



SGMS Newsletter

**Sidney Gutierrez
Middle School**

September 2009

Issue 3



From the Principal's Desk

We are now half-way through the first 9 weeks grading period, and most students seemed to have settled in to the SGMS "routine"—although we like to think that we are anything but routine here at SGMS. As always, communication between staff and parents, and parents and students is key to the students' success. As part of this vital communication process, this Friday the teachers will be available for conferencing to discuss your child's progress. Teachers will generally be available from 8:00 am until 3:30. If you need to make other arrangements, please let them know. We strongly urge you to meet with our staff so that we can work as partners in providing your child with the most meaningful educational opportunities. The progress reports that go home this week include not only grades, but ratings on behavior and work ethic as well. Please read these reports and return them to the school, so that we know that you have received them.

J. Andreis, Principal

SGMS Governing Council

President,
Robert Carroll

Secretary,
Cymantha Liakos

Members
Karen Carson
Michael Trujillo

PTO President
Maureen Olguin

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347-9707
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Sept. 11 Luncheon Honoring Firefighters

We had the largest crowd ever at the 9/11 luncheon held at Fire Station #4 last Friday. Many firefighters attended the luncheon, catered and served by our parents and PTO, and were grateful for the recognition. Sixth graders Jake Andreis, Zach Jennings, Jacob Pinon, Yloria Ramos, and Julia Hickerson read letters of thanks and appreciation to the firefighters for the efforts and sacrifices they daily make on our behalf.



PTO News

The next PTO meeting of the year will be held on Monday, Oct. 12, 5:30 at the Anderson Museum. Meetings never last longer than one hour. Attendance at these meetings has been far below what we need to successfully support our school. We need your help!

Science Olympiad

The event list for Science Olympiad is posted outside Mrs. McGuire's door. Students should take a look at it to see what events they would like to consider competing in. A letter will go home shortly with more details. We will be looking for parent volunteers to help coach individual events and otherwise support our team.





Sidney Gutierrez Middle School

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Home of the Falcons

**Parent-Teacher
Conferences
Fri. Sept. 18**

**Note that regular lunch now costs
\$2. Reduced lunches are 40 cents.**

Daily Reading

Students in all grades are required to read a book on their own (about 20-30 minutes a night), and reading logs are turned in each Friday. Please make sure your child has a book to read. We have many great books here at school that students may check out, and Mrs. Lawner loves to make recommendations for students who just can't find anything they like.

School Trips and Activities



The 7th grade field trip to Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument is now scheduled for Monday, Sept. 21, due to the availability of buses. We should be back at school around 7:00 pm. Students need a bag lunch, drinks, and snacks (and/or some money to purchase snacks), as well as good hiking shoes, a hat and sunscreen.

"Roswell Reads" this year will focus on three books about the Depression, including *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hess, which we read in 7th grade. A number of excellent activities are planned for both students and parents, and we hope you will participate. The 8th graders are working on the booth at the Eastern New Mexico State Fair with the Dust Bowl theme.

The 6th Graders will present their Mythology Readers' Theater at 2:00 on Thursday, Sept. 17. The plays tell the story of Athena, Hermes, and Ariadne. Don't miss it!

Mrs. Bell's STEM classes are starting their Skateboard Science unit. This project-based unit focuses on design and the physics of skateboarding parks. We still need thin cardboard boxes and lots of cardboard tubes. Students will have a chance to demonstrate their skateboard park designs later in the semester.

The seventh grade music class recently finished viewing "The Music Instinct: Science & Song." This DVD highlighted the research on music's psychological, physiological, and social impact. Seventh grade music students have just received their recorders. Students will be working on their note reading skills, composing, and group performances. Recorder Karate is coming your way.



Stats students have been using statistical analysis software to investigate the attributes, measures of center, and variance of real-world data. These students have also been working with graphing calculators to create multiple representations of data. Recent activities and analysis include tennis ball circumference variance and the randomness of phone numbers.