



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome 2012! I hope that everyone had a relaxing and restful winter break and the students are well rested as well. I would like to take a moment to highlight some of the exciting things that will be taking place during the month of January. I am very pleased that we are able to offer **many enrichment opportunities** for our students throughout the year. Currently, many students are involved in the **Science Fair, Math Olympiads, Stock Market simulation** and **Southern Lakes Anthology**.

The school **Science Fair** is being organized and led again this year by **Miss Hancock, Mrs. Smithyman** and **Mrs. Lamsam**. An evening exhibit is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 18th**. This year, the Science fair is required for students in grades 6-8 and optional for grades 5K-5.

On **January 10th**, our **third grade students** will have a performance of **"Opera in the Classroom"** on the cafeteria stage. For the last several months, Miss Mallon has been working on this project in conjunction with the Lake Geneva Lyric Opera association. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience the art form of Opera. Speaking of Opera, the **7th grade class will have the opportunity to attend a live performance at the Lyric Opera house in Chicago on January 26th**. We thank the cultural arts committee of the Fontana PTO for making this possible.

The **Southern Lakes anthology program** has been in existence for many years. Each year, students are asked to **create a piece of artwork or creative writing based upon a central theme**. All of the student work is locally evaluated with the top pieces moving on to the regional level where it is considered for awards and publication. Miss Klein assists the students with art pieces and classroom teachers work with their students on the writing component. Many Fontana students have consistently had their work chosen to be included in the annual Southern Lakes anthology publication.

Eighth grade students will be administered the Explore test beginning the week of January 9th in the areas of Math, Reading, English and Science. The Explore test is the 8th grade version of the ACT and will be used to assist the eighth grade students in selecting coursework for High School.

Finally, there will be an **early dismissal on January 20th** at 11:20. Teachers will be involved in an afternoon teacher in service.

As you can see, there are many exciting events taking place for our students at Fontana. As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Wenzel

District Administrator/Principal



SCIENCE FAIR

Fontana has begun its **second annual Science Fair!** Every student received an informational packet as to what is required at each grade level. The fair is an **optional activity grades K-5** and is **required at the middle school level**. The students have been introduced to the scientific method in class and then are free to work independently.

The Science Fair will be held in the evening of **January 18**. Students will display their Science Fair boards throughout the library and hallways. Guest judges will be evaluating and commenting on the student work. Middle School students will be assessed on their projects as part of their overall Science grade.

The fair is off to a great start. Good luck to all participants.



'MYSTERY COIN'

Don't forget to look for that gold coin! Bring it to Mrs. Lamsam's room for a treat.

Hint: *The coin is located by an amphibian that is very dear to me.*

PEP ASSEMBLY GONE WILD

by Ms. Parker

The students enjoyed a new experience on Dec. 9th when an all school pep assembly honoring both academics and athletics took place in the school gymnasium. High energy music introduced the football team breaking through a paper doorway. The players were given certificates and awards for their achievements from Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Colby. The **Most Improved Player** for A Team was *Luke Bourneuf*, and the B Team player was *Austin West*. The **Most Valuable Player** for the A Team was *Bryan Parker*, and the B Team player was *Thallin Baker*. The **Hustle** award for A Team went to *Spencer Westman* and for the B Team it went to *Nelson Tovar*. Unfortunately Coach Colby and Coach Krajewski could not attend the event.

Next the volleyball teams came running in with their coaches to one of their favorite warm up songs. The A and B teams were introduced by coaches, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips. The **Most Improved Player** A Team player was *Michelle Vocke*, and the B Team player was *Maddie Landreman*. The **Most Valuable Player** for the A Team was *Morgan Courier*, and the B Team player was her sister, *Payton Courier*. The **Falcon award** for A Team went to *Julia Gilstrap* and for the B Team it went to *Hannah Ackley*.

The basketball players then made their dramatic entrance streaming into the gym. They came to the front and were given a round of applause. They are currently in their season with impressive records for both teams. Certificates and awards will be given in the next trimester.



Mrs. Smithyman then came to the stage and began the academic portion of the presentations.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS TEAMS

GRADES 3-4: *Perla Castaneda, Xander Humphrey, Amber Ziganto*

GRADE 5-6: *Stephanie Dace, Isabel Lundin, Taralynn Whitt*

NOETIC MATH COMPETITION

NLMC is a national math contest given by Noetic Learning. Students take a 45 minute test that requires higher level problem solving. This fall, over 6500 individuals participated nationally.

GRADE 2:

Honor Roll Distinction (top 10%)

Thomas Whowell (highest place finish for Fontana)

Honorable Mention Distinction (top 50%):

Zuri Goldsmith, Emily Mountjoy, Declan McHugh, Ellyn Blakeman, Mitchell Horton

GRADE 3:

Honorable Mention Distinction (top 50%):

Jacob Laing (highest place finish for Fontana), *William Gage, Adam Schirtzinger, MJ Corey*

Participant: *Raya Hickey, Joseph Farenc*

MS ARTS IMMERSION

GRADE 8: *Teagan Ackley, Hunter DeVoy, Ali Freytag, Julia Gilstrap*

MATH OLYMPIAD STOCK MARKET CLUB

GRADE 8: *Teagan Ackley, Hunter DeVoy, Julia Gilstrap, Michael Heidenreich, Ben Malone, Liam McCarthy, Bryan Parker, Jacob Stout*

GRADE 7: *Travis Berryman, Ian Shirtzinger, Nelson Tovar*

GRADE 6: *Penny Brooks, Sonja Erickson, Jack Heidenreich, Kyle Lagerhausen, Kevin Malone, Josh Navin, Paige Sammons*



Congrats!!



(Cont. on pg 3)

PEP ASSEMBLY GONE WILD

(Cont. from pg 2)

Next the PTO sponsored the **Falcon awards**. Ribbons were given to each grade level in the following categories:

Fantastic Falcon
for overall excellence

Awesome Achiever
for academic achievement

Leadership Skills

Charismatic Character
for excellence in character traits

Outstanding Effort
for extra effort in any area

Noteworthy Learner
for growth in any area

Mr. Wenzel announced the student and Mrs. Lamsam presented the ribbons. Students were nominated by their teachers. **The complete listing of award recipients is on the PTO bulletin board.**

Students were seated in their community groups at the assembly. **After the awards, students were treated to a video about saving a very special whale.** Mr. Wulff started the discussion with episodes in his life about caring for an animal or person that he came across. The idea for the day was putting someone's needs ahead of your own. The video was an excellent example of this and really touched both children and adults watching it.

Ms. Hancock then explained the community group activity for the month. Each student filled out a slip about **what he/she would do to show caring during the holiday season.** The slips will be displayed in a wreath format. Look for these to be displayed around the school.



ART ROOM NEWS

by Ms. Klein

CLEANING AT HOME?

If you run into any of the following supplies while tidying out those foreign cabinets and decide you do not need them, the **Art Room will gladly accept donations!** Just send them with your kids to bring to the art room.

- Plastic Wrap
- Bubble Wrap
- Plastic forks, knives, and spoons
- Ribbon
- Gallon Ice Cream Buckets
- Buttons
- Old Towels
- Sponges
- Beads
- #2 Pencils



POTTERY WHEELS UPDATE

The pottery wheels are both a big hit and a big frustration! Middle school students are learning patience and get very excited when they end up with a creation to be fired in the kiln! Check it out!

ARTSONIA UPDATE

Congratulations to Fontana artists for publishing 449 artworks on the Artsonia website! However, we are still missing parent permission slips from 100 students! Another round of permission slips will be sent home soon. So, remember to follow the instructions on the permission slip to grant access online to currently hidden artwork! To view Artsonia exhibits, go to [artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com) and search "Fontana" or follow this link, <http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=4286>. Also, if you're searching for holiday gift ideas, check out Artsonia! The art department receives 15% of proceeds!



PTO MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 2011

by Noreen Lamsam—PTO Secretary



In Attendance: Ann Brost, Kim Hirn, Vicky McHugh, Noreen Lamsam, and Julie Stout

1. Call to Order

President Ann Brost called the meeting to order at 3:45.

2. New Business

A. Treasurer's Report: The items that were requested by the teachers are coming in. Kim will update the list and with actual expenses. Noreen asked Kim to write a check for an order for a rug from an Illinois company. This company does not take purchase orders and needs payment to accompany the order.

B. Kitchen Help: We will start looking for lunch help for the first of the new year. Vicki will help out in December and serve soup for Cammie. Vicki will talk with the office about putting dates on the lunch calendar when help is needed.

C. Cultural Arts: The Rockford Field Trip to the Burpee Museum is set up with Mr. Wenzel. He will set the date and order buses. The PTO thanks Mr. and Mrs. Jay Brost for this special trip.

Julie Stout reported that the cultural arts committee will key in on Asian Art this year. An art show is being planned for spring. Ms. Klein is working on origami, lanterns etc. with her students. We may have a Chinese celebration in conjunction with the art show. Julie and others have been looking into a Chinese assembly with little luck. The Picture Lady Program is in progress. Some classes have had presentations. The 6th grade will be taking their field trip to Milwaukee in December.

The Cultural Arts committee will be selling hot chocolate during the lunch hours on Fridays in January. This will help offset the cost of field trips. They may do a fundraiser in May for Mother's Day.

D. Food Drive: Julie Navin has been facilitating the food drive with Student Council. They have reached half of their goal. Food will be picked up on Dec. 16th. We hope to meet our goal.

E. Spirit Wear: Spirit Wear forms have been handed out. Hopefully some of the items will be here before Christmas. Many thanks go to Mrs. Smithyman and Mrs. Zess for their work with this project.

F. Directory: The directory has been delivered. It looks great! Many thanks go to Vicki and Vicki.

G. Falcon Ribbons: Julie Stout commented on the pep assembly and told how much the students enjoyed it. Falcon ribbons were handed out along with recognition for other students in sports and GT activities.

H. Rotary Baskets: Rotary baskets will be purchased again this year for Christmas. Kim Hirn reported that a check was sent to Walworth School for \$300 toward food baskets.

3. Other Business

A. Enrichment Clubs: The PTO received a monetary request to start a screenwriter's club by Jen Smithyman. Discussion led to the conclusion to sponsor the club with enrichment allocations. It was suggested that the student pay a small stipend for the club.

B. Spring Fundraising: Ann Brost asked the members present to think about fundraising projects for spring. We are looking for someone with experience in organizing a spaghetti dinner. Ginos East has offered a fundraiser dinner night. A percentage will go to PTO if we sponsor it.

3. District Administrator's Report

Mr. Wenzel was not present for the meeting.

4. Meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm.

NATURE NUTS

Third and fourth graders met Dec. 15th in Mrs. Lamsam's room for the monthly Nature Club. **The focus this week was on conifers.** Students walked around the school and gathered conifer needles. They taped them on a sheet that helped them to identify each needle. We then made bird feeders (pine cones with peanut butter and bird seed). The students ended the night with Christmas cookies and hot chocolate!



Make a difference!

POSITION AVAILABLE

The PTO is looking for someone to chair enrichment book clubs. This person would find parents to work with different grade levels **once a week** doing book club talks. This is done during student recess time. It would start after the first of the year and last until the book was finished. Please contact Noreen Lamsam, 5-6 grade teacher, (275-6881 ext. 210) if you are interested in chairing this activity or helping with a grade level doing the book talk.

GO GREEN!

In an effort to conserve resources, we are encouraging families to sign up for an **emailed version** of this newsletter. If you'd be interested in receiving the *FalconNews* via email rather than in print, please send a message to Susan Ziganto at sziganto@fontana.k12.wi.us.



FIRST AND SECOND GRADE HISTORY

by Mrs. McGoey, Mrs. Douglas, and Mrs. Graham

The first and second graders have been studying the past. We made timelines of our **personal histories**, and now we are looking at the **history of the United States**. So far, we have learned that **Native Americans** were the first people to live in what is now the United States. **Viking** and **Spanish** explorers came next. Some Spanish people came to stay here and became colonists. We talked about whether we would want to be an explorer or a colonist. We looked at an early Spanish colony—**St. Augustine**—and used a **grid map** to locate things. We have done other fun activities with grid maps as well (ask your child about the grid map M & M activity!). A fun way to reinforce grid mapping at home is to play the game Battleship. Keep asking your first or second grader what he/she is learning in social studies!



FONTANA PTO BUDGET – DECEMBER 2011

As of 11/30/11—Current check book balance: \$25,269.55



INCOME	Budget	Actual
Market Day*	\$1,500.00	\$400.46
Event Fundraisers		
Carnival (Oct 2011)	\$5,500.00	\$4,492.26
Golf Outing (Oct 2011)	\$4,000.00	\$4,569.95
Spring Fling 2012	\$800.00	\$0.00
Other/Misc Fundraisers		
Bank Interest*	\$20.00	\$6.01
Directory (fall)	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Lakeside Saver Fundraiser	\$125.00	\$0.00
School Pak (spring)	\$300.00	\$0.00
Sentry Funds For Friends*	\$1,000.00	\$376.94
Target*	\$450.00	\$431.99
Fundraisers Not Previously Budgeted		
School Pak refund		\$141.00
Burpee Field Trip Donation	\$2,914.00	\$2,914.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$19,609.00	\$13,332.61
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TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$21,954.50	\$3,409.79
BUDGET 2011/12 School Year:	(\$2,345.50)	\$9,922.82

*indicates ongoing fundraiser

Items in **BOLD** are final,
items in *ITALICS* are still in process

prepared by Kim Hirn, Treasurer
updated December 22, 2011

EXPENSES	Budget	Actual
Cultural Arts	\$8,281.00	\$0.00
fieldtrips-tickets/bus costs = \$3450; in school assemblies = \$1500; framing of student artwork = \$300; Burpee Field Trip = \$2914		
8th Grade Recognition Ceremony in June	\$550.00	\$0.00
Mathletes morning math club—Mrs. Lamsam	\$100.00	\$0.00
Staff appreciation luncheon or gifts	\$600.00	\$0.00
Crafty Critters—gift making afternoon in December	\$525.00	\$0.00
4K/5K Welcome to School party	\$175.00	\$92.60
Babysitting—PTO Board and General Meetings	\$200.00	\$0.00
Pay for guest presenter, Kendra Johncock, for Starlab	\$75.00	\$0.00
Book Distribution Program once a year (Sep Only)	\$1,987.50	\$1,987.50
Reading Contribution—for books, quizzes, prizes, etc.	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Walworth/Fontana Rotary—buy 6 holiday food baskets	\$300.00	\$300.00
Dr. Seuss B-Day Cakes in March	\$150.00	\$0.00
Earth Day Clean-Up/Landscaping	\$700.00	\$0.00
Veteran's Day	\$400.00	\$142.55
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$200.00	\$0.00
Rocket Math	\$1,000.00	\$695.00
Enrichment Clubs (i.e., DI, Book Club, Drama, Forensics)	\$750.00	\$0.00
YEARLY EXPENSES:	\$17,318.50	\$3,217.65
Guidance—Kaider	\$128.99	\$128.99
Treetop Publishing—Epping	\$63.15	\$63.15
STAFF REQUESTS 2011/12 Budget	\$4,636.00	\$192.14
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$21,954.50	\$3,409.79