



DEERWOOD NEWSLETTER

1480 DEERWOOD DRIVE * EAGAN, MINNESOTA 55122

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

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES ~ OCTOBER 28-29

This year conferences will be held on Wednesday, October 28 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. and on Thursday, October 29 from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Communication between home and school is so important in helping establish successful learning and teachers at Deerwood have been working hard to provide parents with the most accurate information about their child's education.

Research has shown that when parents and teachers work together, children experience greater academic success. Parent-teacher conferences are one important way that we can strengthen that partnership. We look forward to visiting with you on October 28-29.

DEERWOOD SURVEY RESULTS 2008-2009

Last Spring, Deerwood families were asked to participate in a school-wide survey to help provide feedback on how well Deerwood is servicing its community. The survey looked at four specific areas of feedback: Communication, School Climate, Parent Involvement and Curriculum. Parents were asked to provide feedback by answering a set of questions in each of these specific areas. Listed below are the results for each of the categories based on the roughly 100 parents (approximately 20 % of the Deerwood population) who responded to the survey.

Deerwood Staff and Site Council will be analyzing the data in the coming days and weeks ahead.

COMMUNICATION:

94% of parents have read and understand the rules, rights and responsibilities for the students at Deerwood.

96% of parents read the Deerwood Monthly Newsletter each month and find it to be a valuable source of information.

99% of parents read the classroom updates sent home by the classroom teacher.

95% of parents have Internet access.

81% of parents attend their child's grade level curriculum night.

(Results from survey continued on page 4...)

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 3

T.C. Marathon Youth Running Event

October 5

Innisbrook Fundraiser Ends

October 6

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

October 7

National Walk to School Day (article p. 8)

October 8

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

October 15-16

NO SCHOOL—Teacher Convention

October 21

Lifetouch Picture Re-Take Day

October 23

NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workshop Day

October 27

Fall Parade: 9:15 a.m. - AM Kind./ECSE

Fall Parade: 1:00 p.m. - K-2 students

K-5 Fall Parties : (following school parade)

October 28

NO SCHOOL: (Half Day Kind. Only)

Parent-Teacher Conferences - 4:00-8:00 pm

October 29

NO SCHOOL: All Students

Parent-Teacher Conferences - 8:00-8:00 pm

October 30

NO SCHOOL

November 2

Jack Pearson Musician Program - (K-5)

November 10

Innisbrook Fund. Pickup - 2:30-6:00 p.m.

**LINDY
PFALTZGRAFF
VOLUNTEER COORD.**


**PHONE:
651-406-8556**

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

VOLUNTEERING AT DEERWOOD


The month of September came and went with a lot of activity at Deerwood! Many of you have already started volunteering your time in the lunchroom, at the greeter table, and in your child's classroom. Thank you for your commitment to your children and our school. When volunteering, please remember to sign in on the volunteer sheet located at the greeter table, or on the counter behind Mrs. Galloway's desk, and always put on a nametag! The time you spend volunteering is much appreciated!

Amy Hribar	Chris Purington	Ellie Schaffer	Julie Post	Michelle Metcalfe
Amy Melchior	Ciara Rivera	EvaMarie Edwards	Kate Cahill	Pam Erickson
Anna Williams	Cyndee Markel	Heather Wright	Kathy McMonagle	Paula Davis
Barbara Moon	David Edwards	Heidi Sartori	Kim Dahlen	Paula Johnson
Bea Jones	Dawn Barthel	Heidi Schachtman	Kim Sabo	Robbi Aronson
Britta Johnson	Dawn Gray	Ingrid Van Beynen	Kristi O'Brien	Ronna Coleman
Cameron Anderson	Deepa Mathur	Jan Johnson	Laura Duffy	Sandy Rozzell
Carrie Erickson	Dixie Morudas	Jen Gage	Linsay Schilling	Susan Graves
Carrie Unger	Eileen Javed	Joanne Mueller	Lynne Schneider	Tim Graves
Cathy Lutz	Elise Raney	Julie Bartl	Marie Segar	Tim Reuhl



DEERWOOD PIZZA NIGHT AT CICI'S IN EAGAN!

**WHEN: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
5:00-9:00 P.M.**



Cici's will donate 15% of its proceeds during this time to Deerwood, so enjoy Cici's delicious pizza buffet with your family, and encourage your friends to do the same!

Simply place your receipt in the box labeled Deerwood, which will be located by the cash register. Thanks in advance for supporting this fundraising effort!



Help us help our school.

Enroll in Take Charge of Education® and Target will donate a percentage of each REDcard™ purchase you make back to our school.

[▶ Learn More and Enroll](#)




Our school is earning money! It comes to us thanks to all of you currently participating in the Target Take Charge of Education® program. By simply shopping with your Target® Visa® or Target® Card, a percentage of the amount of each purchase you make is donated back to our school. If you're not already taking part, please consider doing so--grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors can help, too. To participate or to see how much has been contributed towards our next check, please visit target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142.

FALL STAFF BUFFETS



The Hospitality Committee and our wonderful Deerwood parents are planning a delicious staff buffet during fall conferences. If you haven't already signed up to bring a food item, but would like to, please contact Cathy Lutz (cathylutz@comcast.net), or Doreen Runquist (run4sju@yahoo.com).

Our themes for the buffets are:

Wednesday Oct. 28th~Amazing Appetizers
Thursday Oct. 29th~Down Home Hot Dish

FALL CLEAN UP AT DEERWOOD



Thursday, October 8 - 10:00-12:00 p.m.

We will be weeding the plant beds, and doing some general clean up around the outside of Deerwood.

We hope to see you with your shovels and gloves!

WINTER SOCIAL COORDINATOR NEEDED

If you are interested in coordinating this year's Carnival themed Winter Social, please contact me (Lindy Pfaltzgraff), as soon as possible. We have many great volunteers ready to help plan this event, we just need someone interested in coordinating the efforts.

SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 - NOODLES NIGHT AT NOODLES & Co.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 - DEERWOOD FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

~ DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 P.M., MOVIE STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

~ \$1.00 ADMISSION - CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - JUMP ROPE FOR HEART FAMILY NIGHT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 - DEERWOOD WINTER SOCIAL

~ 6:00-9:00 P.M.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30 — DEERWOOD JOG-A-THON

FRIDAY, MAY 21 - ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND BASKET RAFFLE

~ 5:00-8:00 P.M.

BE SURE YOU MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!!

REMINDER:

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS: OCTOBER 15, 16
MINNESOTA TEACHER CONVENTION

Continued from page 1...

DEERWOOD SURVEY RESULTS ~ 2008-2009

COMMUNICATION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1):

The next results are based on the scale listed below. The number is an average score based on the results from each of the parent's response to the questions.

(1 = Strongly Disagree / 2 = Disagree / 3 = Neither Agree or Disagree / 4 = Agree / 5 = Strongly Agree)

4.09 = "I find curriculum nights worthwhile."

3.96 = "My child's report card accurately reflects his/her progress."

4.57 = "Staff responds to my inquiries/correspondence in a timely manner."

4.41 = "The principal is available to our family".

SCHOOL CLIMATE:

4.42 = "Deerwood's security measures provide a safe learning environment for my child."

4.01 = "Students show respect for each other."

4.22 = "Students show respect for the Deerwood staff."

4.65 = "My child knows what is expected of him/her behaviorally."

4.08 = "A system of discipline is followed consistently and fairly."

3.90 = "Deerwood's discipline policy is enforced on my child's bus."

4.38 = "Overall, the atmosphere at Deerwood fosters students' self-esteem and confidence."

3.76 = "My child benefits from interventions strategies as the S.T.A.R. Room / Learning Lab."

PARENT INVOLVEMENT:

4.56 = "As a parent, I feel welcome in our school."

4.33 = "When I volunteer at Deerwood, I feel that my contribution is valued."

4.37 = "I am aware of how I can help my child succeed in school."

4.27 = "Deerwood offers adequate amount of evening family activities."

3.42 = "I know my ideas are welcome at Site Council Meetings." (60% of parents were aware of the role of the Site Council)

3.42 = "I know my ideas are welcome at Booster Club Mtgs." (68% of parents were aware of the role of the Booster Club)

70% of parents are aware of how fundraising money is spent at Deerwood.

4.42 = "Deerwood offers a variety of fundraising events."

3.72 = "I agree with how money from our fundraising events has been spent."

When we have a major fundraiser at Deerwood, where would you prefer the profits go?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Reduction of class size | 6. Library books |
| 2. Maintain current specialists' time | 7. Enrichment opportunities |
| 3. Curriculum enhancement | 8. Remedial opportunities |
| 4. Supplemental grade level materials | 9. Artist-in-residence programs |
| 5. Technology | 10. Building enhancements |

(Survey continues on page 5...)

CURRICULUM: (SURVEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4):

- 4.24 = "Teachers work cooperatively with parents to meet students' individual needs."
 3.97 = "I know what my child should be learning at his/her grade level according to District 196 curriculum frameworks."
 4.01 = "I know how my child is doing relative to the grade level expectations."
 3.60 = "I am satisfied with the emphasis on technology at Deerwood to enhance learning."
 3.79 = "I am satisfied with the enrichment activities my child receives at Deerwood."
 4.34 = "Overall, I am satisfied with the education my child is receiving at Deerwood."
 4.24 = "I am satisfied with the specialist classes offered at Deerwood."
 4.28 = "I am satisfied with the after school Discovery classes offered at Deerwood." (46% participation)

FALL PARTIES

On Tuesday, October 27, the ECSE classes along with the morning Kindergarten classes will have a costume parade at 9:15 a.m. followed by their fall parties from 9:30-10:30 a.m. In the afternoon, the costume parade for ECSE, Kindergarten and grades 1-2 will be held at 1:00 p.m., with the fall parties being held from 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Students who choose to participate in the costume parade are asked to avoid ghoulish and violent costumes. Toy weapons are not allowed.

Visitors for the costume parade are welcome. Parent helpers for the fall parties are asked to follow the same costume guidelines as the students. All food and beverages for school students must be commercially prepared and packaged. Parent volunteers will be asked to sign in prior to entering the classroom areas.

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

We want students to be at school everyday and we want them to be on time. Good attendance helps children reach academic, social and personal success. In the State of Minnesota, it is the parents' legal responsibility that all elementary age children attend school. Elementary age students who miss seven unexcused days of school or more, according to the MN Statutes regarding education, are considered at risk for educational neglect and their parents are in violation of the state law on compulsory education.

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. If your child is sent home ill and is still ill the next day, we need to have you call. Parents may use the voice mail system when calling to report absences. Simply call **651-683-6969** and when the operator says, "Welcome to the voice mail center," enter the five 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. One of the advantages for parents with this system is that you can call in your child's absence the night before. The system is operational 24 hours per day.

The following are excused absences:

- * Illness
- * Extreme family emergency
- * Funeral
- * Religious holiday
- * Doctor's visits

The following are unexcused absences:

- * Parents who forget to wake their child
- * Child overslept
- * Child thinks school is boring
- * Cold weather
- * Parents did not know the school schedule
- * Child did not feel like going to school
- * Child is not immunized
- * Child missed the bus
- * Child was sleepy
- * Staying home to babysit

Excessive absence and/or tardies may result in a letter of concern from the school. If your child is tardy (arrival past 8:20 a.m.), please have them check in at the office and receive a yellow pass before going to their classroom.

MATH OLYMPIAD AT DEERWOOD

By Tom Taylor and Kathy Howell, Math Olympiad Coordinators

This year Deerwood fourth and fifth graders will again be competing against schools from around the world to see which are the best math problem solvers. Olympiad was a huge success last year and Deerwood performed well. The Math Olympiad organization puts together a series of 5 challenging exams intended to push students to think about solving problems using many different methods.

Interested fourth and fifth graders will be invited to take a qualifying exam during the second week of October. This test will take place during the regular school day. The team will meet for 1 hour a week each Monday right after school beginning in November and continuing through March. We look forward to sharing the challenges!

BUS TRANSFER PROCEDURES

To help avoid confusion and to help provide a safe commute from school, parents are asked to send a note if their child is to go home from school in any way other than their normal means of transportation.

If there is a request to have a child ride a bus not assigned to him or her, the student must have a note signed by his/her guardian for each request to transfer buses. "Blanket" notes cannot be honored. i.e. "Please allow Mary to ride Bus #7 to Girl Scouts every Thursday for the year." The approval of one note does not imply that future notes will be approved. The student load on each bus changes with new enrollment, therefore, a seat may not be available next week.

Notes are sent to the office each morning with the attendance. At that time, the note will be approved or not approved after checking the list of available seats. If your child forgets the note, or your plans change, you may FAX a note to Deerwood Elementary. Our FAX number is 651-683-6808.

If a note is not approved, the student will be instructed to call his/her parents to make other arrangements for transportation.

TITLE I PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

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 October. 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

THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. Dreier would like to extend a huge "thank you" to all the volunteers who helped with inventory and finishing up in the library last spring. Your efforts were not overlooked. The students and staff appreciate having materials more accessible. A special thanks to Julia Heinzen who coordinated our volunteers and also worked many hours.

You were all unbelievable! Thank you!



PAGING ALL VOLUNTEERS! Help Guide Our Destination Book Fair

By Joan Dreier, Media Specialist



Our Scholastic Book Fair will be coming in October. We need volunteers to make our Destination Book Fair a success.

You have what it takes to make a big difference if you fit any one of these:

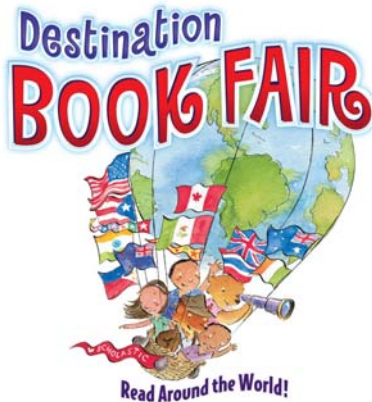
- Like to organize and put things in place
- Have a knack for numbers and using an adding machine
- Bring a creative flair to signs and decorations
- Enjoy offering a helping hand, setting up or packing up (Oct. 29th after 8:00 p.m.)
- Want to help shoppers of all ages find books they'll love

You're just a person willing to help out.

We appreciate your support in whatever form it takes. Please contact Eva-Marie Edwards, Book Fair Volunteer Coordinator, by email at the following address: letitsnow@usfamily.net or by phone (651)405-9015. She would prefer email messages. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me using my email address, Joan.Dreier@District196.org or by calling (651)683-6801.

DESTINATION BOOK FAIR IS COMING IN OCTOBER

By Joan Dreier, Media Specialist



Reading takes kids further by engaging their imaginations as they experience and share the joy of reading. Your family is invited to Destination Book Fair on Wednesday, October 28th from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Thursday, October 29th from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. We invite you to our school to share in this celebration of books and reading. Not only does the Book Fair help raise funds to purchase essential library resources, it encourages reading among our students.

As children grow, it is so important to have books in their lives. Students who begin reading and remain readers are more likely to be lifelong learners. Readers develop larger vocabularies, a greater knowledge of the world, and higher academic achievement. In fact, studies indicate that being a reader is more predictive of success than intelligence, economic background, or gender.

Our Book Fair provides a wide variety of books specifically selected to appeal to elementary school interests. Students will discover books that are entertaining, inspirational, educational and exciting. The Book Fair will offer specially priced books and educational products, including new releases, award winning titles, children's classics, interactive software, adult books, and current bestsellers from more than 100 publishers.

Books take us to new worlds and return us to our own world with new attitudes and ideas. Please make Destination Book Fair a not-to-be missed family experience. Remember, reading is a family adventure everyone can enjoy.



Free Parenting Conference
Saturday, November 7
 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 Eastview High School, 6200 140th St. W., Apple Valley

- Hear keynote speaker, **Dr. William Doherty**, discuss *Too Fast with Too Much – How to be a Grounded Parent in a Crazy World*.
- Learn upbeat parenting tips.
- Choose 2 of more than 20 breakout sessions on topics of interest to parents.
- Visit with representatives of area organizations offering a variety of parenting resources.

Sponsored by District 196 Community Education

Make your reservation today!

Register online www.district196.org/ce or call **651-423-7920** for this free seminar.

Childcare for children ages 2+ is available for \$10 per family.
 Childcare reservations are required and can be completed online or call 651-423-7920.

NATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY ~ OCTOBER 7

On October 7, Deerwood will take part in the National Walk or Bike to School Day. Several schools in neighboring communities, nationally and internationally, will take part in this special event. Benefits of walking or biking to school include:

1. Enhancing the health of children and parents
2. Building stronger communities
3. Improving air quality

Talk to your neighbors about how you could work out some type of plan for child pick up at school that day. Maybe walk or bike with them to school. Buses will still be available to ride if you choose not take part. Let's hope for a beautiful fall day of walking or biking to school. You can log onto a website designated for the National Walk to School Day at www.walktoschool.org

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 asked 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.

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.



IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO FRONT ENTRYWAY OF DEERWOOD ELEMENTARY

Deerwood Elementary was busy this summer sprucing up the front entryway. Thank you to Lindy Pfaltzgraff, Linda Anderson and Paula Chipman for their efforts in helping paint and decorate the entryway. Thank you to Mary Olive and Rolf Torkelson with their assistance in hanging the framed pictures.

Also, thanks to a generous donation by a former Deerwood student we have a beautiful flat screen TV in our entrance area as well. The entryway looks great!

SCHOOL SAFETY IS A TOP PRIORITY

The safety of students, staff and visitors to our school is a top priority. We have a number of procedures and specific drills that we have in place to ensure the safety of everyone.

VISITORS:

Visitors are always welcome at Deerwood. However, we ask that you please sign in at the main office and wear a name tag while in the building. Occasionally, we will be using volunteers to register our visitors when you arrive at Deerwood. Please check in with the volunteer before you enter the classroom area. If you are interested in volunteering your time to monitor the front entrance, please contact Lindy Pfaltzgraff, our Volunteer Coordinator, at 651-406-8556. We would love to have you help out with our check-in system.

PICKING UP YOUR CHILD / SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

For the safety of all children and staff and to avoid interruptions during the school day, we ask that you wait in the office area until we have contacted the classroom teacher. If you have a scheduled appointment to visit the classroom, please sign in and wear a visitor's badge while in the building.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Throughout the year we will be practicing a variety of drills to ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors. Minnesota law requires that all schools statewide conduct at least five fire drills, one tornado drill and five lockdown drills during the year.

Fire drills will be conducted sporadically throughout the school year. The alarm will sound and all students, staff and visitors will be expected to exit the building immediately. The tornado drill will also involve students and will be held during severe weather awareness week in April.

The first two lockdown drills took place in early September and were in preparation for the remaining three which will involve both students and staff. All of the lockdown drills will involve our school's emergency planning team and staff. The purpose of these drills is to help students and staff prepare to respond appropriately in the event of an emergency such as an intruder in the building. Students will be informed in advance when a lockdown drill is scheduled and will be reminded that it is an important drill for us to practice.

If you have any questions about the emergency drills planned at our school, please call Miles Haugen at 651-683-6801.

CROSSING GUARD INFORMATION

Deerwood has two crosswalk areas that are patrolled either by adults or 5th grade crossing patrols. All patrols are trained by patrol advisors at the beginning of the school year.



EAST SIDE CROSSWALK

The crosswalk on the east side of Deerwood has an adult crossing students in the morning arrivals, noon and afternoon dismissal times. The crossing guard will be available for any walkers between 8:00-8:20 a.m. in the morning, 10:50-11:05 a.m. for Kindergarten walkers, and between 2:45-2:55 p.m. for afternoon dismissal. We ask that all students wait until the crossing guard gives you the okay to cross the street.

BLACK HAWK MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSSWALK

Deerwood also patrols the crosswalk by Black Hawk Middle School. In the mornings, a fifth grade patrol or an adult will be on duty at the corner of the crosswalk from 7:55-8:15 a.m. every morning. Patrol schedules are posted in the fifth grade area and are available to all fifth grade students. If a patrol is sick or absent they should call the Deerwood Office (651-683-6801) by 7:45 a.m. so a replacement can be contacted.