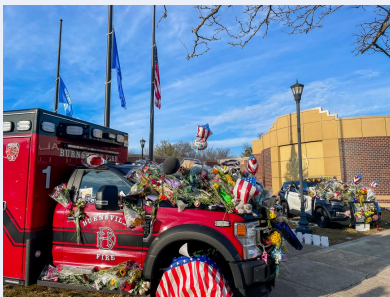


Newsletter

February 22, 2024

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

- **Updates** - Valentine's Dances Tomorrow!, Art Walk, New HS Hoodies
- **Sign-ups** - Lunch Volunteers, Spring Sports
- **Profile of the Week** - Mary Wileman, Special Ed Teacher & Special Ed Coordinator



GRIEVING SUNDAY'S TRAGEDY

We were all deeply saddened by the events that took place in Burnsville on Sunday. These public servants were killed while protecting our community, and this brings an overwhelming desire to honor their sacrifices and express gratitude for their lives. We share in grieving with the Burnsville community and all those impacted, particularly the Burnsville Police and Fire Departments and their families.

We want to support our families at FIT Academy as we honor and remember these brave men. Below, we have linked some resources for talking with your children about tragic events as well as an official link to donate to the families of the fallen heroes.

[Talking to Children about Violence](#)
[Tips for Talking to Children about Death](#)

Sincerely,
Claud Allaire
Superintendent & Principal

**DONATE TO
FAMILIES**

IMPORTANT DATES

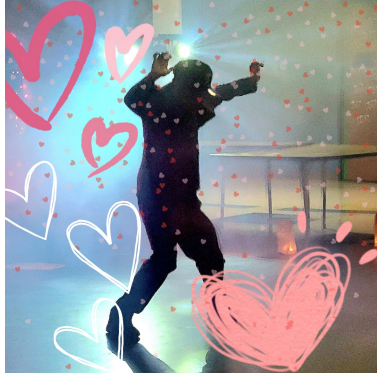
Feb 23 - Valentine's Dances
Mar 8 - Staff Dev (NO SCHOOL)
Mar 14 - Art Walk
Mar 22-29 - Spring Break (NO SCHOOL)
Apr 13 - Annual Gala Event
May 17 - Spring Carnival

**K-8 MARCH LUNCH
MENU**

**9-12 MARCH LUNCH
MENU**

VALENTINE'S DANCES - TOMORROW

For the dances tomorrow night, **we still need chaperones!** If you are willing to chaperone, please contact Mr. Jeske to volunteer at wjeske@fitacademymn.org.



Just a few reminders:

- We do not allow non-students to attend our dances as guests.
- Please remember to pick-up your child on time, immediately after their dance is over.

FIT ACADEMY STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS:

SWEETHEART'S DANCE
Girls Ask

Valentine's Day Party Edition

FOOD & DRINKS, DANCE, PARTY

23rd FEB. 2024 | MUSIC BY DJ HALAMA- EMAIL REQUESTS AHEAD OF TIME

Grades 6-8: 5-6:30pm \$5
Grades 9-12: 7-8:30pm \$10

Valentine's Day Party/ Dance

Friday 23rd Feb 2024

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR

FOOD . MUSIC . DANCE . OPEN GYM

GRADES 4-5
3-4:30PM
\$5

BRING EXTRA MONEY FOR SNACKS



PROFILE OF THE WEEK

Mary Wileman, Special Education Teacher & Coordinator

One of the FIT teachers asked a group of 6th graders why they love Ms. Mary Wileman, and they overwhelmingly said, "Because we know that she cares about us!"

Ms. Wileman has been with FIT Academy for 6 years as a Special Education teacher and Coordinator after finishing her education at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She teaches 6th grade Resource Math and Resource ELA and also teaches 7th-grade Math along with 7th-grade personal skills. "When I am not teaching a class, I walk the hallways, checking in with teachers and students to see if they need my

support. If support is not needed, I assist the SPED department with evaluations, progress monitoring, and coaching."

Ms. Wileman grew up in a family where she was the oldest of 8 children, and some of her siblings have disabilities. She says that **this** is the reason she chose her career path. "I wanted to make a difference and have students feel seen and heard when they think no one else is left to care. I love making students feel welcomed and excited to learn. My students like seeing me dance when I get really excited about their answers and hard work in class."

She says that her "top goal to accomplish with my students each day is that they feel heard. This means that if they have a question, they feel comfortable asking it. If they are having problems at home or with their friends, they know I am someone who will listen to them and help them process it. Even if they are having a hard day, I will be there to pick them up and help make it better."

Outside of school, Ms. Wileman loves playing sports--especially fastpitch softball! She is married and has a dog named Arya. She says, "My favorite place to vacation is my cabin. I love playing in the lake with my siblings."

One of her colleagues says, "she always goes above and beyond for the students. She has organized school-wide field trips, such as last year's Saints game! She is always there to give ideas and support to colleagues to ensure that students are supported and their needs are being met."

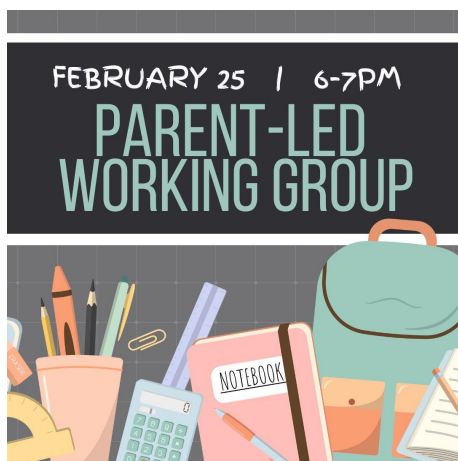
Thank you, Ms. Wileman, for everything you do to enrich the education at FIT Academy!



HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION

Mr. Allaire and our secondary coordinator Mrs. Halama have recorded an introduction and orientation to next year's high school program. You can view the orientation here and email any questions to Mrs. Halama at ahalama@fitacademymn.org or Mr. Allaire at callaire@fitacademymn.org.

WATCH VIDEO!



A parent-led work group will be meeting once a month to research, discuss and develop the necessary structure and bylaws required to become an incorporated non-profit and federally recognized 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

During these meetings we will be discussing how to best move forward with FIT Academy's parent group. Parents or guardians of current students, teachers and other staff members are encouraged to join in the conversation and help us build a parent-teacher organization that's truly representative of the entire FIT Family!

"Several parents have asked to grow our parent organization, and we are in full support of this effort. Monday's meeting will be an opportunity for parents to discuss ideas, put together a plan, and develop a proposal to be presented to the administration for approval and next steps." - Claud Allaire

Date: **Monday February 26th**

Time: **6:00pm-7:00pm**

Location: **FIT Academy, Room 113 (Music Room)**

Questions? Email bstrohmeier@fitacademymn.org



NEW HS HOODIE!

We now have a new high school hoodie available for sale! The fabric is Sport-tek, and the pattern is blue/black camohex. You can order through the SchoolBelles website.

School Code is s3052

Cost is \$35

Sweatshirts are listed under Spirit/School Wear

ORDER NEW HS HOODIE



MYSTERY READERS!

Members from the St. Thomas Football team were mystery readers for several classrooms last week!

K-5 DRESS-UP DAYS!

Feb 29 - Dress like a book character!



ART WALK

March is Youth Art Month (YAM) where we celebrate the visual arts in schools. To celebrate we would like to invite FIT students and families to walk through the halls of FIT (both floors) to see all the great artwork the FIT students have created this year so far.

March 14th, 2024

6:00-7:00 pm

Punch, coffee and cookies will be served!



UPDATE ON MUSIC PROGRAM!

We now have 2 Music Teachers! Please meet **Ms. Elena Lopez** and **Mr. Ryan Paul**! Mr. Paul has been with us for a few months and Ms. Lopez joined us a few weeks ago. Mr. Paul will primarily teach in the older grades and Ms. Lopez the younger grades but they will collaborate and often work together. As they get settled into these roles, look for more updates and information related to music events!



SPORTS SIGN-UP

Our Middle School basketball finished their season with 7 wins and 2 losses. Go Tigers!

The deadline for signing up for Spring Sports is Monday, February 25! Links are below.

[Middle School Sports Sign-up](#)

[High School Sports Sign-up](#)



LUNCH VOLUNTEERS!

We would love for you to volunteer in our lunch room! It's a fun way to connect with your kids and other students. You will help students open milk and lunch items as well as clean the tables after each lunch period. Click to sign up!

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER](#)



HEALTH REMINDER

We want to remind parents to keep your children home from school when they are ill. As a refresher, **school policy requires students to stay at home if they have had a fever or vomitted in the last 24 hours.**



AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

We offer after-school care again this year from 2:45 pm to 5:00 pm. Open to students in grades K-5. You must enroll by Wednesday, if you plan to use after school care the following week. If you have questions, please email [Jen Iten at jiten@fitacademymn.org](mailto:jiten@fitacademymn.org).

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)



Would you considered leaving our school a review?
Your perspective could be helpful in leading other families to our school. Just click above!



We want to invite everyone to join our 2 Facebook groups!
[FIT Academy](#)
[FIT Academy Families](#)

FIT Academy Charter School | 7200 147th Street W., Apple Valley, MN 55124

[Unsubscribe](mailto:unsubscribe@fitacademymn.org) [callaire@fitacademymn.org](mailto:unsubscribe@fitacademymn.org)

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