

The S-DCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

Student Achievement—Focusing on Reading and Writing

It is always a thrill to experience a young child beginning to recognize letters, pronouncing the letter sounds and then reading words. It is even a more enjoyable experience watching that child take those words and reading them aloud in sentences, paragraphs and short stories as they begin the process of learning to actually read and comprehend what they have read. Many of us realize how important it is to be a good reader. Without reading, we would definitely be in a world of darkness. We would not be able to enjoy any experiences outside of our own little worlds of daily life. Our ability to expand our knowledge of the world, our ability to gain the necessary information to do our jobs better, and our ability to live a better life is necessitated by the need to be a better reader.

Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools believes that one of the best tools that we can give a child to use in life is the ability to read. We have worked very hard to develop programs that take students at their present reading level and move them further along the academic road. We are beginning to look at how we can better evaluate our students' abilities to read so that we can increase their levels of proficiency. Our libraries are now accessible through the internet so that students can even look for books housed at our schools sitting in their own homes. Furthermore, as our libraries are now automated using the Destiny program, our teachers have access to an online card catalog that they can use to help students find books. Reading truly is fundamental, and no child should be without that skill.

It is important to remember that a student must also be as good a writer as a good reader. Sunman-Dearborn Schools currently uses the Six Traits writing program to help its students become better writers. Our teachers use this program to guide students through numerous opportunities to write at different levels, in different disciplines, and on many different topics.

As we have found in our research on student learning, students who are excellent readers and excellent writers will be more successful in all school subjects than those students who struggle as readers and writers. We believe that it imperative to bring our students up to grade level and then take them further along the academic road. We hope that one day our students will become parents and teachers who will enjoy watching their children and students begin the process of learning how to read. I think that we can all agree that there truly is "joy in reading."

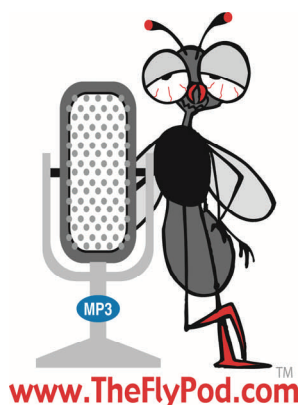


Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent

Volume 2, Issue 7
February 2012

Dr. Jeff Hendrix

The FlyPod...are you catching 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. Past chats have featured faculty and even students from our schools and have covered topics including budget, athletics, student council, and much more. Gary also has featured our elementary schools in his segment titled "Your School".

Enter www.TinyURL.com/SDSC-Schools in your address line on a new web page to hear the latest SuperChat featuring Dr. Hendrix. The next chat is February 7, 2012

Making Spirits "Bright"



Third and fourth grade students from Bright Elementary are pictured here as they helped friends and family welcome the holiday season with a concert. It featured all of the students performing on the recorder, some "Boomwhacker" music, and a mini-musical for young voices entitled "Melton, the Warm-Hearted Snowman." Everyone, participants and audience alike, enjoyed the program, which was presented on December 21, 2011, in the Performing Arts Center. In addition, twenty Indiana State Standards for Music Education were met in preparing and presenting this program. Sunman Elementary's third and fourth graders presented a similar program the day before. Both schools are under the direction of Mrs. Pam Gast. (Photo by Dan Dobbins)

S-DESE

Info from the ECHS Guidance Department

By: Bev Ester, ECHS Guidance Director

Spring 2012

EC ECHS College & Career Fair -
Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

EC Student Schedules for 2012-13 school year to be distributed by April 27. No schedule changes after May 18, unless –

- needed to meet H.S. graduation requirements
- needed to meet college entrance requirements
- student is academically misplaced
- needed to balance over-crowded classes
- an error in computer entry
- late staff changes

EC End-of-Course Assessments -
April 23 through May 4

- Biology - April 23 - May 2
- English 10 - April 24 - May 3
- Algebra I - April 25 - May 4

EC SAT at East Central - Saturday, May 5

EC AP Exams

- Monday, May 7 - (A.M.)
Chemistry
- Tuesday, May 8 - (A.M.)
Computer Science
- Wednesday, May 9 - (A.M.)
Calculus AB & BC
- Thursday, May 10 - (A.M.)
English Literature
- Friday, May 11 - (A.M.)
U. S. History
- Monday, May 14 - (A.M.)
Biology
- Monday, May 14 - (P.M.)
Physics C: Mechanics
- Tuesday, May 15 - (A.M.)
U. S. Government
- Wednesday, May 16 - (A.M.)
English Language – Comp
- Wednesday, May 16 - (P.M.)
Statistics
- Thursday, May 17 - (P.M.)
World History

EC GRADUATION - June 3

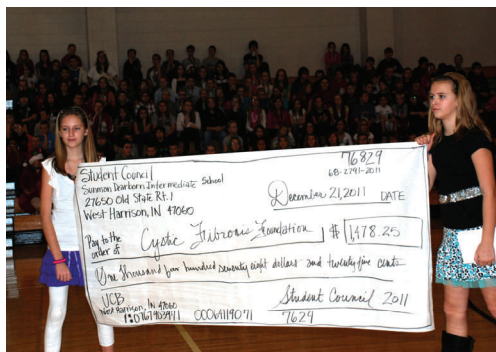
North Dearborn Students Make a Difference

Many of our classes at NDES are involved in community outreach projects. Just walk down the main hallway of the school and you can see posters highlighting many of these projects. Whether it is assisting at the PAWS shelter, visiting with members of one of our area nursing homes, cleaning up trash, or unloading and stacking donations at the food pantry, the students at NDES are doing their part to help our community.

There are two opportunities coming up for our students to make a change on a larger scale. The annual Pennies for Pasta drive and the Jump Rope for Heart will both take place this month. Pennies for Pasta is a chance for students to donate their spare change to make a change for the leukemia/lymphoma society. The Jump Rope for Heart event will be held on February 14th and will take place during the students' gym times. This event is a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Both events will be closed with fun and prizes for those students who participate in the events.

S-DeSe

Students at S-DIS love helping the community!



The students at Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School are always determined and proud of raising funds for community organizations such as the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. Just recently, on behalf of one of our students with Cystic Fibrosis, the students prevailed again. A few months ago, a few young ladies decided to take on a fundraiser for their classmate. The student body was very receptive of the cause, and the girls were able to present a check for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to the family in the amount of \$1,478.25.



The staff and students celebrated this accomplishment by having the first ever Cystic Fibrosis Winter Olympics. Students from various classes and the staff enjoyed competing in different events such as scooter races, ball toss, bowling, Frisbee throwing, hula-hooping, etc.



S-DIS has a few more events for the community coming up. Our students will soon be participating in the St. Jude's Math-A-Thon. Additionally, Destination Imagination will be collecting various items for the Dearborn Counts P.A.W.S. (Partners for Animal Welfare Society). If you are interested in donating, please drop off your donation to the S-DIS front office.

IAG Award Recipient from SDIS

Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School sixth grade student, Sydney Hornberger, was the recipient of the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award from the Indiana Association for the Gifted. The award is given, in memory of Nicholas Green, to a student exemplifying excellence in gifted education. IAG held their annual conference on January 23, 2012 in Indianapolis, IN. Sydney was honored, in the company of 800 Indiana educators, at the conference luncheon and was awarded a \$500.00 scholarship. Sydney's teacher, Patricia Pierce, nominated Sydney for the award because of her leadership, diligence and excellence in spearheading a school news media program. Sydney is the daughter of Becky and Dwayne Hornberger of Sunman. Congratulations to Sydney on this amazing honor.



February is National Heart Month

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. We at Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools Food Service Department take heart health to heart!

Here are some easy to follow tips to help make sure you and your family's hearts stay strong and disease free:



- Choose heart healthy fats over saturated and trans fats. Foods such as full fat dairy, beef, chips and crackers are just a few sources of saturated and trans fats.
- Choose whole grains whenever possible. We serve a variety of whole grain breads, breadsticks, rolls and pastas for lunch each month.
- Consume more fresh produce. Fresh fruits and vegetables are offered DAILY at every school.
- Limit sodium intake. We are doing more scratch cooking each month and aiming to decrease the amount of processed foods served.
- Exercise portion control. All menus are planned by me, a Registered Dietitian, based on the National School Lunch program guidelines and are strictly regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

These are just a few ways we are trying to keep the students of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools strong and healthy. For more information on living heart healthy visit www.cdc.gov.

2012-13 School Calendar

August 9-10, 2012	Teacher Workdays	January 2, 2013	Teacher Record Day/
August 13	First Student Day		In-Service Day
September 3	Labor Day - No School	January 3	Classes Resume After
October 12	End of 1st grading period (44 student days)		Christmas Vacation
October 17	Students Not Present	March 8	End of 3rd grading period (47 student days)
	Parent-Teacher Conferences/ Professional Development	March 18-22	Snow Make-up Days
October 18-19	Fall Vacation - No School	March 25-29	Spring Break – No School
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Vacation - No School	May 23	Last Student Day
December 21	Last Student Day Prior to Christmas Vacation		End of 4th grading period (44 student days)
	End of 2nd grading period (45 student days)	May 24	End of 2nd Semester (91 student days)
	End of 1st Semester (89 student days)	May 27	Teacher Record Day/ In-Service Day
		June 2	Memorial Day- No School
			ECHS Graduation

Total Students Days- 180 Total Teacher Days- 185

The calendar may be shortened or lengthened to reflect a total of 180 student days as required by I.C. 20-30-2-3 and the teacher record day will follow the last student day. Adopted: January 12, 2012

S-DESE

Countdown to ISTEP

Sunman-Dearborn Middle School has started the countdown to ISTEP which will blast through March 2, 2012. ISTEP testing starts on March 5, 2012. Countdown to ISTEP is a remediation program that will be used to address student deficit areas on core academic standards and motivate students to give their personal bests. During homeroom each day teachers will present specific standard-based activities to re-teach and review. In addition, math review activities will occur in math classes as a supplement to existing instruction. Incentives will be offered to both students and teachers as they participate in this process. In final preparation for ISTEP, qualifying students will be offered remediation after school from February 20 - March 2, 2012. These classes will be open to students who have specific remedial needs which can be better addressed in the small group situation. For additional information, questions or comments, parents may contact S-DMS.

SE: Kids Caring and Sharing Miracle School

Each year, Sunman Elementary students show they care about others in a variety of philanthropic activities. One of these activities is raising money for Riley Hospital for Children, located in Indianapolis. Riley Hospital provides services to students in all of Indiana's 92 counties each year.

Sunman Elementary participates in donating through "Kids Caring and Sharing" (KCS), which is the official fundraising priority of the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP), of which all Sunman-Dearborn principals are members. Since 1985, KCS has raised over eleven million dollars to help the students who receive services from Riley Hospital.

In the past, Sunman Elementary has participated by having donation collections on October 7th in which students bring in "Seven Coins for Riley" as well as purchasing paper hearts in February for \$1.00. These hearts are then displayed in the Sunman office area. During Read Across America Week, donated, gently used books have been resold to students for \$.25 each. All proceeds from this activity were given to KCS.

This year, teachers participated by donating \$5.00 to wear jeans to work in the month of January, and students participated with a "Pajama Day". Students were simply asked to make a donation, and they were then allowed to wear their pajamas on Friday, January 13th. Leaving the donation amount up to the donor and his or her parents allowed all students to be able to participate, and participate they did! We were overwhelmed when the school collected \$375.54 in this single donation drive. Combined with the teacher donations, Sunman Elementary became a Miracle School; a designation for schools who donate at least the equivalent of \$1.00 per student enrolled.

For more information on KCS or IASP, feel free to visit the following web sites:

KCS: <http://kidscaringandsharing.org/about-kcs/about-kcs/page.aspx?id=255>

IASP: <http://www.iasp.org/>



S-DESE

Athletic Department News

Congratulations goes out to both the Girls Freshman Basketball team coached by Mark Sandman and the Boys Freshman Basketball team coached by Dan Kleckner for being EIAC Champions this year. The Girls Varsity Basketball Team, coached by Kevin Moore, were EIAC Co-Champions, their first title since 1998. Way to go!!!

The Girls Varsity Swim team, coached by Brandon Loveless, took 3rd Place in the EIAC. The Boys Varsity Swim team, also coached by Loveless were EIAC Champions. Individual champs include Derek Roth, Sean Gish, Jacob Senitza, and Sean Guthrie for the 200 Medley; Derek Roth for the 100 Backstroke; Logan Jackson for the 1-Meter Diving; and Jacob Senitza for the 100 Butterfly. Great job swimmers!!

Derek Rehage coached the Varsity Wrestling team to EIAC Champions and 2nd Place in the IHSAA Sectional. EIAC individual champs include Brian Struewing, Zach Hutchinson, and Ricky Brown. IHSAA sectional champs include Zach Hutchinson, and Ricky Brown. Congrats!!!



Beacon Orthopedics will be administering IHSAA Sports Physicals on Wednesday, May 9th and Thursday, May 10th. Any student wanting to participate in athletics or advanced P.E. for the 2012-13 school year need to have a physical on file in the athletic office.

Reminder that all student-athletes are required to pay a \$50.00 transportation fee for each athletic team they participate on with \$100.00 max.

The athletic department and student council are working together to plan a fun night on Friday, February 24th for the boys basketball game. It will be Senior Honor Night, a Color Guard and Percussion Performance during the game and a school dance following!

For more information or if you have questions, please contact the athletic office at ECHS.

S-DESE

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Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

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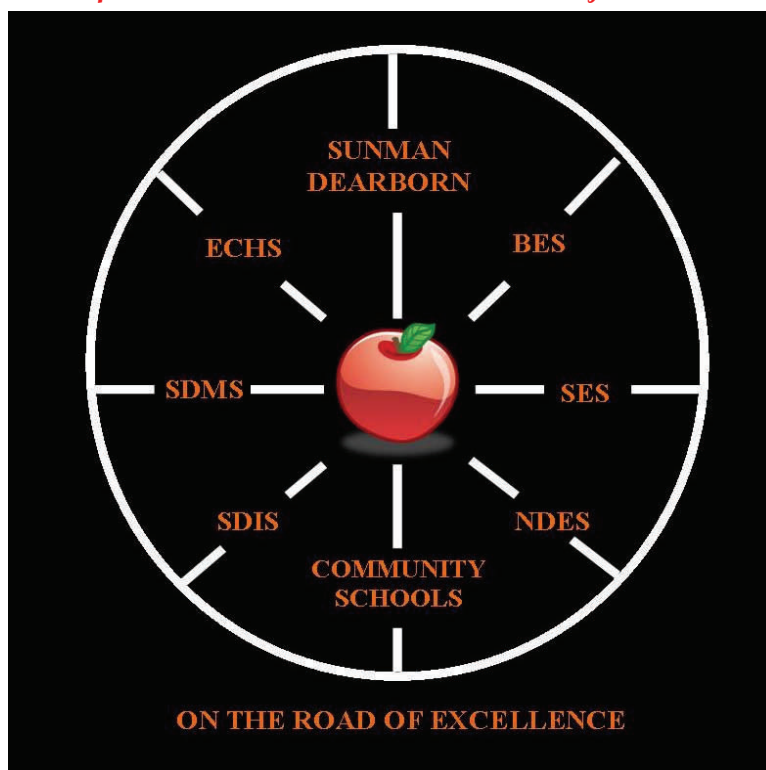
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**To Create a Culture of Educational
Excellence for Each Student!**



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