



SGMS Newsletter

**Sidney Gutierrez
Middle School**

November 2009

Issue 7

From the Principal's Desk



This week the annual New Mexico Charter School Conference is being held in Albuquerque. The movement has come far since our school received its charter in 2001, when only a handful of schools existed in the state. There are now over 70 charter schools in the state serving over 10,000 students. I will attend the conference along with members of our Governing Council, where we will receive valuable information on school governance, finance, curriculum, and instruction.

The charter school movement was started as a way of introducing innovation into education. Charter schools act as laboratories to implement educational philosophies and strategies. The idea was that when these schools meet with success, the ideas can then be implemented by other, more traditional schools. While we are clearly very successful, we continue to explore new ideas and methodologies at SGMS. We pride ourselves on our ability to change course when we encounter difficulties or learn of new ideas. We have noticed, in our relatively short existence, that students needs have changed significantly over the past few years. Our staff continually takes courses, attends conferences, and reads the latest professional publications to make sure we leave no stone unturned in our efforts to lead our students to the best outcomes possible. While it may be true that no two years at SGMS are ever the same, this is because we are continuously striving to be better and to better meet our students' needs.

J. Andreis, Principal

SGMS Governing Council

President,
Robert Carroll

Secretary,
Cymantha Liakos

Members
Karen Carson
Michael Trujillo
Mike Taylor

PTO President
Maureen Olguin

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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.



Students work in science class and sign up for Science Olympiad



Salsa Contest

The 7th grade has decided to have a salsa contest (the food, not the dance) Friday to celebrate our study of New Mexico history and culture. The 7th graders are invited (but not required) to bring in a salsa entry. Chips would also be welcome.

ATTENTION SCIENCE OLYMPIAD PARTICIPANTS!

Remember to keep your grades up! To stay on the team you must have a 75% average for your classes. If you are having trouble with your grades, tutoring is available (see Mrs. McGuire).

PLEASE, PARENTS—
When you come in to the school, do not park in the circular drive. That is ONLY for picking up or dropping off your child.



Sidney Gutierrez Middle School

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Home of the Falcons

Mid-9 weeks ends
Nov. 13.

Staff Development

Mrs. Gazdik has been invited to work on a Reading Research Grant awarded to Eastern New Mexico University-Portales and which is being spearheaded by Dr. K. Donalson (Assistant Reading Education Professor at ENMU-Portales). She will be part of Dr. Donalson's Reading Research Team and will have the opportunity to gain hands-on-experience working with struggling readers throughout southeastern New Mexico during the spring and summer of 2010.

Mrs. McGuire attended a coaches' training session for Science Olympiad at New Mexico Tech. She received some helpful information on some of the new events at Science Olympiad this year.

Mrs. Lawner will participate in programs on creating Young Writers' Workshops and on the role on identity in content area learning at the National Writing Project in Philadelphia next week.

School Trips and Activities



On Monday, Nov. 16, Michael Vickers, the Roswell City Planner, will be speaking to the 7th and 8th graders about the City's Master Plan. We will look for ways the students can participate in the planning process.

The 8th graders have put Dr. Jekyll on trial this week. In a two-day nail-biting courtroom drama, two teams of high-powered attorneys (Reyes, Hayley and Adrian for the prosecution, Kylene, Ben, and Yodel for the defense), a parade of witnesses took the stand. Judge Joel ran a tight ship.

Our student memoirs are now on galleryofwriting.org. Go to the RoswellWrites Exhibition Hall to see your child's work.

This Friday evening, Nov. 13, the 8th graders will have a movie night in Mrs. Lawner's room. The movie, "Under the Same Moon," will begin at 7:00. Parent chaperones are welcome.

8th grade math students are comparing, ordering, and working with rational numbers, positive and negative fractions and decimals, and numbers with exponents and scientific notation.

Sixth grade is studying earthquakes and students will make seismographs. The 7th grade is studying animal adaptation and natural selection. The 8th grade is honing laboratory skills, determining pH values and titrating various substances.

Seventh graders had their first Recorder Karate belt ceremony and just watched "Singin' in the Rain" as part of their study of American Musical Theater. The song "Moses Supposes" was a favorite along with "Make 'em Laugh".

STEM students have begun a House Design Unit which focuses on blueprint design, budgeting, and interior design. The students work in teams to complete tasks. They will be working on a collage portfolio and could use any magazines that focus on home furnishings and interior design!

Algebra I finished a focused unit on the Pythagorean Theorem. Pre-Algebra 7 will begin study of signed integers next week. Pre-Algebra 6 recently completed a concept-packed unit on plane geometry.



Tutoring Available!!!

Mrs. Miller is available to tutor students needing additional assistance in any subject after school on Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Students enjoy Spirit Week at Sidney