

August 2010
Farmington Public Schools
website—www.fpct.org



August/September 2010

Dear Parents,

Our courtyards are blooming and things are looking clean and shiny as we get ready to kick off another year of learning at West District School.

On Friday, August 27, we will hold a **Kindergarten Orientation** from 10:00-11:00. **New students, as well as returning students**, are also welcome to stop by between the hours of **11:00 and 12:00** to meet their teachers and visit their classrooms. We hope that these visits will help your children happily anticipate coming to school the following week.

On the **First Day of School, Monday, August 30th** we invite families to help students line up in the side parking lot beginning at 8:30 a.m. Teachers will be holding balloons color-coded for their grade level. For example, first graders will line up by the pink balloons (**see next page.**) At about 8:40, teachers will lead their students over to the flagpole, where we will all pledge allegiance to the flag, sing a patriotic song and our school song, and hear a few brief comments. Then students will go into the school with their teachers, as parents depart. The Balloon Ceremony seems to help students who may be reluctant to say goodbye to their parents and avoids parents having to accompany their children to the classroom, where separation is usually more difficult.

We have new faculty and some changes this year that I'd like for you to know about. **Amy Albrecht** joins our third grade team, having taught at Union School for two years. **Kara Hurley** joins us as a special education teacher, in our Specialized Learning Center. Kara has seven years of similar experience in the Trumbull Public Schools. We're very glad to welcome them to West District.

We are sending each of you a yellow Student Emergency Card, which we need to have completed or revised at your earliest convenience, and no later than the first day of school. These cards are very important, and any time you make a change, please inform us so that we can readily reach you in case of an emergency.

Please **see the last page of this newsletter** for other important news and events. We look forward to welcoming your little ones in a few short weeks!

With warmest regards,
Sharon Lowery



OPENING DAY BALLOON CEREMONY

**MONDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 2010
8:30 AM**

Meet your teacher at the side of the school by
the color balloon noted below:

AM KINDERGARTEN & EXCL= RED BALLOONS

(as well as PM Kindergarten students & parents who wish to attend)

GRADE 1 - PINK BALLOONS

GRADE 2 - BLUE BALLOONS

GRADE 3 - YELLOW BALLOONS

GRADE 4 - GREEN BALLOONS

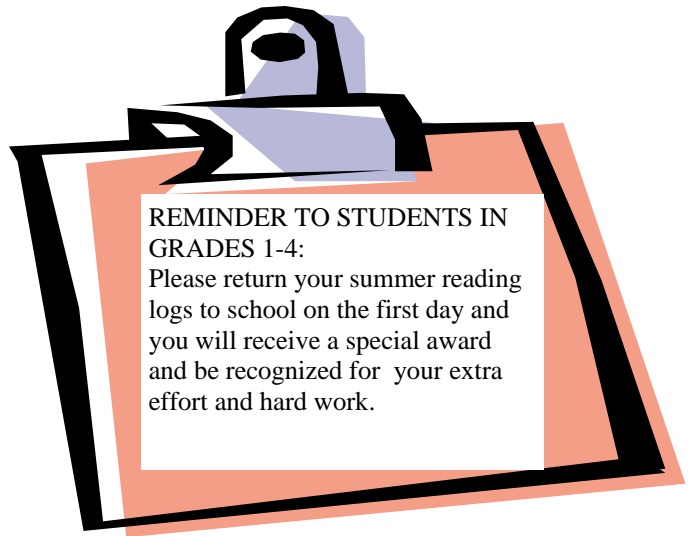
WELCOME BACK!

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE OFFICE:

Please help us get off to a great start this school year by completing and returning (by mail or in person) the following forms to the office, as soon as possible:

Yellow Emergency Form: Make any additions or changes in the corrections column on the right and return to school by **August 30th.** The accuracy of this information is vital! *Please note: if any information changes during the school year, please notify the office immediately, so that the emergency card can be updated.*

Green Special Transportation Form: This form is available in the office and must be filled out if your child will regularly travel to or from school any other way than their scheduled way, as noted in the inside cover of the Farmington Public Schools District Information Booklet. For example, students living within walking distance are considered WALKERS and all other students are assigned a BUS for transportation. If you will be using the EXCL program or will be providing PARENT TRANSPORTATION, please fill out a green form for each child. Your cooperation with this will ensure that every child is dismissed the right way. Important note: We'll need this form returned to our office by **August 23rd** for the changes to be made effective by the first day of school!



REMINDER TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-4:
Please return your summer reading logs to school on the first day and you will receive a special award and be recognized for your extra effort and hard work.

**Help Wanted:
SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

The West District School Development Council is a collaborative group of parents, teachers, and administration. The Council meets three times a year to plan for ongoing school improvement and to advise the principal on various issues of school operation. If you'd like to serve on this Council, please call the office, 673-2579, to express your interest.

SAFE ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL



Our parking lot traffic flow pattern is two-way throughout the school day. Please heed the signs, lines, and arrows and make sure to keep to the right when driving through the school parking lot.

THE BUS LANE REMAINS A ONE-WAY, BUS ONLY LANE.

The rear parking lot is designed to aid in parent drop-off procedures. Detailed instructions about drop off and new parent pick up procedures can be found in the Family Handbook. When dropping children off in the morning, please use



the rear parking lot (where we have adult supervision) and make sure that your child **exits on the curb side of the car.** Also, make sure that you **do not pull away before your child is safely on the other side of the cones.**

Please note: Our parent pick up procedures are changing this year in an effort to make our dismissal a safer process. See the attached letter which explains the new system. Feel free to call our office if you have any questions.

Keep in mind that it is **unlawful** to pass a bus with flashing red lights. The Farmington Police Department will help enforce this and other important laws periodically. Violators will be subject to a ticket and fine.

*A few extra seconds of an adult's time can save a child's life.
Please help us to ensure everyone's safety.*

Opening Assembly: School Colors Day!

Be sure to wear red and white for the first School Assembly on Friday, September 3rd at 9:00



DATES TO REMEMBER!



SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, August 27

Kindergarten Orientation

10:00—11:00 a.m.

New Student—Teacher

Meet & Greet

11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Monday, August 30th:

First Day of School!

Monday, September 6

No School—Labor Day

Tuesday, September 14:

PTO Meeting

Friday, September 24:

PTO Family Hayride

Friday, October 8:

School Picture Day!

Stay Tuned...

for more info on these favorite events and remember to check the Virtual Friday Folders (via e-mail) starting Friday, September 3rd.



CURRICULUM NIGHT

Save the Date!

Monday, September 13th

time TBD

Story Time with

Mrs. Lowery

Info to follow



MONTHLY

School Assemblies:

September 24	2:15 p.m.
October 29	9:00 a.m.
November 19	2:15 p.m.
December 23*	2:15 pm
January 28	9:00 a.m.
February 18	2:15 pm
March 25	9:00 a.m.
April 29	2:15 pm
May 27	9:00 a.m.
June (TBD)	* TBD *

(*12/23 Sing Along Assembly)

