

The S-DCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

Building a New Sunman-Dearborn School Corporation

Over the course of last year and through the first semester of this school year, numerous projects, committees and ideas have been implemented that are changing the face of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools. From the outside, an internet visitor who logs on to our website will become a visual participant in our schools as he or she opens the door to our school system. From our corporation calendars, to our individual school web pages, our visitors can find at their fingertips valuable information about our schools. Visitors will have the opportunity to listen to internet podcasts from key leaders, teachers and students in our schools talking about programs and opportunities that are available for our community, our parents and our students. In this new year, visitors will be able to click on to our schools promotional videos to take a virtual tour of our schools focusing on the facilities, the programs, the teachers and the students that make our school system great.

The future is also very bright in our schools as our school board, administration and teachers continue to work together to meet goals that will move our school forward and increase student achievement. In referencing goals this year, each school has worked very hard to write new goals in their school improvement plans that follow under the acronym of S.M.A.R.T Goals. This acronym stands for specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely goals. These types of goals better inform our administrators, teachers, parents and students on the purpose and mission of each school in educational process. We will report our progress toward these goals to the public by using a format called a "Balanced Score Card".

Upon receiving permission from the State of Indiana and the Sunman-Dearborn School Board to use Qualified School Construction Bonds, several of Sunman-Dearborn schools will have new facility upgrades that will improve our buildings by saving money on energy, improve the classroom environment and maintain the quality of our facilities. Several projects will focus on heating and air conditioning systems and controls, safety features, and better lighting of classrooms. These small changes will greatly impact our energy costs and operations that will provide a substantial payback to our school system over the next fifteen years. All of these changes will be paid by using interest-free bonds from our state.



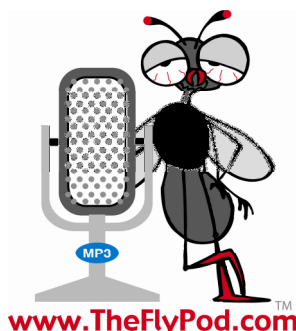
*Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent*

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(Continued on Page 3, see New Year)

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. Follow www.TinyURL.com/SDSC-Schools to hear the latest SuperChat featuring Brenda Osman and Jim Stock from East Central along with FCCLA President Will Hoekzema and Student Council President Libby Brand. The next SuperChat is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11.

S-DMS Annual Food Drive

The Sunman-Dearborn Middle School Student Council rallied their fellow classmates in their recent annual food drive.



The goal was set by the sponsors, Jayme Herbert and Carol Schiering, at 6,000 non-perishable items.

The school's final collection total was over 7,000 items.

Mrs. Bond's home room had 100% participation and collected over 1,400 items. Mr. Foster's class was also rallied by the student council representative and brought in over 800 cans. Nine different home rooms brought in over 200 cans each, four had over 500. All 30 home rooms participated.

Since they surpassed the goal, any student who donated 10 or more items got their name placed in a drawing to pie Mr. Watkins, Ms. Beneker, Mrs. Herbert, and Mrs. Schiering in the face during all three lunch periods.

The food was divided equally and donated to the North Dearborn and Sunman Food Pantries.

Thanks to everyone for their generosity again this year.



S-DMS Principal Mr. Watkins after being pied in the face.

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Indiana's Moment of Silence - A daily practice at Bright ES

Are you aware that it is an Indiana School Law that we take time each day to allow a moment of silence?

An excerpt from the law is as follows:

(Indiana Codes 20-30-5-0.5 and 20-30-5-4.5 Approved: August 9, 2005)

b) During the moment of silence required by subsection (a), the teacher responsible for a classroom shall ensure that all students remain seated or standing and silent and make no distracting display so that each student may, in the exercise of the student's individual choice, meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity that does not interfere with, distract, or impede another student in the exercise of the student's individual choice.

Mr. Goessling, Principal at Bright Elementary, encourages you to explain to your children what it is that you wish for them to do with this moment. It may be the most valuable moment of the day or not, depending on how you explain to your children what they might do with the time. Mr. Goessling personally looks forward to the moment of silence each day as he uses it to reflect on yesterday and plan for the day. "I think and pray for my country, family, friends, the staff, and your children. I think back on mistakes made and how I might now be better because I have learned from those mistakes."

As our children grow and learn about the world around them, learn how to read and count, there may be no better time in their life to explain why our great leaders have made this moment available to us.

Prior to a moment of silence near Thanksgiving break, the office staff at Bright Elementary School reminded everyone for whom they were thankful. We recited the first name of every person in our building, and explained that we were thankful for each and every one of them.

New Year (continued from front page)

Changes will be occurring in the curriculum being taught in our schools. The State of Indiana has adopted the national common core standards. Our teachers and administrators are beginning the process of meeting and deciding how best to incorporate those standards into the day to day instruction of our students. There is also going to be an emphasis to develop common assessments at each grade level to measure student progress in meeting those new standards.

As a corporation, we are very proud of our schools, our staff and our students. We are very fortunate to have a community that supports our schools. It is our hope that this new year will provide more opportunities that will invite more families to become involved in our schools. Our main goal is to help each student reach a high level of academic achievement, but more importantly, to prepare each student for his or her journey for experiences that will lead to a life filled with joy and success.

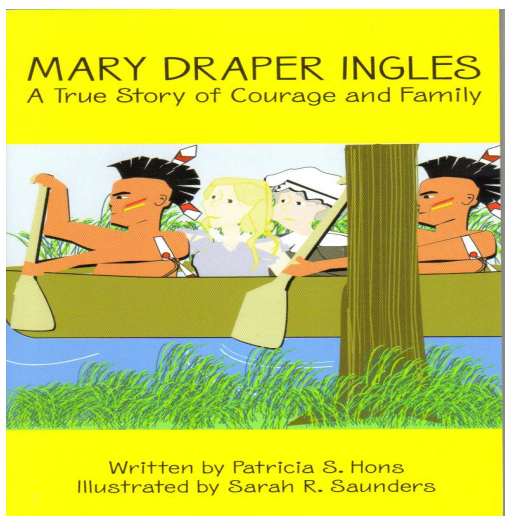
Happy New Year!

Dr. Jeff Hendrix

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Talents at North Dearborn Elementary

North Dearborn Elementary is full of talent. From the excellent performances prepared by Mrs. Julie Wilson and her students, to the artwork displayed in the halls. We have a lot to be proud of!



Recently North Dearborn's very own guidance counselor, Mrs. Patricia Hons, shared the story of her ancestor, Mary Ingles, with the fourth grade students at North Dearborn Elementary School. Mary Ingles was a young woman living in Virginia when she and her children were kidnapped by Native Americans of the Shawnee tribe. She was brought to our area to live and be adopted by the Native Americans. After living with them for about 7 months she made her escape at what is now Big Bone Lick State Park. She walked 800 miles during the cold months of October and November, much of the time near starvation, to reach her home. Together she and her husband searched for their children over the next several years. They were finally united as a family many years after the kidnapping.

This story has been passed down from one generation to the next and finally to Mrs. Hons. She then decided to write and publish the story so that children could appreciate the trials that Mary Ingles had endured. Thank you, Mrs. Hons, for sharing this story with our students.

East Central hosts Mini-Dance Camp

The ECHS Dance Team held their annual mini-dance camp for kids ages 2 years to 4th grade. There were 40 little girls that attended. Shown here is their performance picture. They worked hard for four days. On the fourth day, they put on a performance for their family and friends in the ECHS Performing Arts Center. They were also featured at the ECHS Boys Varsity Basketball game on December 21st.



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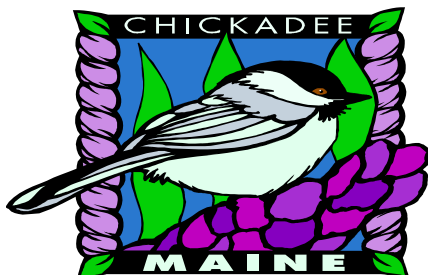
SES Readers Enjoy Young Hoosier Books

Sunman Elementary students have always enjoyed the books selected for the Young Hoosier Book Awards. Each year a collection of 20 books in each of three categories is nominated for the prestigious Young Hoosier Award. At the elementary school level, two collections are reviewed and shared.

The first collection, the Primary collection, consists of 20 picture books. Over the course of the school year, the library supervisor, Mrs. Menkedick, reads each of these books to all students in K-3rd grade. At the end of the year, each student is permitted to vote for their favorite book in the collection. The book that receives the most student votes across the state is awarded the title of Young Hoosier Book.

The second collection, the Intermediate collection, consists of 20 chapter books appropriate for grades 4 through 6. Sunman Elementary fourth grade students are challenged to read these books on their own. If a student reads 5 of the 20 books, s/he is entitled to vote for their personal favorite. Already this year, we have 18 students who have read five books, 7 students who have read ten books, 3 students who have read fifteen books, and one student who has read all twenty books.

S-DIS Project FeederWatch



Project FeederWatch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America from November through early April.

Mrs. Lillie's class at Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School has become FeederWatchers, counting the birds they see at feeders placed outside the classroom windows every Tuesday and Wednesday.

This data is collected and sent to Project FeederWatch. The FeederWatch data helps scientists at Cornell University to track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. Mrs. Lillie's class studied clues to bird identification, so that they could correctly report what they saw. These included silhouette, patterns and colors, size, beak shape and size, and posture. They also used binoculars and the Stokes *Beginner's Guide to Birds* book to help with recognition. These materials were provided to Mrs. Lillie when she attended "The Nature of Teaching: Birds" at Purdue University.

So far, students have seen goldfinches, house finches, crows, cardinals, and sparrows. The feeding station includes mixed seed, thistle, black sunflower seeds, and suet blocks, with the hope that more birds will be attracted to the feeders as the weather changes and as birds migrate.

The class created their own bird feeders from materials that could be recycled. This connected their study of birds with their study of resources, conservation, and recycling.

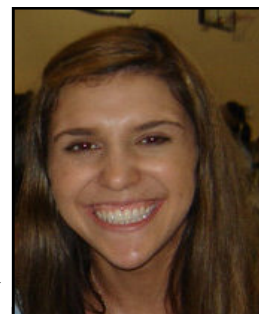
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The Power of Whole Grains

You may have noticed a *WG* on the school lunch menus the past few months. This indicates that a menu item is rich in whole grains or is a whole wheat product. Some of you may be asking why whole grains are such a big deal.

Whole grain products are high in fiber and pack a powerful punch when it comes to good health! Take a look:

- Whole grains provide long lasting energy for class, sports, dance class and other daily activities.
- Unlike refined grains found in white breads and pasta, whole grains will keep you full for hours, thus helping students focus on school work instead of their growling stomachs.
- Whole grains also help with weight control by filling you up on less calories and keeping you full for longer.
- Whole grains are rich in B vitamins such as thiamin, riboflavin, niacin and folate as well as iron, selenium and magnesium. All of these help to improve the immune system, lower cholesterol levels and decrease risk for diseases such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease.



*Mandy Grassi
Food Service
Director*

Our school meals will continue to provide whole grains on a regular basis to ensure our students have the proper fuel to be the best they can be in all aspects of their lives. Next time you are at the grocery store try adding 100% whole wheat bread, whole wheat pasta, brown rice and oatmeal to your cart and see the power of whole grains for yourself!

Visit www.mypyramid.gov for more information.

Important Message from the Food Service Department

Starting January 4, 2011 please put your child's account number on all checks. Make all checks payable to Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools Cafeteria. Please email mgrassi@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us with any questions.



Happy New Year!



Sunman-Dearborn Youth Athletic Association

Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken

Youth Baseball and Slow Pitch Softball* Sign Ups

Sat. Jan. 8th from 9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. at Snappy Tomato in Bright

Sat. Jan. 15th from 9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. at the ECHS fieldhouse entrance

Thurs. Jan. 20th from 6:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. at the SDIS cafeteria

Co-ed Coach pitch / Tee ball baseball is available for children 5 and 6 years old.

Machine-pitch baseball league is available for children 7 and 8 years old.

Slow pitch Softball leagues for ages 7 to 18 years old.

Baseball Leagues for children 9 to 18 years old.

For details go to www.sdyaa.org

*The softball program is slow Pitch for 2011

Fast pitch is offered through the EC program

Dinner with special Guest Speaker Chris Welsh

Former MLB Player/Current Cincinnati Reds Broadcaster

Fri. Jan. 21st from 6:00p.m. – Midnight

St. Joseph Parish Life Center in St. Leon, Indiana

Dinner starts at 6:00pm with Chris Welsh speaking at 7:00 pm.

Stay for the Cornhole Tournament and Music following the speaker.

Meal includes: Roast Beef, Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Corn, Green Beans, and Mashed Potatoes. Drinks included.

Tickets are \$40 for this special event evening

21 and over

Please call Scott Greiwe to order your tickets today 812-576-1300. Tickets will also be available at the signup locations.

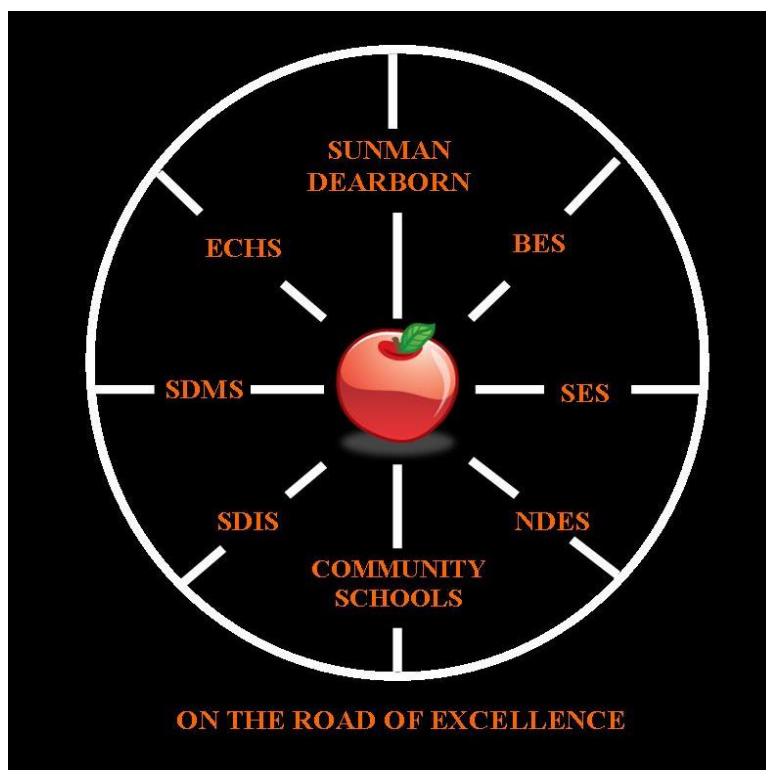
For details please visit our league website at www.sdyaa.org

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Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools*

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



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