

March 14, 2014

Dear Principal and Fourth Grade Teachers:

Once again the Swiss Heritage Society in Berne, Indiana, is sponsoring our popular Berne Swiss Heritage Festival, a hands-on pioneer and Native American event. This year it will be held on September 5th & 6th, with Friday, September 5th serving as Educational Day for 4th grade students. This will be a special day for area students to visit the Village and participate in life as it was during the 18th and 19th centuries. Cost for the activities of the day is a nominal **\$5.00 per student and chaperones** (teachers and bus drivers free).

Students will have the unique opportunity to experience a one-room schoolhouse, crosscut sawing, black smithing, spinning, weaving and quilting as the pioneer settlers did. They may also participate in activities such as milking goats, churning butter, playing pioneer games, tin punching, candle dipping, barn raising and washing laundry. Students may wander through the Village wooded area, exploring a Native American village and interacting with Civil War military personnel. The activities on this special day may be used to implement Indiana Academic Standards, especially in the area of Social Studies and Language Arts. We are also working this year to bring in some new activities/stations that will help with science

In the past, this day has been a very popular educational experience. We encourage you to discuss this opportunity with your fourth grade teachers. We had many students participate in this great learning activity last year, with excellent evaluations from the participating teachers, so your prompt response this spring will insure that your school can participate. **More details will be mailed in August to those schools returning reservation forms.** If you have any questions regarding this event, please phone or email us at the address below.

Sincerely,

Sara Stauffer, Festival Chairperson
Jane Velasco, Administrative Assistant
Debby Neuenschwander, Executive Director
Fred Lehman & Gretchen Lehman, Festival Committee

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