



All City Elementary PTA Newsletter

Week I
January 16, 2012

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
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At a glance Calendar Events

- Tuesday Jan 17th
-Volunteer Service Opportunity
-Feeding SD
- Friday Jan 20th
-Choice Day
- Thursday Jan 26th
-Science Fair 7pm
- Friday Jan 27th
-Kids Care
-Dow Rummel 2pm

DON'T FORGET ***January 16-20***

All Families must have one representative attend a Parent Training Session from 11:30 to 12:00 (it will be offered each day of that week) Even if you are a WEEK TWO ONLY parents, you must have one family representative attend! Attendance will be tracked!

This will be held in the LIBRARY

Complete School Year Calendar is available at www.allcitypta.org

Picture This...

By Dr. Pam Homan, Superintendent



Each week, I have the privilege of traveling to schools across the District to meet with students and to observe and provide feedback to teachers. Those building visits are always energizing because they remind me of the endless possibilities available to the eager students in the Sioux Falls School District. Those visits also give me a glimpse into the amazing talents being developed in each one of your public schools.

While some students possess outstanding abilities in core subject areas such as English or math; still others possess talents they are able to express through our expansive fine arts curriculum.

Each month, our schools provide artwork to brighten the lobby area at the Instructional Planning Center – the hub of our District. I am constantly in awe of the works of art created by our students. From intricately painted self-portraits to stunning photographs to origami pieces to construction-paper crafts – the student artwork chosen for display could easily be featured in top-notch art exhibits around town.

In fact, our student artwork *will* be featured in some very public ways in the near future. High school students are being encouraged to submit digital works of art to be featured in the region's first community digital art gallery at the new Avera Prairie Center - a medical facility that "understands and embraces the healing power of art." The theme is "Breaking Through" and making an impact on our community and society.

Middle school students have been invited to participate in an international photo exhibition by capturing the essence of "everyday life" of teens. Winning selections will be shown in the Potsdam, Germany Central Train Station where they will be seen by thousands of people every day.

A statewide youth art show is scheduled for March in Watertown with a vision of providing a "fun and supportive competition that encourages, inspires and rewards young artists and their art programs." The PTA also sponsors the local *Reflections* program, with opportunities for students to advance to state and national competition.

In the Sioux Falls School District, we often speak of providing multiple pathways for students to realize their success. The opportunities available to students who are able to so masterfully express themselves through art is just one example of the commitment we have to carrying out our mission "to educate and prepare each student to succeed in a changing world." I'm so proud our schools are able to provide these opportunities. I'm grateful for the teachers who inspire these young artists to develop their passion. And, I'm lucky to be able to view their tremendous work in my weekly school visits. I hope you take any opportunity you may have to do the same.

The Book Fair will be held on Wednesday, February 8th from 1pm to 7pm and Thursday, February 9th from 3pm to 7pm in the Gym during conferences! The dollars raised from the "One for Books" program will go directly to our own EIC to purchase books!!!

Hello Volunteers!

I want to thank you for your generosity in giving of your time to volunteer to help pack the BackPacks on Tuesday, January 17th at 6:00 pm! Your efforts and manpower make this program work! THANK YOU!

We consider this to be a fun, family-friendly volunteer opportunity. This task takes approximately 2 ½ hours to complete. It gets warm in the packing area at times, especially during the winter, so please dress lightly!

Sometimes we are a little difficult to find. Our physical address is 3511 N. 1st Ave. From the intersection of 4th & Benson, drive south one block, turn right on 40th street, turn left on 1st Ave. Feeding South Dakota will be on your right-hand side. If you are coming from the south and rounding the SD State Penitentiary curve, continue driving north on N. 4th Ave, turn left on Hermosa Drive, then right on N. 1st Ave. Feeding South Dakota will be on your left-hand side. If our parking lot is full, we have permission from "Dakota Splash" to use their parking lot as well. Our phone number is 335-0364, in case you need some additional assistance.

We look forward to seeing you! Allison Struck -BackPack Coordinator

Tips for Parents: What to Do If Your Child Bullies Others

If your child bullies other children at school, it will need to be stopped. We are doing a number of things at school to prevent bullying and to stop bullying once it occurs. Here are some things you can do at home to help. Thank you for your help in making our school a safe and positive place to learn.

- Make it clear to your child that you take bullying seriously and that it is not okay.
- Make rules within your family for your child's behavior. Praise your child for following the rules and use nonphysical and logical consequences when rules are broken. A logical consequence for bullying could be losing rights to use the phone to call friends, using email to talk with friends, or other activities your child enjoys.
- Spend lots of time with your child and keep close track of his or her activities. Find out who your child's friends are and how and where they spend their free time.
- Build on your child's talents by encouraging him or her to get involved in positive activities (such as clubs, music lessons, or nonviolent sports).
- Share your concerns with your child's teacher, counselor, and/or principal. Work together to send a clear message to your child that his or her bullying must stop.
- If you and your child need more help, talk with a school counselor and/or mental health professional.

CHOICE DAY REMINDER— To all parents who have an upcoming Choice Day assignment— It is your responsibility to provide the activity you are planning. Please have back up plans in place, as at times, invited presenters or activities arrive late or have conflicts on short notice, and you, the parent must stand ready to provide a quality activity for up to 13 students for an hour and a half. We have had several situations this year at the last minute that if plans would have been ready, would have made the event flow much better for all involved. We will be providing additional reminders to all Choice Day assignees. Thanks.

Parent Teacher

Conference Notes!!

Parent Teacher Conferences are right around the corner!! In your Monday's Folders, today, is the note that allows you to give your preference on timeframe to schedule these conferences. Please indicate your First and Second choice, and NOTE the DATE DUE--- TUESDAY, JANUARY 24!!