



SGMS Newsletter

**Sidney Gutierrez
Middle School**

February 2010

Issue 11

From the Principal's Desk



We are still cautiously watching the activities at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe for budgetary and other changes that might affect our school. The White House announced this week that they will be working to make some changes in the federal law, No Child Left Behind, in the areas of funding as well as the accountability measures used to rate schools each year. The flood of potential legislation affecting our school is an indication of just how much the nation's education system is in a state of flux, as lawmakers and leaders struggle to hit upon a formula that will bring success to all students. We welcome the focus on education, and obviously, we believe that charter schools may be part of the solution that the policymakers are looking for. This is an exciting and fascinating time to be involved in innovation in education. We appreciate the families who are supporting us in this endeavor.

J. Andreis, Principal

SGMS Governing Council

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Cymantha Liakos

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Karen Carson
Michael Trujillo
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PTO President
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Mrs. Bell to Present at W&M Conference

Mrs. Bell will be presenting a lecture entitled "Mapping Mathematical Knowledge" at the March conference on Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary. This lecture will share the results of a study of student concept mapping in the mathematics classroom and will engage teachers of gifted students in the processes and benefits of concept mapping in mathematics classrooms.

Students Raise Money for Haitian Relief

The combined efforts of our students and parents in the week-long bake sale resulted in raising \$465 for Haitian relief. We will donate this money to the Red Cross. Thanks to all for the baking and the buying, which made this a success!

PTO News

The next PTO meeting will be held on Mon., Feb. 8 at 5:30 at the Anderson Museum. Please plan to attend.

Bingo Night is set for Thurs. Feb 11. Watch email for details.

**NO SCHOOL ON
THURSDAY, FEB.
11 FRIDAY, FEB
12TH OR MON-
DAY, FEB. 15.**



Students write poetry with John Brandi. Anthologies will come out later this year and poems will be submitted to the High Prairie Poetry Spring Contest.



Sidney Gutierrez Middle School

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Home of the Falcons

Parent-Teacher
conferences Feb. 11

Students Participate in Orchestra Competition

Under the tutelage of our orchestra teacher Reuben Hall, 5 SGMS students competed in the Solo and Ensemble Event on Saturday, Jan. 30. Adrian Lopez (cello), Abbey Bell (cello), Alejandra Dykstra, (violin), Joseph Martinez and Clare Shea, (violin). Adrian, Abbey, Alejandra and Joseph received a "1" for their performances, which is the highest rating you can get. Clare received a "2," which is excellent. Bravo and brava to our talented musicians!

Tutoring Help Available

Go to the Roswell Public Library website, www.roswellpubliclibrary.org, and click on Live Homework Help for free tutoring. All you need is your library card number.

School Trips and Activities



The 7th graders have begun their unit on the Holocaust and have finished "Swing Kids." They are learning how a genocide starts with small acts of prejudice on the "pyramid of hate."

6th grade science students are finishing up their Solar System Unit. They are now our resident experts on the Solar System. We recently went on a micrometeorite hunt. The exciting news is that the group which collected the micrometeorites are the Box Head Llamas. Students in this group are Scooby Taylor, Gareth Lawson, Julia Hickerson, and Clare Shea. Congrats to our hunters!

7th grade science students are starting their Ecology Unit and will learn about population size, adaptations, biomes, and much more. Two 8th graders, Javier and Nathan, who performed very well on the Ecology event in Science Olympiad will teach an ecology lesson to the class.

STEM students have made their first 20 frame films. Students are learning how to use digital cameras and a photo editing bundle in order to stitch still frames together to create animation. The films are animations of LEGO figures. We still have need of goose neck lamps and more LEGO's.

Sixth grade math students are studying the relationships between fractions and decimals. Soon they will make the shift to percentages as well. Ask someone why division is a sharing operation and see what they have to say!

The 6th grade is currently studying Ancient Greece and the 8th graders are finishing up the Civil War and Reconstruction. The 6th grade had a great time working with Aria Finch at the Roswell Museum to make celadon pots in the Korean style.

Seventh grade pre-algebra students are engaged in a positively fascinating unit: Accentuate the Negative. Students are building skills and understanding about positive and negative integers and their operations. Algebra I students are busy in furthering their work in moving between tables, graphs, and equations. This unit takes a more focused approach on linear systems of equations and solving multi-step equations.

Science Olympiad News

Our team is hard at work preparing for the State Tournament in Socorro. We have also begun a "Decency Initiative," where the students focus on curbing their sarcasm, unnecessary remarks, and negative comments. Team sweatshirts will be delivered this week. If you have not paid for your shirt, please give cash or a check made out to Mrs. J. McGuire to her as soon as possible.