

# **FERNWAY FLYER**

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2009 ISSUE**

*Dear Parents/Guardians,*

*Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the approaching school year. We are excited about the coming school year and seeing the children's smiling faces.*

*August 26<sup>th</sup> will be the first student attendance day. The hours are 8:00 to 11:15. Please note that the children will attend a half-day. You might want to send a snack with them for the morning. O'Brien Drive will continue to be used for all car riders. We encourage you to drive all the way up the Drive before the children enter or exit your car. Children should enter/exit only on the sidewalk side. SAFETY IS OUR NUMBER ONE CONCERN. Students will be lining up at the regular spots around the building. Staff will be there to assist them. Hopefully, our new parking lot will be ready for the first day. Directions for its use will be given to you when the lot is ready.*

*Open House will be Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. for Kindergarten. Open House hours for grades 1-5 are 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. We look forward to seeing all of you. Remember that it is a time to meet your child's teacher and visit his/her classroom. It is not a time for parent conferences. P.T.O. will have various items available and volunteer sign-up sheets for you. Please support the P.T.O.! They provide so many wonderful activities for our students.*

*Remember to read the PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK with your children. Discuss it and then sign the first page and have your child return it to their teacher. It is important that everyone is familiar with the information. We will continue to practice CHARACTER COUNTS at Fernway.*

*As always, please encourage your children to read. Let them see you read! It is so important. Talk about current events, take field trips to various Chicago sites, and most importantly, have fun with your children!*

*Please call if you have concerns or questions. Have a great school year!*

*Sincerely,*

*Carol A. Novak  
Principal*

**Please note our regular school times, Project Start days and times, as well as our 1/2 day schedule.**

**Regular School Day Times:**

**Grades K- 5 - 8:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.**

**Project Start Days and Times: Grades K- 5 - 8:00 A.M. to 12:35 P.M.**

September 24, 2009  
January 27, 2010  
April 6, 2010

October 20, 2009  
February 26, 2010  
May 7, 2010

Half-Day Days and Times: Grades K- 5 - 8:00 A.M. to 11:15 P.M.

December 22, 2009

Lunch will be held daily (except on half-days, no lunch) from 11:15 to 11:55 (first lunch) for grades 3, 4, and 5; and from 12:00 to 12:40 (second lunch) for grades K, 1, and 2.

**REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS** - On Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, Fernway School will have our Annual Open House for grades 1-5 from 6:00-7:30 P.M. Kindergarten's Open House will be from 5:30-7:30 P.M. Please note this is not for parent conferences; but you will be signing up with your student(s) teacher for the Parent Conferences to be held Monday or Tuesday, November 23 or 24. I hope to meet all of you, so please stop by and say hello!

**SCHOOL INSURANCE AND SCHOOL LIABILITIES** - *With regards to the insurance coverage, I would like to point out a few informational items. Neither the school district where your child attends, nor our School carries individual coverage on your child. Most parents feel that school has insurance for any injury or mishap that occurs during school. Please note that your insurance application and payment are to be mailed directly to the Insurance Company and that coverage is effective the date of the postmark through August, 2010. We recommend that you read the information closely regarding the type of student accident insurance that is available to you for a nominal fee.*

**BE A P.T.O. MEMBER AND SCHOOL SUPPORTER!** - Parents get involved in your child's school! Be a room mom/dad, work Market Days, help with "Santa's Secret Shop", Taffy Apple Sales, etc., help with both hot lunch and hot dog days. Help wherever and whenever you can. Support our P.T.O. programs and goals. We need your energy and ideas! Please make your child a top priority. Sign up and get involved!!!!

**FERNWAY PARENTS** - Take some time and review our Parent/Student Handbook with your children. It is important to have the same expectations at home as we have here at school for your child(ren). The first page of the Handbook has a disclaimer stating that you and your child (ren) have gone over the book and understand Fernway's expectations. Please sign and return the disclaimer to your child's classroom teacher.

**ATTENDANCE/TARDY** - One important goal for your child (ren) is to have him/her at school on time each and every day. You also need to promote regular attendance. If your child is not here on a regular basis he/she is missing important fundamental parts of their education. This school year we will be counting Perfect Attendance and your child(ren) must be here every day in order to receive an award at the end of the school year. Children coming in late or leaving early must be in attendance a minimum of 5 hours that particular day in order not to be counted absent. Tardy students must be signed in by their parents. Students who will be absent from school due to vacations will be counted as unexcused.

**STUDENTS' ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL** - Our crossing guards and supervisory personnel will be on duty to assure your child's safety at 7:50 A.M. Please, do NOT drop children off at the school or allow them to arrive prior to 7:50 A.M. (line up bell). Our doors will open for students at 7:55 A.M. daily (enter bell). Students will not be allowed to enter the building before 7:55 A.M. 8:00 A.M. will be our tardy bell. If your job or other circumstances require you to be out of the area earlier than this, please make other arrangements. Thank you for your cooperation.

**STUDENT ABSENCES** - Please remember that it is our policy for parents to call our school (349-3810) before 8:00 A.M. on the morning your child is to be absent. Fernway office hours begin at 7:30 A.M. to receive your calls. Should your circumstances require that you need to call earlier than 7:30 A.M., our voice mail is set each evening for you to call into it. Please leave all information such as your child's name and teacher along with the reason for the absence. If you know your child is going to be absent for several days, you can report that at this time and you will not need to call each day. Homework arrangements should be made at this time for students absent more than one day. The absence extension is 4001.

**TELEPHONE CALLS (MESSAGES) TO STUDENTS** - We will accept phone calls/messages for your child only under extreme circumstances. The message will then be placed in your child's teacher's mailbox or directly into the teacher's voice mail. This is very disruptive to the classroom and we will not call into the room with these messages. Please be sure that you make all arrangements with your child before they leave for school in the morning.

**BICYCLE SAFETY** - Children may ride their bikes to school during dry weather.

Parents should review bike safety rules with your child. Please use good judgement as to when your child has the ability to operate a bike safely in vehicular traffic.

Children may park and lock their bikes at our racks. We insist that these safety rules be observed.

1. Walking bikes on and off school property.
2. Only one child on a bike.

**3. Follow all state safety rules.**

Failure to follow these rules will result in the suspension of privilege for using our bike racks.

**CAR RIDER UPDATE** - Parents will still drop off students on O'Brien Drive. Parents are not to leave their cars. **STAY IN LINE**. The children are to be picked up/dropped off at the sidewalk. Remember to pull up as far as possible. Be patient! Remember **SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS IS OUR MAIN CONCERN**. The 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue school parking lot is closed both before and after school with no exceptions. We will be having our staff out both before and after school to supervise the safe arrival and departure of our students. There is **NO PARKING** on O'Brien Drive during school hours. This will help the flow of cars and allow for a better flow of traffic. Try to car pool if you can or walk or have your children ride bicycles. **Safety is our main concern**. Hopefully, our new parking lot on the west side of Fernway will soon be completed. Directions for its use will follow.

**FAMILY SCHEDULE** - Please set up study times and family times when reading or some other activity is encouraged. Turn off the T.V. and turn on learning or family discussions. Reading is fundamental in all learning and the better reader you are the better learner you will be in all aspects of your life.

**READ! READ! READ!** Read to your children - have them read to you; they can read to me. Read, Read, Read! Buy books as gifts, share them, swap them. Enjoy them. Reading is the key to knowledge and opens a world that only words and ideas can convey.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 140 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS** - The Kirby School District 140 Board Meeting for the months of August and September will be held at the Administration Office, 16931 S. Grissom Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60477, on August 20<sup>th</sup>, and September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

**P.T.O. UPDATE** - Thanks to the P.T.O. our students will once again have several special assemblies this coming school year. Let's all be ready to help these ladies in every way possible. Without their leadership on these committees, our children will not reap the benefits.

**TWO EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FACTS TO KEEP IN MIND THIS COMING SCHOOL YEAR** - Reading is a family activity...be sure to read with and to your children daily! And.....be a volunteer - make our school a better place for your children.

**BUILDING UPDATE** - This summer as always, our custodians have been very busy cleaning and shining up Fernway for another great year. Our staff will be outside both morning and afternoon to insure the safety of our students. Our new parking lot should be ready soon.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 5 P.T.O. Meeting - 12:00 P.M.
- August 12 Parent Information Day - 9 AM to 1 PM & 6 PM to 8 PM
- August 19 District Pre School Screening @ Fernway - by appointment
- August 20 District Pre School Screening @ Fernway - by appointment
- August 24 Teacher INSTITUTE Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- August 25 Teacher INSTITUTE Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS  
Fernway's Open House Kindergarten – 5:30-7:30 and Grades 1-5 - 6:00-7:30 PM
- August 26 FIRST Day of School Grade K - 5 ( 8:00 A.M. - 11:15 P.M.)
- August 27 First FULL DAY of School - All students attend regular hours
- August 28 Hot Lunch Forms Due (no exceptions)
- September 7 LABOR DAY - No School
- September 9 Magazine Assembly
- September 10 Magazine/Post Card Turn In
- September 16 PTO Meeting – 1:00 P.M.  
Magazine Turn in
- September 17 Special Lunch – Let's Do Lunch  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Skating Party – 2:45-3:45 PM
- September 21 Fernway School Fall Pictures
- September 23 Final Turn In Day for Magazine Sale  
Hot Dog Day  
Market Day Pickup
- September 24 START Day (Early Release) Grs. K-5 - 8:00-12:35 PM (Lunch as usual)  
School Board Meeting – 7:00 P.M. Administration Center
- September 25 District Pre School Screening @ Fernway - by appointment

REMINDER - There is no Pizza lunch in September

