



Dr. Lloyd Winfield, Assistant Principal

Dr. Ronald Salazar, Principal

Ms. Kimberly Enck, Assistant Principal

FAMILY NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 3, 2016



Principal's Message Corner

Dear Firebird Families,

It is time for testing, budgeting, and planning for next school year and continuing all of the great things we do every day. Regarding next school year, our staff has decided not to extend the day or the year so our calendar will be the same as the rest of the district. About the budget, we do not know yet much money will be allocated to us but we are hoping that at minimum the district will fund us at the same level as this school year.

We are recommending that if we receive the same level of funding, we will keep the same level of staffing as this year. This means that we will continue having 4 middle school teachers per grade and the same for 4th and 5th grade. After paying for staff, our budget is limited but we try to be as creative as possible to support staff and students. In addition we will maintain a full-time school nurse as well as our special education, ESL, and arts teachers and behavior support staff. We will provide funding for the arts, technology, professional development, and the needed support to run the school in general. Please feel free to email or visit with us about any ideas you would like to be considered during the budgeting process.

We just began our digital reading program with our second graders. We announced to our second graders that they will be using Kindle Fires for reading. Our goal is to eventually let students borrow them as if they were traditional books. Our students will learn how to use and take care of them. Our vision is for all our students to have access to their own electronic device for academic purposes. Therefore, technology will also be one of our priorities as we create our budget for the 2016-2017 school year.

Thank you for your support and have a great week.

Sincerely,

Dr. Salazar, Dr. Winfield, and Ms. Enck

Blankets and Books

Miss Pockl's 5th grade class was granted the HYPE award for the project "Blankets and Books". With this award, the students will design and make tie blankets for children and adults at People Serving People (PSP) in Minneapolis. They will also select books for various ages that will accompany the blanket.

Online school request site is open. Requests due by March 5th!

For elementary and middle school requests <http://schoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us>

And for high school requests please visit <http://highschoolrequest.mpls.k12.mn.us>

For the 2016-17 school year, please use the school request site to request:

- A school for an incoming kindergartner
- A new school for a current K-11th grade student
- A middle school (only if your 5th grader wants to request a school other than the middle school pathway)
- A high school for all incoming 9th graders

The site is easy to use and requires your address with zip code to learn more about your school options.

MPS School Showcase
Saturday, February 6th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Minneapolis Convention Center
<http://studentplacement.mpls.k12.mn.us>

One-stop opportunity to meet school principals, staff and parents to help inform your school search. Free parking and child care available. Spanish, Somali, Hmong & Oromo interpreters on-site to assist families.

Questions? Please call 612.668.1840 or 612.668.3700

Box Tops

Please continue to collect BoxTops for 2nd Grade. They are greatly appreciated and help reduce costs for Field Trips.

Yearbooks for Sale


Folwell yearbooks will be on sale from now until March and the cost is \$20. Students can bring back a check and the order form or yearbooks can be purchased online. Order Folwell Yearbooks at: ybpay.lifetouch.com Yearbook ID Code: 11261416 Students can add a hard cover, his or her name, autograph inserts, and many more options with different packages. Also, people can buy ad space for \$20 to promote his or her business or to congratulate a student.


If you have any questions please call or email Ryan VanThorre, 8th grade teacher and yearbook advisor, at anytime @ 612.668.4550 or ryan.vanthorre@mpls.k12.mn.us

**CELEBRATE AFRICAN-AMERICAN
 * FAMILY INVOLVEMENT DAY ***

Join us for a great, FREE Family event!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016 * 6-8 P.M.
 ROLLER GARDEN • 5622 W. Lake Street • St. Louis Park, MN • 55416
Students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

 **MINNEAPOLIS
 PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
Urban Education. Global Citizens.

 **THE OFFICE OF
 BLACK MALE STUDENT
 ACHIEVEMENT**
Obsessed in Schools...and Homes.

**Parents are our strongest allies.
 Let's strengthen this partnership by having Fun together!**

Monday, February 8th is African American Family Involvement Day. Families are welcome all day to stop in and see what their students are up to. Beginning at 1:30pm there will be a reception in the Conference Room with refreshments and resources for parents. Then there will be a discussion coordinated by our student group B.L.A.C.K. (Building Lives Acquiring Cultural Knowledge) about what being part of this group means to them. Finally there will be a quick tour of the arts classrooms. All families are invited to attend!

Middle School Dance/Activity Night (5-8 Grade) - Friday, February 5th, 2016 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Tickets for the dance are \$3.00 and will be sold during the lunch hour Monday, January 25th through Wednesday February 3rd. Pizza tickets (\$2.00) and pop tickets (\$1.00) will also be for sale. Parents are responsible to provide transportation after the dance/activity night at 5:30 pm.

Permission slips are required in order for students to attend the dance/activity night. Students must bring in their permission slips before they will be allowed to purchase any tickets. Permission slips will be passed out by homeroom teachers.

Spring Break Academy

Spring Break Academy will begin on Monday March 28th and end on Friday, April 1st.

Eligible students from grades 3, 4, 5 7 & 8 will be invited. Please watch for the applications. Applications will be available during Parent Teacher Conferences on February 11th and 12th.

Transportation and meals will be available. It's a great time to sharpen skills and prepare for the state test, MCA.

ESL

Our Folwell English Learners (ELs) will be taking the ACCESS test from February 1st- March 4th. This test measures the students' ability in listening, reading, writing, and speaking in English. Please make sure your student gets enough sleep the night before so they can concentrate and do well!



So much going on in the arts this winter!

We have several arts integration residencies going on this winter.

- Kindergarten- Children's Theatre "Building Bridges" Program
CTC's 'Early Bridges' is an early childhood literacy program combining interactive storytelling and theatre arts. Theatre experiences support young children's social, emotional, cognitive, and creative play skills—including the development and practice of crucial language skills.
- Kinderkonzert is coming for High 5, kindergarten and 1st grade!
Kinder Konzerts ensemble is in our building the last 2 weeks of February to integrate the story *Perfect Square* by Michael Hall into High 5, Kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms. In March they will be back to perform a concert designed to introduce pre-schoolers to classical music and the instrument families. Through arts integration in their classroom and concert, children will follow the imaginative transformations of a little square.
- 5th Grade- Vaillancourt, Pockl and Borba
MN Opera is working with 5th grade on a song project focusing on the causes of the Revolutionary War in the United States. Students will develop ownership of the creative process and write music to tell the story. A sharing is planned for February 25th at 2:00pm
- Theatre in Middle School Social Studies
Seventh grade Social studies is learning about the 14th 15th and 16th amendments to the constitution as they work with SteppingStone Theater actor Dane Stauffer to dramatize the historic events that led up to the amendments.
- Eighth grade Social Studies is learning about the roles of government and working with actor Brian Grandison using theatre to dramatize and share their understanding of the Arab Spring.
Why theatre in Social Studies class? Using drama to teach about amendments to the constitution and current events helps students to make and express personal connections with the subject matter. Drama provides opportunities for all students to succeed, makes learning active and helps students remember what they have learned so much better. What better way to help students really understand!
- The Elementary Dance Concert is Thursday February 11th at 7:00pm right after conferences. Come and see your students perform with Dario Mejia of Curio Dance.
Watch for the handout from Ms. Ledoux.

- Curio Dance artists Giselle and Dario Mejia are Folwell's new "dancers in residence" Thanks to a grant from the Minnesota state arts board Curio dance will be working with all 3rd through 8th grade dancers for two weeks each 3rd and 4th quarter. Watch for special community performances! Through dazzling performances, Curio Dance honors diversity by blending classical, traditional and urban styles of dance. They also created shows at Disneyland and Six Flags Theme Parks, have performed on The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Good Morning America, the TODAY Show, MGM Grand in Las Vegas and Radio City Music Hall in NYC.

Hello Fire Bird Families

I want to let you know that I have accepted a District Program Facilitator (DPF) position in the Special Ed Dept @ the Davis Center.

Although I am excited about the new opportunity, I am very sad about moving on! Over the past years I've grown close to many of you! I can honestly say that "we've been through A LOT together"!

The Administrators are looking for my replacement now and my last day as Folwell's MS SW is dependent on the new hires start date.

The good news is that I may still see some of you in the evenings. I will continue to facilitate the Lady Like?? girls group as a part of ALC.

Thank you for helping me become the Social Worker I am today! Thank you even more for sharing your children with me.

I will miss you all,

Judy A. Brown MSW, LICSW
School Social Worker, Grades 5-8th

Parent Teacher Conference

Please make sure to make an appointment with your teacher for Thursday February 11th 4:00pm – 6:30pm or Friday, February 12th 8:00am – 4:00pm.

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS:

- Friday, February 12, 2016 – Parent Teacher Conference Day
Due to parent/teacher conferences, there will be NO AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11th.
- Monday, February 15, 2016 – Presidents Day

