



Weekly Newsletter - Week of September 18, 2023

From Mrs. Keefe

I loved seeing so many families last week at Curriculum Night. I am sure that you were able to gain some insight into the curriculum for your child's grade and get to know other families from the classroom. If you were not able to make it, please reach out with any questions that you may have. We want everyone to have a clear understanding of school and all of the amazing things that happen here. When a strong partnership is formed between home and school, great things can be accomplished and a successful foundation can be built for all students.

This week, I would like to introduce you to the support staff at Ferndale Lower. Everyone works together for both families and students. That support is both in and outside of the classrooms and is accomplished by a lot of individuals.

Paraprofessionals: Akisha Allen, Deborah Holt-Foster, Susan Humphreys, Jenan Kako, Jason Taylor, Ashara Simmons, Kylie Garcia, Sierra Butler, Nicole Waldo, Samatha Jarrait and Bethany Wolfe

LATA's: Libby Funk, Jasmine Jarmon, Kelly Provo and Sahar Azar

Latchkey: Carol Stan-Scrimger

Kitchen: Angeline Cassis and Meloni Harris

Lunch Staff: Tina Floyd, Annie Mitchell, Deborah Ramey, Sabrina Stark, Sarah Malczynski, Maggie Condeni, Michael Herkowitz and Cynthia Vickers

Office: Michelle Krug and Sarah Nelson

Family Liaison: Jamie Brooks

Building Substitute: Nikki Amey

Lunch Information & Menu:

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

Tuesday-19th - Soft Beef Taco (Sunbutter Sandwich & Veggies)

Wednesday-20th - Spaghetti (Sunbutter Sandwich & Veggies)

Thursday-21st -Chicken Drumstick (Sunbutter Sandwich & Veggies)

Friday-22nd - Cheese Pizza (Nachos, Cheese & Salsa)

Monday 25th -Chicken Alfredo (Yogurt, Cheese & Pretzel)



This Week:

Hispanic Heritage month - September 15-October 15th

- **Monday, 9/18** - YMCA Sportport 3:30-5pm (only for those registered)
- **Wednesday, 9/20**- Early Release- Dismissal at 2:28pm

Upcoming Dates:

9/26th and 27th - Mobile Dentist - turn in forms now
 Thursday, 9/28 - 2nd Grade Field Trip to Greenfield Village

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 is: **Responsibility and Friendship Skills**



Fern and Dale say, "I love having a lot of friends!"

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.

NWEA - Acadience

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is a research-based, not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by creating assessments for students that precisely measure growth and proficiency—and provide insights to teachers that help tailor instruction for individual student groups. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is the name of the assessment.

All of our students at Lower will participate in the MAP Reading and/or Math assessment this month. They will complete it with their teacher using an individual computer.

Individual reading benchmark assessments known as Acadience are also given these first few weeks of school. The information will be used for targeting individual reading skills for students. They are given to students individually by their teacher.

Safety Reminders

Drills

Our school family participates and practices school directed Fire(5), Tornado(2) and Secure the Building(3) drills each year. Reports are submitted to our district website after the drill takes place. Each drill is practiced and discussed with students and the first one is always announced for the students. Our school will have our first fire drill sometime this week.

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.

Yellow Line

We have a yellow line on our sidewalk for car dismissal. It is important that students not cross that line without an adult or when walking. We want them to be on the school side so that they do not go into the car lane.

Arrival and Dismissal

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. Also, refrain from using your cell phone and keep your music low. Staff need to be able to hear and call out student names.

Substitutes

Across the county, we have a severe shortage of substitutes for both para-professionals and classroom teachers. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact EduStaff on the web. They are the 3rd party organization that supplies the substitutes to all area schools. See Mrs. Keefe for additional details.

Playworks



Coach Brown is selecting Jr. Coaches (2nd grade only) this week for the Leadership Program. She will continue to observe/support recess and work with lunch monitors. Beginning in October, she will begin Class Game Time with each classroom. Coach Brown is split each month between Lower and Upper.

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.



YMCA

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. Each month, a new link will be sent on Remind. The program for today, Monday-September 18th is filled. The next dates will be October 2nd, 16th and 30th. The link for the month will be shared a week before the first event.



**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 and space becomes available, you will be called by the office

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

October 10, 2023 6:30-8pm Location: Upper

More information is coming soon!

Walk-A-Thon and Field Day

Wednesday, 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