



Fernwood Family Newsletter #7

October 7, 2025

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

Schedule of Events

- Tuesday, 10/7: [PTO Meeting](#) at 6:00pm in the Fernwood library (Visit this [one stop PTO link](#) for meeting agendas, minutes, and the link to join the meetings virtually!)
- Wednesday, 10/8: [Bike/Walk to School Day](#) at 6:45am on the East Playground (In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled.)
- Wednesday, 10/8: EARLY RELEASE DAY (and no camp) K3/K4 dismissal at 9:15am, K5 through 8th grade dismissal at 12:15pm
- Thursday, 10/9: [Fall Conferences](#), 2:45-6:30pm in classrooms (signup below)
- Thursday, 10/9: [Music Parents Meeting](#) at 6:30 in the Library or [virtual](#)

- Friday, 10/17 and Monday 10/20: **FALL BREAK** - no school for students and staff
 - Tuesday, 10/21: **Fernwood Fund Meeting** at 6:30pm in the Fernwood library or virtual (Email brett.mytys@gmail.com for link.)
 - Tuesday 10/14: **Fall Conferences**, 2:45-6:30pm in classrooms (signup below)
 - Thursday, 10/16: **Picture Re-take Day** (9-11am)
 - 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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Early Release Day this week Wednesday, October 8

On October 8th, MPS has an early release day to allow for teacher and staff professional development. **Fernwood's school day will be 7:15-9:15am for K3 & K4 students and 7:15-12:15pm for K5-8th grade students.** All after school camps are closed on early release days, including upcoming October 8. Information for families is on the [Recreation website](#).

If your child attends Character Kids theater on Wednesdays (Upper EI), class will still be held from 12:20-1:20pm in the auditorium. Please be on time to pick your child up.

Buses will arrive at Fernwood as usual for dismissal. We ask that families that are picking up please be on time, as our staff have 10 minutes from dismissal before they are expected to be in professional development sessions. All students K5-8th grade will eat lunch at Fernwood before they leave for the day, so students are encouraged to either bring a lunch or snack from home, as usual, or they may also order a hot lunch. Due to the fast-moving nature of the day and in order to get all staff a lunch break, there will be no recess, however we are encouraging all teachers to take the students outside as they are able, and as the weather permits.

Reminders for outdoors

Just a couple quick reminders for when you are on outdoor school property: No children should be sitting on the walls or ledges as it presents a safety risk. (We ask that adults refrain from this as well, to role model for children.) Please also be reminded that no children should be climbing trees.

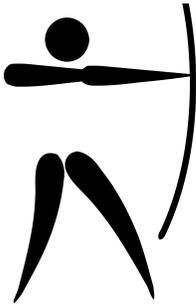
Resources/Opportunities

[Click here](#) to see this virtual bulletin board of events, opportunities, and resources (some at cost and some are FREE!) **New this week:** Marquette Upward Bound

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

Archery Club



For 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, Wednesdays 2:15-4:00pm, November 19-February 18. (We will have a home meet, with parents, on February 18 at 2:30.)

Archery Club uses the very successful National Archery in Schools Program curriculum. For safety and consideration, space is limited to 40. We will accept 45 registrations in order to have a short waitlist. Positions in this club fill really quickly.

PLEASE be sure your child WANTS to be in Archery Club before signing them up. Registration is complete when [this google form is completed](#) AND when a check for \$25.00 is made out to Fernwood Montessori School (with Archery in the notes) is submitted to your classroom teacher, the office, or to Kari Wellhausen's mailbox in the main office.

Coaches: Jason Porter, Joe Stollenwerk, Joe Semanko and Kari Wellhausen.

Winter Sports Update

BASKETBALL

- 1st-3rd grade Co-Ed Pee-Wee (Saturdays, Dec. 7 - Feb. 15 or 22)
- 4-5th grade Co-Ed (Saturdays, Dec. 14 - March 1)
- 6-8th grade Co-Ed (Saturdays, Dec. 14 - Feb. 22)

*of note if your daughter played girls' basketball in the fall, they are NOT eligible to play co-ed in the winter **We are in need of parent basketball coaches for all grade levels, please contact me if you would like to hear more information. Without coaches we have to limit the number of kids that can register and we hate to leave anyone out!!**

VOLLEYBALL

- 4/5th grade Co-Ed (Saturdays, Dec. 7 - Feb. 15)
- 6-8th grade Co-Ed (Saturdays, Dec. 7 - Feb. 14)

We are in need of parent volleyball coaches for 6-8th grade, please contact me if you would like to hear more information. Without coaches we have to limit the number of kids that can register and we hate to leave anyone out!!

Registration will open in November, be on the lookout in a future newsletter for the google registration form. There will be no exceptions or late entries for registrations in an effort to keep team sizes reasonable for all. If additional players are needed, we will communicate that in a future newsletter.

There is a 25\$ registration fee for due prior to the start of the season

Be aware that teams fill up fast, sometimes before the registration deadline.

Chanda Miller
chandamiller@hotmail.com

Dungeons and Dragons After School Club (6th-8th grade)

Mr. Jerabek will be running a D&D club after school. We are currently gauging interest. Please read the description in this [Google Form](#) and fill this out for your child if they are interested/you approve. Spots are limited, so those that fill out the form first will get first seats. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jerabek:

jerabejc@milwaukee.k12.wi.us



Bike, Walk, and Roll to School Day

Wednesday October 8 (weather permitting) students are invited to bike, walk, or roll to school and then meet at the table on the East Playground. There will be a quick activity for students; awesome biking/walking safety materials from the [Wisconsin Bike Fed](#); and prizes available for those who participate. Activities will go from 6:45am to 7:15am. Hope to see you with your bikes, scooters, roller skates, sparkly shoes, and more! (P.S. Joining us from your school bus or carpool counts too!)

[Check out this blast from the past!](#)

Ordering School Pictures and Re-Take Day October 16

Pictures are available to view! **If you haven't gotten proofs or been able to access your child's photo, it means there isn't one and they will need to come to re-take day.** You should have received a hard copy proof and possibly your order already! You should also be able to view and order online at mylifetouch.com using the Fernwood order code: **EVTGZVNR**

If you are having issues, please reach out to the Lifetouch customer service line at 1(800) 736-4753 or use the online chat function on the website. **If Lifetouch tells you to "check back" it means your child needs to come to retake day.**

If you would like to get pictures re-taken or if your child was absent on picture day, please email your student(s) classroom teacher(s) AND Parent Coordinator, Kari H. (hansonks@milwaukee.k12.wi.us) to let us know.



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!

High School Enrollment Fair

High School Enrollment Fair Saturday, October 11, 9am-12:00pm at Milwaukee High School of the Arts | 2300 W. Highland Ave., Milwaukee, 53233 Milwaukee 8th graders—it's time to choose a high school for next fall! Attend the High School Enrollment Fair to learn about program offerings and apply to any MPS high school that fits your interests and goals. Visit mpsmke.com/hsenroll for more information.

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!](#)



Did You Lose Something??

The Lost and Found is already overflowing with so many sweatshirts, water bottles, lunch boxes (with tupperware still inside), towels (from Fernwood Fest?), etc. If your child is missing something, please have them talk to their teacher about going to look through the Lost and Found. The Lost and Found will be available at conferences on 10/9 and 10/14. Please take a look and claim your items.

Our School is Cool!

Did you know that Fernwood offers harp lessons? Our budget allowed us to purchase 4 hours of harp lessons a week and we are on year three of implementation, with 20 students in Upper EI and Secondary participating. The interest continues to grow! Ms. Mary Keppeler is an excellent teacher and students love getting to learn this beautiful (and challenging) instrument.

If you are interested in your child participating in future years (we typically open this up to Upper EI students at the beginning of each year), please reach out to Kristy Lowell. Students must have previous instrument experience.

