



S.O.D.A NEWS

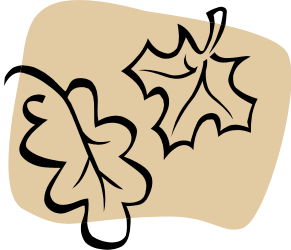
October 28, 2009

We love our new school!

Everyone is settling into our new space and loving it. It seems that this extra breathing room, ability to give students more space in the lab, and our incredible location beside the bosque, all contribute to a general sense of relief and elation. Thank you to the many parents who came to lend a hand. As with all the work we do, without you, we would be in poor shape. A special thanks to Dr. Geoff Carpenter, father of Emilie, who on more than one occasion has come to our school to share his knowledge with us about ecology and the need for good stewardship of our land. It seems he is going to be a regular contributor to our learning and we thank him for his help. We nominate him as our November **Volunteer of the Month!**

Fall Festival Fund Raiser/Open House

The PTC has plans to open our doors and invite our S.O.D.A families and other community members in to share a night of activities and fun. Mark your calendars for Wed., November 18th, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. More news about the night will be forthcoming. If you wish to get involved to help with this event, contact Kerra Howe, our PTC President. Messages for her can be left with us at 866-SODA.



Corrective Reading / My Skills Tutor

Ms. Hernandez has begun her work with some of our students this week. If you have

questions about these programs, please contact her directly at:

jhernandez@schoolofdreamsacademy.com

Parent Teacher Student Conferences

Thank you parents/grandparents for coming to meet with us last week. The staff at S.O.D.A feels that the conferences were enormously beneficial. We hope you do too. Your child had some homework from that conference to set goals as "college bound students". If they have not completed this activity, nor have you read and signed that you saw them, please see that this is done and returned ASAP. These are returned to their advisory teachers and revisited later in the year. Expect that a copy of your child's ILP (Individual Learning Plan) will go home with them on Friday. We hope that these short- range goals, coupled with the long-range goal-setting (college-bound student goals), will help your son/daughter begin to make the connection between what they do at S.O.D.A and their future.

Clase de Español studies Dia De Los Muertos!

This Friday our Spanish classes will travel by rail to Albuquerque to visit the National Hispanic Cultural Center. There they will learn about a unique cultural tradition and enjoy the festivities therein. Senor Romero appreciates any parent volunteers who care to join them. They will meet at the train station by 7:50a.m. and return there at 1:32.



E2020 Update

As we have passed the half way point of our first semester, your child should be at about the 50% mark in their completion of each of the 4 E2020 courses (Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts). As we have noted before in *S.O.D.A News*, students must be working from home. *An average of a half an hour a day seems realistic and necessary.* Quizzes in all subjects can be taken at home. Topic tests must be completed at school.

Service Learning/Experiential Education

Our final visit to the illegal dumpsite by UNMVC was a big success. Students appreciated the large sign that reads ***“This Site Cleaned Up By the Students Of The School of Dreams Academy, Please Show Respect and Care for This Land”.*** Numerous students read their very powerful letters to one of our government officials about some of their concerns. County Commissioner Georgia-Otero Kirkham attended and listened to our young leaders, as well as our frequent supporter, Cyndi Sluder, of Tierra Bonita. We were delighted to be invited to present our work and ideas at the next Commission meeting in November. The 10 or so kids who read their letters that Friday are asked to join us to re-read to our county officials. All other students who wish to come and show support are encouraged to do so. This will occur on November 4th at 5:00 p.m. at the Courthouse bldg. on Courthouse Rd.

Here are a few of the student reflections received following that activity. We know you will enjoy them.

I thought that today was a good closure to our hard efforts towards cleaning up our beautiful desert. When we were walking away from the dumpsite I took a minute to take it all in. I personally thought it was remarkable progress we made from the very first day up until now. I mean you could hardly recognize it. I also thought that the students who went up and read their letters made some very good points that all of us agree with; because I know I do. The one letter that really stood out to me was Bailey's. She made some points that I think some of us don't quite understand the importance of; like how almost everyone is affected by Meth and even if you're are not directly affected by it then you probably know someone who is. Now don't get

me wrong, all of them were extraordinary, it's just that really spoke to me. Lastly I would just like to say that I can't wait for another service learning project where we can make a difference in our community. Hopefully others will follow our lead and help out.

-Chloe Grubb

I thank you for bringing the County Commissioner over so she could see the work we have done cleaning up the illegal dumpsite. I also really like Gandhi's concept of "Be the change you wish to be in the world" because we can't just wait for things to happen and hope that everything comes out as expected. It's good news that we are going to have a rehab facility in Los Lunas sometime in the future so that the drug addicts can have another chance at a good life.

I can't believe that we cleaned up a huge dumpsite in three days because I would think it would take weeks to clean up that huge of a dumpsite. I hope that when people see the sign the school put up at the dumpsite, they think twice about littering. I really hope that all the work we've done has made a big difference on the environment.

-John Yrigoyen

I like the part where we just reminisced about when we were there for the first time and contrasting that with today's effect. I had a feeling inside of me that I haven't felt in a long time, since last year's clean up on the Express Way. I felt happy, sad, and excited all at the same time; happy that we accomplished something incredible, sad that we are now not going back because of the move- however excited that we got to go back. I walked on to the dump site and saw the sign and everyone went crazy! I said to myself, "See what changes we could make in just a few days," and yet, people still don't try. I'm just glad we got to see our work one last time.

-Danielle Garcia

I loved it on Friday. It was so inspiring. Yes I want to be a teacher. I would love it more than anything. To help others makes me feel like a good person.

-Melissa Vetsch

Dressing For Success at S.O.D.A

Unfortunately we need to be sure that our dress code is understood clearly. Since our move it seems many kids have forgotten our dress code. Please take careful note of the following to avoid a

call asking you to come to furnish appropriate attire for your child.

(Excerpts from the Parent Student Handbook)

The founders and governing council of the School of Dreams Academy perceive that attendance in this school is a privilege and an opportunity to gain academic and social skills that will contribute to a successful career and positive values throughout life. Dressing appropriately is required for most employment opportunities today. There is no better time to begin the habit of professional dress than the present. It is the responsibility of the School of Dreams Academy students to follow the expectations while at school or at school-sponsored activities.

The following expectations will be in place for the School of Dreams Academy: Pants or bottoms: Jean and khaki pants or bottoms are acceptable. Pajama bottoms, stretch pants, or sweat pants will not be allowed. Pants or bottoms must fit and be worn at the waist and cannot reveal the undergarment. They cannot be frayed or torn or have writing or drawing. Pants or bottoms cannot be excessively loose or tight. Final approval will be at the discretion of the administration.

NO flip flops

Piercings are not allowed except in **ears**.

After the move to the Riverfront property, students may wear solid colored navy blue, royal blue, red, or grey tee shirts or polo shirts. Tops or shirts cannot be revealing, too loose, or too tight. The top cannot have writing, pictures, or symbols. Exceptions may be made for small, appropriate symbols or logos, including the School of Dreams Academy logo. Revealing tops including spaghetti straps, low-cut or backless tops, tube tops, halter tops, or bare midriff tops will not be allowed.

If you have questions, call 866-SODA to discuss with Mr. Yates.

Volunteer Opportunities

In addition for the need for lunch supervision, particularly as we now have two lunch periods M-Th, and each a half an hour, know that some other areas may match your interests and schedule. Mrs. Greenley and Mr. Romero can

always use your help on our many Friday outings. As we strive to “adopt” part of the bosque and work to jazz up the parking area/access point, we will be outdoors quite often. To express interest in attending on Fridays or to ask for more information, contact Mrs. Greenley at rdarling@schoolofdreamsacademy.com

Volunteers interested in carpentry type work are also sought as we start to consider the possibility of building our own picnic tables. With small groups of students we hope to make table-building a part of Service Learning. If you are good with this type of work, please contact Mr. Romero at 866-SODA.

At this time Service Learning/Experiential Education activities occur on Fridays. Know that in addition to these activities, students are in the lab working on E2020 for 1 _ hours. A missed Friday hurts both their success in S.L. but also with their contact time with their 4 core subjects. Undoubtedly, Friday’s attendance records at our school are the poorest. Please see that your child attends school every day of the week.



NEW POLICY FOR PARTICIPATION IN FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

Students **earn** our Friday activities through their good work and attitude throughout the week. Students with more than one referral in one week, or 3 or more ZEROs in the E2020 lab for one week, will NOT be attending. Zeros are received for disruptive behavior and not following school rules. We will call you to discuss options. Inviting you to school to supervise your child is an option that will be discussed. Another option will be that your child will need to work on their E2020 from home on Friday. We insist that students learn that school is their job and it must be done well.

Mark Your Calendars- PTC meets the 2nd
Tues of the month at 6:00 p.m.!