

FORT ZUMWALT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DARDENNE ELEMENTARY  
THE KNIGHTLY NEWS

Dr. Jill Hutcheson  
Principal

September 2008

Dr. Bernard J. DuBray  
Superintendent

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I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the Open House on August 13th. We are so pleased to be starting another eventful year at Dardenne. We are focused on meeting the challenges of improving student engagement and academic achievement and working together with you as a community of learners. This year the faculty and staff is committed to forming a closer partnership with you, as we reflect on better ways of *teaching every child every day*. A collaboration team will meet periodically; updates of our ideas and progress will be included in *The Knightly News* for everyone to share. I hope you will join in the effort to raise the bar at Dardenne for all children. The first meeting on Sept. 4th will include information about No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Dardenne Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) scores and new programming put in place to help students meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

It is clear that student achievement must be everyone's highest priority. This year we are inviting you to be a full partner in your child's education by: attending meetings such as the collaboration meetings, PTC and Title I Reading Nights, listening to your child read at home, supporting your child's teacher, sending your child to school

on time, helping to reinforce character traits, promoting student responsibility and ensuring that your child completes any assigned homework. There are countless other opportunities for you to become involved with the school and your child's teacher. The following poem has underlined my view of the important role of parents and guided my mission not only throughout my career but as the instructional leader at Dardenne for the past nine years.

*Unity-Author Unknown*

*I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a child's mind  
And they fashioned it with care.  
One was a teacher-the tools he used  
Were books, music and art.  
The other, a parent, worked with a guiding hand  
And a gentle loving heart.  
Day after day, the teacher toiled with touch  
That was careful, deft and sure,  
While the parent labored by his side  
And polished and smoothed it o'er.  
And when at last their task was done  
They were proud of what they wrought.  
For the things they had molded into the child  
Could neither be sold nor bought.  
And each agreed they would have failed  
If each had worked alone.  
For behind the parent stood the school  
And behind the teacher, the home.*

Please watch for and accept our invitations to join us as we strive to make a difference for your child; for every child at Dardenne Elementary. It must be a joint responsibility to reach each one.

**PARENT INFORMATION**– Just outside of the office is an information rack for parents. Please feel free to take any flyers, brochures and pamphlets that you find there. This month you will find:

- Introduction to the Fort Zumwalt Schools
- FZSD Birthday Treats
- St. Charles County Youth Programs
- Youth Sports and Athletic Programs available to your child
- September *Knightly News*
- September Menu

**BRAVO** - This month I am pleased to report that Holly Ryan and Connor Goldy entered home-grown giant cabbages in Bonnie Plant's contest for students. Third graders at DES received cabbage starts last spring. Both Holly and Connor returned photos of their successful summer "farming" endeavors. Their photos have been forwarded to Bonnie Plants. Good Luck!

I would love to share your good news with everyone right here in the Knight Line. My email address is [jhutcheson@fz.k12.mo.us](mailto:jhutcheson@fz.k12.mo.us). I am waiting to hear from you!

**PAPA JOHNS PIZZA** - When you are hungry for pizza on the third Tuesday of every month, make sure to order from Papa Johns and mention Dardenne Elementary. Dardenne will receive a portion of your total purchase to support student activities. In addition the room that purchases the most pizza on these days wins a Pizza Party.

## **SCHOOL DAY**

**9:15-3:45**

School hours are from 9:15 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Dardenne students will be allowed in school beginning at 9:00 with instruction beginning promptly at 9:15. Those eating breakfast will be allowed to enter the building at 8:55 or as soon as their bus arrives. Please remember that the teachers' work day begins at 9:00 a.m. That means that other than breakfast, supervision is not available until 9:00. Please do not drop your child off before 9:00 a.m. when supervision is provided. If you need information about before school child care on campus, please contact the YMCA.

## **DROPPING OFF and/or PICKING UP CHILDREN**

For safety's sake please do not drive into the bus loop during student arrival and dismissal times. We have had several cars enter this area over the past two weeks and endanger students who are walking toward the building. Remember the bus loop is the area directly in front of the school building. Buses are expected at 8:50-9:00, 12:00-12:20, 12:30-12:40 and again at 3:30. There is plenty of parking in our top lot. Please park there when coming into the building to sign your child in or out of school. If you are joining your child for lunch, you should also be parking in the top parking lot. Should you wish to pick your child up at any time, you

must come into the building to sign him/her out. Please do not wait for your child outside the building. Your signature will help us verify the safety and whereabouts of every student. As another safety precaution, please have your picture ID ready to present to the office staff when you come to pick up your child.

### **NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH**

**PROGRAM** - The Fort Zumwalt School District participates in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Children from families whose current income has fallen below certain Federal guidelines can qualify for free and reduced price meals. The identity of qualified children is completely confidential and the district goes to great lengths to keep these children anonymous from their peers. Parents should consider taking advantage of this valuable program should their current financial circumstances warrant participation. Applications must be completed as soon as possible each school year and are available at the school office. Call Mrs. Waldron, if you have questions at 978-4001.

**SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS** - We will continue to implement our school volunteer program. The program requires all volunteers within the school, to fill out an initial request form with the school office. Depending on the extent and nature of your volunteer work, you may be asked to fill out an additional form that allows the district to complete a background check. We would love to have you volunteer; you are encouraged to request a volunteer form from your child's teacher or from the office. This program will help ensure the safest environment for all of our students.

**CLASSROOM VISITS** - In order to provide the safest and most secure environment for all children, you are asked to abide by the following guidelines regarding classroom visits. If you need to speak with your child, or your child's teacher during the school day, please stop in the office for assistance. As you might imagine frequent interruptions disrupt instruction for everyone in the class. If your child's teacher is not available when you are in the building, he or she will be happy to call you on the phone. You are welcome to observe in your child's classroom by making prior arrangements with the teacher. In the interest of preserving instructional time and ensuring that all visitors are properly identified, please do not accompany your child to his/her classroom. When you join your child for lunch, please allow your child to return to his or her class on time and with the other students. Sometimes long and extended good-byes are causing distress and unintended disruptions to the instructional program. In fairness to all parents and to avoid perceived favoritism, everyone is asked to abide by this request.

**OUTDOOR EDUCATION** - Our school is scheduled to attend camp starting Sunday, September 7th through September 11th. Since camp begins on Sunday, campers will be excused from school on Friday, September 12th. Fifth grade students who do not attend camp will not be excused. Students not attending camp will form a fifth grade class on campus and will participate in many camp curricular activities each day. Please make sure that all fees are paid, forms completed and health concerns are noted with Mrs. Esala, RN, before September 5th. Students were provided with an opportunity to sell candy bars to defray the \$180.00 cost of camp. Don't hesitate to call 978-4001 if you have questions about the camp program.

**ATTENDANCE** - Your child's attendance is important for his or her school success. It will be recorded every day. If you know that your child will be absent, please take a moment to report the absence to the school office at 978-4001. To ensure the safety of your child, Mrs. Dreyer, our attendance clerk, will call you if your child is marked absent and you have not called. At the spring Awards Ceremony, students who have perfect or outstanding attendance will be recognized.

### **BUS BEHAVIOR AND TRANSPORTATION** -

Safety on our school buses is very important. Please encourage your child to follow these basic safety rules:

1. Remain seated until reaching your stop.
2. Do not eat or drink while riding the bus.
3. Keep your arms and head inside the bus.
4. Avoid distracting the driver by yelling, moving about, or throwing anything while riding the bus.

Parents help promote safety when they supervise their children until it is time for the bus to arrive and by insisting that their children catch the bus at the assigned stop. Please also encourage children to come straight home from the bus stop after school.

Bus changes are made only in emergencies and only by Mr. Tom Berry, Fort Zumwalt Director of Transportation. All requests must be directed to him at 240-3138 or 281-3458. Building personnel do not

have the authority to authorize any change to bus stops or bus assignments.

**ACCELERATED EDUCATION** Journeys to Expanded Thinking (J.E.T.) - All qualifying students will again participate in the J.E.T. program. This year the students will attend this program on Fridays. Our students will be bused to and from the program which is housed at St. Peters Elementary School.

**SCHOOL PICTURES** - School pictures will be taken by Wagner Portrait Studios on September 17th. Please watch for information about school pictures. Every student will have his or her picture taken because these are the pictures that ultimately go into the yearbook. This year we will not have classroom pictures taken when spring pictures are taken; instead Wagner will create a composite for each class using head shots taken in the fall.

**OUTSIDE PLAY** - Please make sure that your child is dressed properly to enjoy opportunities to play outside. Tennis shoes are required for P.E. and flip flops are not considered save on the playground climbing apparatus. You can help your child fully participate by consulting the weather forecast.

**SENDING MONEY TO SCHOOL** - Please make sure that when you need to send money to school for lunch, fund raiser, field trips, etc., that you place it in an enveloped marked with:

A diagram of an envelope with a return address area at the top left, a postage box at the top right, and four labels in the center: **Student's Name**, **Teacher's Name**, **Amount**, and **Purpose for the money**.

This will ensure that the money is credited as you intended.

**BIRTHDAY TREATS, PARTY INVITATIONS, and MORE** - We are not allowed to serve our students any home-made treats. Some years ago the Health Department indicated that schools should adopt a policy where all treats are purchased and pre-wrapped. An alternative to the birthday treat quandary is the *Birthday Treat Program* implemented last year by our School and Nutrition Services (SNS) Department. SNS does all the shopping and delivers treats right to school in time for your child's birthday. Please do not send birthday party invitations to be distributed at school unless you include your child's entire class. Undelivered invitations will be returned home with your child. Due to privacy concerns, the school is unable to provide you with student phone numbers and addresses.

**NAMES**

Please make sure your child's belongings including: book bag, coat, gloves, umbrella and lunch box have his or her name on them. We maintain a lost and found in the main hallway. Please feel free to take a look if your child is missing anything. We make every attempt to return items that are labeled with student names.

**COUNSELOR'S**

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Laura Pingry is the guidance counselor at Dardenne this year. In addition to helping facilitate the Crider Bullying presentations this month, she is also presenting the students' first lesson on how to prevent By-stander Bullying.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call her at 978-4001.

**MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC -**

Dardenne Singers -Our first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 17th from 8:00 a.m. until 8:50 a.m. Remember to come a little early to put up your backpack and to find your place in the room.

**Fifth Grade News** – Students need to find their recorders so we can start playing again right after our great week at camp. You will also need your folder on September 15th. Mrs. Erdman has made a new recorder book for each of you!

**Fourth Grade Update** - Students started the year in Australia with a greeting chant and songs. As we move through the fall we will focus on our rhythm skills (counting, writing and playing) as we prepare for playing the

recorder in the spring.

**Third Grade Notes** - Students are exploring rhythm patterns, AB form, playing ostinatos with songs and Mallet Madness!

**DARDENNE STRING ORCHESTRA -**

Orchestra begins Monday, September 15th! The orchestra will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 8:00-8:30 a.m. See Mrs. Erdman if you need another form to sign up.

**DISCLAIMER STATEMENT - DES**

proudly sponsors a variety of activities that encourage student participation. Below please find a listing of club activities available to students that are not affiliated with our District:

*Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, SACC, YMCA and Boy's Club activities, and Kids for Christ.*

These clubs are independently run and do not operate under the policies or control of Fort Zumwalt. The coaches/sponsors for these clubs are not employed by the school district and activities, schedules and games are planned separate from the district calendar. Any questions concerning the operation or management of these activities should be directed to the coach/sponsor, or if available, the regional organization.