

SIDNEY GUTIERREZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Nov. 2010, Issue 4

From the Principal's Desk

The Albuquerque Journal (Oct. 26) recently ran an article about students who daydream and have trouble focusing, especially on schoolwork. While everyone's attention wanders sometimes, when this becomes persistent, schoolwork will clearly suffer. We can help students overcome this problem with some work. First, help the student identify what triggers the "daydreams" and what can be done to avoid those triggers. Next, the student should practice selecting the important parts of a text or conversation or even a TV show. Dividing chores and homework into "chunks" and taking breaks between chunks may also help. Signal to the child how long attention is needed by saying things like, "I need you to pay attention to what we have to do for the next ten minutes, then you can go back to what you were doing." If we try these interventions consistently at school and at home we might help some of our students find new successes.

Congratulations...

Mrs. Lawner was recently awarded the "***New Mexico Charter School Teacher of the Year***" by the New Mexico Coalition of Charter Schools. The award was presented at the Coalition's 3rd Annual Charter Constellation Awards Ceremony at the Hard Rock Hotel in Albuquerque.

"It is important to recognize excellence among our own and we are proud to award these recipients publicly for their hard work and dedication," said Michael Vigil, CEO of the NM Coalition for Charter Schools".

Joseph Andreis, Principal



The 8th graders developed and carried out their own labs to compare the effectiveness of acid reducers. 6th grade class with their volcano models, 7th graders playing their Geologic Time board games

PTO News

Our Scholastic Bookfair, "All You Can Read" will be held the week of Dec. 7. Krispie Kreme donuts can be picket up Nov. 22.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Art: In the spirit of the recent Larry Bob Phillips exhibition at the Roswell Museum and Art Center, the seventh graders are creating small-scale cars out of clay and will embellish them with drawings made with black glaze. Art instructor Nancy Fleming encourages families to take a break over the holidays and visit the two great art museums in Roswell. Larry Bob's medium-sized plaster car is on permanent display now at the Anderson Museum.

Dance: Several 8th grader ballroom dancers have been invited to demonstrate their skills to adults at a dance to be held at the Yucca Center on December 18th.

Help: A reminder that tutoring is available for all students after school. Students should check with Mrs. Aguilar on a daily basis to schedule tutoring. We also have an interactive feature on our school website (sgsms.us) on which students can post math questions in the evenings when they do their homework and they will receive an answer

Science Olympiad: the team is in need of "brain food" for practice sessions. If you can donate snack food, please leave it in the science room.

Service learning: Even though we are finished walking dogs at the Roswell Humane Society, the can drive and blanket/towel drive is still on. Please leave your donations in the donation box in the science room.

Language Arts: The 8th graders are finishing up Pearl Buck's *The Good Earth* as well as their individual research projects on China. We plan on an outing to a Chinese restaurant after the Thanksgiving Break.

Social Studies: The 6th graders have begun their study of Ancient Greece. Silly Olympics isn't far behind. Their presentation of Greek Mythology Readers Theater was met with rave reviews!

PowerSchool Passwords Available

Our teachers are now keeping students grades in the PowerSchool format, which parents can access online. This allows you to keep up with your student's work on a daily basis, to check grades and missing assignments. In order to log on, parents need to obtain their password from Mr. Andreis.

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