

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, January 15, 2015

Happy New Year!

We would like to extend to you and your family a very Happy New Year! Our hope is that 2015 is a great year for everyone! We have much to look forward to during the second half of our school year. We will be traveling to the Faribault High School on January 21st to see the children's play, performed by the drama team at the High School. **Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Food Shelf.** We will begin our Winter testing with the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress in the Computer Lab starting this week. All students, grades kindergarten through fifth will be tested. The fifth graders began their D.A.R.E. Education program last week. Nerstrand Elementary will not have school on Friday, January 16th, which is unique to us. All other Faribault Schools will be in session on this day. All classes will enjoy visits to the River Bend Nature Center both for a winter unit and/or a spring unit. We will enjoy another visit from a Minnesota author in March celebrating the Year of the Reader program. The P.T.O. Carnival will be on Friday, January 30th. Prairie Fire Theatre Company will be here the first week in February for the production of Peter Pan. This special event is sponsored by our P.T.O. as well. Before we know it, we'll be planning Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences for March 10th, 11th and 12th. Spring Break will be the week of March 16th—20th. April means our Community Celebration is just around the corner, scheduled for Thursday, April 30th. Nerstrand Elementary School will not have school in session on Friday, May 1st, which is unique to us. All other Faribault Schools will be in session that day.

So, as you can see, we have many fun and interesting activities to look forward to in the coming months. Plan now to get involved in the P.T.O., as they have many opportunities to make a difference in the lives of our most precious little people! The February Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

Prairie Fire Theatre Coming!

The Nerstrand Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization is proud to announce that auditions for Prairie Fire Theatre's original musical production of 'Peter Pan' will be held on Monday, February 2nd from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the school. If your child is planning to audition, a signed permission slip is due in the school office by Friday, January 30th.

Up to 81 children are needed to play the roles of Peter Pan, Wendy, John, Michael, Nana, Tinkerbell, The Crocodile, The Pirates, The Lost Kids and The Beasts. Two professional actor/directors from Prairie Fire will direct the production and play the roles of Tiger Lil and Captain Hook.

Auditions are open to any Nerstrand student in Grade 2 and up. The audition process lasts up to two hours and all auditioners are required to be in attendance the complete time. No preparation is needed to audition. There is a possibility that some actors will be asked to stay until 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2nd.

Rehearsals will be held from 3:00—7:15 p.m. throughout the remainder of the week, with performances scheduled for Friday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, February 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the Nerstrand Elementary School gymnasium. A free-will offering to support the PTO will be accepted at both performances

Enrollment Begins for Fall, 2015

We are now accepting applications for this fall's enrollment here at Nerstrand Elementary School. As always, word of mouth is our best advertising. If you know of someone who is looking for a good elementary school for their children, please direct them to look at our school website at www.nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us They can call the school office at 507-333-6850 anytime to schedule a tour and get more information from us. We have sent out registration forms to all of our families who have siblings that will be age-eligible for Kindergarten this fall. Because of state law, we are able to give those families priority for kindergarten placement, granted we receive their application by the deadline of March 6th, 2015. At that time, we will look at our numbers in all of our grade levels and depending on the number of applications received, we will hold a lottery selection to determine who is admitted and the subsequent waiting lists on each grade level. Families will receive written confirmation of their standing by the end of March.

We have ordered yard signs for families to check out of the school office if they are interested in placing one in their yard to get our name out to the communities. If you are interested, please stop by the front office and check one out. We would like to keep track of them and have them returned so that they can be used each year. We have updated our brochures and ordered window clings as well. More information on those will be coming soon.

Thank you in advance for helping to market our school to your families and friends. We always appreciate the trust you place in us to make this little school near the Big Woods such an awesome place!

Nerstrand Elementary School

Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Everyday Music and Physical Education Classes!



www.nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us

D.A.R.E. Begins for 5th Graders

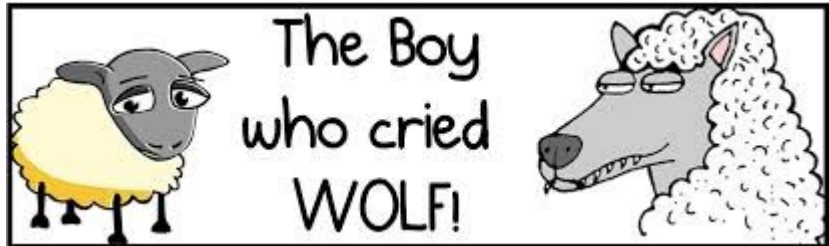


Once again, our fifth graders will learn about drug and alcohol abuse resistance education during their D.A.R.E. training, which began after the first of the year. We are grateful that this program is continuing for our students, as we feel it is a very worthwhile educational program for our fifth graders. They learn the dangers of drugs and alcohol use and learn clever ways to say "no" to drugs and alcohol if they are approached as they get older. The program also teaches them to respect themselves and their bodies and to make healthy choices for their futures. Special thanks to Deputy Derek Estrem for being a great role model for our students and teaching the DARE program here at Nerstrand Elementary School.

Play at Faribault High School

Special thanks to our P.T.O. for funding our trip to the High School on January 21st to see the Drama troupe from the Faribault High School perform their children's play, "The Boy Who Cried Wolf". Our only admission is a donation of a non-perishable food item

to be donated to the Faribault Food Shelf. Please bring your donation to school anytime between now and the play on January 21st. We will put each classrooms' donations into paper bags to carry to the play. Thank you so much for helping us out! We are looking forward to our trip and being able to participate in these great performances!



Art Adventures Coming in February



Once again, our school will be participating in the Art Adventure program brought to us by the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Special thanks to Catherine Luebke for chairing this important program for our students. Five parents have been trained at the Art Institute and will present works of art during the month of February to all classrooms. The parents who will be presenting and deserve our special appreciation are: Catherine Luebke, Jenni Hegseth, Kurt Klett, Nicole Zweber and Cara Waddell. We look forward with great anticipation to seeing these special works of art titled "Artist's Inspiration" in February!

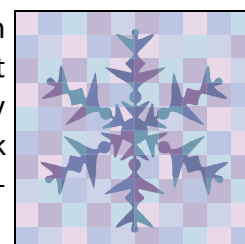
Ambassadors to attend Peace Prize Festival

Once again, our student Ambassadors, along with their advisor, Jan Boudreau, will be attending the annual Peace Prize Festival at Augsburg College in Minneapolis on Friday, March 6th. Former President Jimmy Carter will be speaking at the Festival. Our school has been invited to participate for many years and typically does a study of a Nobel Peace Prize recipient with a display to bring to the Festival. The following students are our student Ambassadors: Edison Waddell, Madeline McDowell, Holden Keller, Mia Potter, Nathan Eitel, Sebastian Malkavage, Marie Volkmuth and Paige Ross.



P.T.O. Carnival - January 30th!

The P.T.O. Carnival is going to be held on Friday, January 30th from 6:00—8:00 p.m. It was decided to move the date earlier in the year because of the Community Celebration’s later date this year. The Community Celebration is on Thursday, April 30th. With how busy the month of May typically is here at school, the P.T.O. decided to move the carnival up in the school year. The theme for this year’s carnival is “Winter Wonderland”, and will include all the favorites: Carnival games in the gym, Bingo in the Prairie classroom, Silent Auction and of course, food! The Carnival has always been a fun, family and community event. It is a major fundraiser for the P.T.O. as well. It is important that everyone lend a helping hand one way or another. There are many ways to participate, including working a shift at the carnival, either from 5:55—7:00 p.m. or 6:55-8:00 p.m. or with the clean up crew from 8:00-8:30 p.m. Donations are also needed for the Bake Walk (cake, plate of cookies or bars); a bingo prize donation (Approximate value of \$10.00); a silent auction donation (Approximate value of more than \$20.00). If you haven’t sent in your carnival form yet, please do so immediately or call the school office to volunteer at 333-6850. Thank you so much and we look forward to seeing you on January 30th!



**Nerstrand Elementary
School**

Contact Information

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

**Main Office Phone:
507-333-6850**

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

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

**Email Address:
info@nerstrand.charter.
k12.mn.us**

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

Please note on your calendar that Nerstrand Elementary School will not be in session on Friday, January 16th, Monday, April 6th and Friday, May 1st. These days are unique to Nerstrand Elementary School. Our Board of Directors has graciously given our staff and families an extra three days off throughout the school year. Faribault schools will still be in session on these days. Thank you for making note of these three days on your calendars at home!

Upcoming Dates

Friday, January 16th	No School—Nerstrand only
Monday, January 19th	No School—Teacher Work Day
Tuesday, January 20th	D.A.R.E. for 5th Graders
Wednesday, January 21st	F.H.S. Children’s Theatre
Friday, January 30th	6:00—8:00 p.m.—PTO Carnival
Monday—Saturday, Feb. 2nd-7th	Prairie Fire Theatre Company
Monday, February 2nd	7:00 p.m.—P.T.O. Meeting
Tuesday, February 3rd	D.A.R.E. for 5th Graders
Friday, February 6th	7 :00 p.m.—Peter Pan (Prairie Fire)
Saturday, February 7th	1:00 p.m.—Peter Pan (Prairie Fire)
Monday, February 9th	3:00 p.m.—Board of Directors’ Meeting
Tuesday, February 10th	D.A.R.E. for 5th Graders
Tuesday, February 13th	No School—Teacher Comp. Day
Monday, February 16th	No School—Teacher Work Day
Monday, March 2nd	7:00 p.m.—P.T.O. Meeting
Friday, March 6th	6-8 p.m.—P.T.O. Sock Hop
Monday, March 9th	Report Cards go home
Tuesday, March 10th	3:30-8 p.m.—Conferences
Wednesday, March 11th	Early Dismissal Staff Development Day