



Weekly Newsletter - Week of September 11, 2023

From Mrs. Keefe

The first several weeks of school, it is important to build a positive school culture that will set the foundation for the rest of the year. 2023/24 is going to BEE AWESOME! As a building, we have a BEE Theme. We plan to thrive as a hive together, but each staff member has their own “BE” word for a personal goal. I plan to focus on Being Growth Minded with everyone in our school family. This focus will allow me to stretch thinking, broaden opportunities, view with different perspectives and support growth for ALL.



There are two opportunities this week for us to strengthen our relationship and get to know each other more. The first is at our 1st PTA (Parent/Teacher Association) meeting of the school year. I'll see you on Tuesday at 6:30 at Lower! Then, on Thursday, come on by for Curriculum Night from 6-7:30. Teachers will present their information about classroom specifics at 6:20 and 7:00. Additional staff members will be around to speak with in-between times.

At Ferndale Lower, we believe in a whole child approach to learning. That means that Art, Music, Gym, Library learning is an important part that leads to understanding our core subjects of Reading, Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies. In school, our students attend 2 music classes, 2 gym classes, 1 art class and 1 media time a week. This week, I would like to introduce our Essential teachers. They play a vital role in our School Family. Be sure to find them at Curriculum Night this week. They are excited to talk about their classes.



- K-2nd grade Art with Ms. A. Balogh
- K-2nd grade Gym with Coach Garlow or Coach LeGrow
- 1st/2nd grade Music & Kindergarten Music/Movement/Mindfulness with Ms. J. Krum
- Kindergarten Music - Ms. C. Duncanson
- K-2nd grade Media 2.0 - Mrs. J. Nelson

Lunch Information & Menu:

Students order lunch with their teacher each morning upon arrival at school. Food service is free for all this year no matter a family's circumstance, but we request that a



W Education Benefits Form 2023.2024.docx be filled out by all. Please submit by this Friday, September 15th. With the free program, students that need only milk must also be provided with two other food choices. We will explain at school, but please follow up with a home conversation. Curious what's on the menu? Check out NutriSlice to keep up to date on our current school menus. We encourage families to download the nutrislice app or visit this website:

<https://ferndaleschools.nutrislice.com/menu/>

- Monday 11th-** Turkey Hot Dog (Nachos, Cheese & Salsa)
- Tuesday-12th** - Turkey Tacos (Nachos, Cheese & Salsa)
- Wednesday-13th** - Sweet & Sour Chicken (Nachos, Cheese & Salsa)
- Thursday-14th** - Chicken & Waffle (Nachos, Cheese & Salsa)
- Friday-15th** - Cheese Pizza (Nachos, Cheese & Salsa)

Monday 18th -Macaroni and Cheese (Sunbutter Sandwich & Veggies)

This Week:  **LC School Calendar 23/24**

- **Tuesday, 9/12-** PTA Meeting 6:30pm @ Lower
- **Wednesday, 09/13-** Early Release- Dismissal at 2:28pm
- **Thursday, 9/14** - Curriculum Night from 6-7:30 (Teacher presentations at 6:20 & 7)
- **Saturday, 9/16-** PTA Playground Playdate @ Upper 10:30-12:30

Upcoming Dates:

Monday, 9/18: First YMCA Sportsport - More info and sign up link below

Wednesday, 9/25th and 26th - Mobile Dentist - watch for forms being sent home

Social-Emotional Learning Focus

All year long we are dedicated at Ferndale Elementary both Lower and Upper Campus to work on our students’ social-emotional growth in addition to their academic growth.

Our first module is: **Module 1: Creating A School Family**

The focus this week will be: **Problem Solving and Conflict Resolution, Positive Mindset**
 Teachers will support students this week with conflict resolution by teaching the structures of the [Conscious Discipline Time Machine](#) , encouraging the use of their Big Voice and Ro-Sham-Bo (rock/paper/scissors).

Fern and Dale say, “Ro Sham Bo can help us!”



SOAR

Show Respect

Own your Behavior

Act in Excellence

Ready to Learn



Breakfast and Lunch are free again this year as part of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Please return this form to school ASAP in place of the normal Free and Reduced Lunch application.

[Education Benefits Form 2023.2024.docx](#)

All adults interested in volunteering during the 2023-2024 school year must have a current Volunteer Form on file. This form should be submitted at a minimum of two weeks prior to the event in order to accommodate processing times. No adult will be allowed to volunteer or chaperone unless they have an approved form on file. Forms are available in the Main Office or at the link below. This is to be completed at the beginning of each school year.

 [Volunteer Form.pdf](#)

Please use the following forms if your child has a medical condition and may require medicine or support while at school: [Medication Authorization Form](#) & FARE Plan: [Download English Version](#) It is important you let our school office know about medical concerns including any allergies for your child.

Curriculum Night - This Week

Thursday, September 14th will be our Curriculum Night from 6-7:30. Teachers will conduct a presentation two times. The first will be at 6:20 and then again at 7:00 for families that have more than one teacher. Teachers will review their schedule, student expectations, curriculum and also answer questions. Resource room teachers, Essential teachers and additional school staff will be available around the school to speak with as well. We will also have tables around the school with additional information, free items, past shirts for sale and more!

Safety Reminders

Dogs

Non-therapy dogs are not allowed on school grounds, especially at arrival and dismissal, they are causing some anxiety for students, staff and families. These are busy times at school and our priorities need to be on our students. We are working on new signage to help reduce confusion.

Adults in School

We have empowered our students to find their way to their class and for the most part, everyone is doing great. For those few students that still need a reminder, we have a lot of staff helpers. If your child is having a difficult time separating from you, establish a routine for the am and maybe a special goodbye that involves a hand shake, gesture or words of affirmation or all three. In October, we will begin to welcome classroom volunteers. Have you sent in your volunteer form?

Snacks

This is a reminder that we are a nut-, tree-nut, and sesame-restricted building - please double-check all ingredients before sending in a lunch or snack to school to ensure the safety of all students. Sample safe snack lists can be found [here](#).

Playworks

We have renewed our partnership with Playworks for this school year! Our Coach is Monet Brown and she will support our district at both Upper and Lower. She begins her two weeks at Lower this week! We are excited to have her support safe recess play, Class Family game time, a Jr. Coach training program, Lunch Monitor training and more. Welcome Coach Brown!



PLAYWORKS

Blessings in a Backpack

[BIAB Opt In Letter - 2023-24.pdf](#)



Blessings is a program that provides food for students every Friday during the school year. Please complete the attached form if your family would like to participate in this great offering. If you would like to support this program, watch for additional details.

Summer Reading Due by Friday, September 15th.

All students from Ferndale Lower last year were challenged to complete a reading calendar over the summer. If you are currently in 1st or 2nd grade, send in the form from the spring in order to participate in a celebration in September. If you are new to our school, in Kindergarten, or lost the form, send Mrs. Keefe a note stating some of the work that was completed over the summer.

Student Arrival and Pick up

For morning drop off, please be sure to pull **ALL** the way up. Students are to get out anywhere along the yellow line and walk into the building using the porch doors. This will help us to keep the line moving. **Doors do not open until 8:10 am for breakfast.** Please note that if students are not eating breakfast, they do not need to arrive at school until 8:18 a.m. Students who arrive at 8:18 a.m. can head directly to their lockers and classrooms. Otherwise, students should report to the gym for breakfast.

For pickup, please be sure to have your yellow identification card with **student name and grade** available and easy to see. Be patient and stay in the inside lane to wait for your child. Only use the outside lane after loading or if you have been directed to move around and head to 2nd grade. Students may not load or unload from the outside lane. However, **Please Note: There are a few cars that have permission to use the passing lane as a loading lane for their children that require special assistance. Please be patient as you wait.** If you live in the area and your child may take a bus, please take advantage of that service in order to limit the number of car riders.

Attendance

Please call the attendance line each day your child will be absent from school. Any absence will remain unexcused until the office has been notified. The teachers appreciate an email reminder, but you must still call the office. Please call the attendance line at **248.548-1950, press the #1** option & leave a message with a reason for the absence. Submitting doctor notes is also helpful. Students are required to be in school and it is our responsibility to track it and report. If your child has excessive absences, someone from school will be in contact to support you.

YMCA [Sportport - YMCA - September 18th](#)



YMCA will facilitate an after school program for students 5 years old and up at Ferndale Lower on alternate Monday's. It is open to the first 30 students registered. This is the registration link for the program on Monday, September 18th from 3:30-5:00pm. Each month, a new link will be sent on Remind. **Please note:** if you do not receive a registration confirmation email, you are NOT signed up for the program.

**Students must be picked up at 5pm. There will be no bus home at that time.

**Managed completely by Detroit YMCA staff members

**If you are put on the waitlist, you will be called by the office on Monday, if there is space for your student

You will have to create an account in order to register, but it is completely FREE. It is much easier to complete and register through a computer, not your smartphone.

Parent/Teacher Association(PTA)

Upcoming FE PTA Events - Everyone is welcome!

FE PTA Meeting

September 12, 2023 6:30-8:00PM Location: Lower

Learn more about FE PTA and our plans for the coming year, share ideas for future FE PTA events, and meet other school families. There will be time during the meeting for a Q&A with principals and PTA Board members - perfect for families new to the district to ask questions! Onsite, free babysitting available. You can view the agenda here: <https://tinyurl.com/4teee7he>

Playground Playdates

Upper: September 16, 2023 10:30AM-12:00PM

Join us on the playground for games, playground fun, and conversation with other school families! Bring your whole family!

Walk-A-Thon and Field Day

October 11, 2023

A Ferndale tradition returns! This is the FE PTA's biggest fall event and fundraiser. If you are interested in helping to plan the event, we need Volunteer, Snack and Activity Coordinators. There's a lot of support and documents from last year for our planning team! Interested? Please email us at ferndale.elem.pta@gmail.com.

To learn more about FE PTA:

Facebook: fb.me/FerndaleElementaryPTA Email: ferndale.elem.pta@gmail.com

Website: ferndaleschools.org/family/parentorgs

To become a FE PTA member: ferndaleelementarypta.memberhub.com/store

Newsletter

This is sent using Remind each week. If you would like a paper copy, notify the office.