

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - Dave Hendricks

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Mark These Dates:

- Dec. 7 - Elementary Christmas Program
6:30 PM Grades PreK-3
7:30 PM Grades 4-6
- Dec. 14 - School Board Meeting 7:30 PM
- Dec. 20 - Jr./ Sr. High Band Concert 2:00 PM
- Dec. 21 & 22 - Semester Tests
- Dec. 21 & 22 - Early Dismissal Elementary @ 1:45 High School @ 2:00
- Jan. 4 - School Resumes

Happy Holidays from everyone at Southwest Schools

New Jr/Sr High School Facilities "Open House" and Dedication Ceremony a Success

The open house and dedication ceremony of the new Jr/Sr high school building held Sunday, November 8th was a huge success with over 400 people in attendance. The Board of Education and administration wants to thank everyone for attending and being a part of this community event. The Jr/Sr high school band's performance and Student Council members as guides were very much appreciated. We also want to thank those schools that

sent flower arrangements and plants to help us celebrate.

Be reminded that individuals having ideas for the building's time capsule are asked to submit them to the school by Monday, December 14 as that evening the board of education will approve items to be placed in the time capsule. A special meeting will precede the regular January 11th board meeting to dedicate and close the time capsule.

Facilities Closed Over the Holiday Season.

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) has a ruling requiring all member schools to close their facilities to practice and inter-school competition for five consecutive days in December. The Southwest Public School, in conjunction with this NSAA ruling, will close all school buildings December 23rd-27th. During this five-day period only custodial staff will be in the buildings to do routine maintenance. Patrons of the district are reminded that the school facilities are also closed for their use during this time.

Southwest FBLA

Southwest FBLA visited Game On in McCook on Tuesday, November 3, and heard from one of the owners, Cody Dame, about how the business was started, some of its challenges, and future goals. The group then attended the Smart Money Day at the

McCook Community College. There they played a finance game and listened to speakers on various topics of credit and business.

On Saturday, November 7, the chapter held an area meeting at Southwest High School. Guests who attended were the

Nebraska State FBLA President, Ashley Wood, from Minden and eight members of the McCook College PBL. The groups got to know each other through a variety of games planned by Southwest FBLA officers.

Beat the Winter Blahs - Ideas from Kindergarten

According to research, to enhance fluency children should reread poems or books 3 or 4 times. Find a favorite nursery rhyme and act it out with your child.

Word Journey

Write sight words on paper plates and spread them on the floor. Children step from one plate to the next like stepping stones. First, ask them to read the words. Next, arrange the plates in sequence to make a sentence.

15 Minutes of Walking/

Exercising

Try building 15 minutes of walking each day as you count, sing letter songs, say days of the week, months and review other information like phone number, and address.

Magic Words

Write color words, sounds, letters, etc. with glue on 4"x6" index cards. After they dry, children place paper on top and hold it in place with a clothespin. Children then rub over the cards with the side of a crayon and read the words. Later in the year children can write sentences with words.

TIS' YOU (Parent Version)

(Tune: "Simple Gifts") By Dr.

Jean and Dr. Holly

Tis' you they love.

Tis' you they need.

Sing them a song.

Get a book and read.

Sit down on the floor.

Laugh and play.

Cherish your children

And enjoy each day.

Turn off your computer and

your phone.

Turn off the television in your home.

Hug them and give them quality time.

Let them know, "I'm so glad you are mine."

Open a book

And make new friends.

Reading creates memories

That will never end.

You'll have adventures

And visit new lands

With your child in your lap

And a book in your hands.

Turn off your computer and your phone.

Turn off the television in your home.

Model how exciting reading can be.

Give your child a lifetime

"reading key."

Southwest Business Classes - Mrs. Barger

As part of observing Smart Money Week, all students taking business classes participated in the online Finance Challenge sponsored by the Economics Council. There were 239 teams which competed on the high school level and 48 on the middle school level. Southwest Seventh Grade Team 1 placed 14th in the mid-

dle school level. Team members were Jane Reiners, Austin Minard, and Brian Riley.

The FBLA food drive for the pantry collected a total of 215 items. The seniors won the class competition by bringing 34 items, next was the juniors with 17, sophomores with 7,

freshmen with 6, seventh grade with 5 and eighth grade with 2. The elementary, with 108, again collected more than the high school. We also had 36 items brought in by community members. The FBLA thanks everyone who contributed to this community service project.

Elementary News - Mrs. Rasmussen

Happy Holidays! We have just three weeks until students are dismissed for Christmas Vacation. During those weeks we have a Music Program to present, Christmas parties, and a Christmas Sing.

Our elementary music program will be held Monday, December 7th. That morning all of the elementary classes will be bussed to the high school to rehearse the program on the stage of the high school auditorium. The program will run differently this year. The performance for PK- 3rd will start at 6:30 pm. Please have your child in the High School music room at least ten minutes prior to the start of the show. The show will last approximately forty-five minutes, and grades 4th -6th will start at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend!

December 22nd will be our Christmas Sing from 12:30 to 1:00 in the gym. Classroom Christmas parties will follow immediately afterward. They will run from 1:00 to 1:45. Students will then be dismissed at 2:00.

I would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone back on January 4th.

Music Department Canned Food Drive and Christmas by Ms. Gosnell

Season's greetings from the Southwest Music Department! It was sure fun to have our recent concert in the brand new auditorium. Not only were the acoustics infinitely better, but also the cushioned seating for our patrons was infinitely better as well! We were sure happy to have those seats nearly completely full. Formally we do not have a concert scheduled until

next semester. However, the band and music students have decided to sponsor a canned food drive/Christmas music concert in December. It will be held in the Jr./Sr. High auditorium at 2:00pm on Sunday, December 20th and friends, family, and patrons are invited to attend. The 7th, 8th, and high school bands will combine as a mass band to play some Christ-

mas tunes while some small vocal solos and ensembles will perform as well. Admission to the concert will be canned goods that we will donate to the food pantry. After the concert, holiday goodies will be served. This will be a concert for young and old so bring your holiday spirit and some canned goods for an afternoon of music making!

Southwest Attends UNL Math Day by Mrs. Barger

Ten students ranging from sophomores to seniors attended the 20th Annual UNL Math Day this year. They were April Guthrie, Marcus Hauxwell, Dylan Helberg, Erin Kelley, Tyler Leak, Danielle Blume, Sierra Deterding, Chase Downey, Matt Goodenberger, and Cascade Tollman. The students first took the PROBE 1 test. PROBE stands for Problems Requiring Original and Brilliant Effort. This test is unlike most these students will take. If they answer a question incorrectly, they will get zero points. However, if they leave a question blank they will receive one point. Correct answers will earn them four points a piece.

Having this scoring system will eliminate some of the guessing as students have a chance to score higher by leaving some questions blank than guessing incorrectly.

After the PROBE 1 test the students had the opportunity to watch a newly implemented game at the UNL Math Day. Eight of the top students among the A-D classes were chosen to play Who Wants to Be a Mathematician. There were two semi-final rounds with four students competing. They had to answer 7 questions in this first round. The top student from each semi-final round won \$500 along with a brand new TI-Nspire calculator and then they went

to the final round which consisted of one question. The winner was awarded another \$500 and had a chance to answer one more question correctly for an additional \$1000. This gentleman from Lincoln Southwest High School did answer the final question correctly and won a total of \$2000.

The final event of the day was a Math Bowl. Three students from a school compete against another school in a round of 15 math questions. Our students made it through three rounds of the Math Bowl.

Congratulations to these students for a job well done at UNL Math Day!!

Calling All Southwest Lil Riders

Basketball Clinic for Boys and Girls Grade 3rd-6th

Southwest Boys Basketball coach Scott Mollring will conduct a basketball clinic the first 3 Saturdays mornings in December

Watch for more information

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The Elementary Music Program will start at 6:30 and will be held in the new High School Auditorium in Bartley. The program will be split to ensure there is enough seating.
6:30 - grades Pre-K, K, 1, 2, & 3 will perform
7:00 - Intermission
7:30 - grades 4, 5, & 6 will perform

Early dismissals on December 21 & 22.

Elementary @ 1:45 PM

High School @ 2:00 PM

