



All City Elementary PTA Newsletter

Week 1
September 19, 2011

Our Mission: "To create a community of learners: children, teachers, and parents working cooperatively to maximize individual growth and success in a changing world."

Deadline: Friday, noon
Kristin Kollis, editor
kkollis@gmail.com
www.allcitypta.org

Connecting Students to *Their* World By Dr. Pam Homan, Superintendent



Digital Immigrant or Digital Native? Which title best describes you?

Wikipedia, the online and ever-updated catalog of information that models itself against the hard-copy Encyclopedia Britannica most of us grew up with, describes people born before 1980 as digital immigrants. Those born after 1980 are considered digital natives because, as Wikipedia puts it, they "understand the value of digital technology and use this to seek out opportunities for implementing it with a view to make an impact."

Today's students – true digital natives - are constantly seeking new, better and faster ways to gather information, to analyze their research and to complete their challenging school assignments. That's why the Sioux Falls School District embarked on an intense study of network bandwidth usage in each school, network connections between and within schools, performance of the District's wireless network and new technologies available that might benefit our students.

The study confirmed the need to upgrade the District's infrastructure as a means of stabilizing and enhancing the performance of the computer network. In part, the work entailed increasing bandwidth capacity and dramatically multiplying the number of wireless access points throughout our buildings.

What does this mean to you and to your student? It means that our schools are now better equipped for accessing the latest instructional resources available. Students and teachers can access the information they need when they want and where they want. Because of previous limitations, that was not always possible.

This infrastructure upgrades are just one of the exciting changes in the 2011-12 school year. The District is also launching a new initiative called ILEARN SF which allows identified students in two elementary schools to take home iPads each night for use on their school assignments. The identified students currently live in homes where there is no access to the internet. This program will allow greater access to information for students who do not currently have the necessary tools.

The Sioux Falls School District is deeply committed to connecting students with *their* world. Their world is at their fingertips through the many technology options now available. And, our schools are now better equipped so we can continue to do what we do best; "educate and prepare each student to succeed in a changing world."

At a glance Calendar Events

- Friday, Sept 23rd
Kids Care
2:00 - Dow Rummel
- Friday, Sept 30th
No School

Math/Reading Lab Correction

Reading lab with Mrs. Wells will be Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Math lab with Mrs. Vos will be Wednesday and Friday.

Handbook Highlights

Kids Care (Third, Fourth and Fifth Grades)

Fourth and fifth graders participate in a community service project once a month as listed in the school calendar. The goals of this program are:

- to provide children with the opportunity to become involved in their community.
- to encourage children to become lifelong participants in their community, learning how they can make a difference and how others can benefit from them; to give willingly of oneself without expectations; to receive personal satisfaction.
- to promote leadership within our school and community.
- to provide a language experience (oral and written).

The students volunteer their time at Luther Manor, the Food Pantry, the kindergarten classrooms, the Limited English programs, and other places throughout the community.

Third grade students visit the Dow Rummel Nursing Home each month to visit residents, decorate doors, and conduct various programs throughout the year.

Absence

If your child is sick or will be absent for any reason, please call the school office at 367-6120 by 8:30am. If your child is sick for more than one day, please call each day. Teachers will send home make-up work as soon as possible.

Permission to Leave School Grounds

Children should not leave the school grounds during school hours, including the lunch hour, unless there is a written request or a telephone call from the parent(s). Teachers and the office should be informed if such permission has been granted. **All parents must sign their student out and leave from the office for lunch or an appointment. If a student returns to school the same day, parents need to sign back in.**