



October, 2009 Issue

Dear Parents:

October has arrived! The students are deeply rooted in their school routines including EVERY DAY MATH and our new FOSS science curriculum. The children are enjoying all the “hands on” investigations. Kindergarten students helped plant a tree in the courtyard as part of their unit on trees. After school activities are beginning. Check backpacks for the latest information. We are looking forward to cheering for our fifth grade girls’ basketball team and working with our new Student Council.

October is Fire Prevention Month. Our first graders will be touring the Orland Park Fire Department’s Fire Trailer, and we will be conducting fire drills. It is a good idea for families to discuss what should be done in case of an emergency at home.

Our new parking lot is open! Parents, please remember to pull up all the way on O’Brien Drive to enter our new turn in lane, and stay in your car. Children should enter/exit your car curbside. You are now allowed to park in the new parking lot and then walk to the playground with your children in the morning or pick them up at door number 6 on O’Brien Drive. You must then escort them to the car. Children must be picked up on O’Brien Drive if they are car riders. Don’t forget to “buckle up”. Also, please remember to leave your pets at home when meeting your children. Safety is our number one concern at Fernway!!!!

Have you asked your children what they have been doing with the Promethean Boards? Every classroom has one. The students are becoming most proficient!

Mark your calendar. October 29th is our annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest. It is a great family project. Watch for details. November 18th is our first Parent Night. The whole family is invited. The staff will be demonstrating various uses of the Promethean Board for reading, math, social studies and science. You will be able to use the computer labs. More details next month.

Thanks to the PTO for all they have provided. The students are enjoying the newly painted primary playground. Have you noticed the new sign in our front parking lot? It was provided by the PTO. Try to volunteer; the students love seeing their parents in the building. Remember to join PTO. The cost is \$3 per family.

Remember to read to and with your children. Provide a quiet place for them to complete their homework and always check their backpacks. Enjoy the autumn weather. Happy Halloween!

Carol Novak, Principal

FERNWAY PARK SCHOOL'S OFFICE HOURS

7:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Please note our School's Office Hours.

SKATING PARTY REMINDER - Each month we will have a skating party in the school gym. The skating dates will be by grade level. In September, 5th grade skated and in October Grade 4 will be skating on October 8th and Grade 3 on October 15th. The times are from 2:45-3:45 P.M. Watch for the permission slip to come home. Students cannot skate without the signed permission form. The P.T.O. will be selling healthy snacks at a nominal charge. Parties are for skaters only - no Heelys.

PARTY UPDATE - Halloween and Winter Holiday. As in the past several years we are having only two parties for the students. They will be held on Halloween and for the Winter Holiday. We will be having only one collection to cover the cost of the two parties. We are asking for \$1.50 for each party for a total of \$3.00 per child, cash only. If you have not already done so please send the \$3.00 per child to your child's teacher. Mark the envelope with your child's name and room number and "Party Money". Something special will be done for Valentine's Day depending on your child's grade level.

PICTURE DAY was Monday, September 21st. If your child was absent on this day we will be having a retake day on October 26th. Since the Photography Studio, Life Touch, holds the "composite" pictures until after retakes, all children are included in their class picture. We generally do not receive the "composites" until well after the first of the year.

REMINDER - PLEASE DON'T SEND STUDENTS EARLY TO SCHOOL. We will line up outside unless it is raining or very cold. (Wind Chill below 25 degrees). School starts at 8:00 A.M. and ends at 2:30 P.M. Please, as the days get colder, allow your children to spend more time at home in the mornings. Tardy students are to be signed in by their parent.

TELEPHONE CALLS (MESSAGES) TO STUDENTS - We will accept phone calls/messages for your child ONLY under extreme circumstances. This is very disruptive to the classroom and all arrangements should be made with your child before they leave home in the morning. In case of an emergency, please call the school soon enough with the message, as it will be placed in the appropriate teacher's mailbox, or teacher's voice mail to be delivered to your child. Teachers do check their mailboxes and voice mail for messages during their lunch break.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 140 BOARD MEETINGS. October 22 at 7:00 P.M. is the next School Board Meeting. All School Board Meetings are held at the Kirby School District 140

Administration Center, 16931 S. Grissom Drive, Tinley Park. The public is invited to attend all these meetings. Notices are displayed in each school regarding these meetings.

PROJECT START - EARLY RELEASE DAY will be held on October 20, 2009. Our hours for Grades K - 5 are 8:00 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. with lunch as usual.

HALLOWEEN PARTIES will be held on Friday, October 30th with our annual Halloween Parade stepping off at 12:45 P.M. For safety purposes, masks and costume props that may be potentially dangerous are not allowed in school. All students may wear their costumes to school. Parents are cordially invited to view the parade as the children walk around the outside of the school, weather permitting. At the conclusion of the parade our parties will begin. Parents are NOT invited to attend the room parties.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Please do not come back to Fernway School after 3:30 P.M. to pick up left books, homework, etc. As the teachers leave their classrooms for the day, they must lock their rooms. The custodians will not let you in. This is due to insurance reasons and safety issues. If needed, you may come in the morning after 7:45 A.M. to pick up work.

TRAFFIC UPDATE - ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL - In the morning you may use O'Brien Drive to drop off your children. You may NOT leave your car unattended. Please remember that the front school parking lot is closed for drop off. Parents are not to mingle with the students as they stand in their lines. In the event of rain or inclement weather all students will come in the building. All grades will line up outside their classrooms. Please do not come in the building with your children if you're walking them to school. Drop them off at the door.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES - Bus riders exit out the front doors. All car riders exit on O'Brien Drive through Doors 6 and 7. Please remember not to double park on O'Brien Drive. Parents may park in the new lot, walk to the O'Brien Drive exit and meet their children. Children are not allowed to walk thru the parking lot without an adult.



CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK - As in the past when you enter Fernway School, going to a classroom, you will be asked to show your driver's license and fill out a security form. Once you have filled the form out and had a copy made of your driver's license you will be allowed to enter the building. This is a one time procedure done at the beginning of each school year.

HEALTH POLICES AND PROCEDURES - Any illness or injury occurring during school hours will be handled by Fernway's Registered Nurse. If your child is ill or has an injury that requires professional medical treatment, please do not have them attend school until they are well. We cannot handle pre-existing conditions. These need to be taken care of at home. In the event that a student incurs a head injury during school hours, all reasonable effort will be made to notify the child's parent/guardian.



FROM THE NURSE

Flu season is upon us. Please keep sick children home for flu-like symptoms or any fever of 100 degrees or higher. Children are to remain home and be fever-free, without medication and symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Hand washing is the most important way to prevent the transmission of infection and illness. Always remind your child to wash their hands and keep their hands away from their face, nose, mouth and eyes.

Teach your child to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing, not their hands.

WE WANT HEALTHY, HAPPY STUDENTS!

STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS – 2009-2010

We are proud to announce that Sean, Lexi, Victoria, and Cody are Fernway's new Student Council Officers.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Learning is Your Child's Responsibility
- You Can Be Too Involved!
- Let Your Child Experience The Consequences
- Let Your Child Do The Homework
- Let Your Child Find The Answers
- Make The Responsibility for Learning Clear

VISIT FERNWAY on -line at <http://ksd140.org/fernway/fernway.htm>

The web site has a calendar of school events, a message from our principal, PTO happenings, staff web pages, and much more. Also on Fernway's web page is the Accelerated Reader list of books.



**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER
OCTOBER, 2009**

- October**
- 2** Orland Park Fire Trailer for 1st graders
 - 7** Ice Cream Day
 - 8** Hot Dog Day
4h Grade Roller Skating Party – 2:45-3:45 PM
 - 12** NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day
 - 14** PTO Meeting – 1:00 PM
Ice Cream Day
 - 15** Special Lunch – McDonald’s
3rd Grade Skating Party – 2:45-3:45 PM
 - 16** Pizza
 - 20** START Day – Dismissal at 12:35 PM – Lunch Schedule
For START Day:
1st Lunch – Grs. 3,4,5 – 10:55-11:35 AM
2nd Lunch – Grs. K-2 – 11:40 AM-12:20 PM
Taffy Apple Delivery
 - 21** Ice Cream Day
Market Day Pickup – 2:45-3:45 PM
 - 22** School Board Meeting – 7 PM
 - 23** Pre School Screening
 - 26** Picture Retake Day
 - 28** Ice Cream Day
 - 30** End of 1st Marking Period
Halloween Parade – 12:45 PM
Halloween Parties – 1:00-2:00 PM

