

Southwest Schools

Southwest 'Rider News

January 2010

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - Dave Hendricks

Board of Education to Hold Special Meeting to Seal

Time Capsule

Prior to the regular January 11th Board of Education meeting, the board will have a special meeting at 7:15 P.M. to place items into the time capsule at the new Jr/Sr High School. A short ceremony will be held be-

fore the opening is sealed. Here are the suggestions the board discussed to include in the time capsule (not all may be used):

Current newspapers, current pictures, telephone directory, 2009 state quarter, current events information, school annual, school district budget document,

Open House pictures and program, Southwest license plate holder, bond voting flyer, employee list, TV guide, school menus, school letterhead, school web page information, and Top 40 music chart. Suggestions may still be submitted to the superintendent for consideration.

Nebraska School Board Recognition Week set for January

As citizen leaders, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. Yet, few people fully understand the scope and far-reaching implications of board members' responsibilities. All Nebraskans should recognize the vital contributions of these men and women and focus attention on the crucial role these elected public officials play in the education of our children. That is why Jan. 17-23

has been designated Nebraska School Board Recognition Week. It is part of January's National School Board Recognition Month.

The school board's job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, assure schools are accountable to the community, and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning. That job entails an endless

string of meetings and school functions to attend; reams of reports, agendas, proposals and other information to read and study; and a host of difficult decisions to make.

Everyone can use an encouraging, "Good Job" once in awhile. In Nebraska, Jan. 17-23 has been set aside just for the purpose of recognizing our statewide volunteers who step up to serve their communities on their local school boards. Take this opportunity to show your appreciation for the commitment they give to your district.

Special points of interest:

- Jan. 4 - School Resumes
- Jan. 11 - School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- Jan. 13 - RPAC Quiz Bowl @ Southwest - 10:00 AM
- Feb. NO SCHOOL - Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:00-8:00 PM
- Feb. 7 - Dessert Theater @ High School

School Boards Lead Locally
Nebraska School Board
Recognition Week
January 17-23, 2010

Third Grade News by Mrs. Frecks

One focus this month is School Improvement. Southwest has been involved in many areas of improvement this year. The completion of the new Jr./Sr. High brought great improvements. At the elementary building we have experienced the most change in the area of Language Arts instruction. Students have an opportunity each morning and afternoon for direct instruction and practice.

It has been a great learning process. The staff has been actively engaged in continuing education involving the Reading/Language/

Spelling Mastery curriculum. Students and staff are seeing great progress in Language Arts. Students are experiencing success and many of you parents have expressed pleasure at seeing your students reading more and better. At levels 2-5 students have check outs (fluency checks) every 5 lessons and comprehension checks every 10 lessons. Students are also writing each day. Mastery is 90 percent on tests so expectations are high and achievement is great.

Several staff members have just completed training for a direct

instruction reading intervention program. The Corrective Reading program will give students (grades 3-12) another opportunity to learn/relearn skills to help them become better readers. Students who are experiencing difficulty in decoding or comprehension will be evaluated and interventions will begin in January. We believe that this will be a great complement to Reading Mastery and will be effectively implemented during our current block of reading/language time.

We are looking forward to the New Year and many more improvements to come.

Southwest Daycare/After School Care - Mrs. Rasmussen

Parents of Southwest Elementary students have been able to breathe a sigh of relief this year. Instead of racing to the elementary for pick-up at 3:20, they have been able to use the school's convenient, after school program.

At the beginning of the school year, Tina Schultz, was hired to staff the after school program. Tina has scheduled the day to meet the needs of both younger and older students. The preschool students have a rest time after preschool before the older students join them. All students enjoy craft projects, play outside, snacks,

free play, and organized activities.

The program is open at 11:30 for students in preschool and remains open until 6:00 pm. Any students that attend Southwest Elementary can use the program.

Parents are charged \$2.00/hr only for the time students are in the program, and are billed weekly. The daycare has a limit of 15 school age students. Drop-ins are welcome, but please notify the school the day before so staffing can be arranged. To enroll student please contact the elementary office 364-2613.

Help Needed !!

Speech Judges
needed for
February 13th
and February 27th

Please call:
Linda Clark
692-3223 or
345-2452

FBLA News - Mrs. Barger

The Southwest FBLA has been trying to keep busy this Christmas season. One of our main activities was wrapping gifts for the Toy Box. On Monday, December 14, 2009, nine members traveled to the Army National Guard in McCook to do what we could to help out. We brought along 15 toys to donate to the Toy Box. Together, we wrapped 85 presents and at least helped to put a dent in all of the gift-wrapping that the Toy Box must do before Christmas-time.

Another one of our activities was a cake raffle at the first home basketball game. On Thursday, December 3, 2009, we brought our cakes and sold raffle tickets; 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. The cake raffle was quite a success, and we would like to thank everyone for contributing to it.

Business Competition Results The Southwest Econchallenge team of Erin Kelley, Cheyenne Brush, and Mark Hauxwell placed 8th out of 36 teams competing in the David Ricardo division of the fall online Econchallenge competition.

Southwest National Honor Society- Peg Rice

The first semester has been very busy for the Honor Society this year. In early October, we held our Little Caesar's fund raiser in which we sold Pizza Kits, Cookie Dough & Pie Kits. This year was another successful year & we would like to thank everyone who supported us. This money goes to our 3 large community service projects which are our Christmas Wish Tree, the Ronald McDonald House/Rainbow House and our volunteer work at the Children's Hospital in Omaha.

In November, the Honor Society took our bi-annual trip to Omaha where we volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House and the Rainbow house. At the Ronald McDonald House, the members got the chance to paint one of the resident's rooms - what an experience -

they are EXCELLENT painters! At the Rainbow House, baking was on the agenda - cookies, cake, muffins, brownies and covered pretzels for the residents. Unfortunately, we were not able to do crafts with kids at the Children's Hospital because of the H1N1 flu virus. All of the members had a great time and are anxiously looking forward to our return trip in May!

In December, we set up our Wish Trees at the banks in Bartley and Indianola. We would like to thank the State Bank of Bartley and Adams Bank & Trust of Indianola for allowing us a space each year for this! We also want to thank all of you who have participated in this project - it is appreciated by all who are involved! The National Honor Society members will deliver those gifts on December 23rd.

Also in December, the NHS went Christmas caroling throughout the communities in our district. With 8 members and a few extra, it was a fun, cold night for singing & sharing goodies!

Our upcoming events will be manning the Concession stand for the basketball games on January 12th and the RPAC Quiz bowl on January 13th. We also will be sponsoring the Data-Match for the Junior High and High School in February.

Once again we would like to thank everyone who has supported us. It is truly appreciated. If you have any questions about the National Honor Society or any of our projects, feel free to contact Mrs. Rice at the High School at 692-3223.

Lil Riders Basketball - Coach Mollring

The lil rider basketball camp saw over 40 young basketball players take part over the course of three Saturdays in December. A special thanks goes out to Jack, Brooke, and

Ashley Ryan, Dennis Troester, Dennis Stritt, Jenni McConville, Chris Watt, Doug and Nicole Liess, Laura and Brooke Ruggles, Rudy and Hilary Kennedy, Amber Daffer, Tiffany Quaduor,

Brooke Ryan, Alli McConville, Margo Kent, and Alisha Weaver for helping make the camp run as smoothly as it did!

Adult Coed Volleyball League

Southwest Schools is hosting a 6x6 volleyball league in Bartley on Sunday evenings starting January 10th at 6:30pm.

Entry Fee: \$15.00 per person.

Those interested, please contact Margo Kent. Cell: 308-695-3865

E-mail: mkent@esu15.org

Entry Deadline: January 1, 2010!



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