



Fernwood Family Newsletter #8

October 14, 2025

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*Inquiring tummies want to know: [what's for lunch!](#)?

Schedule of Events (see also, [MPS district calendar](#))

- Tuesday 10/14: [Fall Conferences](#), 2:45-6:30pm in classrooms (signup below)
 - Thursday, 10/16: [Picture Re-take Day](#) (9-11am)
 - Friday, 10/17 & Monday, 10/20: **FALL BREAK, NO SCHOOL** (students & staff)
 - Tuesday, 10/21: [Fernwood Fund Meeting](#) at 6:30pm Milwaukee Public Library Bay View Branch or virtual (Email brett.mytys@gmail.com for link.)
 - Wednesday 10/22: [High School Writing Exam for 8th graders](#), 8-10:30am
 - Friday, 10/24: [Halloween Parade and Dance \(K3-3rd grade only\)](#), 5:30-7pm
 - Thursday, 10/30: [virtual SEC Meeting](#) (Visit this [one stop SEC link](#) for meeting agendas, minutes, and the link to join the meetings virtually!)
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Resources/Opportunities

[Click here](#) to see this virtual bulletin board of events, opportunities, and resources (some at cost and some are FREE!)

Check out the [MATC Uniquely Abled Academy Open House](#) on October 29

Consider the [3 Rivers Powwow at the Milwaukee Public Museum](#) on November 1

High School Writing Exam

Who: All 8th Graders

What: 8th Grade Writing Exam

When: 10/22/25 8-10:30 a.m.

Please try to make sure your young person is here that day.

Where: Mx. Botsford, Ms. Zimmers, Ms. O'Brien, and Ms. Gervais' rooms

Why: High school entrance points

It seems wild that your young people are already in 8th grade!! For high school entrance, our 8th graders take a writing exam. It is a text dependent analysis, which means they will have an article to read and a focus question to answer. There are about five different articles and focus questions. Each child will randomly receive one of them.

This exam is a digital test graded by a computer program. Your child will get their score immediately after submitting their test. They are graded on four separate categories: focus, content, organization, and mechanics. Focus and content are weighted more heavily than the other two. If your child receives a combined score of 3 or 4, they will receive two points for high school entrance. If they receive a combined score of 1 or 2, they will receive one point for high school entrance.

Your young person has been working very hard writing different types of essays preparing for this exam.

Thank you for your time. And, as always, if you have any questions, please email me!
Peace, Ryn: botsfokm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

Camp News

Please join us in congratulating Ms. Lisa Shoning on her new position at Burdick! We know she'll be an incredible addition to their team. Wishing you all the best in this exciting new chapter, Ms. Lisa!

Camp is calling - We're hiring! Want a job that is full of energy, laughter and sunshine? We've got midday (approx. 10am-2pm) and/or after-school hours (approx. 2-5:15pm) available!

If interested email Nichole Abresch: abrescn@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

Get your popcorn THIS THURSDAY October 16

Make sure you get your popcorn after school on Thursday this time and enjoy your Friday off! After school popcorn sales will take place **every other week** (with some adjustments due to school breaks.)

Popcorn costs \$1 and is available by the Falling Heath doors. Proceeds go to the adolescent program which is doing the sale as part of a Montessori lesson about running a micro economy.

Acceptance Alliance

As Fernwood is dedicated to making our school a safe and inclusive space for all students, we have a club returning for its 3rd year! Acceptance Alliance provides a safe and supportive environment for students who identify as: LGBTQ+, allies of the LGBTQ+ community, neurodivergent, or any other student looking for a space where they can be themselves without fear or judgment. Activities of the club will be driven by student interest but may include: social activities, field trips, resources and education, awareness and activism, etc. The club is open to 5th-8th grade students and meets bimonthly during the school day; our first meeting will be in October. If your student is interested, please email Christina Chahal, School Social Worker at chahalcr@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

Counseling Corner



COUNSELING CORNER NEWSLETTER BY MS. BIANCA



OCTOBER 2025

School Counseling Program

Primary Classes

Primary students met the following academic ASCA standards:

Standard A-Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span. Ask students about "Champ!"

Lower Elementary

Many students in Lower Elementary met the following academic ASCA standards:

Standard A-Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span. Ask students about "The Mindset of a Champion" and the two types of mindsets!

Upper Elementary

Students in upper elementary were introduced to the world of Xello. Xello is an online career exploration tool that students will use to explore careers, their skills, interests and strengths. This month students will also learn about developing time management skills.



Reminders

7th Grade students are working hard at completing their Xello standards and completing their 7th grade Academic and Career Plans. Information about academic and career planning conferences will come out soon!

Save the Date:

- High School Enrollment
10/4-11/3
- MPS High School Fair 10/11
- 8th Grade On Demand
Writing Assessment 10/22

Contact Bianca Willingham

Email:

willinbc@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

Phone: (414) 297-1300 x41321



Magic: The Gathering

Get ready to gather Magic, cast spells, summon creatures, and cast enchantments. Magic: the Gathering is a card game where you build your own deck and battle it out with other opponents. This club is for beginners and seasonal experts.

There are multiple ways to play Magic. These are called formats. The club will mainly be a Commander format club. If you are interested in playing other formats, make sure you have a friend that is willing to play the same format with you.

Like Pokemon TCG, Magic is also a trading card game. Due to the nature of trading card games a few rules must be established for school purposes.

1. You may not sell cards to anyone on school grounds for monetary value.
2. You may not purchase cards from anyone on school grounds with monetary value.
3. Trading cards are allowed if AND ONLY IF both parties agree to the trade.
4. No cards are allowed during school hours. Students will be warned on the first day of the club. If seen, teachers are permitted to take cards and consequences will be dealt appropriately.

There will be no fees to pay to the club. HOWEVER, you do need your own Commander deck in order to play as the club will not provide any cards. This club is available for 4-8th grade.

Magic club will meet Fridays from 2:20pm-5pm, starting October 24th. [Complete this form to join.](#)

Mr. Zhang will be in charge of this club. Please reach out to him with any questions: zhangz@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

☀️ The Satori Project ☀️

Empower the Mind. Awaken the Spirit. Strengthen the Self. An after-school club open to Fernwood students in 4th through 8th grade.

My name is Artiola Thana and I'm currently an 8th grader at Fernwood Montessori and a dual-enrolled student at Arizona State University studying Business Management with a big passion and an even bigger purpose. Along this journey, I've come to realize that nothing matters more than nurturing the whole person — mind, body, and soul. "Satori" is a Japanese word meaning sudden awakening — a moment of clarity where we see ourselves and the world in a new light. That's exactly what this new after-school club is about, and it is inspired by my journey.

Starting this November, we'll meet once a month for one hour. Each month we will have a special guest speakers (yoga, health, art, dance, and more!) and explore tools and practices that help students:

- Feel better
- Think clearer
- Grow stronger — inside and out

"Satori" is a Japanese word meaning sudden awakening — a moment of clarity where we see ourselves and the world in a new light. That's exactly what this project is about.

We will meet in Ms Makula's art room from 2:30-3:30p on the following dates:
November 5; December 3 ; January 7; February 4; May 6; June 3
(no gathering in March or April)

No worries if you cannot make each gathering - please come to as many as you can. If you're interested in attending one or all, [please sign up here](#) by 10/23. First come, first served. We will confirm your child's spot by 11/3.

There is no fee - it's FREE.

"Satori: when the ordinary reveals it was never ordinary at all." - Artiola Thana

Any questions, please reach out to Ms. Lorinda at floresl1@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

The Chess Club

Chess club is for all players of any level. You will learn the basics of chess, strategies, and other chess knowledge. There will be in house tournaments so students can have a taste of what competitive chess is all about. This will teach them about being competitive while still having sportsmanship. This club will be available for 6-8th grade.

This club is free. The time of the chess club is from 2:20-3:20pm. We will meet every Thursday starting on October 23rd. The club will run until the last week of May.

[Complete this form to join.](#)

Mr. Zhang will be in charge of this club. Please reach out to him with any questions: zhangz@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

Picture Re-Take Day October 16

(I promise this is the last time you will see this announcement!)

If you haven't gotten proofs or been able to access your child's photo yet, it means there isn't one and they will need to come to re-take day.

You can view and order online at mylifetouch.com using the Fernwood order code: **EVTGZVNR**



Fernwood Apparel Sales

Check out the [Fernwood PTO Apparel Sale!](#) (The flyer that was sent home in backpacks had the wrong QR code on it, SORRY!) Apparel featuring old logs in new colors and A BRAND NEW DESIGN are available for sale through Dunn's. **DID YOU KNOW? A percentage of sales goes to the PTO for classroom and school event support!** Sales only run through October 25, so order now!

Ever Heard of a *Bike Bus*?

Thanks to everyone who joined us and helped decorate our Bike, Walk, and Roll to School! mural! A few parents are considering a [Bike Bus](#) for Bike, Walk, and Roll to School Day next year. A Bike Bus is a group of students and families who ride their bikes to school together along a planned route, picking up more riders as they go—like a school bus, but on bikes! It's a fun, safe, and healthy way for kids to get to school with friends, guided by adult volunteers. If you are interested in seeing this happen (assisting with planning or participating), please fill out our [Bike Bus Interest Survey](#). Your feedback will help us decide if and how to move forward. Thank you!

Box Tops for Education is STILL a thing!

Remember collecting ACTUAL box tops when you were a kid? Well guess what, there's an app for that! Scan hard copy receipts or upload digital ones. Many of your most regular household purchases can help raise funds for Fernwood. [Learn more here!](#)



Halloween Costume Parade and Dance

The Fernwood PTO is hosting a Halloween Costume Parade on Friday, October 24th from 5:30-7:00pm. This event is for K3-3rd grade students. Meet at the glass doors on Falling Heath Place to join the parade which will depart around 5:35pm. After the parade, stay for some spooky music and dancing. The Cross Country team will also be selling pizza - weather permitting, dining will be outside so dress accordingly (as no food is allowed in the gym)! Families must attend with and also supervise their students. Costumes are highly encouraged!

LAST CHANCE to claim your lost and found items!

The Lost and Found will be available at conferences on 10/14. Please visit the office to claim your items. **If items are not claimed by Friday October 24, they will be re-homed to Goodwill.**



I'm yours,
take me
home!!

Our School is Cool!

From Ms. Kari Wellhausen's class: We had the best sale ever!! We are so thankful to the people who donated products and to the people who bought products. We sold \$710 worth of plants, baked goods, drinks and snacks! Thank you so much!!