

# The S-DCS Column

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

## What a Difference a Day Makes in the Summer

School is about to end. Students are beginning to get excited about the start of their summer vacation. Ball games, picnics, family trips, playing outside with friends are all part of the tradition that comes with children's summer vacations. With all the fun, there is a price that is paid for our students when they have this time off, the loss of learning.

I think it is great when everyone can take some time to be with family and friends and enjoy vacations. These are great times to bond with each other and cultivate friendships or participate in our favorite hobbies. The problem for many students, however, is that they lose ground on learning. When students do not read over the summer or practice math problems, then they fall behind when school starts in the fall. Teachers spend several days and weeks reviewing the previous year's skills and remediating students so that they can catch up to where they need to be. When students don't show progression, then it not only hurts the child, but it hurts the school.

There are some things that parents can do this summer to keep the learning going for their student.

1. Require your child to read a minimum of 15 minutes per day. You can also have them write for 15 minutes a day.
2. Take your child to the library to pick out books or participate in summer reading programs.
3. Make your vacations educational vacations. Let your children help you plan the vacation. Look at maps. Have them figure out where you will go and the places you will see. Visit historic sites on your trips. Talk about the significance of these historic places that you visit. Let them use their math skills to figure out how many miles they will travel and how long it will take to get to your destinations. Have your student write a story about the place they visited. Keep a scrapbook or diary with pictures.
4. Let your children do some cooking in the kitchen. Let them use measuring cups and measuring spoons to make cookies and cakes.
5. Encourage your child to talk to a family member or friend who can tell them stories about the "good ole days". Talk to them about what they learned.
6. Have dinner together as a family. Pick out a topic for family vacation.
7. Turn off the television and play family games.

There are many more fun family experiences that you can enjoy together that are educational. If you need ideas, turn to your local library or the internet. I hope that you have a fun, safe and restful summer.

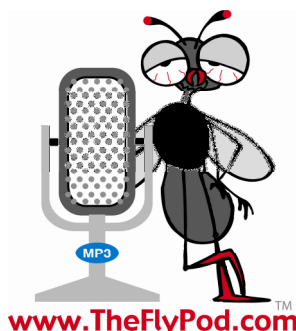


*Dr. Jeff Hendrix*  
Superintendent

Volume 1, Issue 10  
May 2011

*Dr. Jeff Hendrix*

# 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](http://www.TinyURL.com/SDSC-Schools) in your address line on a new web page to hear the latest SuperChat with Dr. Jeff Hendrix .

## The Great Central U.S. Shake Out

On April 19, 2011, at 10:15 a.m., S-DIS participated in a nation-wide earthquake drill. All students were taught the emergency position in case of an earthquake. Visitors from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security visited, observed the drill, and even brought some emergency K-9 guests to do demonstrations for some of the students. The students were encouraged to share information with their families. Additional information can be found at [www.shakeout.org/centralus](http://www.shakeout.org/centralus) and also [www.dropcoverholdon.org](http://www.dropcoverholdon.org).

## ATTENTION

New Federal Regulations require that ALL school districts that are part of the National School Lunch Program MUST raise the price of school lunch by a minimum of \$.10 for the 2011-2012 school year if they charge less than \$2.46 currently.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions please email the Food Service Director, Mandy Grassi, RD at [mgrassi@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us](mailto:mgrassi@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us).



### 2011-2012 School Lunch Price

Paid Student Lunch: \$1.95  
Reduced Student Lunch: \$.40  
Adult Lunch: \$2.75  
Breakfast will remain at \$1.25

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## Best of luck to Destination Imagination

Destination Imagination, under the direction of Jean Schmeltzer, had eight teams of students that competed at the regional level. These teams included students from 1st grade to 12th grade. Five of these teams advanced to the state competition. Two of these five teams have advanced to the Global Competition which will take place from May 25-29 at the University of Tennessee. Both global teams have a combined total of 13 students from SDIS and SDMS. DI students and parents have been doing fundraising to help pay for the cost to attend the competition, along with applying for a grant through the Charitable Fund at United Community Bank.

These students have worked really hard to earn this privilege. They will represent Sunman-Dearborn Schools proudly at this international event.

Best of luck to the students and Mrs. Schmeltzer at this competition!!!!

## Enjoy breakfast with your child at NDES

If your house is anything like Mr. Bond's, Principal at North Dearborn Elementary, the mornings are a blur. Backpacks are checked for last minute signatures and completed homework assignments, a quick breakfast, and just enough time for a kiss on the cheek and a "Have a great day" and the kids are off to school and Mr. Bond and his wife are off to work.

If you would like to slow things down a bit to enjoy a morning breakfast with your child, NDES will be holding "Muffins with Mom" on Wednesday, May 4 from 6:15 - 7:55 a.m. Moms and other family members are invited to come and start their child's day off right with muffins, donuts, juice, and milk.

On April 20<sup>th</sup> NDES held the annual PTO Donuts with Dad. Fathers, grandfathers or other family members brought their children to school and had a donut breakfast provided by the NDES PTO and Harrison Home Bakery. The gym was buzzing with excitement as dads were able to connect with their children and other parents over coffee, juice, milk and some of the best breakfast favorites available this side of the Ohio River.



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## S-DMS Creates a High Performing Culture

At the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, Sunman-Dearborn Middle School developed a goal to improve their school's culture. Through various professional development series and with the support of local author and expert on creating high performing culture in schools, Dr. Clete Bulach, they began examining their systems and supports to find and construct ways to ensure that the needs of all students were met. They discussed ways to better serve and communicate with parents, students, and the community. They also looked at their own practices and methods of providing the best instruction, curriculum, and assessment of the students.

They began a four phase improvement system that starts with identifying and shaping the current school culture. Reshaping culture involves gaining certain levels of trust with students and teachers. The use of power and authority were studied in the second phase for reshaping the culture. There are nine forms of power and the positive forms were studied by teachers to be utilized in their classrooms. The third phase examines the types of culture found in schools today. Through examination of their current practices, they determined they were found to be above average in their current practices in regards to their educational programming. Finally, the integration of a character education program for the student body allows for the intense study of the 16 common character traits.

Mr. Watkins, Principal of S-DMS, reports that there is positive data from the first year of implementation of the program and they are looking forward to the examination of the 2010–2011 data. This positive based incentive program is now being pushed in many states, including Indiana. They are very happy with the student culture data they have collected up to this point and have provided many different rewards to the student body to celebrate their success.

## S-DIS Spring Fine Arts Festival

Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School held their spring "Fine Arts Festival" on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Every student in the building displayed academic projects ranging from writings to special assignments. Several students even performed in front of an audience with singing, dancing, and instrumentals. S-DIS students are very proud of their work and talents. This event, which is held in the fall and the spring, allows our students to show off their unique abilities in various areas. Congratulations to all the students at S-DIS for their hard work.



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# Sunman Fall Soccer Registrations

Registration for Sunman Area Fall Soccer Association will be held Saturday, May 7 and Saturday, May 14 from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm at Sunman Elementary School.

For more information, contact Joe at 812-637-0996.

NEW: U16 League for 16 years of age and under. British Soccer Clinic July 25 - 29. Go to [www.sunmansoccer.com](http://www.sunmansoccer.com) to sign up for camp.

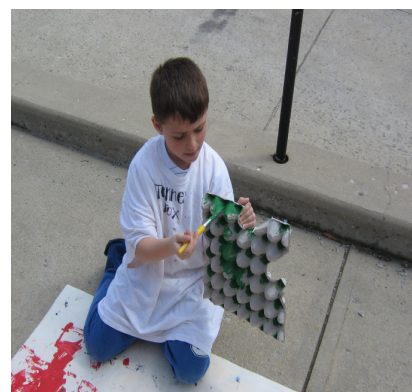
## Sunman Celebrates Earth Day

As we celebrate the arrival of spring with all the newness of flowers and budding trees, warmer weather and lasting sunshine, we pause to remember the importance of caring for our environment. Sunman Elementary celebrated Earth Day on April 22 with lessons designed to remind them to reduce, reuse, and recycle everyday.

This school year they have made efforts to reduce their usage of valuable resources. Teachers have been moving toward online newsletters, using e-mail to communicate with parents, and are conscientious stewards of the resources available to them for classroom use. Reusing old items for a new purpose is an elementary skill. Students have made recycled art projects, and explored ways to reuse containers, paper, and supplies. Parents get in the act by participating in our used toy and clothing sales sponsored by our parent organization, Tiger PAWS. Even the local businesses reuse by giving items to the school for student use. The pictures below show students in Mrs. Cline's first grade reusing egg cartons for a project.

All members of the Sunman Elementary community practice recycling daily. All classrooms recycle used copy paper, the cafeteria staff recycles cans and cardboard, and there are drop off boxes for batteries, old cell phones, and empty ink cartridges.

While Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 each year, Sunman Elementary celebrates Earth Day everyday.





## Bright Elementary School



*Above left:* The NED Show paid a visit to BE. This assembly promotes academic achievement and character development to students by teaching 3 critical skills that will benefit kids for a lifetime, N =Never Give Up, E =Encourage others, D= Do your best.

*Above right:* Students listen to retired teacher Cathy Mund talk about Earth Day, plus they received a tree to take home and plant in their yards.

## East Central Horticulture

Its time once again for the East Central Horticulture Program's 5th annual spring plant sale. Dates and times are as follows:

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, May 4, 5, and 6 from 3:00 - 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 7 from 8:00 am - Noon

Wednesday, May 11 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm (if plants are still available) After May 11, please call for plant availability and discounts.

Plants available include several varieties of tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, marigolds, zinnias, impatiens, misc. annuals and houseplants. Several projects made by East Central Agricultural Science students will also be available. All plants are started from seed and then cared for by East Central High School and Sunman-Dearborn Middle School Agricultural Science students.

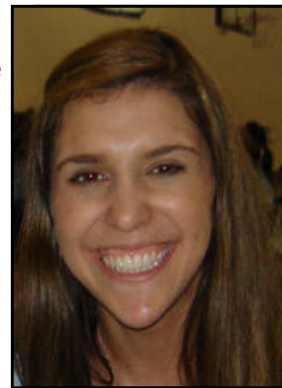
The East Central Greenhouse is located on the north side of the school. Please enter through the agriculture shop doors. For further information, contact Roy Johnson, Agricultural Science Instructor @ 812-576-4811 x11122 or e-mail [rjohnson@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us](mailto:rjohnson@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us).

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# Gear Up for a Healthy Summer Break

Can you believe that it is almost summer break? Time really does fly when you're having fun! While we are all excited for warmer weather and summer time fun, it is important to keep up your family's healthy habits throughout the summer. Here are some helpful tips to keep your family healthy and happy:

- Get moving! Encourage your kids to play outside as much as possible or enroll them in a summer sports or dance camp.
- Limit screen time to 2 hours a day.
- Exercise together. Go swimming as a family or take a hike together.
- Limit calorie laden juices, sodas and lemonade. These drinks can send their blood sugar soaring making them more fatigued and dehydrated when playing outside. Choose water instead.
- Choose fresh and local! Take a trip to the local farmer's market for fresh and delicious produce or better yet start your own family garden!



*Mandy Grassi  
Food Service  
Director*

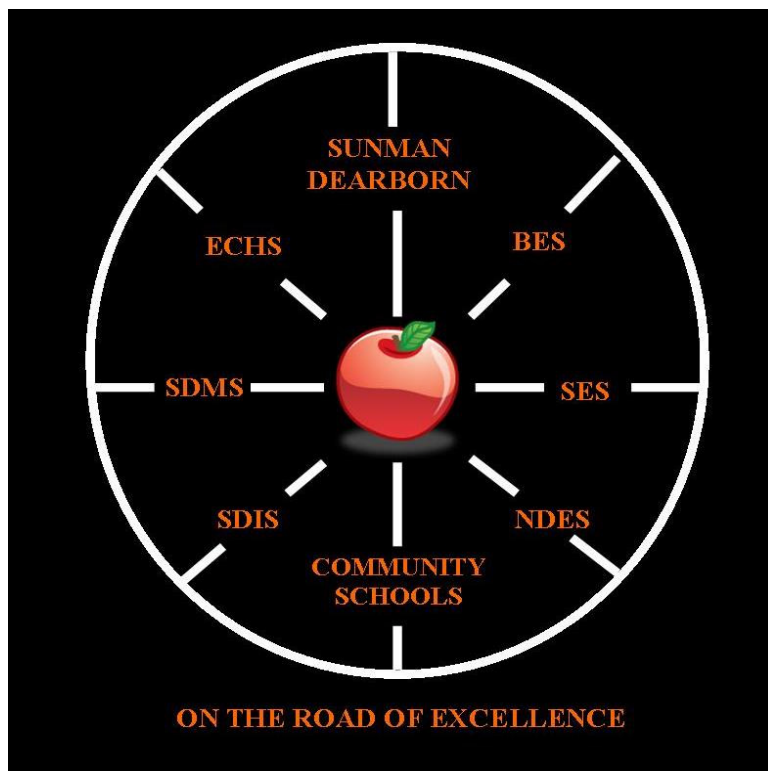
Have a happy and healthy summer vacation!



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Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools*

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



## School Contact Information

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Sunman-Dearborn Middle School · 8356 Schuman Road · St. Leon, IN 47012 ·  
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Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School · 27650 Old State Road 1 · West Harrison, IN 47060 ·  
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Bright Elementary School · 22593 Stateline Road · Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 ·  
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North Dearborn Elementary School · 5687 North Dearborn Road · Guilford, IN 47022 ·  
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