



Southwest 'Rider News



From The Superintendent - Dave Hendricks

Board of Education Elects Officers

At their regular monthly meeting, January 12th, the Board of Education held election of officers for 2009. Duane Teter was re-elected president; Crinda McConville was re-elected as vice-president; Steve McConville was re-elected treasurer; and Steve Daffer was re-elected as secretary.

The board meets regularly on the second Monday of each month and meetings are conducted according to accepted rules of order, Board of Education policy and the statutes of the state of Nebraska. These are open meetings and the public is encouraged to attend. All meeting minutes are published in the

Indianola News, the official publication of the district. Board meetings are alternated monthly between the elementary school building art room in Indianola and the middle school building music room in Bartley.

Procedures dealing with Board of Education meetings are available to patrons of the district in the form of a brochure. If you are interested in learning more about board meetings, please contact the superintendent of schools by telephone or mail, and a copy of the brochure will be mailed.

Short and Long Range Board Planning Session

The Board of Education will meet Tuesday, March 3rd for a short and long-range planning

session in the Distance Learning room at Bartley. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:00 P.M. and is open to the public. The board will first review progress and accomplishments made since last year's planning session and then begin to formulate future goals. The board will discuss prioritizing these goals at the regular April meeting before final approval in May. A summary of approved short and long range goals will be made available to the patrons through the school newsletter after being approved.



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Special points of interest:

- Feb. 2 - 12:30 Dismissal for all students.
- Feb. 9 - No School at the Elementary only
- Feb. 9 - School Board Meeting 7:30
- Feb. 20 - NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 25 - RPAC Speech

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held
Monday, February 2, 2009 from 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM
All conferences will be held at the Elementary
School will be dismissed early:
High School & Middle School will dismiss @ 12:15
Elementary will dismiss @ 12:30

Southwest Public School Staff Demographics

The following chart shows the approximate number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) individuals the district employs during the 2008-09 school year. The Board of Education annually reviews staffing needs, taking into consideration Nebraska Department of Education requirements, federal and state requirements, and recommendations from the administration based on local needs.

<u>Number of Staff</u>	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Middle School</u>	<u>High School</u>
Principal	1	.50	.50
Certified Teachers	13.38	8.52	13.73
Media Specialists	0.25	0.25	0.5
Activities Director	0.25		
Technology Coordinator	0.25	0.25	0.25
Guidance Counselor	.25	.25	.50
Para-educators	4	1	1.75
Cooks	2.50	2.50	2.50
Custodians	1.25	1.75	3.25
Secretaries	1	1	1
School Nurse	0.20	0.10	0.16
	<u>District</u>		
Superintendent	1		
Bookkeeper	1		
Bus Drivers	10		

World Geography - Mr. Casper

Mr. Casper's World Geography students will be beginning their study of Russia and Northern Asia by conducting an Internet Research project on either the causes and results of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, the rise and fall of the former Soviet Union or causes and effect of Ethnic con-

flicts in the Caucasus or Balkan regions. Our World History classes begin their study of the Age of Absolutism by researching via the Internet and other Historical sources the struggle between England and France that led to the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, students will be al-

lowed to choose Power Point, Cartooning and or Map/Chart skills to support their research. Sociology Students are finishing our Unit on the Family and will begin the study of Political and Economic Institutions and their influence on the family.

Basketball Parents Night

February 6, 2009

At the Dundy County Girls and Boys Game
Come and Support Our Southwest Students



American Government Class

This year Mr. Steinkuhler's American Government classes have spent the majority of their time focusing on the presidential election. They have learned about the process of becoming president, as well as the requirements.

Most important they discussed the importance of voting, and how much of a privilege it is. As part of this process, Mr. Steinkuhler made it a class participation grade to vote if they were of legal voting age. Finally, wrapping up the election coverage, his classes watched the inauguration of President Barack Obama live, an event that will be in history books for generations, and an experience they will never forget.

Adam Brewer

In Mr. Steinkuhler's American History class we covered the inauguration. Prior to January 20th we learned about the whole election process, from the electoral college to how political parties select candidates. Then on January 20th, 2009, we were able to watch the inauguration live on the internet. Now that it's all over, we've discussed many things that happened during the process.

Before the actual inauguration, we covered the election clear from its beginning in 1789. Did you know that the Democrats and the Republicans weren't even the first major political parties? The Federalists and Anti-Federalists were the first parties. We also covered how the election has changed in its 220 years of existence. Such as how women

gained the right to vote in 1920 with the ratification of the 19th amendment.

We knew as we watched, that inauguration day would be a day to write about in history books. To think, the first president of another color was moving into the White House, just 40 years after Martin Luther King Jr. died fighting for equality. We watched as history was made.

Between everyone in the school buzzing about the ceremony mess-ups or the political views, I found the process intriguing. I think Mr. Steinkuhler helped us cover the inauguration very well.

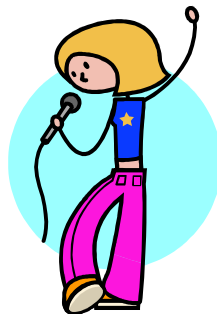
Dylan Helberg

High School News - Mr. Springer

Registration time is just around the corner for the 2009-10 school year. As everyone is aware by now we will begin school 7th - 12th at Bartley next year. So it is important for us to begin planning the schedule of classes and class offerings. Students and parents should begin thinking of the future of their education and determine if they are looking at a four year school or a Vocational school. This can/should make high school students look at different classes based on what colleges are requiring. All stu-

dents will be given a list of classes they are eligible for a few days prior to signing up for classes.

As always if you should have questions or concerns please stop in or call.



**The
Elementary Music
Department
Presents**

A

Dessert Theater

March 1, 2009

Make Plans to attend!

iPods In Special Education - Ms Shirkey

It is hard to believe that it is already February. It has been an exciting year so far in the Special Education department at the high school. We have acquired new technology for the special education students to utilize at the high school. We recently purchased 7 iPods for the students to be able to use in the regular education classroom. The goal in special

education is for students to be included in the regular education setting as much as possible. The students will be able to have assignments read to them over the iPod. Ms. Kent, technology coordinator, and I, high school special education teacher, started looking into purchasing iPods this fall. We researched other schools where iPods are being used for special

education students. The iPods came in last week, so we are working on getting things downloaded to them. With the iPods also came an Apple computer from the middle school. The students are very excited to get to use the new technology. Look for more information and updates to come on the iPods in the classroom.

100th Day of School by the Kindergarten

Friday, January 23rd was the 100th day of school. I asked each kindergarten student...

What would you do with one hundred dollars?

Haylee..... Go buy another pet. I would buy a puppy and name it Emma Lou

Justin..... I would buy a dinosaur bone in Utah

Emmeleigh..... A kitty and I will name her Cindy

Bobbi..... I would buy a racecar!

Julia..... I would buy a big, big, big playhouse

Emily..... I guess makeup, lipstick, eye shadow and the black stuff what my teacher wears

Rozelynn..... A pet dog, I would name her Hannah SugarBaby Miley

Rachel..... I would buy a Barbie doll

Jake..... I would buy 3 horses and some Root Beer

Lanie..... I would buy my own phone to carry in my purse

Judy..... I would buy a horse Mustang, and a car Mustang

Allison..... I would buy my own puppy, kitty and bunny. I have always wanted all those pets

Elaine..... I would buy everything in the whole store

Bryson..... I would buy a racecar and a motorcycle

Alyssa..... I would buy a horse and her name would be Dobie and 100 apples to get my teeth loose

Brett..... I would buy a toy gun to pretend to shot some deer

Kassidy..... A real baby turtle from the pet store and I would name her Twilight like my toy turtle



Senior Parents

Mrs. Harris and the journalism class need the following for the yearbook:

- **A vertical senior picture**
- **Your ad for your senior if you wish to purchase one.**

SOUTHWEST FFA- Mr. Roggenkamp

Southwest FFA would like to thank everyone who purchased fruit, turkeys, hams, and beef sticks this past year from the chapter. The community support for this fundraiser was outstanding and allowed the chapter to accumulate funds for State FFA Convention. We hope that everyone was pleased with the products and had them in time for the holidays

Southwest FFA has also sold metal Christmas Trees and raf-

fled metal snowmen that were made during welding class, worked concession stands, and held two meals during basketball games at Southwest. The support generated from the BBQ Meal and the Bratwurst Meal was strong and appreciated by all of the members. The chapter is will end its fundraising efforts for the year on February 6th at the games against Dundy County by raffling sides of pork donated to the chapter by the Greg Reiners Fam-

ily. Come see us at the game National FFA Week will be celebrated February 21st-28th. This weeklong celebration will include Drive Your Tractor to School Day, the annual FFA Member-Teacher Breakfast, and District Contests on Wednesday, February 25th. Southwest FFA is proud to have 52 members in grades 9-12 this school year who will participate in contests and activities during FFA Week.

First Grade News- Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Overton

First graders are almost ready to grab a book from the shelf and just read. Thank you families for reading with them at home. Research shows that just ten minutes of reading with your child each day improves their scores across the curriculum

Physical science has been our fo-



unit

In social studies we have been

cus this month. This includes magnets, heat, light, and simple machines. We are looking forward to warmer weather when we can visit a farm and bring back some chicken eggs to begin our embryology

studying consumers, producers and transportation, and learning more about Martin Luther King, Jr. We will soon begin our adventure to Washington, DC where we will learn about the Washington Mall and the various monuments. It is exciting to take a virtual tour of Washington thanks to the smart board.

Science Career Day at Southwest High School

On Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009, Dr. Shelley Kaspar-Cope came to talk to our Anatomy class to share with us about her job as a family physician. She had a lot of interesting information including what classes she took in college, and she even gave us some words of wisdom, "take as many classes in high school as you can". She shared with us some of her daily duties at the hospital and clinics. Our class enjoyed her company and appreciated her coming to our school and teaching us about her job.

Brandon Storrs

Dr. Kaspar-Cope came to Southwest High School on Jan. 8, 2009 to talk to the students about what she does. She is a MD. She talked about what she did to get to school to become a doctor and experiences that influenced her decision as she grew up. She talked about what she liked in school and why. Dr. Kaspar-Cope was a nice person who took time to talk to the students about what she does for a living.

Cheyenne Brush

On January 8, 2009, Dr. Kaspar-Cope visited the Southwest anatomy/biology classes. She discussed many aspects of becoming a medical doctor. She talked about certain classes she had to take, what degree is needed, and basic Medical School requirements. Dr. Kaspar-Cope is specifically a family doctor. She described her typical day and other duties she is responsible for. She visited the classes because of Science Career Day.

Shelby Hubbert

FBLA - Abby Houghtelling

The Southwest FBLA will be doing their annual pop sales for Valentine's Day on February 2 through February 6. If anyone wants to purchase a can of pop for a high school student, they can contact a FBLA member or Mrs. Barger at 364-

2202. The pops will be delivered on Wednesday February 11.



The week of February 9 through February 13 is FBLA week.

The days will be

as followed:

Monday: Dress for Your Chosen Career

Tuesday: Business Attire

Wednesday: FBLA Shirt

Thursday: Blue/Gold Day

Friday: Red/White/Pink Day

High School Art - Mr. Kuhl

On January 21st the yearly RPAC art contest was held at Cambridge auditorium. In attendance were 14 surrounding area schools and a large representation of varied works of art. Each school had anywhere for

4-13 pieces of art work to represent their schools young artists talents. Southwest had 10 strong and creative works of art to present to the area schools. The art

teachers from the area schools were the art critics who decided what students placed. Each school was critiqued for its own top four artworks. At Southwest Julie Gates received first place and was awarded a gold medal for her non-objective painting "Color Explosion." Additionally Julie Gates received 1st honorable mention for her interpretation of Van Gogh's "Starry Night." Jessica Reiners received 2nd Honorable Mention

for her surrealist collage entitled "Walk in the Park." 3rd honorable mention went to Holly Wolfe for a Manga stylized drawing entitled "Promise." All Southwest High School artists were very competitive in the RPAC art contest. The area art critics at the show had a hard time deciding what places should be given to which student. I am very proud of all Southwest High School artists and their dedication to art.

Life Science News - Mrs. Probasco

The anatomy and inquiry science classes recently did an in depth lab which gave the students an opportunity in the latest biotechnology. It was created by BIO RAD and I won a kit last year at the Science Teachers Conference in Denver. This year I ordered the replacement kit. We used the protocol for tracking disease outbreaks, of course this is a disease simulation and not the real microorganism. It gives the students an opportunity to experience what it would

be like to work in a hospital lab and to find out that the process is several controlled and precise steps.

The students had positive comments from the experience. I will list some comments from their science journals.

It makes me want to wash my hands a lot, and stay clean.

It showed me how much work actually goes on in a lab.

Germs or diseases can be transferred to one another, very eas-

ily, and you might not even know who you received it from.

This lab taught me that when you are in a lab environment, you have to be very careful not to contaminate the object you are testing. There are many steps you have to follow in order to have correct results.

The lab was very interesting and kept everyone involved.

It was cool to figure out who was infected and to feel like a real lab tech.

Elementary News - Mrs. Rasmussen

February started with Parent-Teacher Conferences. Parents received third quarter progress notes and results of the most recent AIMS Web reading, comprehension, and math testing. Thank you to all the parents and guardians who came in and visited with teachers. Your support of your child's education is the biggest indicator of their success in school. If you weren't able to attend it's not too late. Call your child's teacher for an appointment.

Are you planning to send your three or four year old child to preschool next year? The 2009-2010 preschool applications are

now available at the elementary office. Currently, our state accredited preschool runs from 8:00 to 11:30, there is no charge, and we have spots for 20 students. The deadline for applications is May 15th. Applications received after the deadline will still be considered, if all the spots have not all been filled.

There have been two new dates added to the elementary calendar. February 9th, there is no school for elementary students. Teachers will be attending a reading research meeting in North Platte. On Sunday, March 1st the Southwest Public School Foundation will

be sponsoring the Elementary Dessert Theater at 2:00 pm. Look for more information to come. Other dates of importance are Valentine's Day parties will be held on Friday the 13th at 1:30 and spring break on February 20th.

Finally, with cold and flu season in full swing, please be considerate of other families and keep your children home when they are sick. The handbook states that students need to be fever free and done vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school. Thanks for preventing the spread of germs.

Elementary Music - Mrs. Roggenkamp

It's hard to believe that January is over already, but we're heading into February getting ready for some upcoming music events. Our annual Dessert Theater will be on Sunday, March 1st at 2:00. It is sponsored by the Southwest School Foundation and will be held in the elementary gym.

Students in grades 2-5 will be providing the entertainment. We are currently looking for songs and deciding what those students will be doing for that day. Please come support the Southwest Foundation and enjoy the talents these students have to offer, as well as a delicious dessert.

The 5th graders are busy picking out music for a music contest in Cambridge. The contest is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th. and is for 5th-8th graders, band or

vocal. It is a great learning experience for them and there aren't a lot of contests for these age groups, so we enjoy traveling to Cambridge for that every year.

The following Monday, April 20th, will be our elementary spring program.

Grades 1 & 2 will be performing a musical, 4th graders will be playing recorders, and all will be having fun. Come see the program and be amazed at the talent in the young children!

You'd think we'd be finished after our spring program, but we always do a talent show on the last day of school. The students LOVE this because they can show off anything that they're good at: singing, dancing, juggling, joke telling, you name it, we've probably got it! It's something fun that

we like to do and the students have been asking about it all year long, so I know they're excited already.

We've got a ways to go before the end of the year, but we have a lot going on during that time. I hope you can come enjoy the elementary students singing their little hearts out at one of our performances. You'll be glad you did.

Kindergarten

Round-Up

April 6, 2009

If your child turns 5 years old on or before October 15, 2009

Please call the school and register.

364-2613

Job Skills - Mrs. Hanson

It is never too early to start thinking about what career your child is interested in. Even Southwest pre-school students have a dream job in mind. As teachers, we often ask students what school subjects and habits are important to help them attain their goal. And as both parents and students soon discover, their career plans may change again and again before they graduate. On average, the typical adult has six different job descriptions during his lifetime. In fact, tomorrow's jobs may not have even been created yet.

But no matter what the job, a student needs certain traits and skills to be successful. These traits and skills are not learned overnight or at the on job training site, but throughout their school years at Southwest.

Employers agree that persons who exhibit the following traits and skills are bound to be successful on the job.

- Dependable
- Responsible
- Honest
- Respects others
- Good listener
- Follows directions
- On time for work
- Good attendance
- Free from substance abuse
- Exhibits problem solving skills
- Takes pride in one's work
- Willing to learn
- Works well with co-workers
- Cooperates as part of a team
- Flexible
- Completes tasks on time
- Shows enthusiasm for work
- Follows work rules
- Treats customers well
- Uses common sense
- Shows initiative
- Accurate in one's work
- Works with minimum supervision

(Information adapted from "Your Keys to Job Success!" State of Michigan) No matter the grade in school or career path your child may choose, keep these traits and skills in mind. Help them achieve their potential.

Accelerated Readers - Mrs. Hanson

Research shows that the amount of leisure time spent reading is directly related to children's reading comprehension, the size of their vocabularies, and the gains in their reading ability. Clearly reading at home can be a powerful supplement to class Work.

Congratulations to the following fifth grade students who have already earned over 100 points on the Accelerated Reader program, Joey Cuellar, Madison Dimmitt, Megan



Helberg, Natalie Longnecker, Michael Lord, Ashlee Morosic, Neta Penner, Katie Stone, and Karlie Swink.

If you are looking for a good book to read Madi recommends "Inkheart" by Cornelia Funke, Natalie recommends "The Wanderer" by Sharon Creech, Karlie recommends all of "The Series of Unfortunate Events," Neta recommends "Eldest" by C. Paolini, and Joey recommends "Lunch Money" by Andrew Clements.

Help Needed !!

Speech Judges
And
Tab Room Workers
February 21, 2009
MCC/Southwest
Speech Inv.
Please call: Linda
Clark
364-2202 or
345-2452

Counselor's Corner - Mr. Manker

Bill Duerr with the Department of Defense, out to Omaha was here on January 15 to review the test results of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. (ASVAB) This test was administered to all junior and provides an excellent tool for exploring various careers. Each student had an opportunity to review their results and ask questions. I was provided with a career assessment interpretation form for each student and I will be able to use this for future planning.

I have been working each day on updating our regional and local scholarship list. Seniors have been busy picking up applications, paying attention to deadline dates and applying at colleges. Parents of seniors have also been kept informed as to the available schol-

arships and deadlines. March and April will be a very busy time for scholarships. Keep in mind that our school has a foundation that allows you to contribute to it if you are interested in helping out a graduating senior. We presently have several scholarships that are administered through the foundation. Recipients of scholarships will be announced at graduation. At this time we have 73 regional and 58 local scholarships available for students to review. Not all students will meet the criteria necessary for receiving certain ones. ACT scores, achievements, recommendations, need, GPA's and class rank, play an important role in the selection process. However, our committees do an excellent job of selecting those who meet the various requirements,

thus benefiting most students.

February 27 will be the regular deadline for registering for the April 4 ACT. Juniors should consider taking this test if they plan on attending college. Students who are unable to take the ACT on April 4 should consider taking it on June 13. Most students take the test in McCook. Registration packets are available in my office or on line at www.actstudent.org. Not all colleges require that students have an ACT score. Some colleges will accept the Compass test for entrance purposes. ACT scores are used for scholarships and placement purposes. The Compass test is also used for placement purposes and may meet your needs depending on your academic standards.

Wrestling Notes - Mr. Helberg

The wrestlers have had an excellent season so far.

They finished 2nd at SW Dual meet, 2nd at Franklin Invite, 2nd at SEM.

We finished 4th at the RPAC meet this past Friday. Up coming meets, Medicine Valley for the JV's, ST. Pat's Invite, SW Invite on the first Saturday of Feb. then Districts and State. The season will be over before we know it.

We have had good leadership from our 4 upper classmen this year. The seniors are Nate Herrman and Josh Gates and Juniors Heath Teel and Dylan Helberg. The rest

of squad is young but doing very well. Tanner Teel, Zack Riley, Zach Herrman, Tyler Van Pelt, Chase Downey, Tommy Slater, Sam Osterman, Andrew Weaver, and Bret Neel.

Come out and support the wrestlers at SW Invite on Feb. 7 and Districts at North Platte St. Pat's on Feb. 13th and 14th.

Letters have been sent out for our kids wrestling program. All

Students are welcome.

Practices will start January 27th and the meet will be on March 8th.

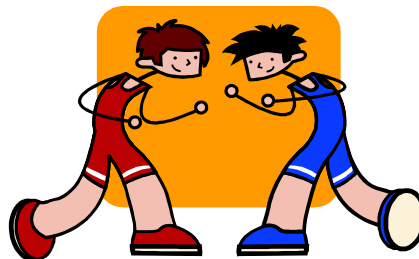
Pre K through 4th will practice from 6:30 to 7:00

5th through 8th grade from 7:00 to 7:45.

Club will be serving the meal at SW Invite on Feb. 7th, looking for

Volunteers

Any questions you can talk to Rick Teel at 308-364-9281 or Jay Helberg at 308-340-0239



Southwest Schools

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Fax 308-692-3221

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If I Were President - by the class of 2016

Several years ago not a single fifth grader wanted to become president of the United States. After following the issues, election, and inauguration, over one half of the cur-



rent fifth grade class is interested in the job. Here are some ideas they have to bring about changes in our country. Keep gas prices low. Stay in the Iraq war, and help Egypt. Use

robots in wars, not soldiers. Clean up the pollution.

Ride a bicycle to work. Abandon drugs and guns. Make every town a healthier and a safer place for kids to live. Keep home prices affordable and the economy less crazy.