerwood students are considered members of the Booster Club. Please see how you can get involved in events going on at our school, and plan on attending the meetings. These events would not be a success without your help and support!

Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. We will be meeting in the Deerwood Media Center. On our agenda, we will be hearing from Mr. Haugen regarding a request to fund a couple of performances for our students by Jack Pearson, a musician. We will also be discussing ideas on how to utilize some extra money that the Booster Club has available for the school. If you have ideas on how this money should be spent in a way that would most benefit our entire student body, please plan on attending the first meeting.

Additional meetings will be held at 6:30 on the following dates:

November 17th

March 16th

January 19th

May 18th

****Please mark your calendars now, and plan to attend!**

BOXTOPS 4 EDUCATION



Look for box tops on many of your favorite products! Your child can place them in the specially designated box in their classroom. We will have contests throughout the year for the class that collects the most box tops each month!

THANK YOU SUMMER VOLUNTEERS!

There are a number of Deerwood parents who have shared their time and talents throughout the summer getting ready for this year's activities. Thanks especially to...

Linda Anderson
 Paula Chipman
 Kathy McMonagle
 Susan Graves
 Laura Duffy
 Megan Bard-Pankow
 Doreen Runquist
 Vandana Vij

TWIN CITIES MARATHON YOUTH EVENT

By Amy Fischer, Physical Education Specialist

Deerwood Elementary will be participating in the “**Twin Cities Marathon Family Events**” on **Saturday, October 3rd**. This will be our twelfth year participating in this wonderful-fun event. Please discuss with your child, which of the following events is appropriate for them to participate in (taking into account age, personal goals and physical fitness level).

5K Run/Walk: start time 9:00 a.m.

Fitness One-Mile: start time 10:00 a.m.

Fitness Half-Mile: start time 10:30 a.m.



NEW!!!! Registration for this event is done online by parents, for their children. You will need a referral code for our school to process the registration. Our school code for this event is **SCDWFALL9**. You can access the registration by logging in to:

<https://secure.marathonguide.com/register/TwinCitiesSaturday/>

and click on the *register here* link. The cost for the event is \$10 for the mile and half mile distances, \$20 for the TC 5K and \$25 for the TC 10K. There is a \$2 processing fee. If you need help accessing the internet, please let me know. I will compile the registrations for our school once everyone has registered. REGISTRATION IS DUE SEPTEMBER 25. ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE ONLINE.

On race day you are encouraged to attend as a supportive spectator.

Twin Cities Marathon, Inc. has established a scholarship program with funds available for families who wish to participate in the run but are unable to due to financial circumstances. There is information to check off during the registration process.

All run participants will receive a T-shirt, medal and race number. The event takes place at the State Capitol in and around the Finish Line of the Twin Cities Marathon in St. Paul.

I hope that your child will consider participating in this fun/fitness event. Once registration has closed, I will share more details with those who have registered. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at amy.fischer@district196.org OR call 651-683-6969 x92473. You may also call the Twin Cities Marathon office at 763-287-3888, ext. 20.

TITLE I PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

The Title I teachers will be having an informational meeting on Tuesday, October 6 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. At this meeting, we will introduce ourselves and discuss the Title I reading and math program for this year.

This meeting is intended for parents only. Please make child care arrangements.

You are encouraged to make an appointment or stop in to see us at conferences in November. Should you have questions or concerns before this time, and are unable to attend the Informational Night, please leave a message on our voice mail. We will return your call promptly.

Title I teachers can be reached at the following number: 651-683-6969. The voice mail box numbers for our Title I staff are as follows:

Sandra Schile - 93712

Teresa Davis - 93751

FITNESS TESTING IN SEPTEMBER

**MONDAY, SEPT. 21
(ALT. 9/25)**

8:40-9:35 a.m.
Taylor/Idstrom and Thomforde

9:40-10:35 a.m.
Swenson/Sipe

10:40-11:35 a.m.
Martin/Rademacher and Schwartz

12:25-1:20 p.m.
Novitzki/Raphael

1:25-2:20 p.m.
Hendrickson/Kirschbaum

September 21 and 22 students in grades 1-5 will be completing the cardiovascular component of their spring fitness test. Students in grades 4-5 will be doing the one-mile run/jog/walk. Students in third grade will be participating in the newly implemented ¼ mile run/walk/jog and grades 1-2 will be doing the half-mile fitness test. A reminder letter, with helpful tips on how to prepare, will go home the week of the test.

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 22
(ALT.9/28)**

8:40-9:35
Highum/Oettinger

9:40-10:35
Werwie/McGrane and Danich

10:40-11:35
Odegard/Lindorfer

12:25-1:20
Norton

1:25-2:20
Puttonen/Jurgens

PROJECT PLAYFIT "GAMES DAY"

WHO: Deerwood Students in Kindergarten Plus and grades 1-5

WHAT: PROJECT PLAYFIT "GAMES DAY"

WHEN: Friday, September 18th (weather permitting; Alternate date is 10/2)
 Session 1: 8:30-10:45 a.m. (grades 3-5)
 Break - 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
 Session 2: 12:45-2:15 p.m. (grades 1-2/Kindergarten Plus)

WHERE: Deerwood Field and Blacktop

Students **MUST** wear tennis shoes and dress in comfortable layers due to cool weather.

WHY: Games Day is a day for **students and staff** to learn many new games in one day! Parent volunteers will teach games to students, teachers and clerks on a rotating basis through stations.

This is a great way to change how and what children play at recess or even at home. Games Day is also a way to teach staff some fun new activities to do with their students during an "academic-break". This is a great way to start off the first month of school, by letting the students learn how to cooperate together as a class.

IF INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING, COMPLETE FORM BELOW

I, _____, would like to volunteer to assist at the Deerwood Project Playfit "Games Day" on **Friday, September 18th.**

I am available for:

- _____ Session 1 for grades 3-5, 8:10-10:45 a.m.
- _____ Session 2 for grades 1-2 and Kindergarten Plus 12:25-2:15 p.m.
- _____ Both sessions 8:10-10:45 a.m. AND 12:25-2:15 p.m.
- _____ I am available for the alternate day Friday, October 2
- _____ Session 1 (grades 3-5)
- _____ Session 2 (grades 1-2 and KDG)

PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th

INNISBROOK IS BACK! WHAT IS INNISBROOK?



Innisbrook Wrapping Paper and Gifts are available for purchase again this year. This wonderful company who buys almost exclusively American products allows us to bring you high quality wrapping paper, chocolates and gifts to buy for yourselves or to sell to friends, family and neighbors. They return half of the purchase price to our school. The

Deerwood Booster Club uses this money to fund extra teachers, playground equipment, Smart Boards for the classrooms, field trips, buses, and special programs. Every dollar supports our Deerwood students.

If you have no interest in buying products or selling to others, you can simply send in a cash donation instead. Watch for more information coming home in a few weeks with your student.

Please support our biggest school fundraiser if you are able. Last year we raised about \$19,500 and we hope to match that this year.

Thanks for your consideration!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Deerwood will once again be participating in the Box Tops for Education program sponsored by General Mills. This is a great opportunity for our school to earn money for important programs such as the Artist in Residency initiative every year. Please clip out the ones in your home, and eventually send them along to school with your child. We will have a container in each classroom, as well as contests throughout the year.



Remember this is free money for our school! Here are a couple of tips for "free" BoxTops!

1. Sign up on their website at www.boxtops4education.com. The Deerwood ID is 168786, which you'll need to enter. In addition to your being eligible for extra BoxTops contests, etc. this is a great site for recipes, links to other shopping online-BoxTop earning opportunities, and parenting forums; in addition to finding out what products are BoxTop eligible.
2. Ask a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or special neighbor to collect them for your child. Have your child do the ask! Your child will feel good about earning more Box tops, and this is an easy way for others to contribute to Deerwood without having to write a check.
3. Take advantage of all the double and triple Box Tops that are out there in stores for the month of September. Many products that normally have one Box Top, actually have 2 or 3 for this Back to School time.

Thanks for your support of this easy fundraiser for Deerwood.

Jennifer O'Rourke--Box Top Coordinator for Deerwood this year, and can be reached at jorourke@lmc.org or 651.454.8161 for questions.



Parents:

I want to encourage all Deerwood Elementary families to participate in the *Eat. Talk. Connect!* challenge this fall! Research is clear that children who eat regularly with their families are healthier, do better in school, and are less likely to smoke, use alcohol or other drugs. Families with children (K-12th grade) who eat together at least three meals each week will be eligible for great prizes!

To register, go to www.DakotaCounty.us (search "ETC") or call 952-891-7500 for more information.

NUTRITION NEWS FLASH



Welcome back to school meals! Nutritious food is directly linked to student achievement, and we all want to “grow” healthy students who are ready to learn.

SchoolView: We encourage the parents of elementary school students to sign up for SchoolView, a FREE and convenient way to access information about your child’s meal account. FeePay can be accessed through SchoolView, and payments can be made to your child’s meal account using a credit card (with 4% charge) or checking/savings account transfer. Parents can also utilize the low-balance alert feature in FeePay to eliminate receiving the blue low-balance

notes. Please contact your child’s school to sign up for SchoolView.

Free or Reduced-Price Meals: Students who qualify for *free* meals are eligible to receive both a free breakfast and a free lunch each day. Students who qualify for *reduced-price meals* may receive a free breakfast and lunch for \$.40 per day. Please contact your child’s school for breakfast serving times.

Local Lunch: We plan to offer a “Local Lunch” each month featuring a food item that is grown in Minnesota as a way to bring the Minnesota farm-to-school activities to our students in the district. Be sure to ask your child about the fresh, locally grown corn-on-the-cob that will be served in school cafeterias on Sept. 29. October will feature grass-fed beef hot dogs from Cannon Falls.

Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™: Remember to celebrate Family Day, a national initiative to remind parents that what your kids want at the dinner table is you! The parental engagement fostered during frequent family dinners is an effective tool to help keep kids substance-free. Family Day reminds parents that “Dinner Makes a Difference!”

NEWS FROM MRS. SMITH - DEERWOOD BAND INSTRUCTOR



Welcome back to school! All 5th graders are welcome to participate in band! New students and students interested in beginning this fall will receive an informational letter for parents on how to obtain an instrument and sign up for band. Students that began this summer were given a welcome back letter that provides information about small group lessons and full band rehearsals.

Small group band lessons will begin the second week of school. Lesson schedules will be posted on the band room door and in classrooms the first week of school. Students can also find their lesson time and lesson day on their practice sheet I handed out. This practice chart should be taped very securely to the front, **inside** cover of the lesson book prior to the first lesson. Please help your children get into the habit of placing their instrument by their book bag with the lesson book inside the backpack the night before each lesson.

Don’t worry if some of your children were at camp and didn’t get to practice lately. Everyone gets a fresh start this fall, and I will help every child get off to a good start in fifth grade! (Many children actually practice more when they are back in the routine of their daily schedules during the school year with me cheering them on each week during lessons and mom and dad encouraging them at home.)

Our very exciting and rewarding class – BAND REHEARSAL! – will begin Thursday, September 24. **After the first rehearsal on September 24, we will meet every Thursday before school.** You will need to arrange transportation/carpools to school for rehearsal. Rehearsals will start promptly at 7:10 a.m. Students should arrive (through the SACC/gym entrance) between 7:00 and 7:05 a.m. to set up and get ready to play our first note by 7:10! Percussionists arrive at 7:00 a.m. (This may be great practice for getting to school earlier next year in Middle School, and, if any of you have “night” children, they will wake up and have fun quickly when we begin!)

More information will sent home and will be available on the web page that will be up and running by next week! I look forward to working with all of you!

STAY CONNECTED WITH BACKPACK ONLINE



More than 5,000 people are subscribing to the Supt's News list on Backpack Online, the District 196 email list services, and thousands more throughout the district are subscribing to school-specific email lists through Backpack Online.

As subscribers to this free email service, they are receiving timely updates and information about their schools and school district, including:

Timely information about issues and events:

- Advance agendas for school board meetings;
- Financial and budget information;
- Student test scores and other measures of achievement;

It takes less than a minute to join Backpack Online. Just go to the District 196 web site at www.district196.org and click on the Backpack Online logo. You will be asked to give your name and the email address(es) where you would like to receive the messages – at home and/or the office – and simply check the list(s) you would like to join.

Backpack Online is just one example of how District 196 schools are making greater use of electronic communication to share important information quickly, inexpensively and directly to you.

Call the school office or go to www.district196.org for more information about Backpack Online.

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

As a safety precaution, parents are contacted daily if their child is not in school and a telephone call has not been received by 8:30 a.m. A call from the parents is necessary each day of the child's absence. Vacations or long illnesses may be handled by giving the return date at the first call. Calls can be made to the office after 7:00 a.m. Our telephone number is 651-683-6801.

For your convenience, you may use our voice mail system when calling to report absences. Call **651-683-6969**. When the operator says, "Welcome to the voice mail center," enter the four digit number **95074**. When prompted, please identify yourself and then leave your child's name, grade, teacher and the reason for your child's absence. After you have given your message, press the **9** key to deliver the message. This system is available to you 24 hours per day.

DA CAPO CHOIR COMING SOON!

By Mrs. Schoen, music specialist



Do you love to sing? Deerwood singers in grades 3, 4 and 5 are invited to participate in Da Capo Choir beginning on Wednesday, September 23. Da Capo Choir is an eight-week after-school class taught by Mrs. Schoen through community education. It will take place from 2:45-3:45 on Wednesdays this fall (skip October 28 because of conferences). It will culminate in a performance for students and families on the last day of class. Watch for an informational note to come home with your students the first week of school. Please sign up through community education using the postal address or website address noted on the information sheet. Looking forward to making music with you!

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

Deerwood Elementary School will again offer a breakfast program to our students which is held from 8:05 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. Students can use their personal lunch credits to purchase breakfast items.

Breakfast Costs

Student Price - \$1.40
Adult Price - \$1.90

Lunch Costs

Student Price - \$2.05
Milk Price - \$.40
Adult Lunch Price - \$3.25

All money is handled by our Food Services Personnel. If you have questions regarding your child's account, please call 651-683-6812.

Children may qualify for free meals or reduced-price meals based on federally established family income guidelines. Reduced price for lunch is \$.40. "Reduced price" breakfasts are served at no charge.

Apply for free and reduced price meals using the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application on the District 196 website (<http://www.district196.org/District/Departments/FoodNutrition/index.cfm>) or pick up an application in the Deerwood front office.

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH GROSS INCOME GUIDELINES FOR 2009-2010

Household Size	\$ per year	\$ per month	\$ twice per month	\$ per 2 weeks	\$ per week
1	20,036	1,670	835	771	386
2	26,955	2,247	1,124	1,037	519
3	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
4	40,793	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5	47,712	3,976	1,988	1,836	918
6	54,631	4,553	2,277	2,102	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	2,565	2,368	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	2,853	2,634	1,317
For each additional household member add:	6,919	577	289	267	134

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE VIA E-MAIL

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper consumed in sending out monthly newsletters and with the capability of sending electronic PDF files via e-mails, we are asking parents to receive the monthly Deerwood Newsletter via e-mail. During grade level "Back-To-School" meetings, we will be asking parents to consider receiving the newsletter via e-mail. We will continue to provide hard copies of the newsletter for any parent choosing not to receive a PDF file via e-mail. We tried this electronic method last year and it seemed to work quite well so we will continue this service again this year. Call the Deerwood office if you have any questions (651) 683-6801.

SAFETY COMES FIRST: PICKUP AND DROP-OFF INSTRUCTIONS

Safety is a high priority at Deerwood Elementary. To ensure safe and efficient arrival and departure for students, it is important that all families follow the procedures listed below.

Bus Drop-off/Pickup: The curb alongside the Deerwood parking lot is reserved for busses.

Car or Van Drop-off/Pickup: Please use the Deerwood "Turnaround" area.

Other Deerwood expectations to keep in mind when dropping off or picking up your child...

Please do not pull ahead of other cars that have been waiting patiently to enter the turnaround area. We will have staff directing traffic if needed to help move the traffic ahead.

Please do not double park or leave your car unattended in the turnaround area. If you need extra time with your child prior to drop off or pick up, we strongly encourage you to pull your vehicle into the parking lot and walk your child to the front entrance.

I would like to remind all parents to watch and observe the speed limits coming into the Deerwood/Black Hawk campus. Parents who are dropping their children off at Black Hawk Middle School should not cut through the elementary parking lot.

We understand that some parents like to walk their children to the classrooms. We prefer that parents say good-bye at the front door. One of our goals for children is to develop independence with daily routines.

Students should NOT arrive any earlier than 8:00 a.m. Students will be allowed to enter the building at 8:05 a.m. However, ALL students should be present and ready to begin their day by 8:20 a.m.

Please help us have a safe school year by being mindful of these expectations. Thank you!

HELPING YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

Educating a child is a cooperative effort involving the teacher, the child and the parent. While the teacher is responsible for what takes place in the classroom, the parent is responsible for what takes place at home. In brief, parents have homework, too.

Parents can help their child out through...

Encouragement. Encourage your child's enthusiasm and excitement for learning by demonstrating a positive attitude about school and homework.

Communication. Stay informed about your child's progress and any problems that develop during the year. Please contact your teacher if you have questions or concerns about academic progress.

Participation. An excellent way to show your child that school is important is to get involved through volunteerism. Participate in school events and volunteer if possible.

Monitoring outside activities. Children need a healthy balance that does not detract from the primary responsibility - learning.

Make this year the best year yet for your child!

FALL TESTING FOR GRADES 2 -5

Once again our district will be evaluating students in the form of standardized testing this fall. Test dates for the MAP for grades 2-5 will be from September 21 to October 14. The testing window for the OLSAT Testing window in grades 3-5 from September 22 to October 9.

It is strongly encouraged that children be in school on these days. Make-ups will be given on a limited basis so the best assurance of a child being tested is attendance on the days listed above.

More information regarding these tests will be sent to the parents of students in grades 2 through 5. If you have any further questions regarding testing, you may contact Miles Haugen, Deerwood Principal, at (651) 683-6801.

FROM THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

By Abby Chmiel, School Social Worker
651-683-6801 ext. 93720
abby.chmiel@district196.org

Welcome to another exciting year at Deerwood! As the school social worker, I am here to assist students and their families with a variety of concerns. My role is to meet with students individually or in small groups, as requested by parents and/or Deerwood staff members. In addition, I am available to consult or meet with parents and refer families to community resources. As before, I will be available to Deerwood students Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as Friday afternoons.

I would like to remind everyone of some of the support groups that will be available at Deerwood this year. These groups will be held once a week during the school day for approximately 30 minutes.

- New Students Group: To help new students adjust to and feel comfortable at Deerwood Elementary.
- Friendship Group: To help students increase their friendship skills, specifically forming and maintaining peer relationships. Students will work on taking turns, sharing, starting a conversation, resolving conflicts, as well as several other important skills.
- Family Change Group: For students who have recently experienced parental separation or divorce or are adjusting to a remarriage/blended family.

Finally, if providing necessary school supplies is a concern for your family, please contact me, as we have many donated items available for students. I look forward to working with all of you throughout the school year!

THANK YOU TO...

...Lindy Phaltzgraff, Linda Anderson, Paula Chipman and Mary Olive for efforts in decorating the front entrance to Deerwood. It looks great!

...all the Deerwood Volunteers who decorated our bulletin boards for the Open House.

...everyone involved with our annual Innisbrook fundraising efforts.

...the parents who helped out in the workroom and lunchroom during the first week of school.

...all the volunteers who worked on our landscape over the summer months.

...Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church in Apple Valley for donating school supplies this year.

...Tom Taylor for installing the many projectors/SMART boards and wiring this summer.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17



On Thursday, September 17, all students will have their picture taken by Lifetouch School Portraits.

Families who wish to purchase school pictures must prepay for their orders this year. An order form will be sent home with students soon. You may indicate on the form your choice of the background for the photo and which package you will choose to purchase.

The order form with payment must be sent to school on or before picture day.

If for any reason you are not satisfied with either pose or your child is absent that day, pictures will be retaken on Wednesday, October 21, 2009.

BIRTHDAY TREATS

District 196 elementary schools are making a change in the way birthdays are celebrated at school for the benefit of our students' health and wellness. Beginning this fall, students will no longer be allowed to bring food or small gifts such as pencils and stickers to share with other students. Some of our schools have used this birthday practice successfully for several years.

Despite this change, birthdays will continue to be fun events for students and classroom teachers will recognize them in special ways on their special day.

The primary reason for this change is to comply with our district's wellness policy on making healthy choices as required by Section 204 of the Child, Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. The change also addresses increasing concerns about students affected by food allergies and childhood obesity. These are safety and health issues we must take very seriously. The new birthday practice is also sensitive to the economic struggles some families are currently experiencing.

We strive to provide a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating choices and physical activity. This change incorporates current research to create guidelines that will help all of our students to make healthy choices. If you are interested in reviewing our district's wellness policy, it is available at: <http://www.district196.org/district/schoolboard/policies/500/508.pdf>.

Thank you for cooperation as we implement this change beginning this school year.

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL AND THE FLU

With the start of school nearly upon us, we are hearing from parents wondering about our plans for handling cases of influenza-like illness and how they can help.

Rest assured, our district has been in regular contact with representatives of Dakota County Public Health and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) throughout the summer, discussing plans for helping prevent the spread of sickness and how we will handle cases where students and staff have symptoms of influenza-like illness. We will continue to follow the recommendations of public health officials and will cooperate with them fully in dealing with this public health matter.

We ask parents to remain calm, stay informed and, most importantly, keep children home from school when they are sick. As a district, we are taking the recommended steps to help prevent the spread of influenza-like illness in our schools, but the most important factor in our success will be the willingness of parents to keep their children home from school when they are sick.

Symptoms of influenza include a fever of 100-degrees or higher *and* a cough or sore throat.

According to the current MDH recommendations, students and staff who have experienced symptoms of influenza-like illness must remain **out of school until** they have been **fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications**, which is typically 5 to 7 days. Before such time they can spread the illness and should not be in school.

School staff will be talking with students about these simple but effective steps to helping prevent the spread of illness:

- * wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water or hand sanitizer;
- * cover coughs and sneezes with a sleeve or tissue and try to avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, and
- * stay home from school and/or work when sick.

We will continue to communicate with you about influenza-like illness when additional information is available or if MDH recommendations change at any point during the school year. Please keep children home from school when they are sick and have a plan in place for child care (for younger children) if that happens.

Thank you for your understanding and best wishes for a great start to the new school year.