

The S-DCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

The Amazing Race

Reality television is having a major impact on our viewing habits. Many of us become glued to our TV sets watching Survivor, The Bachelor, Big Brother, Desperate Housewives, and so on. My personal favorite is "The Amazing Race". The reason I enjoy the show is because I am fascinated with seeing the places that the competitors visit on the show. They travel the globe seeing sights in the world that most of us would only dream of seeing. The premise of the show is very engaging because the audience travels with these racing teams to look for clues to their next destinations while trying to avoid the pitfalls and roadblocks that could get them eliminated from the competition. Strategy, intelligence and a little bit of luck appears to play a role in the competition for a million dollar prize.

As I have watched this show, I realize that our lives are also like "The Amazing Race". We are all hurrying along in life trying to get to some destination. Many of us have good maps to guide us down the roads with adequate monies to fund the trips. There are others who struggle to find their way because they do not have the education to read the map, nor the good paying job that will help them fund their travels.

Education is the one and only key in moving down the road of life's journey. It is the best hope for our children's futures. It is also the equalizing force that brings "the have's and the have not's" together. Education provides the vehicle for students to take advantage of an "amazing race" of opportunity that allows for them to get ahead in life so that they can reach their next destination.

Ultimately, education must be the most important priority in all of our lives. Our legislators and state government officials must find ways to fund public education. Indiana's public schools are doing a good job of helping students become high achievers, but it is getting tougher for all schools to meet the demands placed on us by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Indiana's Public Law 221 without adequate funding. Please contact our legislators and let them know that Indiana needs to place Indiana's public schools as the number one issue to be focused on in this year's legislature. Without public education, there is no way that any of our children can even finish their own "amazing races".

Dr. Jeff Hendrix

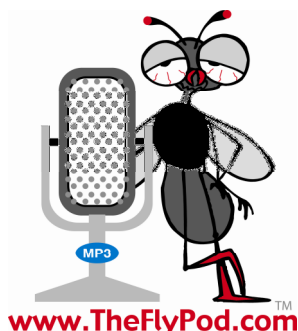


*Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent*

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Don't miss the buzz, tune into The FlyPod



Each month Sunman-Dearborn Schools is featured on The FlyPod, a local entertaining yet informative media source. Hosted by Gary Puckett, we have participated in his "SuperChat" podcast and also have had our three elementary schools featured on the "Your School" podcast.

Enter www.TinyURL.com/SDSC-Schools in your address line on a new web page to hear the latest SuperChat with Dr. Jeff Hendrix .

3rd Grade Readers and Writers at SES

Sunman Elementary students in Mrs. Colleen Werner's Language Arts class have been working on a very practical application of their writing skills. They are each publishing their own book.



Karley completes her work with illustrations

When interviewed about the process, Zak and Alex stated that all the students are writing autobiographies that cover topics such as their likes and dislikes, future plans, and skills they have now.

Students write the rough draft, then organize the content using a PowerPoint presentation that implements technology standards. From there, the students edit their work until it meets the requirements of the project as well as their personal satisfaction.

The information is then enhanced by illustrations added by the authors. The finished rough draft is then sent away to a publishing company where the books are professionally constructed. This is completed by a company called *Student Treasures*. These books will truly become treasures to the students as they mature and grow.

Sports Physicals

Beacon Orthopedic will be providing sports physicals on Wednesday, May 11 and Thursday, May 12 in the gymnasium at East Central from 3-5 pm. The cost of the physical is \$20 and parents will need to have the physical papers signed and ready when they come for their physicals. Paperwork can be picked up in the Athletic Office at East Central or you can go to www.ihsaa.org to print it.

If you have any questions, contact the Athletic Department at 812-576-4811, ext 11931 or 11932.



Recess Pals

In the special education room at the Intermediate School, Mrs. Deysi Oehlman has a group of 10 to 16 girls that are referred to as "Recess Pals". These girls share their recess time everyday with the 8 students in Mrs. Oehlman's class. She has come to realize that the pals recess visits are the highlight of the day for her students. "Our recess pals and my students play and laugh together, and the time they share is priceless", stated Mrs. Oehlman. Most of the students can't tell time, but they surely know when it is time for their pals to come. Apart from the enjoyment that her students experience, the pals are also learning about compassion, kindness, and true caring.



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Art on Display

March was Youth Art Month and several exhibits in our community celebrated YAM. Our community is home to many talented young students. If you know one of these students, please congratulate them on their talents. Our students deserve recognition for the accomplishments they achieve.

United Community Bank in St. Leon displayed:

Winter Paintings by Zac Cody and Braeden Wittich

Postage Stamp Design by Trevor McClamroch

Irish Design Painting by Haley Maxwell.

Tissue Paper Stain Glass by Haley Brown, Pete Desauer, Bailey Hartman, and Brennan Konkelman

The Dearborn County Courthouse Administration Building in Lawrenceburg displayed:

Tissue Paper Stain Glass by Aaron Giltner, Justin Powell, Clay Muncy, and Justin Schoenfield

Winter Paintings by Michaela Beckner, Jared Stewart, McKenzie Deitsch, Clark Maxwell, and Marley Muhlada

Irish Design Paintings by Erin Carleton and Cara Morman

Postage Stamp Designs by Mary Brand and Julia Weber

Mainsource Bank in St. Leon displayed:

Postage Stamp Design by Abby Bittner

Winter Painting of a Horse by Abby Wilgenbusch

Irish Design Painting by Hannah Marie Richter

Tissue Paper Stain Glass by Sam Dorr, Carlos Jimenez, Michael Masterson, and Elizabeth Vickery.

The North Dearborn Library displayed:

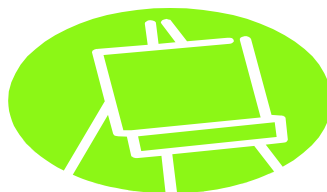
Irish Design Paintings by Rachel Admire and Brittini Banks

Knitted Scarves by Cheyenne Coakley, Kyla Dick, and Megan Kuhlmeier

Winter Paintings by Shawn Hogeback and Danielle Gutapfel

Postage Stamp Designs by Maggie Ahrens, Regan Tanner, and Shane Sturgill

Sunman-Dearborn will be offering Summer Art Classes again this year at the Intermediate School. Classes are for students grades 2-7. Sign up information and forms will be available after Spring Break. Class sizes will again be limited, and fill on a first come first serve basis. Summer Art is celebrating its 24th year!.



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There's a lot going on at North Dearborn Elementary!

March was a busy month for North Dearborn Elementary. Everywhere you looked something was happening.

The school received a \$2,000.00 grant from the Intermec Corporation. This grant was matched by their PTO. The money will go towards technology upgrades at the school. Thank you for your contributions to the students at North Dearborn.

The school counselors are finishing up their classroom presentations on bullying with the fourth graders. These classroom visits, conducted by Patty Hons and Mandy Stenger, focus on the response to and prevention of bullying. There is a lot of national attention given to bullying. Thanks to these and other programs, North Dearborn does not see a lot of the issues you see in other schools.

Pi Day was observed in Mrs. Moder's fourth grade class. On March 14th, 3/14, Mrs. Moder's class enjoyed a lesson on Pi. Pi, 3.14, is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Students measured pi by using common round food items. Tortilla shells, cookies, and pepperoni were measured and then students were able to eat the tasty math manipulative.

All students grades 1-4 were presented the KidEscape program. This presentation was put on by John Hall, nationally recognized developer of the program. Students were trained in the three step process and then practiced the moves on parent volunteers. The students enjoyed John's high energy presentation and gained valuable knowledge and skills to assist in escaping an abduction situation. Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring this event.

With March nearing an end, April is right around the corner. One can only imagine what is in store for the students of North Dearborn Elementary next month!

Middle School Designers

Mrs. Moeller's Computer Art classes are getting real world experience in art and design. After being taught the Adobe Photoshop Elements program, the students used their newfound skills and knowledge to design an agenda cover that could be used for the 2011-2012 school year. The students were put through a real-life situation where they needed to complete a job for a client; their first client, Mr. Mark Watkins, Principal of S-DMS. Mr. Watkins shared his visions with the students. He spoke openly about his desire to have a positive, creative cover that students would be proud to carry. He gave options that students could include such as school goals and character traits. Students then discussed their desire for personalization and appealing to their target market, seventh and eighth grade students. Their assignment was to design a cover that showed their personality while incorporating their client's vision.

Mrs. Moeller worked with students on how to properly prepare a work of art for print. She discussed prior knowledge from previous projects that could help in designing the covers. She also helped students use higher level thinking skills to solve problems that needed skills and techniques not yet covered in class. Students went through a design process using the elements and principles of design in conjunction with graphics, photographs, text, etc., along with a template provided by the printer. The individual students were responsible for any photos they used on the cover.

Once the design process was complete, the students peer checked covers for accuracy, correct use of templates, and design quality before printing final drafts. The final drafts were presented to the client, Mr. Watkins, for approval. With the help of the S-DMS student council, Mr. Watkins chose ten final covers that he felt fit his vision for the school. The entire student body will take part in the final selection process by voting for their favorite cover. The winning agenda cover for the 2011-2012 school year has yet to be determined. This is the fifth year that Mrs. Moeller's classes have designed the agenda covers.

News from Bright Elementary School

On Wednesday, March 2nd, Bright Elementary School helped celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday with **Read Across America Day**. The students were encouraged to wear silly hats because that is what Dr. Seuss did when he was writing his books. All the students were rewarded with special gifts such as Dr. Seuss erasers, pencils, and bookmarks. Several wonderful guest readers appeared for the morning hours including East Central Student Council, Superintendent Dr. Hendrix, former teachers Mrs. Mund and Mrs. Callaway, PTO President Scott Daniels, PTO Board Member Amanda Hibbard, Nurse Nikki, and former Nurse Kim.



On Wednesday March 16, Bright Elementary School helped raise over **\$7,000** for the American Heart Association in **Jump Rope for Heart**. A huge thanks to all those who helped raise the money especially Physical Education Teacher Lisa Tyler who organized the day and to all the parents who helped donate money.

Character Quality Award winners for February



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Go, Slow, and Whoa!

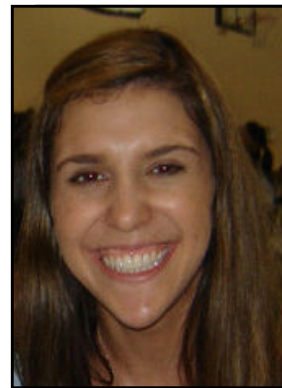
Summer time is fast approaching and that means family barbeques, amusement parks and after dinner trips to the ice cream parlor. While summer time is filled with wonderful foods and lots of fun, it is important to remember it is still a time to think about your family's health! In 2005, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute suggested kids start thinking about the "Go, Slow and Whoa" approach to eating.

Go Foods: These are foods that are the best to eat a majority of the time. They are nutrient dense and include foods like whole grains, skim and low fat milk, fruits and vegetables.

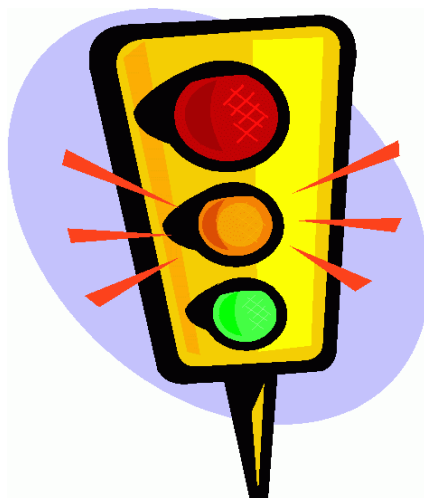
Slow Foods: These foods are considered "sometimes foods". They shouldn't be eaten on a regular basis, but eating them occasionally is perfectly fine. These include foods like white bread, low fat ice cream or frozen yogurt, and baked French fries.

Whoa Foods: These foods are occasional foods and should be eaten once-in-a-while. They are the least nutritious for our bodies and can lead to the most health problems. These include fried foods, cookies, cakes and regular soda pop.

Overall, all foods can fit into a healthy diet. It is truly all about balance, moderation and enjoying time with family friends.



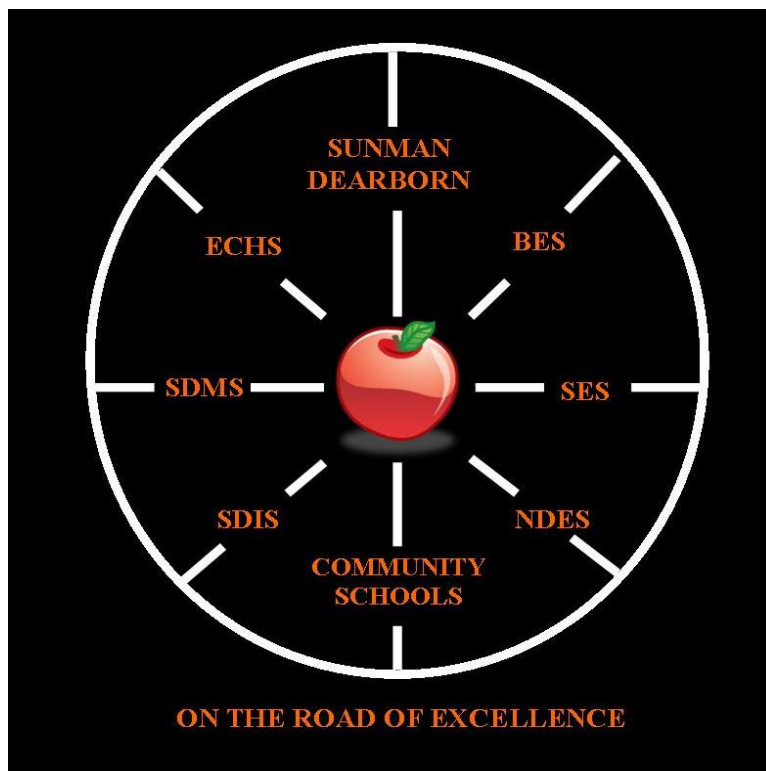
*Mandy Grassi
Food Service
Director*



*A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of
Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools*

Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools
1 Trojan Place
Suite B
St. Leon, IN 47012
Phone: 812-623-2291
Fax: 812-623-3341
E-mail: jhendrix@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us

**To Create a Culture of Educational
Excellence for Each Student!**



School Contact Information

Sunman-Dearborn Administration Offices · 1 Trojan Place, Suite B · St. Leon, IN 47012 ·
Ph: 812-623-2291 · Fax: 812-623-3341

East Central High School · 1 Trojan Place, Suite A · St. Leon, IN 47012 ·
Ph: 812-576-4811 · Fax: 812-576-2047

Sunman-Dearborn Middle School · 8356 Schuman Road · St. Leon, IN 47012 ·
Ph: 812-576-3500 · Fax: 812-576-3506

Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School · 27650 Old State Road 1 · West Harrison, IN 47060 ·
Ph: 812-576-1900 · Fax: 812-576-1901

Bright Elementary School · 22593 Stateline Road · Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 ·
Ph: 812-637-4600 · Fax: 812-637-4606

North Dearborn Elementary School · 5687 North Dearborn Road · Guilford, IN 47022 ·
Ph: 812-656-8383 · Fax: 812-656-8321

Sunman Elementary School · 925 North Meridian Street, Suite 200 · Sunman, IN 47041 ·
Ph: 812-623-2235 · Fax: 812-623-4330

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