

**Southwest
Schools**

Southwest 'Rider News

April 2010

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - Dave Hendricks

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Special points of interest:

- April 2 NO SCHOOL
- April 5 NO SCHOOL
- April 12 Music Program Grades 7-12 at High School 7:00 PM
- April 26 Honors Night at High School 7:00 PM
- April 26 Bike Rodeo at Elementary Grades 1st and 3rd 1:00 PM

Board to Consider Effect of State Aid Reduction

At a special March 31st and regular April 12th meeting, the Southwest Board of Education will consider options the district has for reducing expenditures due to the loss of state aid revenue for the 2010-2011 school year. A similar dilemma was presented to the board just two years ago when state aid revenue was also cut. Southwest's current state aid of \$1,264,469.28 will be reduced by \$601,140.51. All aspects of the budget will be considered including reducing certified and non-certified staff, delaying certain purchases such

as a scheduled route bus replacement, reducing travel and meeting expenses, and purchasing fewer materials and supplies. All of these reductions will not effect the ability to meet or exceed the Nebraska Department of Education's Rule 10 which deals with the accreditation of schools. The administration will develop recommendations for the board to consider, with final budget adoption by the board at their regular September, 2010 board meeting. Board of Education Brochure Inserted in this month's newsletter is a brochure informing patrons of the

district's various aspects of the Board of Education. The brochure discusses the role of the Board of Education, the organization of the board, how the board receives complaints, types of meetings the board holds, public participation at board meetings, board code of ethics, board policies, and the district's mission statement. Besides this mailing, copies of the brochure will be available at each board meeting and in the office area of each school building. If you have any questions about this information, please contact the superintendent of schools at the Bartley site 308.692.3223.

News from the School Nurse

We all know that in February the infamous ground hog has predicted the rest of the winter weather. That should pale in comparison to what happened on February 3, 2010. On that day the British Medical Journal retracted a 1998 research paper that caused many parents to stop having their children immunized for fear that they would cause autism. The thimerosal in the MMR was widely blamed and yet the rate of autism has not decreased even though thimerosal was taken out of the vaccine 9 years ago. The sad truth that was revealed in February was that the author of the false study, Dr. Andrew Wakefield had accepted funding from parents trying to sue the drug companies. It was also discovered that in 1997, he patented a new vaccine that he hoped would be used if others were discredited. The MMR and other vaccines have gone through exhaustive, comprehensive studies and the scientific FACTS show that there is no connection between them and autism. Don't be fooled by fraud, corruption and sadly outright lies - get your child immunized. Here are some of the many who agree:

Institute of Medicine, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Society, World Health Organization, National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration

Kindergarten Orientation - April 12, 2010

Southwest Public Schools will have Kindergarten registration on Monday, April 12, 2010. It will be held at the elementary school in Indianola. For your convenience we have established two different times for you to choose from. They are 9:00 AM or 1:00 PM. Each presentation will last approximately 1 hour. Call the school at 364-2613 and let us know which session you will be attending.

Requirements:

- 5 years old on or before October 15, 2010

Bring items below the day of registration:

- ◇ Completed list of your child's immunizations. The dates of each shot must include the month, day, and year.
- ◇ Current address and telephone number
- ◇ Your child

Bring Documents by Registration or August 2010

- Completed physical form
- Certified copy of your child's birth certificate
- Certified vision form
- Current Immunizations with dates of each shot

****You do not need the documents to attend the kindergarten registration****

Southwest Public Schools is also taking part in "Child Find" a statewide program to locate and provide services for children ages infancy through five years, who may have physical, mental, or emotional difficulties. Screening is also available free of charge. For more information contact the school at 308-364-2613.

Southwest Public Schools encourages you to attend one of the sessions with your child on the date that has been set.

Math Olympiad

Eight elementary students have participated in Math Olympiads this year. The students took five monthly tests of challenging math problems from November-March. Finishing in first place this year was Drew Minard. Drew Hofman was 2nd, Lance Kelley 3rd, and Ashlee Morosic 4th. Other students involved in Math Olympiads were Neta Penner, Claire Rasmussen, Kaden Van Pelt, and Suzanne Roggenkamp.

High School Music Contest - Ms. Gosnell

On Thursday, March 25th, Maywood Schools hosted its annual music contest. Area students attend this contest to help prepare them for District Music Contest in April. Both music and band students from Southwest, grades 9-12 competed. The judges proved to be tough this year, but their comments will definitely help our students better prepare for April.

Students receiving *superior* ratings include: Erin Kelley, piano solo; Danielle Blume, piano solo; Danielle Blume, alto sax solo; Kendra Cuellar, vocal solo; Cascade Tollman and Tiffany Greene, flute duet; Kassidy McConville and Kate Kelley, clarinet trio; and Kourtney McConville and April Guthrie, snare drum duet.

Vocal students receiving *excellent* ratings include: Chloe Hauxwell, vocal solo; Erin Kelley, vocal solo; Sierra Meador, vocal solo; Skyler Murray, vocal solo; Helen Solberg and Jordan May, vocal duet; April Guthrie, Erin Kelley and Allie McConville, vocal trio; Emily Fitzsimmons, Chloe Hauxwell, Taryn Jacob, Kelsey Longnecker, Cassa McConville, and Lauren Ruggles, freshmen sextet; Kendra Cuellar, April Guthrie, Erin Kelley, Kimberlyn McConville, Katie Messersmith, Ashlee Minard, Tiffany Quador, Brooke Ryan, and Mariane Wright, senior triple trio; and Justin Brooks, Kendra Cuellar, Chris Dunn, April Guthrie, Erin Kelley, Allie McConville, Kimberlyn McConville, Skyler Murray, Nathan Parks, Tiffany Quador, and Cody Roland, mixed ensemble.

Band students receiving *excellent* ratings include: Erin Kelley, flute solo; Cascade Tollman, flute solo; Kassidy McConville, clarinet solo; Autumn Rae, trumpet solo; Blake Storrs, snare solo; Katie Messersmith, violin solo; Erin and Kate Kelley, flute/clarinet duet; Cassa McConville and Amber Daffer, alto sax duet; Dylan Helberg and Ashlee Minard, tenor/bari sax duet; and April Guthrie, Kimberly Lord, Kourtney McConville, James Rae, Blake Storrs, and Mariane Wright, percussion ensemble.

Ms. Gosnell and Mrs. Fisher would like to thank the students for all their hard work and encourage friends and family to attend District Music Contest on Thursday, April 22 at the McCook Senior High School.

ELEMENTARY MUSIC - MRS. ROGGENKAMP

I can't believe how fast the semester is going and how much we've accomplished in elementary music! We had 19 of our 5th and 6th graders learn and memorize 6 songs to participate in Sing Around Nebraska. We went to the Kearney site on Saturday, February 27th. We had an all day clinic and a concert for the parents at 4:00.

The following day, Sunday, February 28th, we had our annual Dessert Theater in the auditorium in Bartley. The concert consisted of 2nd - 6th graders who sang songs and played instruments. We raised money for the Southwest School Foundation, a group that gives scholarships to graduating seniors.

5th graders have learned two songs that they will sing at their DARE graduation later this week. One of the songs we wrote in class to the tune of "Celebration", by Kool & the Gang. They are excited to perform this one!

We're getting 5th and 6th graders ready for a music contest in Arapahoe on Saturday, April 17th. They will sing songs for judges, who will give them grades. Those who receive a rating of Superior or Excellent will also receive ribbons.

3rd graders are busy getting ready for their Good Friends finale on Friday, April 23rd. We will perform a musical for their parents, their Good Friends,

and their Good Friends' spouse.

And last, but not least, we will have our Spring Music Program on Monday, May 3rd. We have some special things for this program: 1st and 2nd graders will be performing a musical, the 4th graders will play their recorders, the 5th and 6th grade bands will play. It will be an evening full of fun and entertainment. I hope to see all of you there.

So we have kept busy this semester, which makes the time fly. Before we know it, we'll be making our summer plans because the year will be over.

We have a lot to do before then, so we'll just keep on practicing!!

KEEP YOUR CHILD INVOLVED IN SPORTS

A Self-Assessment Tool for Parents

Parents are the key to improving youth sports for everyone. Take this self-test to see if you're doing all you can to keep your child active in sports and receiving the benefits of sports participation.

Do you know your role?

- I realize that there are only four roles in sport – player, coach, official, or fan – and I pick one and stick with it.
- I understand that my child is the participant, not me, and my expectations are based on my child's needs, not mine.
- I avoid "coaching" from the stands, and I also avoid criticizing officials, coaches, and opposing players.
- I seek to be a positive and encouraging fan, applauding good plays for both teams.
- If I coach my child's team, I seek to model appropriate behavior and sportsmanship.

Do you have it all in perspective?

- I understand that children play sports for fun, fitness, friends, participation, and skill development.
- I examine my own reasons for being involved and make sure my child's reasons for playing come before mine.
- I focus on encouraging skill development and fun participation, not on winning.
- I realize that children's work is "play" and I try not to interfere with their experience.
- I am focused on my child's development as a whole person, not on his or her prospects for a sports scholarship or for a professional career playing sports.

For more information, see
www.sportsmanship.org

Do you model the kind of behavior you'd like to see in your child?

- I let the coaches coach and the officials officiate.
- I avoid criticizing officials, coaches, or players – both during the game and after.
- I applaud good plays for both teams.
- I treat coaches, officials, players and other parents with respect.
- I provide only positive encouragement before, during, and after the game. If I can't say anything nice, I don't say anything at all.

Do you encourage sports participation for the long term?

- I do all I can to make sports participation fun, particularly since experts advise that most children stop participating when sports are no longer fun for them.
- I am quiet after the game and avoid critiquing or analyzing my child's performance on the way home. I know my child wants to hear me say, "I love watching you play."
- I seek out leagues with trained coaches who focus on the positive aspects of sport, including sportsmanship, fun, and skill development.
- I try to make five positive comments for every one critical comment to my child. Experts advise "filling the child's tank" with positive comments to aid in learning.
- I resist efforts to make my child specialize in any particular sport at a young age.

Elementary News - Mrs. Rasmussen

April is our final, full month of school, and we're going to make the most of it at the elementary. This newsletter article will inform you of all the happenings over the next month.

Monday, April 12th is Kindergarten Registration. On that day, we welcome all prospective kindergartens students and their parents. Students will participate in activities in the classroom while parents attend an informational meeting. To attend kindergarten this fall, students only need to be five before October 15th. There was a law passed (LB 1006) that will move kindergarten entrance date to July 31st; however that does not take affect until the 2012-2013 school year.

Before children start kindergarten state law requires an eye exam, a physical, immunizations records, and a copy of the stu-

dents certified birth certificate. These items are **not** required to attend Kindergarten Registration; however we will take any records that you would like to share at that time. All records need to be on file prior to or on the first day of school.

Third grade is looking forward to the Good Friends final program, the night of April 23rd at 7:00 pm. On that evening, the Good Friends supply the treats and the third graders supply the entertainment. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child to meet the Good Friends.

On April 26th, 1st and 3rd grade students will participate in the Bike Rodeo. On that day, students in those grades learn bicycle safety and have a chance to ride their bike through a course. We encourage students who have bikes to bring them that day. If they don't, we will have bikes for

them to use. We thank Linda Maiden from State Farm Insurance for sponsoring the event.

The end of the year also means field trips at the elementary. This is an opportunity for students to gain new experiences and do some learning outside of the classroom. The preschool class is the first to go on April 23rd. Kindergarten will have their field trip on April 27th, 4th -6th are going on the 28th, and 1st -3rd are going on the 29th. Please look for letters home from the classroom teachers concerning your child's trip.

As the year winds down and sun stays up longer, it's harder to keep children in routines. Please maintain those good routines and habits for the last quarter of school. We appreciate all the great parents we have in the district. As always, please don't hesitate to call with questions or concerns.

Elementary Art - Mrs. Kelley

Students at the elementary have been learning about different artists and art styles. They are learning about Pop Art and creating artwork in this style, including pop can drawings and comic strip word art. Students also studied Norman Rockwell earlier this year. Some of the other projects they have been working on include self-portraits, kaleidoscope name designs, pinch pots, and slab cups

The fourth graders recently participated in the Severe Weather Awareness Poster Con-

test. Winners from our school, selected by the Red Willow County Sheriff's Department, were Logan Greenlee, Derek Greenlee, and Caitie Fickle. All three of these posters were also selected to be sent on to the state contest, where Logan's and Derek's posters both received Honorable Mention.

The fifth graders participated in the Arbor Day Poster Contest. This year's theme is "Trees Are Terrific...and Energy Wise!" Winning 1st place in the local contest was Lance Kelley, 2nd place was Jacy Ahlemeyer, and 3rd

place was Ellie Brown. Lance's poster was selected as a Runner-Up in the state contest. A representative from the Nebraska Forest Service will be coming to our school to conduct a tree planting and award ceremony sometime in April in honor of this award.

Please encourage your child to be creative at home. In this age of technology, kids still need to draw, color, cut, and create on their own to develop necessary skills and connections in their brains. (And it's fun too.) Help bring out the artist in your child!



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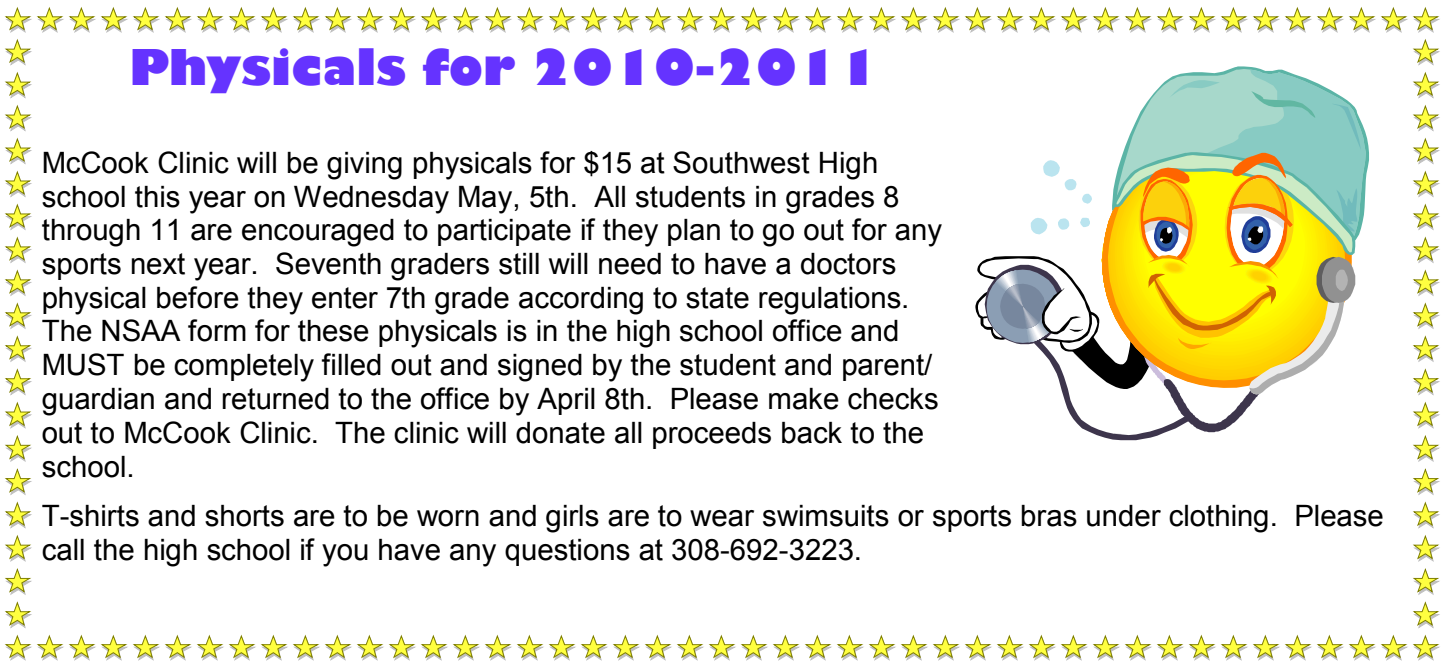
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Physicals for 2010-2011

McCook Clinic will be giving physicals for \$15 at Southwest High school this year on Wednesday May, 5th. All students in grades 8 through 11 are encouraged to participate if they plan to go out for any sports next year. Seventh graders still will need to have a doctors physical before they enter 7th grade according to state regulations. The NSAA form for these physicals is in the high school office and MUST be completely filled out and signed by the student and parent/guardian and returned to the office by April 8th. Please make checks out to McCook Clinic. The clinic will donate all proceeds back to the school.

T-shirts and shorts are to be worn and girls are to wear swimsuits or sports bras under clothing. Please call the high school if you have any questions at 308-692-3223.

