

The S-DCS Column

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE STAKEHOLDERS OF SUNMAN-DEARBORN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

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As we enter the last month of school, it is a great time for all of us to begin reflecting on the school year that is nearing completion. Students and parents who began the year thinking about goals that were set in August for student achievement can now review what was accomplished. Schools are beginning to review the progress students made during the year by looking at students' progress reports. They are also looking forward to the results from state testing. This review and reflection is extremely important as we all plan for the future.

The last several years in public education have brought a new perspective on school improvement. Schools and districts are now rated by the State of Indiana with a letter grade. This means that schools must analyze data that is collected on students from attendance rates and graduation rates as well as student discipline and achievement. This data becomes extremely important in determining how educators will positively impact the lives of students in their classroom.

As I reflect on this change in our approach to looking at data, I am reminded of a couple of quotes that I have shared with teachers and administrators over the years. These quotes refer to human nature and most importantly, the idea for change.

"Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

- Attributed to Albert Einstein

"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got."

- Attributed to Anthony Robbins

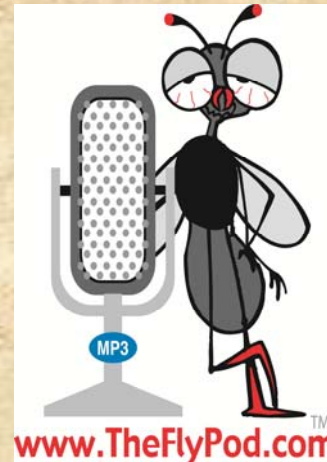
Whether either man originated these statements, the power of the messages is extremely important. As educators, we must constantly assess what we do in the classroom each day based on the results that we have measured. If we don't change our practices, then it is obvious that our results will not likely change the next time they are measured. As I think about the educational process, I have come to the realization that even though we have the opportunity to educate children for a minimum of 13 years in public schools, it is important that we use this time wisely.

The opportunities that educators in Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools to educate the children in our community are given to us are ones that are not taken likely. We are very fortunate that parents have selected our schools to send their children to be educated. With this trust in our educators, I have shared with teachers and administrators that every second, every minute, every hour and every day that a child attends school without learning valuable skills, is time that we will never get back. The point is that we must always make learning the constant in our classrooms. We must focus on helping every child get to the finish line of learning. Most importantly, we are here to help children cross that finish line.

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. Last month's chat was recorded on April 8th and featured Tom Harris, Director of Support Services, discussing building projects and Dr. Hendrix speaking about school safety. This month's edition will be recorded on May 9th.



SUMMER FUEL

The temperatures are heating up and that means it is almost summer vacation for our students! Just because school is out doesn't mean the nutrition lessons should be forgotten. A balanced diet is critical in the summertime, especially if you have an active family. Here are some easy tips to keep your family happy and healthy this summer:

Make healthy foods easily accessible!

Try placing sliced veggies in the fridge at eye level or have frozen grapes cleaned and pre-portioned in the freezer for a cool treat on a hot summer day.

Limit sugary drinks! Try to drink water for hydration instead of lemonade or pop, which can actually make you thirstier.

Eat breakfast! Even if your family sleeps in, it is vital to "break the fast" from overnight with a well-balanced breakfast that includes at least 3 food groups.

Get moving! Try starting a new family tradition of taking an after dinner walk together to enjoy the nice weather.

I hope that these simple tips will help you and your families stay healthy this summer. See you in the fall!

Reminder: Breakfast will continue to be offered every morning before school in all buildings!

Fuel Up!

ALL CAFETERIA BALANCES NEED TO BE CURRENT BY THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Mrs. Copenhaver
Director of Food and Nutrition Services



ACCELERATED READER AUCTION



It was the annual AR Auction for one of the sixth grade groups at S-DIS. Any points the students accumulated throughout the year for passing AR tests could be used as “dollars” in a live auction. Thanks to Randy Lutz for his auction expertise. He has been with us since the initial year this awesome auction began. Items to buy varied including bicycles, clothing, duct tape, snacks, etc.

Thanks to all who supported this event!

*Mrs Vennemeier
Sunman-Dearborn
Intermediate Principal*

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEARNING “HOW TO”

The S-DIS landscaping has needed a makeover for a long, long, time. Mrs. Ashley Tebbe, Mrs. Julie Schroder, Mrs. Deysi Oehlman, and Mr. Grant Schiering decided that they would get involved. They and their students have completely removed and uprooted everything to be replaced with new trees and greenery. Not only are they volunteering their physical labor, they are learning and preparing writing pieces to explain the process and how they went about the entire project. By next month’s edition, we will have the final outcome. We are very proud and thankful for our students and staff for taking on such an enormous project, and learning as they do it!



MAKING MUSIC: KEYBOARD STYLE

S-DIS students just finished up a unit on guitars, in which they had to design and build a guitar out of materials of their choice. We had anything from cereal boxes to a toilet seat to cakes! Now, they move on to a keyboard unit. Each student has his/her own keyboard to use and will not only read and play music, he or she will create his/her own musical pieces.



S-DMS ON THE MOVE

We have a number of events happening at SDMS in the upcoming weeks. SDMS chorus students will host the spring Choral concert on May 13, at 6:30 p.m. Band students will share what they have learned throughout the year at their spring band concert on May 14, at 7:00 p.m. We have many talented students at SDMS. Just to prove it, we are also holding our annual talent show on May 23, starting at 8:30 a.m. We have 24 creative acts that will perform. We will end the last day of school with field day activities and the staff/student basketball game. We also ask parents and students to join us for our first annual 8th grade graduation. Students will be receiving awards nominated by their peers and from the community. Each 8th grade student will be acknowledged for his/her accomplishments at SDMS.

HAVING FUN FOR A CAUSE

It's that time of year again! Thanks to Mrs. Jina Muncy, Student Council, and the staff and students at S-DIS, we came together to celebrate raising donations for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in our "Pennies for Patients" program. The students faced the staff to "hoop it up". S-DIS raised over \$2,500. A special thanks to Ms. Elise Smith for allowing the students to duct tape her to the wall for a small donation.



EC HS NEWS

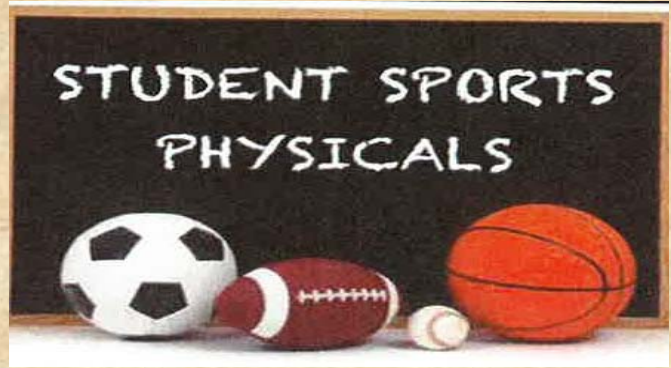
Another school year is nearly done. Students and teachers are preparing for final examinations, final projects, end-of-course assessments, AP exams, and various other year-end tasks. It has been a good year, full of new endeavors and rich learning opportunities for all. In typical fashion we will end the year with recognizing students for their efforts. A few important dates to do so are coming up with Senior Scholarship Night on May 8th at 6:30, Underclass Awards on May 17th, and graduation on Sunday June 2nd at 2 PM. Final examinations will be held on May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.

Our focus this school year has been on improving instruction with an emphasis on writing and reading. Our school improvement measurement is based upon the gains in writing and reading as measured by the Criterion Writing and STAR reading assessments respectfully. East Central has shown gains in this area for the last two years. We are confident that when all the data is in for the year that we will once again see growth in our scores.

Also this year, we have worked to make a better learning environment free of bullying and safe from the dangers we can prevent by diligent work and meaningful application. Although we are far from being bully free, we are striving to improve and create the best learning environment that we can. Several staff members attend and glean new information to keep our school safe at the annual Indiana School Safety Specialists Academy in Indianapolis. Recently, new security measures were put in place to make the school safer.

All in all, I am proud of East Central High School and the education we provide for all. It is my mission to continue to help protect and educate our children to the best of my abilities. I hope your children have had a good year and are proud to be a Trojan! I look forward to a solid finish to our school year and look forward to starting it all again next August.

Mr. Shipley
East Central High School Principal



Pre-Participation Sports Physicals will be offered to student athletes entering 7th-12th grades on May 7th and May 8th from 3:00—5:00 pm in the East Central High School main gym. The cost is \$20 cash or check made to EC and \$10 will be given back to your school's Athletic Department. Physical Forms are available at www.doctorargo.com or in the athletic office at EC. Bring from signed by a parent and wear shorts.

NDES EARTH DAY PROJECT

North Dearborn Elementary School is sending a very clear and positive message that they care about our environment! They have participated in the twentieth annual **Earth Day Groceries Project!** A Big Thanks goes out to both the Harrison and Lawrenceburg Kroger's for making this possible. During the student's art period with Mr. Craddock, they decorated 700 paper grocery bags with environmental messages. On Earth Day, April 22, Kroger shoppers received one of these bags filled with your groceries! Pictured is Ms. Weaver's second class with Principal Jeff Bond and art teacher Mr. Craddock. We also want to thank Mrs. Clark for working with Krogers and making this all possible.



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Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

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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



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