

# 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 7, 2016**

## Happy New Year!

We would like to extend to you and your family a very Happy New Year! Our hope is that 2016 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 20th 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 for this event.** We will begin our Winter testing with the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress in the Computer Lab starting the week of Jan. 18th. All students, grades kindergarten through fifth will be tested. The fifth graders began their D.A.R.E. Education program on Jan. 5th. The annual P.T.O. Carnival is scheduled for Friday, January 29th, from 6:00—8:00 p.m. The Art Adventures program will visit all the classrooms in February thanks to our parent volunteers who have been trained at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Our All-School Field Trip this year is to the MN History Center, and will take place on Friday, February 19th.

All classes will enjoy visits to the RiverBend Nature Center both for a winter unit and/or a spring unit. We will enjoy another visit from a Minnesota author this spring celebrating the Year of the Reader program. The P.T.O. Sock Hop will be on Friday, March 4th and before we know it, we'll be planning Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences for March 8th, 9th and 10th. Nerstrand Elementary School will not have school in session on Friday, March 11th, which is unique to us. All other Faribault Schools will be in session that day. Spring Break will be the week of March 14th—18th. April means our Community Celebration is just around the corner, scheduled for **Friday**, April 29th. Fifth Grade Field Day will take place in May. Before we know it, we'll be talking about our Awards Day and Fifth Grade Graduation, which is our last day of school, Friday, June 3rd.

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 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.



## PTO Carnival January 29th



Mark your calendar for Friday, January 29th from 6:00—8:00 p.m. for the annual P.T.O. Carnival here at school. The carnival has always been a fun, family and community event. It's also a major fundraiser for the P.T.O. We are looking for everyone's help in some way in order for the carnival to be a success. The theme for this year's carnival is "Get You Game On" and is based on board games. If you haven't returned your Carnival Work/Donation form yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you need another copy, please call the office at 333-6850 and we can send you another to fill out. Donations are needed for the Silent Auction (valued over \$20) as well as Bingo prizes (valued at approx. \$10). Volunteers are needed to help with Bingo, carnival games and ticket sales in addition to clean up after the carnival. Food will once again be available for purchase that evening. Remember, many hands make light work! Special thanks to Carmen Bonde and Michelle Roethler for chairing the Carnival committee. They put in many hours in preparation for this fun, family evening. See you on the 29th!

# PTO, Box Tops For Education and MORE!



Special thanks go out to many parent volunteers for their efforts to help count, package and send out the many items we save and recycle for on-going PTO fundraisers. **Please look through your drawers and send all of your Box Tops for Education to school,** so that the PTO can send all the Box Tops in for credit.

**Something new with the Campbell Soup Label project is that they now just want the UPC Code off of the label, not the front panel.** Now might be a good time to look through all those drawers and cupboards for the labels you've been saving over the past year, and send them into the school! Thanks!

And finally, do you ever wonder what happens to all of those sour-milk smelling milk caps and bag tops? Our PTO, and more specifically, Pamela McDowell has given of her time and garage space to sort, store, count, package and send in all of the **Milk Moola, Kemps and Land-O-Lakes milk caps and bag tops, and Malt-O-Meal bags** for the PTO. We so appreciate all the help she's given us in this endeavor. Keep sending in those milk caps and bag tops so we can receive a huge check this spring! Thanks, Pamela, for all your efforts!



We have so many great PTO volunteers and we are so thankful for all you do for our school! Kudos!



## 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, with Officer Derek Estrem, which began on January 5th. 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 Andrew Lubinski for making the arrangements for our D.A.R.E. program this year. The fourth graders will be working on a Health unit during this time.

## Winter Gear a Must!

Please make sure that your child has everything they need to enjoy recess outside every day. We only stay inside if the wind chill or temperature is below zero. Winter coat, hat, snow pants, boots, mittens or gloves are necessary for students to enjoy the Minnesota weather each day. We do not have any extra winter clothing to share with students, simply because of health concerns. They must bring their own items with them each day. Thank you in advance for making sure your child is prepared to enjoy their recess each day with all the equipment they need!



## Holiday Sharing Wrap-Up

The holiday season has come and gone and our special holiday service project was a great success again this year! We decided to collect socks, underwear, pajamas, and children's books for children aged 3-5. For the items collected were donated to the Three Rivers Community Action Council. Maggie delivered the items on December 18th. We are amazed at the generosity of our small school family and appreciate so much your commitment to this and the many other projects we undertake here at the Little School in the Big Woods. Thanks so much!

As a reward for their generosity, the students and staff enjoyed a movie on the afternoon of December 22nd in the gymnasium, complete with popcorn or cereal, provided by the P.T.O. Special thanks to Cara Waddell and Sarah Lockerby for coming that morning and popping all the popcorn and preparing the cereal for the students. It was School Spirit Pajama Day too, so there were some very comfortable looking students and staff that day! The group enjoyed the movie, "A Bug's Life" and it was a wonderful way to end 2015 here at school. Thank you so much to everyone for their generosity and cooperation in this important endeavor.



## Board Electronic Device Policy

The Nerstrand Board of Directors' recently passed an Electronic Device Policy, which includes cellular phones, digital imaging devices and other personal electronic devices. The entire policy can be viewed on our website ([www.nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us](http://www.nerstrand.charter.k12.mn.us)) under the Board of Directors tab.

The policy is to set forth expectations for appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies which students may possess, including but not limited to cellular phones, digital picture/video cameras and/or camera phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs) iPods, MP3s, pagers and other personal electronic devices capable of transmitting data or images.

Basically, **cellular phones and other personal electronic devices are not allowed and shall be turned off and kept out of sight during the school day.** Please discuss this important policy with your children. Thank



## Canoe Week with Larry Coming Soon!

Our 3-5 graders are going to be given a wonderful opportunity to help take part in the building of an authentic Dakota dug out canoe. Larry Richie has been working with students at the Faribault STEM school building this canoe and Larry wanted Nerstrand students to participate in this once in a lifetime experience. On Jan 25th, 27th and 29th Larry will bring the canoe to Nerstrand so that small groups of 3-5th graders can come outside and help with the digging out of the canoe. The Dakota people used fire as a tool with this construction and so a small, controlled fire is placed in the canoe for up to an hour and then moved to another section of the canoe. Students will be helping Larry to carve out the charcoal left from the burn. This canoe is from a cottonwood tree and measures 22 ft. long and 32 in. wide. Permission forms will be coming home for students who are old enough to be part of this activity. All students will be able to see the canoe and this project ties in nicely with our tipi experience, that will be happening in the fall of 2016.



# MN History Center Field Trip

**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**

**Pajama & Movie Day Pictures**



Special thanks are extended to our PTO for covering the busing costs and entry fees for our All-School field trip to the Minnesota History Center on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016. We will leave Nerstrand at approximately 8:40 a.m. for St. Paul and enjoy the History Center, have a mini-lesson, eat our lunches and board buses to return to Nerstrand at about 1:15 p.m. in order to arrive back at school for regular dismissal times.

Permission slips were sent home with all students on Wednesday, January 6th. We will need a signed permission/lunch form from every student by Wednesday, January 27th. If you are interested in serving as a chaperone that day, please indicate your preference on the permission slip. We can include a limited number of chaperones, so we will be doing a drawing of those interested to fill out our available spots. If you have misplaced your permission slip, please call the school office at 333-6850 and we can send another one home with your student. We are looking forward to a wonderful day of learning at the Minnesota History Center on February 19th.

## Upcoming Dates

<b>Monday, January 11th</b>	<b>3:00 p.m.—Board of Directors' Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 18th</b>	<b>No School— Teacher Work Day</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 20th</b>	<b>F.H.S. Children's Theatre</b>
<b>Monday—Friday, January 25—29h</b>	<b>Canoe Week with Larry</b>
<b>Friday, January 29th</b>	<b>6:00—8:00 p.m.—P.T.O. Carnival</b>
<b>Monday, February 1st</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.—P.T.O. Meeting</b>
<b>February 4th—10th</b>	<b>Art Adventures in Classrooms</b>
<b>Monday, February 8th</b>	<b>3:00 p.m.—Board of Directors' Meeting</b>
<b>Thursday, February 11th</b>	<b>Waste Education for 2nd &amp; 4th Gr.</b>
<b>Friday, February 12th</b>	<b>No School—Teacher Comp Day</b>
<b>Monday, February 15th</b>	<b>No School—Teacher Work Day</b>
<b>Friday, February 19th</b>	<b>All School Field Trip to MN History Center</b>
<b>Friday, February 26th</b>	<b>Trimester Two Ends</b>
<b>Friday, March 4th</b>	<b>6-8 p.m.—P.T.O. Sock Hop</b>
<b>Monday, March 7th</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.—P.T.O. Meeting</b>
<b>Monday, March 7th</b>	<b>Report Cards go home</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 8th</b>	<b>3:30-8 p.m.—Conferences</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 9th</b>	<b>Early Dismissal Staff Development Day</b>
	<b>1:00—5:00 p.m.—Conferences</b>
<b>Thursday, March 10th</b>	<b>3:30-8:00 p.m.—Conferences</b>
<b>Friday, March 11th</b>	<b>No School—Nerstrand Only :)</b>
<b>March 14—18th</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>