

**Southwest
Schools**

Southwest 'Rider News

September 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

High School News	2
P-T Conferences	2
Elementary News	3
Band Notes	4
Homework Help	4
FLBA News	5
Sports Buttons	5

Special points of interest:

- Sept 1 - Music Booster Meeting
HS Band Room
@7:00 PM
- Sept 7 - NO SCHOOL
- Sept 14 - School Board Meeting @
7:30 PM in Bartley
- Sept 23 - PT Conferences at Ele-
mentary 2:00-8:00 PM. NO SCHOOL

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - Dave Hendricks

The 2009-2010 School Year Begins

The Board of Education discussed the 2009-10 budget of expenditures for all funds at a workshop held August 26th and will consider its formal approval at their September 14th meeting. Patrons that are unable to attend the September 14th meeting are encouraged to contact the superintendent at school if there are questions about the budget, its development, or approval. After the budget is approved, the newsletter will have various parts of the budget with an explanation of each section throughout the year.

The Board of Education has made it more convenient, and less expensive, to attend home athletic events by offering Adult passes and

Family passes again this year. Both types of passes can be purchased at the gate or by calling the school and making arrangements for payment. The Adult pass is \$45.00 and the Family pass is \$85.00. The Family pass is good for both parents and all children in the family that are in grades PK-12.

September "No School" Days

There will be no school for students and staff on Monday, September 7th for Labor Day. There will be no school for students on Wednesday, September 23rd. On that day, teachers will have in-service training from 8:00 A.M. until noon and Parent/Teacher Conferences will begin at 2:00 P.M. and run through 8:00 P.M. Each school

will announce details as it gets closer to September 23rd. All Parent/Teacher conferences will be held at the elementary school in Indianola.

New Building Update

Pictures of the new Jr/Sr high school building progress can be seen on the school's webpage (www.swpschools.org) under "New High School Pictures". The general contractor and subs have been working hard over the summer to move the project along and we are expecting to move into the new facilities in early October. An official "Open House" will then be scheduled and the public will be invited to attend. Patrons of the district are encouraged to visit and view the building progress by stopping in the office to line up a

Continued from page 1

tour. Hard hats are available and required while construction continues.

Donations to the Building Project

Donations to the building project for items removed from

the original bid due to increased costs are still being received by the district. Tax deductible contributions are made to the Southwest School Foundation in care of Crinda McConville, Southwest School Foundation secretary/

treasurer. Contributions can be made for a specified item or a general contribution will be used as the board of education approves them based on their needs assessment.

High School News - Mr. Springer

The summer has been very busy with all of the changes, as we work toward opening a new JR/SR High School building. The JR /SR high students have all started classes in the old Bartley school building.

There is a lot of accommodations that teachers and staff have made to help get through the first few weeks of school until the new facility is completed. We get a large number of people asking when the building will be finished and how soon before the gym will be ready for home games. There is no set date so the correct answer is soon

we hope!

There is a very positive feeling around the school as we have begun the 2009-10 school year and we hope to build on that as the kids get the settled into the classes.

The big excitement for students is the idea of being the first group to occupy a brand new school. Secondly the students seem to be excited to have a larger group of teachers teaching different classes. Third a final is the staff being all in one building so they can keep in contact with students at all grade level and see them mature

into you adults.

Communication is a great tool that makes any job easier. This is especially true in the area of education. All of our staff members have email and are willing to communicate in any way that is helpful if you find your child struggling. It is very difficult for staff at the school to answer phone calls during the day as they are working with students. I would encourage you however to call and they can get back in touch with you as soon as time permits. It is very important as a parent that you are involved in your child's education.

Please feel free to stop by the school if you have questions or concerns. By working together, we can create a great learning environment for our students.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

2:00 PM till 8:00 PM

All Conferences Held At The Elementary

No School For Students

Wednesday, September 23

Elementary News - Mrs. Rasmussen

It was great to see our students and their families out for our Safe Walk/Ride to School Night. Besides meeting their teachers, students were able to see the remodeling that had occurred over the summer. Students in third through sixth grade now have a locker to store their coats and bags, along with the doors and walls for every classroom. Not only did we have structural changes, but curriculum changes as well. The staff at the elementary started a year ago in June looking for a reading curriculum that could boost reading achievement of all students in our building. In the spring an informational meeting was held for parents explaining Reading Mastery and how process that led us to that choice. In April, the Board of Education approved the purchase of

Reading Mastery. Materials were ordered and training for the elementary staff took place in May. This fall we hit the ground running with the new program. There are two reading blocks daily. The first one is from 8:30 to 10:00 am. The second block occurs in the afternoon from 12:30-1:30 pm. During these two blocks students study reading, language, and spelling. Kindergarten is the only class that has their own blocks at a separate time, in their own classroom. During the blocks, every teacher is a reading teacher. Some students leave their home-room and move to a classroom that is teaching a level that is right for them. That is one of the best parts of the program,

students are learning at the appropriate level. Too many times lower readers are drug through a reading book that is too hard for them. Or very good readers are bored in class, because the teacher needs to re-teach information that a good reader understood the first time.

Letters have been sent home to parents telling which level students placed at. If for some reason you have not received your letter please contact the elementary office. If at anytime you have questions or would like to see the program in action, please contact the elementary office to set up a visit. I am looking forward to sharing the gains students in our school will make with this strong, new program.



How to Aggravate Your High School Student - Mr. Loshbaugh

Parents: Does your son or daughter ever approach you for permission that you are not immediately ready to give? Maybe it is a repeated request to do something or to go someplace and you are just not convinced that it is a good idea. I have a suggestion which might help you, your student, and me all at once.

The State Writing Assessment for grades 4, 8, and 11 will be

administered in February 2010. Fourth grade students will write a narrative, eighth grade students will write a description, and juniors at Southwest will write a persuasive essay.

Thus, my eighth grade students will be honing their descriptive writing skills during this first semester, and I will also be working with the juniors on writing persuasively.

This is where you can help me out. The next time your young adults implore, "Can I, can I pleaseeease. . .!" ask them to put it in writing. Tell them that if they can convince you with a well-written justification, you might just consent to their request.

They will hate this, but you will be helping them learn to apply the principles of persuasion to topics dear to their hearts.

Band Notes - Ms. Gosnell

Greetings from the Southwest Schools Band Department! The fall semester means marching season for the Southwest High School Band. We will be busy this month preparing for our upcoming parade competitions including Kearney's UNK Band Day on September 26th and Grand Island's Harvest of Harmony on October 3rd. (Note-Harvest of Harmony is televised!).

These competitions each offer a unique judging experience for the students. UNK Band Day is an excellent "practice" parade for the much larger Harvest of Harmony competition. The judging includes a pre-parade inspection where the students'

uniforms are looked over for fit and uniformity and their instruments are examined for their playing condition.

In addition, there are judges especially for the drum major (student conductor), drumline, woodwinds, and brass sections. Further, there are yet two more judges for marching execution and musical effect. All the judges comments are recorded onto cassette tapes in addition to their written score and comments so we are able to listen to them later. This is especially helpful as we prepare for the Harvest of Harmony parade.

The Harvest of Harmony Parade has only three judges in-

cluding one for each of the following categories: marching execution, music precision, and general effect. Like the UNK judges, they record their comments onto cassette tapes and fill out a written score and comment sheet. We listen to these comments later and make note of them to improve our performance for next year's marching season.

Though our parades are out of town, the community can catch us at home for the football game pep band performances. We'll play some tunes before the game kicks off as well as some halftime tunes. We always look forward to supporting our team with some fun music making!

Homework Helping Ideas from Charles Fay (Love and Logic)

- Help only as long as there is no frustration or anger.
- When homework becomes associated with negative emotions, it's no surprise that kids start to view learning as a real drag.
- help only as long as your child is working harder than you are. Say, "I'll be happy to help you as long as you're working harder than I am."
- Avoid sitting with your child when they are about to "get it."

Many kids come to believe that they can only learn new things...or "get it"...if an adult is guiding them every step of the way. Explain this by saying, "Part of my job as your Mom is to help you see that you can learn without me. That's why there will be times when I let you work by yourself."

The athletic teams and coaches would like to thank the Southwest Booster Club for the purchase of storage equipment for our new school.

Thanks to Larry Randolph and Parker Hannifin for the donation of sports drinks for practice and games.

FBLA NEWS - Mrs. Barger

Southwest FBLA was one of 11 chapters in the state of Nebraska to receive the National Outstanding Chapter Award for 2008-2009. The chapter will have regular meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. in the business

room. Committees and officers will meet on the third Wednesday of the month.

Fourteen students attended the recruitment picnic held at the Bartley Park on Tuesday, August 11. They enjoyed hot dogs and ice cream sundaes. Each of the

officers was responsible for planning a game to play.

The FBLA would like to thank everyone who attended the pancake/burrito breakfast held the morning of the Old Settlers celebration in Indianola. Your support is appreciated.

Remember you can use Infinite Campus to check your student's grades.

- **Your username and password from last year will still work.**
- **If you need a new account, or have forgotten your password contact one of the school secretaries.**
- **To access Infinite Campus:**
 - go to our school web page:www.swpschools.org
 - Find the Infinite Campus menu, and click Parent/Student Access

NHS Sports Button Order Form

Sport:	Price:	Quantity:	Total
Football	\$3.00		
Volleyball	\$3.00		
Cross Country	\$3.00		
Cheerleader	\$3.00		
Athlete Name _____		Total _____	Total _____
Ordered By _____	Money is due when order form is turned in. Please return forms to Mrs. Rice by Friday September 4th.		



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Indianola, NE 69034

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All Southwest Roughrider fans are invited to a free tailgate BB-Q before the Loup City football game on September 4th. The tailgate will start at 5:00 PM at the Bartley City Park and last until kickoff.

Sponsored by Tri Valley Health System

Drop by
Adams Bank

or

The State Bank of Bartley
to pick up a school calendar!

Thanks to the banks for providing the calendars!