

The S-DCS Column

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE STAKEHOLDERS OF SUNMAN-DEARBORN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

KEEPING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN

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As we begin moving through the second semester of this school year, it is critical that our school staff and parents continue to work together to ensure that each child will be successful throughout the school year. This process begins by communicating with each other. Keeping the lines of communication open is not always an easy process. With our busy lives, parents, teachers and administrators can get caught up in the day to day world of work and families, and not realizing that our children may be struggling at home and at school. Establishing a strong two-way communication system is extremely important to the success of our students.

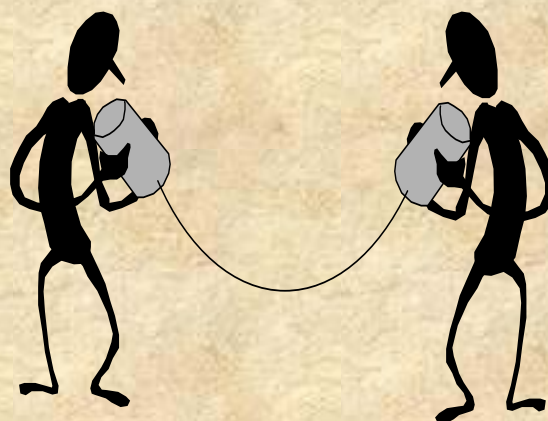
There are many ways for parents to find information about our schools. Each school has a website with calendars of events that keeps the public informed about what is going on in each school. Throughout the year, each school and the school corporation publishes newsletters or notes that parents can access online or pick-up in the school offices. Each month a new FlyPod podcast is created and accessible from the corporation website at www.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us. This podcast provides information on programs or issues that are currently impacting education, children and specific schools in the Sunman-Dearborn Community School Corporation.

Parents can also send emails to teachers directly to obtain information about their individual children. Each teacher also has a

phone that parents can leave messages for teachers to return during their prep time, before school and after school. Parents can access the Parent Connect program to see their child's academic progress in each class. Our school counselors are also available to meet with parents to discuss any problems or concerns that children may have.

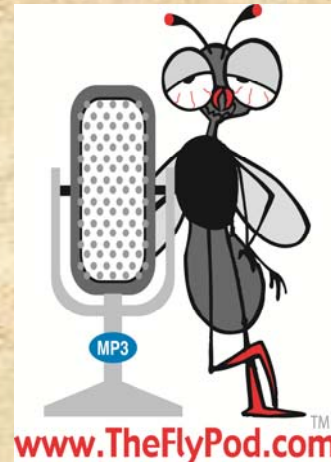
It is so important that parents and teachers work together to help the children of Sunman-Dearborn CSC be successful. I invite each parent to come in and talk to teachers, volunteer in our schools, and participate in our after school activities. Research shows that the more active a parent is involved in a child's education, the more likely that the child will be successful.

Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent



DON'T MISS THE BUZZ

Each month Sunman-Dearborn Schools is featured on The FlyPod, a local entertaining yet informative media source. Superintendent Dr. Hendrix joins host Gary Puckett monthly for his "SuperChat" podcast. Enter <http://tinyurl.com/SuperChat-SDSC-3> in your address line on a new web page to hear the latest SuperChat. This month's chat will discuss new classes offered at ECHS and scholarship opportunities for seniors with guest Bev Ester, ECHS Assistant Principal/Director of Guidance, and Rhonda Murdock, ECHS Guidance Counselor.



FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL HEART MONTH

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the U.S. It kills over 831,000 Americans every year. You can help prevent heart disease by maintaining a healthy weight with a balanced diet and an exercise regimen. There isn't one magic food that will prevent heart disease, but eating a variety of foods will provide your body with the most disease fighting nutrients. Here are some exceptionally nutrient dense foods to include in your diet to keep your ticker healthy:

Almonds: These make for an easy and convenient snack for the whole family!

Oatmeal: Top it with peanut butter, raisins and cinnamon for extra flavor!

Beans: Black and kidney beans are especially packed with heart healthy nutrients!

Walnuts: Sneak these in pancakes or whole grain muffins!

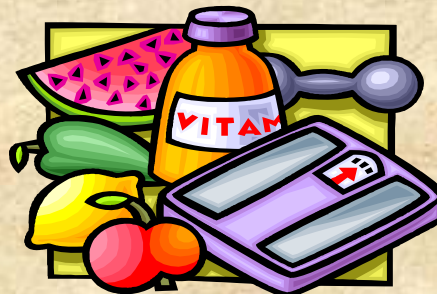
Salmon: A great source of heart healthy fats!

Berries: Save money during the winter months by choosing frozen berries!

Dark Chocolate: My personal favorite! Be sure to choose 70% or higher cocoa content!

Exercise is also essential to heart health. The American Heart Association suggests at least 150 minutes per week of moderate exercise or 75 minutes per week of vigorous exercise (or a combination of moderate and vigorous activity). Aiming for 30 minutes a day, five times a week is an easy goal to remember; however you will also experience benefits even if you divide your time into two or three segments of 10 -15 minutes per day. Keep these tips in mind for a healthy heart for both you and your family!

Mrs. Copenhaver
Director of Food and
Nutrition Services



REMINDER: You can check your child's meal account balance for FREE and sign up for FREE low balance alerts at www.Ezschoollpay.com !

INTEGRITY

Each month we highlight a character quality at North Dearborn. The teachers watch for students exhibiting this quality and will nominate them for the character quality award. We pull a student's name from each class to be recognized with a certificate, medal and mention on the morning announcements at the end of the month.

This past month's quality was *integrity*. That's a hard concept to explain to an elementary school student. Miriam-Webster online defines it as a "firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values." We explained this to students as doing what is right even when others are doing something else or tell you to do it differently. When I think about integrity, the thought of a young George Washington comes to mind. The well-known story of young George and his shiny new ax chopping away at his father's favorite cherry tree has been told numerous times. And each

time George tells his father, "I cannot tell a lie, I did chop down your cherry tree," we are reminded of the integrity of the nation's first president. This quality of integrity is one that is always sought after when we search for leaders.

Each of us is a leader in the lives of our own children or the children we serve. Are we being good models of integrity? Do we work to provide our children, grandchildren, students, acquaintances with evidence of integrity or could we stand to be a little more Washington-like in our life.

Mr. Bond
North Dearborn
Elementary Principal

S-DIS STUDENT'S ESSAY CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION

Congratulations to Leigha Cummings (Mrs. Lillie's class) for representing S-DIS in the "What Did the Tree See?" contest. Her essay was chosen as one of twelve essays to participate in a national contest. Alliance for Community (ACTrees) and TreesTreetures Environmental Education Program sponsored an essay contest for 5th and 6th graders. They were to choose a tree in the community and write an essay about the tree from the tree's point of view. The best essay would be submitted from school, and the local ACTrees group would then pick the top twelve essays to be sent to a National Judging Panel. This panel will choose 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from each grade level. Prizes include a monetary award, a tree planted at the school, and the essay published on the sponsors' websites. If Leigha's essay is chosen, she will be notified in Spring 2013. Good luck, Leigha.



Mrs. Vennemeier
Sunman-Dearborn
Intermediate
Principal

EC DANCE NEWS

East Central High School Dancers will be hosting their Showcase America, Unlimited Dance Competition on Sunday February 3, 2013 from 8:30 – 3:00 p.m. Come out and support your EC Dancers!! We have 90 members and five teams! The high school team Trojanettes; the middle school team-Trojanette Juniors; middle school clogging team-Incognition; EC Mini's-our 5th and 6th grade teams! Hope to see you there!!



NEWS FROM S-DMS

Congratulations go out to our 2012-13 National Geographic Geography Bee winner, **Nick Martini**. Social Studies students participated in SDMS 1st and 2nd rounds of the geography bee, in their classroom. Finalists of the 2nd round from each classroom competed for the win. Nick will go on to competition at the regional level.

Also during the month of January, SDMS held our 1st Annual Scripps Spelling Bee. Congratulations go out to **Tess Barnett** who conquered the title this year. Tess will participate in an on-line test and may have the chance to compete in the state and national competitions. Good luck Tess!

On **February 8, 2013**, SDMS will be starting our **Annual Pasta for Pennies Drive**. Each year we challenge our students to meet a financial goal for this cause which goes to cancer research and other needs established by Leukemia Lymphoma Society. This year students are presented with an additional challenge. We are competing with Harrison Middle School to reach beyond our goal of \$5,000 and to exceed their Student contributions. Whichever school wins gets the opportunity to host the losing school's principal to serve lunch to students in the school cafeteria! Also, the losing principal must wear the color of the winning team while performing this service! Save Mrs. Baudendistel and don't let her fall victim to **wearing Harrison Middle School Green**



Upon reflection of our current student drop-off practices, I have discovered an area of concern. Currently, parents or family members drop students off in the mornings at the east end of the building at the physical education entrance. Aside from the front door, this is the only unlocked entry before school hours. Because staff is not yet on duty I have no one to assign to the door for supervision prior to 7:30 a.m. Therefore, the door is unlocked for students to enter without supervision. I feel, although it is only a short period of time, this situation could be problematic in respect to student safety. Therefore, I have made the decision to change the student drop-off process.

Effective **February 4, 2013**, students being dropped off by car/private vehicle will no longer enter the school in the mornings using the east end physical education doors. Instead, **students are to be dropped off on the east end of the building at the band/chorus entrance. Students will then take the sidewalk to the front of the building and enter through the front doors. A sign will be posted to mark the student drop off zone.** The front doors will be the only doors unlocked because they are easily monitored by office staff. Due to bus traffic drivers are NOT permitted to drop students off in the front of the building. Once bus students enter, front doors will also be locked, as is the case currently. Thank you for working with me to create the optimum, safe environment for your children. Should you have questions or concerns please feel free to call me at 812-576-3500, Extension 12901.

*Mrs. Baudendistel
Sunman-Dearborn Middle School
Principal*

SUNMAN ELEMENTARY: KCS MIRACLE SCHOOL

Sunman Elementary participates in the Riley Hospital Kids Caring and Sharing philanthropy program through the Indiana Association of School Principals. To be identified as a Miracle School, the students donate funds to equal or exceed the mark of one dollar per student enrolled. Through only two fundraisers, Seven Coins for Riley in October in celebration of James Whitcomb Riley's birthday on October 7th, and Pajama Day in early January, Sunman Elementary students and staff surpassed the goal of \$406 donated. More information about Riley

Hospital Kids Caring and Sharing can be found at the following website: <http://kidscaringandsharing.org/>

STUDENTS – ACCESS YOUR SCHOOL “H DRIVE” SECURELY FROM HOME!

We now have a new option for everyone that will allow you to access your personal “H Drive” from any computer with internet access! This is similar to the service “DropBox”, or the old service we used to have called NetStorage. But, this is more secure and convenient than DropBox as it saves to our servers, and has more features than NetStorage did! Particularly, this will allow you to edit documents online (you don’t have to download the document, edit, then re-upload as you do with other solutions – you just open it, edit, and click save like normal).

This is available right away to all students. I have added a link on our corporation home page (<http://www.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us>) under “Technology” then click on “Web File Manager”, or you may access the site directly by visiting the URL <https://storage.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us/htcomnet/>.

To log into the site and see your files, just use your normal username/password that you use to log onto school computers.

When you log into the storage site, there is a link on the top of the page for a user manual that will answer most questions and showcase available features.

Mr. Louden
Director of Technology



RENAISSANCE HOME CONNECT NOW AVAILABLE!

We are pleased that you will soon begin using Renaissance Home Connect as a way of monitoring and encouraging your child’s reading and/or math practice. We are confident that you’ll find it to be a valuable tool for monitoring your child’s progress. Renaissance Home Connect improves the school-to-home connection by allowing parents and students to log in to a Web site and view the student’s reading and math practice and progress towards goals. In addition, parents can specify up to six email addresses to receive automatic updates in English or Spanish on their student’s math and reading progress.

The link to Renaissance Home Connect, as well as additional reference literature, is available on the Corporation website (<http://www.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us>) under Technology then click on Ren. Learning. Students will use their network username and password from school to login.

3RD/4TH GRADE GEOGRAPHY BEE AT BES

The winner of the 3rd and 4th grade Geography Bee at Bright Elementary was Andrew, standing in the back right corner.



ROCKING AND ROLLING AT S-DIS

A FEW STRUMS AT A TIME!



S-DIS: IT'S ALL FOR THE BIRDS... REALLY! AND RECYCLING!

Students designed home-made bird feeders with recycled materials to hang in the hallways as part of their science classes. Mrs. Lillie class is actually participating in a "Bird Watch" program in coordination with Cornell University. They will observe and submit data to Cornell University throughout the spring.



BES STUDENTS ENJOYING INDOOR RECESS AND COMPUTER CLASS



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

The mission of S-DCS is to develop, for all students:

- Literacy skills (reading, writing, communicating confidently)
- Mastery of state and national standards
- Character, responsibility, teamwork, the importance of regular attendance, goal-directedness, and service to community
- High graduation rates and post-secondary success

We are on the web at
www.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us



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