

Nerstrand Family Update

Mission Statement: Nerstrand Elementary School will empower students to be self-directed, lifelong learners by providing a nurturing, multiage environment that fosters cooperation and character development.
Thursday, December 7, 2017

We Wish you a Swingin' Holiday

The students are hard at work getting ready for their Winter Program! This year's program will take place on Friday, December 15th at both 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. here at Nerstrand Elementary School. Matthew Keseley, our Music Specialist, has been working especially hard to plan and prepare all the students for this special presentation. Our Drumline, 5th Grade Band, and all the students will perform for you on December 15th. We expect all students to be in attendance for both performances. If this is not possible, the school will need a note to let the office and Matthew know before the concert.

Our P.T.O. will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair before and after the Winter Program both at the afternoon and the evening concerts. Students should plan to dress up for the concert. Please plan to have them in "their Sunday best!" Keep in mind that the students do get warm on the risers so dressing in layers might not be the best idea. Have them wear something that will keep them as cool as possible. No hats, hoodies, sweatshirts, flip-flops or high-heeled shoes, please. If you have questions about the concert, please feel free to contact us.

The afternoon performance will be taped by TLT Video. You will be able to see it broadcast throughout the holiday season on FCTV. If you would like a copy, please send a blank recordable DVD to school by the end of January and Peggy will make you a copy. We look forward to seeing everyone on Friday, December 15th!

Kindergartners for Fall 2018

Yes, we're already thinking ahead to next fall's enrollment! This is a list of siblings that are age-eligible for Kindergarten for the fall of 2018. This list is compiled from the census information you provided on your current student's registration form. If you have a child who is a sibling of a current Nerstrand Elementary School student and his or her name is **not** on this list, please call the school office immediately at 333-6850. Likewise, if you see your child's name and know now that you will be holding your child back until the fall of 2019, or not sending them to Nerstrand for some reason, please let us know that as well. In accordance with the State Law applying to Charter Schools, siblings of current students have preference for enrollment. When the number of applications exceeds the openings available, student names are drawn by lottery, filling the remaining open spots and then creating a waiting list. Registration materials can be filled out online from our website (www.nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us) beginning January 1, 2018. Please contact the school with any other questions you may have about registration. Thank you.

Martin Caldera 5/22/13

Emma Enberg 10/16/12

Lily Haak 10/6/12

Hayden Hanson 2/15/13

Sawyer Hanson 7/16/13

Lydia Jandro 1/2013

Callahan Jans 7/18/12

Benjamin Keller 8/24/13

Theodor Sterling 1/15/13

Miley Voegel 1/12/13

Holiday Sharing Project & Movie Day

The holiday season is upon us and our special “Holiday Sharing” service project is unfolding for Nerstrand students. Families new to Nerstrand will be interested to learn that there is a long-standing practice of no holiday gift-giving at Nerstrand School so that we can concentrate on our “Holiday Sharing” project. Each year, we choose a worthy cause to focus on. This year we will be working with the St. Vincent De Paul Charity in Faribault, ensuring those who are in need can enjoy a great holiday.

The Holiday Sharing project this year will focus on **donating new, unwrapped toys or gift cards to local stores for children, aged 2 –15**. Please bring the items to school between now and **December 15th**. We do realize that families are not always in a position to be able to donate. Participation is optional, of course.

This is an opportunity for our school family to support this program and help children in need. Over the years, we have been impressed by how these projects collectively unite students, while at the same time teaching them the value of giving to those in need.

To celebrate the good feeling of giving to others, we are planning a special video experience right here at Nerstrand Elementary School Gymnasium/Theatre on Thursday, December 21st in the afternoon. We will be seeing the movie, **“Meet the Robinsons.”** Delicious snacks will be provided by our wonderful PTO. Students may choose to bring their own soda or juice that day (**twist off caps on plastic bottles only**), or they may purchase milk from the cooler here at school. Thursday, December 21st is also **School Spirit Pajama Day**, so students may choose to wear comfy pajamas, robes and slippers that day. Students are also invited to bring blankets, pillows or something to make them comfortable on the gym floor. This is another of the special traditions of Nerstrand School that students look forward to with great enthusiasm!

In order for this project to be a success, we ask for your cooperation in **not** sending gifts to school for staff and classmates. Thank you for your support of this and the many other projects we are involved in here at school. Just a reminder that Nerstrand Elementary School will begin our Winter break on Friday, December 22nd until Monday, January 1, 2018. Please note that all other Faribault schools will still be in session on Friday, Dec. 22nd. Nerstrand only has that Friday off. Our first day back at school will be Tuesday, January 2, 2018.



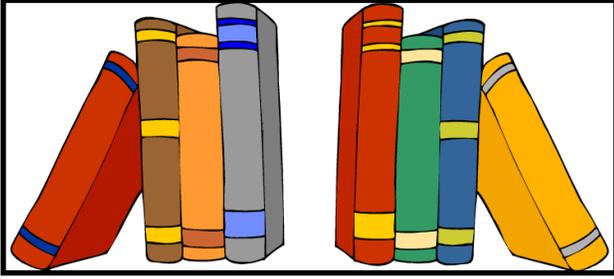
PTO News

Please consider becoming more involved in our very dedicated group of parents involved in our Parent Teacher Organization. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the school Media Center. At this meeting, the annual Carnival will be the topic of conversation. The Carnival is scheduled for Friday, January 26th from 6:00—8:00 p.m. here at school. It is a fun, family activity with Carnival games, bingo, food and lots of fun! Many volunteers and items are needed to make it a great success!

Many thanks for your support of our fall fundraisers. The Scholastic Book Fair is coming up on Dec. 15th before and after the Winter Program. The Randy’s Meats and Wreath and Swag fundraisers were both successful as well. Special thanks to Pamela McDowell, Maggie DeMars, and Kurt Klett for their help with these PTO events. We are looking forward to our All-School field trip to the Children’s Theatre on Friday, February 9th. The PTO pays for our entry fees as well as the bus transportation to and from the Theatre that day.



Library Collection Updates



On the December 6th Early Release, teachers met with a library collection representative to discuss the needs of our school library. We also have a new Student Library Committee, led by Maggie that meets to discuss what books students would like to see added to the collection.

When Nerstrand Elementary School chartered almost 20 years ago, we were able to keep all of the books that were in the school library at the time. As time has gone on, we have added to the collection, mainly through the Scholastic Book Fairs that have been brought to our school by our fantastic PTO. These books have not been “library bond”, which means that they are not as sturdy as books that are bought specifically for libraries. Library bond books are more costly, but will last longer than books that are sold in bookstores. Our school has always been cautious of our finances, which has kept our school financially sound (thanks to our amazing Business Manager, Keith Johnson). However, the library collection is starting to really show its age (Peggy showed me an outdated book today that’s copyright date was 1938!). We want to get newer books that are meant to be checked out many times for our students. Also, our teachers are doing more progress based work in their classrooms and would like to have books in the collection that can assist their students in their class research projects. We are very excited about getting newer books and we will be updating families about the ways you can help with this project.



Sodexo Food Service Account Reminder



Nerstrand Elementary School contracts with the Faribault Public Schools for our Food Service needs. The Faribault Public Schools contracts with Sodexo Food Service. Here is information directly from Sodexo Food Service reminding you of their policies. ***Sodexo has a prepaid accounting system for school meals. There must be a positive balance in the students' accounts for them to receive a meal. There is a district policy that states there will be no charging. The parent/guardian with a zero or negative student account balance will be advised that their children will be required to bring their own meals/milk from home until the balance has been paid in full. The Food Service will make every reasonable effort to notify families when the account balance is low.*** With the new computer system, the Food Service will be contacting you for low balances in your student's account. Please be sure to add money to their account one of two ways: Either online with a credit card payment or by sending a check made payable to ISD #656 to school with your student. Thanks for your help with this matter! If your job status has changed and you believe you could qualify for assistance with your students' lunch account, there are forms available to fill out. You can contact Barb in the office at Nerstrand at 333-6850 or the Sodexo office at Roosevelt at 333-6772 for forms or get them online through the Faribault Public Schools website. If you qualify for Free or Reduced lunch prices, you will be notified by Sodexo. You are still responsible for your students' outstanding balance prior to your qualification for Free or Reduced lunch prices. Thank you for your help with this important matter.



5th Graders Prepare for Wolf Ridge

**Nerstrand Elementary
School**

Contact Information

**205 South 2nd Street
P.O. Box 156
Nerstrand, MN 55053**

**Main OfficePhone:
507-333-6850**

**Attendance Phone Line:
507-333-6851**

**Fax Phone Line:
507-333-6870**

**Email Address:
nerstrand@
faribault.k12.mn.us**

**We're on the Web!
www.nerstrand.charter.
k12.mn.us**



Another picture from our last year's fifth grade class trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center.

Nerstrand Elementary School will **not** have school on Friday, Dec. 22nd. All other Faribault Public Schools will be in session. Our Winter break is from Friday, Dec. 22, 2017—January 1, 2018. We will be back on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd.

Our Fifth Graders are getting all set for their trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, MN. Their trip is scheduled for January 29th through February 2nd, 2018. Morgan Welborn and Andrew Lubinski will once again be accompanying the students along with parent chaperones. Some of you may have already purchased a Wolf Ridge Calendar that was one of the fundraisers the fifth graders participated in to help off set the cost of the trip. If you would like to buy a calendar, we will have them for sale during and after the Winter Program on December 15th. The cost is discounted to only \$10.00 each!



According to Pete Smerud, Wolf Ridge Executive Director, "At Wolf Ridge, our goal is to spark curiosity and provide a learning opportunity that can't be experienced anywhere else. In a world that seems to be plugged in 24/7, we believe it's also important to show the next generation how to live sustainably and responsibly and learn through nature."



Wolf Ridge serves people of all ages, from K-12 students to adult learners and families. There is something for everyone to experience, discover and learn from. Some of the activities that the students are looking forward to are: ropes course, rock climbing, winter survival, star lab, and camp fires. The pictures here are from the trip last year's fifth graders took to Wolf Ridge. For more information on Wolf Ridge, please visit www.wolf-ridge.org

Upcoming Dates

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| Monday, Dec. 11 | 3:30 p.m.— Board of Directors' Meeting |
| Friday, Dec. 15 | 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.— Winter Program |
| | Scholastic Book Fair before and after programs |
| Thursday, Dec. 21 | School Spirit Pajama & Movie Day |
| Friday, Dec. 22 | No School—Nerstrand only |
| Friday, Dec. 22—Monday, Jan. 1 | No School—Winter Break |
| Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018 | First Day back after Break |
| Thursday, Jan. 4 | DARE for 5th Graders begins |
| Monday, Jan. 8 | 3:30 p.m.—Board of Directors' Meeting |
| | 7:00 p.m.—PTO Meeting |
| Monday, Jan. 22 | No School—Teacher Work Day |
| Wednesday, Jan. 24 | To F.H.S. for Children's Play |
| Friday, Jan. 26 | 6:00—8:00 p.m.—PTO Carnival |
| Monday, Jan 29—Friday, Feb. 2 | 5th Graders week at Wolf Ridge |
| Monday, Feb. 5 | 7:00 p.m.—PTO Meeting |
| Friday, Feb. 9 | All School Field Trip to Children's Theatre |
| Monday, Feb. 12 | 3:30 p.m.—Board of Directors' Meeting |