



# SGMS Newsletter

**Sidney Gutierrez  
Middle School**

December 2009

Issue 8

## From the Principal's Desk



In this season of Thanksgiving and celebration, we have much to be thankful for. Good things have been happening to and for Sidney Gutierrez Middle School lately. At the annual conference of the New Mexico Charter School Coalition, we were named the New Mexico Charter School of the Year. We have received a \$4000 grant from XCel Energy for the 7th grade to attend the Cottonwood Gulch Environmental Education Experience (a 4-day program) in May, several additional grants from other groups to fund Science Olympiad, and a grant to fund John Brandi's poetry workshop in January. The Roswell Daily Record featured our school in the Nov. 29 Vistas section. A group of professors and doctoral students from the Philippines visited our school this week to learn about our educational approach.

Awards, grants, and recognition come in response to hard work and dedication by all involved in the school: the staff, the students, and the parents. But it's never safe to rest on one's laurels. I am working with the Governing Council members to refine our mission and to create a "SWOT" analysis for the school: a survey of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Input on these topics is welcome.

J. Andreis, Principal

## SGMS Governing Council

**President,**  
*Robert Carroll*

**Secretary,**  
*Cymantha Liakos*

**Members**  
*Karen Carson  
Michael Trujillo  
Mike Taylor*

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**PTO President**  
*Maureen Olguin*

**School Phone**  
**347-9703**  
**School Fax**  
**347-9707**  
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### SNOW DAY POLICY

Our school follows the RISD snow day delay and closure decisions. You can find out what RISD has declared by turning on a local TV or radio station, or checking the RISD or TV station websites.

### PLEASE, PARENTS—

**Mrs. V works hard to get emails out to every family at the end of each school day with homework assignments and other important information, including instructions for snow days. Please check your email daily for these important messages!!!**



Prosecuting attorney Kylee demonstrates the murder M.O. in *State v. Dr. Jekyll*, a criminal trial conducted by the 8th grade.

### SGMS Featured in Vistas Article

This past Sunday, Roswell Daily Record featured a story on SGMS. Reporter Matthew Arco visited our school right before Thanksgiving break and wrote a fine description of our school and its programs.

8th Grade sundaes celebrate Box-Top Victory!



### PTO News

The next PTO meeting of the year will be held on Monday, Dec. 7 immediately before the BookFair.

Watch for details! The Scholastic Book Fair will be held the week of Dec. 7. Please stop by and pick up some great books and even some holiday gifts. Profits go back to the school in the form of merchandise from the Scholastic catalog.



## Sidney Gutierrez Middle School

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Home of the Falcons

**Finals are Dec. 14-16.**

### Staff Development

Mrs. Gazdik will attend a seminar, "Co-Teaching in the Inclusive Classroom: Practical Strategies for Success," in Albuquerque next week. It will focus on best practices and effective strategies for differentiated curriculum in inclusive classrooms.

Mrs. Lawner attended several workshops at the National Writing Project Annual Conference in Philadelphia, including one on Young Authors' Workshops and another on awareness of student identities in the classroom. She is also exploring the idea of partnering with a teacher from the Holocaust Educators Network in Minnesota to study Native American experiences in their classrooms.

### School Trips and Activities



NMMI admissions personnel met with the 8th graders to talk about high school and junior college opportunities at NMMI.

The 7th graders are working on scenes from *Cyrano de Bergerac*. A performance date will be set soon.

The 8th graders have responded to the recent visit by City Planner Michael Vickers by writing letters to the mayor and city council concerning projects that they wish to see to improve Roswell for young people. The 7th graders will investigate expanding and improving recycling efforts in Roswell as well as developing a recycling program for our school. Bob Carroll will speak to the students about landfill operations and renewable energy this week.

8th Grade science class is designing experiments to prove that phase changes, such as evaporation, condensation, freezing, and melting, can be reversed.

Mrs. Gazdik's students are focusing on how our prior knowledge and experiences help us to draw conclusions and make predictions when reading different texts. This is one of a number of different strategies proficient readers use to comprehend challenging materials.

City Planner Michael Vickers talks to 7th and 8th graders about our city's plans for growth.



### ATTENTION— SCIENCE OLYMPIAD PARTICIPANTS!!!!

Please note the new schedule for SO after school practices posted outside Mrs. McGuire's classroom. This schedule is for the month of December.