



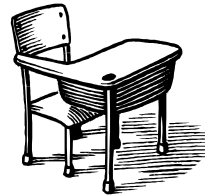
SGMS Newsletter

Sidney Gutierrez
Middle School

December 2008

Issue 9

From the Principal's Desk



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The last weeks before winter break are full of activity, and this year was no different. In addition to our regular rigorous coursework, we have had the Book Fair, Orchestra Concert, Science Olympiad practice, field trips, guests, and visitors; we have been working so hard that we don't have time to reflect on the impetus for all this activity. A recent article in the Chicago Tribune provides an opportunity for reflection. Reporting on studies by the ACT and the University of Chicago, the article noted that how students perform in middle school is a leading predictor of their success in college and in a career. Significantly, the studies found that, for all students, if they are not academically prepared when they enter high school, they will find it very difficult to make up ground. Readiness for college depends not only on high school preparation, but perhaps more importantly, on the work done before the student gets to high school. At SGMS we take pride in the high level of achievement and effort we expect from all of our students. It's good to know that this will pay great dividends to our students in the years to come.

Joe Andreis, Principal

Open Enrollment for '09-10 School Year

The open enrollment period for '09-'10 school year will begin Jan. 5 and end Jan. 19, 2009. Students already enrolled in SGMS are automatically re-enrolled for the next year. Applications for new students will be available at the school and on the website and may be submitted (in person or by mail only) starting Jan. 5. Siblings of SGMS students receive a preference in the open enrollment period but must still submit an application during the open enrollment period.

Appreciating Mrs. Van Laningham

Students donated funds which were matched by the PTO to give Mrs. V a gift to show our appreciation of all that she does for us, students and staff. We think she was surprised, too!!! Students read letters they wrote to express their thanks. You're the best!!!



Thanks to the SGMS PTO for holding the Bookfair and Ski Lodge Party. We had lots of fun shopping, eating s'mores and drinking hot chocolate. A shout-out to Mrs. Olguin, Martha Lacasse and their team of great helpers!



PTO News

The PTO has been very busy with fund-raising efforts, including SGMS clothing items, a Krispy Kreme sale and the Scholastic Bookfair and Ski Lodge Party. Help them in their efforts and remember to **Support our PTO!**



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Home of the Falcons

**Winter break
begins Dec. 20 and
school resumes on
Jan. 5.**



7th Graders wait for the bus near the Roswell Museum, Ashlea poses with her great-great-great grandmother, Nestorita, Reyes models native American garb, and docent Ann Huff responds to student's question on our trip to the West of Beyond exhibit at the RMAC.

Teacher Recognition

Mrs. Lawner has been asked to be a presenter at the Rural Sites Project Annual Conference next March in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on teaching the Holocaust. Rural Sites is a National Writing Project Network and our local group, the High Plain Writing Project, is a member of that Network.



**SCHOOL ENDS AT 1:00
PM ON FRIDAY, DEC. 19.**

Please make arrangements to pick up your child at this time. Happy Holidays!!!!



School Trips and Activities

The **SGMS orchestra**, under the direction of Reuben Hall, held its Winter Concert on Monday, at Mountain View Middle School. It was a wonderful concert, enjoyed by all.

A **Trade Fair** is planned for Friday, Dec. 19. Students will have a chance to bring in items from home, including things that they have made, to trade for other items which they may keep or give away as gifts.

The National Writing Project's **Young Authors' Camp** is coming to SGMS this summer! Keep on the lookout for a questionnaire coming soon to help us select the date and time. This is a great activity for kids, especially those who like to write. We will be blending writing and technology to come up with some awesome projects.

Science Olympiad practice continues. If you can help out or coach an event, please contact Ms. Ball. Practice schedules will be posted on line (sgms.us) and on the white board outside Mr. Andreis' office.