

The School District of Fort Atkinson is committed to delivering the quality opportunities and services each student needs to achieve his or her academic and personal potential.

## A RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

Recently I was able to attend an exciting Cross Country Meet at Verona where our girls' team finished second in Division 2 competition (7<sup>th</sup> place overall) and our boys brought home a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish. Verona is known for its tough course and a fun, lively atmosphere that brings out many teams. During the last race of the day, while most of the junior varsity runners had made their way across the finish line, I heard a Fort Atkinson Cross Country runner tell his teammates, "There's one guy left racing. When he turns the bend and comes up this hill we are going to cheer him on like crazy." It was heartwarming for me and others present to see the entire Fort Atkinson Cross Country Team border the running path and support this young man! As good as it was to watch our kids perform well in the race, it was even more fulfilling to witness this random act of kindness. I'm sure this is something that runner from another team won't soon forget. I know I won't. Congrats Cross Country! You make us all very proud!

~ Jeff Zaspel, Superintendent

## CONGRATULATIONS BARRIE SCHOOL!

Barrie Elementary School has been named a 2013-14 Title I School of Recognition by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI)! This year's recipients include 14 "High-Achieving" Schools and 26 "High Progress" Schools. Barrie School is one of only six schools in the State that are being honored for meeting both criteria! Barrie was honored because their state test scores are among the top 10 percent of elementary schools experiencing student growth in reading and mathematics. In addition, Barrie reduced achievement gaps among the school's subgroups. State Superintendent Tony Evers will be honoring recognized schools at an awards program at the State Capital on October 8<sup>th</sup> followed by a reception at Madison's Concourse Hotel. As a

September, 2013

recipient, Barrie will receive a plaque and \$500 to use at their school. Congratulations to Principal Torrenga and the entire Barrie staff!

Don't Forget...

**EARLY DISMISSAL**

**Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

11:50 a.m. – Elementary Schools

12:00 p.m. – Middle/High School

## NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2018

The School District of Fort Atkinson is moving forward with a clear focus, guided by a new five-year strategic plan. The plan, adopted by the Board of Education, was developed last school year after in-depth study and with feedback from our stakeholders. The plan consists of an academic agenda, a fiscal agenda, and a communication agenda. The academic agenda builds on initiatives included in the last strategic plan including our efforts in literacy, math, school-to-career and college, equity initiatives and instructional technology. In addition, the plan provides direction regarding state and national reforms such as the implementation of math and literacy common core standards as well as the state's new requirements for continuous improvement of educators called "Educator Effectiveness."

The fiscal agenda focuses on keeping our District strong so we are able to maintain and build excellent programs, services, and opportunities for our students. Goals included in the new plan target Building and Grounds, Student Nutrition, Employee Wellness, Operational Technology, Human Resource Operations, Safety, and Business

& Financial Operations. This is an essential part of our plan that supports our continued service to students, their families and our larger community.

Our Communication Agenda continues to be a critical focus as we move forward. Our desire to build stronger and varied means of two-way communication remains a priority in our new strategic plan. Specifically our plan addresses Public Relations, Two-way Communication, and Community and Business Partnerships. The School District of Fort Atkinson is committed to our families and the larger community. Strong, effective communication and collaboration with all stakeholders are critical strategic goals to ensure and build upon our commitment to delivering the quality opportunities and services each student needs.

As a District and community we have been well served by our last strategic plan. Our new five year plan will build upon our strengths and successes as we continue our efforts that will allow us to realize our mission! For more detailed information please visit our website: [www.fortschools.org](http://www.fortschools.org) or link to: <http://www.fortschools.org/news.cfm?story=57886&school=0>

Your opinions and ideas are important!  
Please feel free to contact Dr. Zaspel  
at [zaspelj@fortschools.org](mailto:zaspelj@fortschools.org)  
or by phone at 920-563-7807.

#### **INTERESTED IN WORKING IN OUR SCHOOLS?**

The School District of Fort Atkinson is currently accepting applications for daily and short term substitute teachers. A Bachelor's (4 year) Degree is required. Applicants must hold (or be willing to obtain) a current substitute teaching license or current Wisconsin teaching license. Applicants may be employed to teach any subject at any grade level regardless of their certification. For more information including a complete job description, application form and information packet please contact the Director of Instruction's Office at 920-563-7802.

#### **Consider Attending:**

#### **Superintendent's Parent Advisory Meetings**

You are invited to attend Superintendent's Parent Advisory meetings hosted by the superintendent on the second Wednesday of each month beginning in October. Meetings are held at the Luther Administration Building in Conference Room A (upstairs) from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. This one hour meeting is a great way to receive answers to your questions and to share your ideas and opinions. Topics (requested by parents) on the docket for next fall include:

- Sportsmanship - Including adult behavior. What steps and procedures will we have in place? We seem pretty good with kids.
- Technology - A continuous discussion on how this is being infused into teaching and learning.
- Safety - Continuous information on lockdowns (soft and serious ones), and continued safety precautions the district is implementing into its planning.
- Food Service and Lunches - How is the push for healthy lunches going? Is the food high quality, and do the kids like it? What has been the impact on daily lunch and breakfast counts?
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) - how is that working?
- Reforms:
  - Educator Effectiveness
  - Common Core Curriculum
  - Every Day Math
  - The role of interventionists for Math
- Spring Referendum

Please consider joining us for a Superintendent's Parent Advisory meeting for the 2013-14 school year. Your input and ideas are very important and valued. Hope to see you there!

#### ***Free Event for Families – Everyone Welcome***

Your family is invited to a special event on Friday, September 27! This is the first event of the school year for our district's new Latino Family Group. A complimentary dinner will be provided for families at 5:00 p.m. followed at 6:00 p.m. with an exciting, high-energy dance performance by Ballet Folklórico México de los Hermanos Avila. The event will be in the cafeteria at Luther Elementary, 205 Park Street, Fort Atkinson. Any questions, call Erica Saldaña at 920-691-6855.