



The S-DCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

A Time for Giving

As we prepare for the season of giving, it is so important to remember those in our community who are less fortunate. With our economy struggling and unemployment extremely high, our friends, family and neighbors are struggling to make ends meet on a daily basis. In our schools, our staff and students recognize the need to give back to our community. Many of our schools have been collecting can goods for families and the local food pantries. Some of our schools will be sponsoring specific families and purchasing clothing and toys to help make their Christmas a little better. We also have students visiting retirement homes to spend time talking to residents and playing games this holiday season. What does this all mean to our school community?

Schools reflect the community that they serve. Our students thrive on helping others because they have been taught at school, but more importantly, at home by their parents that being a cheerful giver is the right thing to do. It is so easy for us to look at our students and think that their only focus is on themselves, but the reality is, when we have asked for our students to step up and be leaders, be volunteers and be good humanitarians, they do so. Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools are very fortunate to have such wonderful teachers, administrators, staff, parents and students. When we ask for help or for donations, our community responds. We are very thankful to be part of a great community of people.

It is very easy to write about all the wonderful giving that takes place in our schools, but more importantly, it makes one stop and think about how fortunate we really are. I hope that we will all continue to look for ways to help our community, but I also believe that we should not take for granted the work our staff and our students are doing to help our community. The kindest words that can be expressed to our staff and our students are "Thank you!"

During this holiday season, I would like to send my season greetings to all the Sunman-Dearborn Community. I want to thank you for your support of our schools. It is all of us working together that makes our schools great.

Happy Holidays!

Dr. Jeff Hendrix



*Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent*

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Happenings of the ECHS Student Council



Left: Student Council members at East Central trick-or-treated this past Halloween for canned goods as part of their efforts to collect for two food pantries in the area. The food drive continued during the week of November 4th at the High School. Barb Lyness, North Dearborn Food Pantry volunteer, noted that 2,353 pounds of food were dropped off. This broke the record for donations from all the local schools. The Student Council also took food to the Penn Town Food Pantry as well.

Right: Twenty-eight Student Council members attended the Indiana Association of Student Councils High School Convention on November 13th and 14th. The State Convention was held at Garrett High School in Garrett, IN. Speakers at the convention included Laurie Stewart and Phil Gugliuzza, the Executive Directors for the Louisiana Association of Student Councils. Convention delegates also attended leadership workshops. Awards were presented to schools who earned the Honor Council designation, and ECHS earned their 12 year award.



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Community Service Appreciation

Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School greatly appreciates the Bright Christian Church for the volunteer work they provided to the school in October. Many volunteers worked on the outside landscaping to update and clean the area. Additionally, they set out on the nature trail and did an amazing job clearing it out so the students and staff could enjoy the area once again. This nature trail is used for classroom lessons in science, art, writing and other subject areas. Without their help, S-DIS would not have the manpower to prepare the trail for use. Thanks again to Bright Christian Church for their dedication to the community and our school!

S-DCSC



Incorporating Character Traits from the Pyramid of Success into the life of our students

As a follow-up to the article in the November newsletter, Pyramid of Success, below is a list of some of the character traits **BRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** is using and how they are incorporated into the everyday life of their students.

LOYALTY - November 11, Bright Elementary honored over 50 Veterans. The crowd tearfully watched one family in the program send their recently graduated student from ECHS to active duty.

GOOD HABITS - 4th graders recently completed a lesson from the "Think Smart, Stay Safe" Program.

HARD WORK - Principal, Norb Goessling, thanks God everyday for the professionalism of his staff and assures they take their jobs seriously and work above and beyond getting the job done, educating the students and keeping them safe.

SETTING GOALS - Parent/Teacher Conferences were a success with over 90% of parents in attendance. The school improvement committee finalized the school improvement plan this past month. One of the key goals will be to improve the student's problem solving skills in their understanding of math.

FRIENDSHIP - Student Council has teamed up with an Eagle Scout to do a canned food drive. They expect to collect over 1000 items for a local food pantry. The PTO sponsored a craft show on November 20 with over 30 vendors. A great sense of community pride was shared.

HARD WORK and COOPERATION - The three elementary schools are working hard together to plan for the transition from Indiana Standards to the Common Core Standards that were approved by the IDOE. The transition schedule runs through the 2014-15 school year. To learn more about the Common Core Standards, go to www.corestandards.org.

St. Leon All Star Band

The St. Leon All Star Band was founded in 1994 to give exceptional band students an educational outlet. Because the band is selected by audition only, the level of performance is extremely high. Students rehearse for eleven hours over a three day period to accomplish the daunting task of playing seven works. The All Star Band concert was held November 20 in the PAC at ECHS and was a huge success. Cincinnati jazz great Eric Campbell performed a solo on the trombone with the band.



4th Graders at North Dearborn ES learn about Artifacts



Mr. John Maxwell, a local developer, visited Mrs. Moder's and Mrs. Wuestefeld's 4th grade classes last month. He shared his love of Indian artifacts and collection of artifacts which he has collected over the past several years. Many of the artifacts were found on local farms and near the local rivers. Archeologists were called in to explore the site before the Greendale Cinema was built and many artifacts were found in this area also. The children were very interested in all the wonderful stories he had to share. His stories made history come alive for the students in the classes. Because the students were able to handle the artifacts and listen to his vivid explanations, they developed a better understanding of

those that lived here before Indiana became a State. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Mr. Maxwell for his willingness to share his stories and connect our social studies content with his real world experiences.

SES Students Learn Philanthropy

Sunman Elementary students have a tradition of practicing compassion for others. This has been demonstrated repeatedly this fall. Our students donated to Riley Hospital's Kids' Sharing and Caring. This fall we have already commemorated James Whitcomb Riley's birthday with 7 Coins for Riley on October 7th. Sunman strives each year to be a Riley Miracle School, collecting an average of \$1.00 per child.



4th Graders Brittney Myers, Greg Schneider, and Hana Mangold show off their 7 Coins for Riley bracelets

To coincide with Veterans' Day, students donated small items for our Hand-In-Hand collection benefiting We Care Packages. Candy, beef jerky, individual drink mixes, pouches of tuna, chips, nuts, and toiletries were among the many items donated. These boxes were located near the beautiful Veterans' Wall of Honor. Students brought in artifacts from Veterans in their families. The Wall of Honor was displayed through the Sunman Life Squad's breakfast. Other student displays throughout the building demonstrated our patriotism as well.

Our annual food drive was held the week following Thanksgiving. Our goal is to collect 2500 items for the Sunman Area Food Pantry, who will distribute these items during the Christmas season.

In cooperation with Scholastic Books, we're collecting new pajamas for "The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive". Pajamas collected will be given to foster care, shelters, group homes and orphanages.

Learning to give without expectation of reward benefits society at large, and for this. Sunman Elementary students are well prepared.



Students represent EC at Lugar Symposium

East Central High School juniors Deirdre Elfers and Jared Pierce have been selected to represent ECHS at the 33rd annual 2010 Lugar Symposium for *Tomorrow's Leaders* at the University of Indianapolis on December 11th. Dee and Jared will meet the Senator and participate in a series of seminars reflecting current domestic and foreign policy challenges.

A new look for our school libraries

This fall our school libraries upgraded to a new library management system call Destiny. Destiny is an internet-based system used for keeping our library records. It connects all of our school libraries and allows us to share information and work together much better. This is especially helpful with all of the new people in our libraries this year.

Destiny allows students, parents, and staff to access our school libraries at home or anywhere they can get on-line. You can see what materials we have at the school and whether they are available or checked out. I encourage everyone to go to the on-line link and try it out. Destiny also allows you to see the covers of the books as you are searching. This can be helpful.

Follow these directions to access Destiny:

1. Go to the Sunman-Dearborn Community School website at sunmandearborn.k12.in.us
2. Hold your mouse over the Community tab along the top bar so the menu drops down.
3. Click on Destiny Library System.
4. Select which school you would like to search.

After you select your school, just type in whatever you are looking for and press enter for the system to search the school library. If you know the exact title of a book or an author's name you can click on those buttons for a more specific search. Notice under the green bar you can click on the drop down menus to search other school locations easily or even all the school libraries at once. It's really easy and very user-friendly.

When the book you want comes up on the screen, click on it's title to see more detailed information about that book. By clicking on the "see all" spot, you will see all copies we have and whether or not they are available. To check the book out, jot down the call number and barcode and have your child go to the school library to get it. If all copies are checked out we can hold a copy for your child when it is returned.

If you have any problems or questions call your school library, or Mrs. Swinford at East Central High School extension 11971.

We are so pleased to make our libraries easier for you to use. Keep reading!



Holiday Savings

The holiday season is upon us and that means our pocket books begin to feel the crunch of gift giving, entertaining, holiday parties and holiday decorations. As the cost of everything increases there is one thing that is still a great value; school lunch. School lunch is a great bargain both nutritionally and economically. Every school lunch includes 5 great choices: low fat or fat free milk, vegetables, fruit, grains (many whole grains), meat or meat alternate. In fact, on average, it costs less to buy a school lunch than to bring lunch from home. School lunch costs \$1.85 and according to recent findings the average bagged lunch costs \$3.43. In addition, other research found that students who eat school lunches consume fewer calories from fat than students who bring lunch from home. Compared to lunches from home, school lunches contain three times as many dairy products, twice as much fruit, and seven times the vegetable amounts. As you continue to get busier and busier this holiday season you can be rest assured that your child will be fed a well balanced meal at an incredible bargain right here at school.



*Mandy Grassi
Food Service
Director*

Have a safe and happy holiday season. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding school food service, please feel free to email me at mgrassi@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us.



Athletic Corner

The #5 ranked East Central football team wrapped up its season with a loss to Evansville Reitz in the regional tournament by a score of 43-26. The Trojan's ended a great season 11-2, making the final 8 in the State.

The girls varsity and junior varsity basketball teams opened up the season with wins over Hauser, Lawrenceburg, and South Ripley. They both lost close contests with Columbus East and are currently 3-1 on the year.

The boys varsity and junior varsity basketball teams opened their season at Jennings County on November 27.

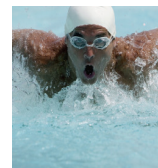
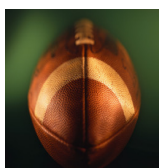


Dave Jarvis
Athletic Director

The wrestling team has been hitting the mats hard and will begin its season on December 4th at the Harrison Invitational.

The girls swim team opened their season with a big win over Milan 100-78 which gave Coach Radtke, Coach Martin, and Coach Huffman their first win as coaches at ECHS.

We value our student athletes as representatives of East Central High School and of the Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools. Keep up the good work on and off the fields of play.



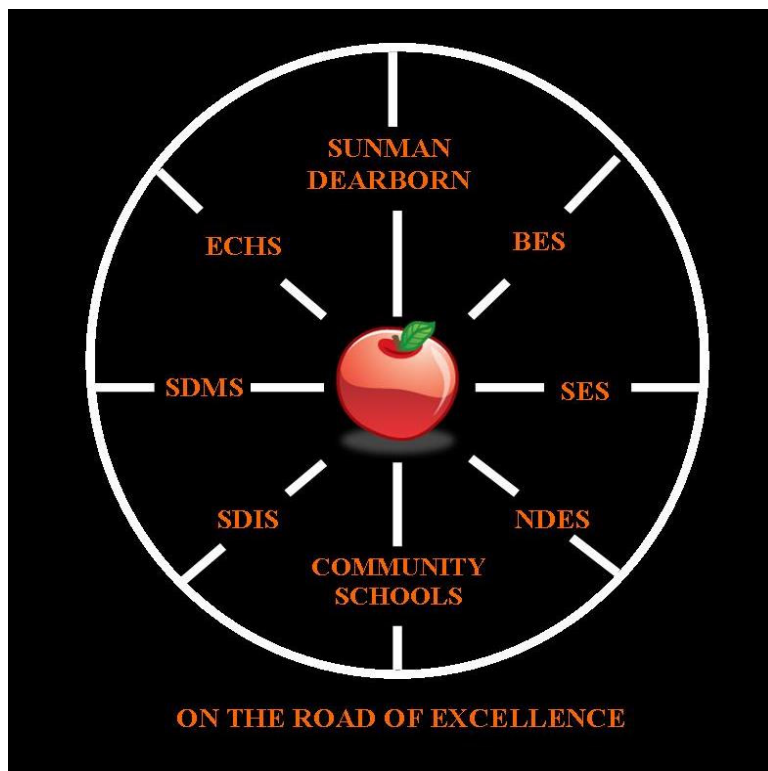
Reminder that spirit wear can be purchased in the Athletic Office. All sport passes can be purchased there as well.

Rocket Life, a photo processing program, can now be accessed through EC's website. Now you can cherish your memories forever and share your photos with family and friends through photo albums, mugs, t-shirts, and more. CHECK IT OUT!!!

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



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