



All City Elementary PTA Newsletter

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

Week 2
February 21, 2012

Deadline: Friday, noon
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www.allcitypta.org

At a glance Calendar Events

- **Friday Feb 24th**
-ACE serves Banquet
-Kids Care
- **Wednesday Feb 29th**
-Gala Luncheon
- **Friday March 2nd**
-Swimming 1pm
- **Monday March 5th**
-PTA Board Meeting
Noon
- **Friday March 9th**
-End of 3rd Quarter

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

Understanding What Happens at In-Service

By Dr. Pam Homan, Superintendent



Do you ever wonder what your child's teacher is doing on days that are declared "in-service" on the school calendar?" While your son or daughter might spend the free day with grandpa and grandma, work a few extra hours at their part-time job, or just sleep in until Noon, their teachers are hard at work – learning new teaching strategies, collaborating with their co-workers or delving into the newest curriculum being implemented in their classroom. This "time off" for students is anything but for employees of school districts across the state and nation.

The Sioux Falls School District is currently reviewing, and in some grade levels, implementing a new math curriculum that closely aligns with the Common Core Standards adopted by South Dakota and many other states. These Common Core Standards are giving us the opportunity to rearrange which skills are taught at which grade level. The goal is to better prepare students for college and work... a goal that mirrors that of the District's mission "to educate and prepare each student to succeed in a changing world."

Rearranging these mathematical concepts by grade level is not easy. It is time consuming. Furthermore, teaching the new standards is not as simple as just opening a new textbook and teaching from it. Teachers must spend hours upon hours creating new lesson plans, understanding how to use online resources to support students in their learning, and collaborating with teachers of other grade levels to make sure all standards are being covered. This is one small sliver of what happens on in-service days.

In addition to staff development for teachers, clerical, education assistants, child nutrition workers, custodians, and all others receive training on areas specific to their work. For example, they might receive training on implementing more online processes to reduce paper-work, learn District expectations during a lockdown, or how to administer first-aid and CPR.

Last year, the Sioux Falls School District offered over 80,000 hours of staff development for its employees. Most of those learning opportunities happen outside of the regular school day – sometimes on nights and weekends. But, because your schools are deeply committed to employing the highest quality and highest trained staff possible, some of this important work must happen on in-service days.

So, the next time you wonder why your student has a "day off" from school, I hope you'll remember that his or her teacher is working hard to bring new and exciting opportunities for learning into their classroom.

PTA Nominations! February is the month to gather interest forms from ACE families that are interested in serving on the PTA board. This year we have Secretary and 2nd Vice President positions available for the 2012-2013 school year. Secretary is worth 20 hours of outside commitment time and a 2-yr term. 2nd Vice President is a 70 hour position. Following your 2nd Vice President year you would be 1st Vice President and the 3rd year you would be expected to be the PTA President.

Please consider submitting a letter stating why you would be a good candidate and also why you would like to have the particular position you are interested in. We are a community of learners working cooperatively to maximize individual growth and success in a changing world. Be a proactive part in our children's education!

To submit a letter of intent, please email tsspader@sio.midco.net. If you have any questions feel free to contact me, Stephanie Spader (1st Vice President) or any teacher, PTA member or Mr. D. Thank you!

Gala Luncheon

We have **55 tickets** to the Gala Luncheon that will be sold on a first come first serve basis on **Wednesday, February 22nd at 1:00 in the school entryway.**

We will have 3 lines to help move people through quickly.

Please bring payment at that time. Tickets are \$6.50 a person.

Please email/call with any questions.

Thanks, Joni Merkley

274-6107 or jonimerkley@hotmail.com



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DENTAL**



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& SEALANTS**



Make an appointment or
get more information by
contacting 605-367-8046

WHO: Anyone ages 0 - 18 years
Parent/Guardian must be present
Must have appointment

WHEN: February 15, March 15,
April 5, 2012 (All day)
Or by appointment

WHERE: USD Sioux Falls Clinic
521 N Main Ave, Suite 202
Sioux Falls, SD 57104