

FORT ZUMWALT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RUSSELL H. EMGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



# The Principal's Newsletter



Mr. Alex J. Tripamer  
Principal

Volume 10 Number 9

(636) 978-4186

www.fz.k12.mo.us

Dr. Bernard J. DuBray  
Superintendent

MAY 2012

Dear Parents,

This is the final newsletter of the school year. It has been our pleasure to work with the best kids and parents! I hope each and everyone of you enjoy your summer vacation. The entire faculty and staff join me in wishing you a nice, relaxing summer. We look forward to seeing you back in the fall. To our fifth grade students: *Best Wishes in Middle School!*

Sincerely,

Mr. Alex J. Tripamer  
Principal

*Mrs. Peter*  
*Mrs. Nalagan*  
*Mrs. Hoover*  
*Mrs. Schuttberg*  
*Mrs. Meyer*  
*Kristen Mort*  
*Mrs. Kenny*  
*Cheryl*  
*Mrs. Klatz*  
*Mrs. Kniffen*  
*Mrs. Boer*  
*Komona Egan*  
*Amy Thuesen*  
*Shaill*  
*M. Jett*  
*Mrs. Tony*  
*Mrs. Gyschin*  
*Mrs. Frally*  
*Mrs. Cozzoni*  
*Mrs. Breivitt*  
*Mrs. Ingwell*  
*Mrs. Kniffen*  
*Mrs. Huddleston*  
*Mrs. Hoff*  
*Sarah Dix*  
*Mrs. Meyer*  
*Mrs. Billingsley*  
*Mrs. Dalton*  
*Mrs. Hadfield*  
*Mrs. Zorn*  
*Mrs. Stock*  
*Mrs. Carl*  
*Mrs. Roads*  
*Mrs. Butta*  
*Mrs. Peters*  
*Maria Leslie*  
*Cindy Cundl*  
*Mrs. Jappmeyer*  
*Mrs. Kolmi*  
*Miss Long*  
*Mrs. Schumacher*  
*Mrs. St. Romme*  
*Mrs. Holtman*  
*Mrs. Valine*  
*Jeff Wilding*  
*Mrs. Johnson*  
*Mrs. Modoff*  
*Mrs. Kutzera*  
*Mrs. Probst*  
*Mrs. Knopf*  
*Sue Jans*  
*Mrs. Brunloh*  
*Mrs. Julie*  
*Mrs. Schneider*  
*Mrs. Hansen*  
*Mrs. Evans*

**NATIONAL TEACHER DAY** - I wanted to pass along to each of you that Tuesday, May 8 is National Teacher Day. Our teachers at Emge work extremely hard to ensure each student is successful each day. Please join me in wishing our faculty a ***HAPPY TEACHER'S DAY!!***



**SCHOOL NURSE'S DAY** - Also this month, we celebrate School Nurse's Day on May 9. We are fortunate to have the services of Mrs. Julie Lamkie, R.N. each day at Emge. Thanks Mrs. Lamkie for taking care of our bumps and bruises!



**LAST DAY OF J.E.T. PROGRAM** - The last day for our students to attend the J.E.T. program will be Wednesday, May 9. The J.E.T. program will resume classes in the fall.



**FIELD DAY** - Mrs. Evans, our P.E. teacher has been busy arranging plans for this year's Field Day. Field Day will be on the last day of school - May 18. We are always in need of parent volunteers for this fun event - if you are willing and able, I hope you would consider donating some of your time to the Emge Field Day. Please remember to apply sunscreen on your child - the students will be spending a large part of their day outside. This will be a fun day for the kids at Emge!!

**THIRD GRADE'S MOTHER'S DAY** - The third grade students will be celebrating Mother's Day with a special program on Friday, May 11. Don't forget your Kleenex moms!



**STUDENT LUNCH ACCOUNTS** - As the year winds down, please ensure that your child's lunch account has been paid in full or has a positive balance. The remaining balance will transfer to their account in the fall.

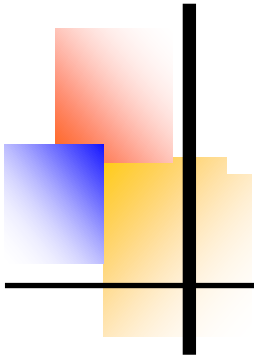
**2012-2013 SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR** - Attached to this newsletter is the Fort Zumwalt School District calendar. I hope this assists in your planning for next year.

**FORT ZUMWALT EDUCATION FOUNDATION 5K RUN** - Attached is a flyer for an upcoming 5K run to benefit the Fort Zumwalt Education Foundation. Have fun running!!

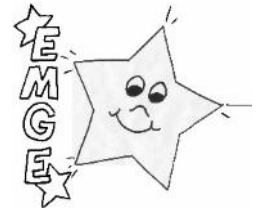
**STAFF NEWS** - I wanted to share with everyone that Mrs. Gruenloh, Emge's attendance clerk, will be retiring at the end of this year. Mrs. Gruenloh has been the pleasant voice and greeter to our students and families for many years. We wish her best in her retirement!!

**SUMMER HOURS AT EMGE** - Our office will be open throughout the summer. Starting May 29, our office will be open Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and closed on Friday.





**FORT ZUMWALT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
 RUSSELL H. EMGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
 "HOME OF THE STARS"



# MAY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 STAR Reading Parent Meeting - 8:15 a.m.	5
6	7	8 <i>National Teacher Day</i>	9 Last Day of J.E.T. School Nurse Day	10	11 School Spirit Day  3rd Grade Mother's Day Tea	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18 FIELD DAY!  Last Day of School	19
20	21 FZSD Board of Ed. Meeting - 7 pm	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# FORT ZUMWALT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2012-2013 School Calendar

AUGUST				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

8/9 New Teacher Orientation  
8/13-8/14 All Teachers Plan Days  
8/10 Kindergarten Orientation  
**8/15 FIRST CLASS DAY**

FEBRUARY				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
H	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	

2/15 Professional Development  
2/1 Midpoint 3rd Quarter ALL  
2/18 Legal Holiday  
(Presidents' Day)

SEPTEMBER				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

9/3 Labor Day  
9/13 Midpoint 1st Quarter ALL

MARCH				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

**3/8 End 3rd Quarter ALL**

OCTOBER				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

**10/11 End 1st Quarter-EL & MS**  
**10/12 End 1st Quarter - HS**  
10/12 Records Day EL & MS  
10/17 K-8 P-T Conference PM  
10/18 K-8 P-T Conference AM/PM  
10-18-10/19 No School EL & MS  
10/18 HS Early Release (1.5 hrs)

APRIL				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

3/29-4/5 Spring Break  
4/15 Midpoint 4th Quarter ALL  
4/8 Classes Resume

NOVEMBER				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	H	23
26	27	28	29	30

11/6 No School - Election Day  
11/9 Professional Development  
11/22 Legal Holiday (Thanksgiving)  
11/21-11/23 Thanksgiving Holiday  
11/13 Midpoint 2nd Quarter All

MAY				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

5/20 Records Day

**LAST CLASS DAYS:  
5/17 All Students**

5/27 Memorial Day

DECEMBER				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	H	26	27	28
31				

**12/21 End 2nd Quarter All**  
12/24-1/3 Winter Break  
12/25 Legal Holiday (Observed)

JUNE				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

JANUARY				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

1/1 New Year's Day  
1/2 Records Day  
1/3 Classes Resume All  
1/21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

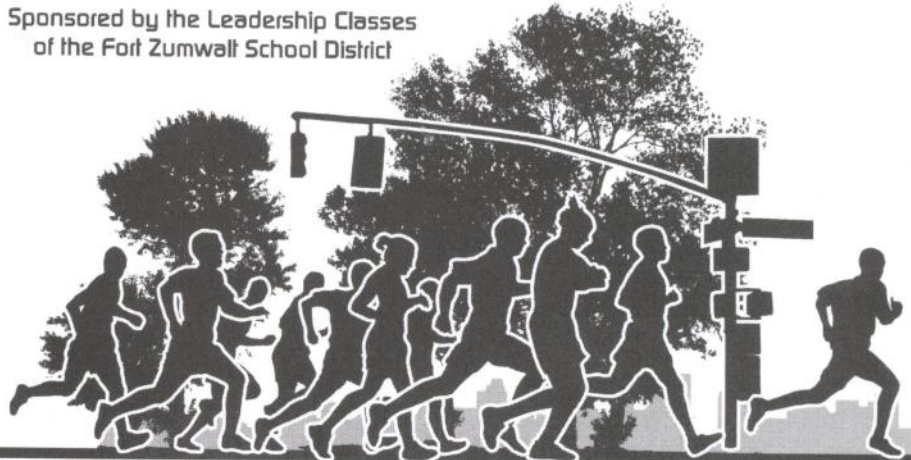
■	= No School Teachers/Students
H	= Legal Holiday (3)
□	= No School All Students
■	= No School EL & MS Students
•	= All School Early-Release Prof. Dev. (2.5 hrs)
■	= High School Early-Release Prof. Dev. (1.5 hrs)
☼	= Snow Day Makeup

All inclement weather make-up days will be as follows: 5/20, 5/21, 5/22, 5/23, 5/24 and 5/28.



Sponsored by the Leadership Classes  
of the Fort Zumwalt School District

# 5K RUN



## Saturday, May 12, 2012 • 8:00 a.m.

Online Registration Begins March 1 at [www.fleetfeetstl.com](http://www.fleetfeetstl.com) • Race Day Registration Begins at 7:00 a.m.

**Location:** Fort Zumwalt North High School  
1230 Tom Ginnever Avenue  
O'Fallon, MO 63366

**Shirts:** Every effort will be made to provide t-shirts for registrations received before April 26, 2012. After April 26 t-shirts available on a first come, first serve basis. T-shirt sizes are not guaranteed.

**Course:** • 5K Run  
• 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk - 8:45 a.m.

**Awards:** Awards given to top 3 male and female overall winners, and top 3 male and female finishers in the following age groups: 12-under, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+

**Cost:** Early Registration \$15 per person or \$50 per family for entries received by April 26, 2012. Registration after April 26, 2012 until race day is \$20 per person or \$60 per family.

**Packet:** Race packet pick-up on race day.

**Proceeds Benefit the Fort Zumwalt Grow Your Own Teacher Educational Foundation  
Visit [www.fzedfoundation.org](http://www.fzedfoundation.org)**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Age(s) on Race Day: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female  Family of \_\_\_\_\_ People

Phone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult T-Shirt(s):  Small  Medium  Large  XLg

*Make Checks payable to Fort Zumwalt Education Foundation*

Kid T-Shirt(s):  Small  Medium  Large

*Mail Checks to: Fort Zumwalt Education Foundation • Attn: Stacie Wulfert  
1230 Tom Ginnever Avenue • O'Fallon, MO 63366*

**Waiver of Liability:** In consideration of accepting this entry, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all claims for damages, actions and causes against Fort Zumwalt School District, all sponsors, and any individual or group associated with this event from all claims and liabilities resulting in my participation. I attest and verify that I am physically fit and have sufficiently trained for this event. I assume all risks in this event including, but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, effects of the weather, road conditions, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Further, I hereby grant permission for the free use of my name and/or any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings, or any other record of this event for any legitimate purchase. (Participants under 18 must have parental signature.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature (if under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Fort Zumwalt School District

## The Summer 2012 Reading Olympics will be taking place in your home!

This summer, the Summer Olympic Games will be held in London, England. Use this theme to get your family excited about reading by hosting a summer "Reading Olympics." Of course, every Olympic Games—even reading ones—need:

- **A torch.** To make a "Reading Olympic Torch," have each family member trace his or her hand on a sheet of construction paper. Cut out the hands and tape them to the top of a paper cone to symbolize flames. Pass the torch and have your child read about the real Olympic torch to finish your "Opening Ceremony."
- **Events.** Perhaps participants have to read a book in each of five categories: fiction, nonfiction, Olympic history, a book set in London, and a book about sports. Maybe you'd like to reward the person who reads the most books or the most pages. Get creative—see who can walk the farthest while reading without tripping!
- **Medals.** Award medals for participation—simple paper circles attached to ribbons are perfect. Ask each person to name his or her favorite book read during the Reading Olympics.



Brand X

Source: "Family Olympic Torch," Reading is Fundamental, [www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources/activities/family-olympic-torch.htm](http://www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources/activities/family-olympic-torch.htm).

### Plan ahead for family reading success

Summer is a great time to read the same book as your child—and have fun discussing it, too. But if you're worried that your child will reject this idea, prepare in advance. Let him pick from books with irresistible elements like:

- **Humor.** Young readers giggle at pictures and wordplay. Older kids understand jokes that play out through dialogue and scenes.
- **Personality.** Look for main characters who are similar to your child in feelings and experiences.
- **Excitement.** Reluctant readers like short chapters with lots of action. Even the first paragraph should be fascinating!
- **Uniqueness.** Sometimes a book's cover draws readers in. Stand-out topics (like "Gross bugs!") attract readers, too.

Source: L. Backes, "Writing Books for Kids Who (Think They) Hate to Read," [www.writerswrite.com/childrens/writingforkidswhohatetoread.htm](http://www.writerswrite.com/childrens/writingforkidswhohatetoread.htm).

### Four books stop the 'summer slide'

Research shows that kids who read **just four books** over the summer will avoid "summer slide"—the loss of academic skills kids experience when they're not in school. Encourage your child to read this summer, but don't make it seem like an assignment. Say, "It's summer, and you get to read what you choose! I'll even let you stay up late if a book is so good you can't put it down."



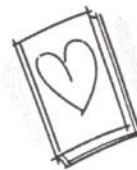
Source: L.J. Colker, Ed. D., "What Can Families Do to Keep Children Reading During the Summer?" Reading is Fundamental, [www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources/articles/what-can-families-do-to-keep-children-reading-during-the-summer.htm](http://www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources/articles/what-can-families-do-to-keep-children-reading-during-the-summer.htm).

### Spice up those bookshelves

Looking for a rainy-day reading activity this summer? With your child, rearrange your family bookshelf in a fun way. Show off gorgeous covers, or decorate shelves with small toys. The new look for old books just might inspire more reading.



### Combat common reading excuses

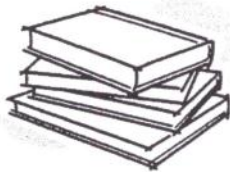


Does your child frequently give one of these reasons for not wanting to read?

- **"I don't have time."** Help your child rearrange her schedule to include time specifically for reading.
- **"It's too hard."** Ask your child's teacher to help you find reading materials written at your child's reading level.
- **"It's no fun."** Extend your child's positive reading experiences. If she enjoyed a book about dinosaurs, follow up with a visit to a museum.

## Summer reading programs lead to real progress

Has your child joined a library summer reading program yet? In addition to being fun, research shows they're linked to better reading skills when school starts. Keep in mind they also:



- **Offer exciting activities.** For example, kids may do art projects, form book clubs and meet authors.
- **Encourage the use of all kinds of materials.** Many kids enjoy magazines, graphic novels and audio books.
- **Provide motivation in a safe environment.** Library events are good chances to socialize with other readers, too.
- **Build good habits,** such as visiting the library often. And once a child likes summer reading events, she may want to come back next summer!

**Source:** "Library Services," U.S. Department of Education, <http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Library/Services.html> and "Why Public Library Summer Reading Programs Are Important," Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/pdf/slp-points.pdf>.

## Games make vocabulary words memorable

This summer, introduce your child (and yourself!) to one new word a day. Do it in fun ways that feel more like games than learning. Then use the words several times to reinforce them. For example:

- **Open a children's dictionary** and pick a random word. Have everyone take a turn at guessing its definition before reading the real definition.
- **Use a "word of the day"** email or calendar. Read them together and see who can come up with the funniest sentence using today's word.
- **Read an interesting article** in the newspaper aloud. Choose one unfamiliar word and look it up. Who can use it in a conversation tomorrow?



Hemera

## Innovative website lets children personalize online books

If your child resists reading, consider checking out a website that lets him create and narrate his own books—free of charge. At <http://littlebirdtales.com>, kids can do all this and more, including sharing stories by email. Be sure to supervise and help when needed.



## For lower elementary readers:

- **Whole-y Cow! Fractions Are Fun** by Taryn Souders (Sleeping Bear Press). Short poems and vivid pictures illustrate and simplify the concept of fractions.



- **Jasper John Dooley: Star of the Week** by Caroline Adderson (Kids Can Press). It's Jasper's week to shine—but nothing is going according to plan. Will he be able to get back on track with the help of his family and friends?

## For upper elementary readers:

- **Pie** by Sarah Weeks (Adams Media). Alice's aunt died and left a secret (and popular) pie crust recipe to her cat. She also left her cat to Alice. Now the town is going pie crazy!
- **The New Kid** by Mavis Jukes (Dial). Carson is the new kid in class—with no friends except for his stuffed moose named Moose. But when Moose goes missing, will Carson be able to make a real human friend?



**Q:** I want my child to relax this summer—but I don't want her spending all her time with TV and video games. What reasonable limits should I set?

**A:** In general, experts recommend two hours or fewer of screen time a day—and no more than about 10 hours per week. That leaves plenty of time for more important activities, such as reading, playing and talking with family members.

Do you have a question about reading? Email [readingadvisor@parent-institute.com](mailto:readingadvisor@parent-institute.com).

### Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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