

**Last Newsletter of 2009!**

We break for the holidays here very shortly. Is it possible that we are nearing the end of the half way mark? Quite unbelievable. Our final day of the first semester of school is Friday, Dec. 18th. We will resume school on Tuesday, January 5th.

**Final exams, Report Cards, and Open Lab Hours During Winter Break**

Most of the enrichment courses at S.O.D.A have their final exams scheduled for tomorrow or early next week. Students have been amply informed and should be preparing for these exams.

Report cards for the semester will go home on Dec. 18th. We will furnish you with information that will help you decide how much time over the two week vacation that your child should devote to their E2020 coursework. On Dec. 4th Mr. Yates sent home a letter that explained a few helpful topics, one of which was an invitation to families who would like to see their child(ren) do some catching up over the holidays at school with us. We have three adults who will provide assistance to students Dec. 21st -23rd and the 28th-30th. School will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. In order to participate, you must ***sign your child up by calling the office ASAP.***

Winter Weather Update

A reminder that when you have doubts about school being in session due to wintery weather, please listen to the local TV stations and be prepared for news specifically for the School of Dreams Academy.

Volunteer of the Month

We are so fortunate to have the help of Sofie Granger, our Dec. volunteer of the month. Sofie is the grandmother of Shyanne Sanchez and is one of those tireless volunteers who is always willing to lend a hand. We thank you Sofie!

Secret Santa Book Exchange

About 75% of our students signed up to be a part of the Secret Santa book exchange. Please ask your child if they too are participating. Wrapped books for their recipient are due by Thurs., Dec. 17th for our book exchange on Friday, Dec. 18th.

Remember, we only include on the tag/card who the book is for, not whom it is from! That is a secret (for now ☺).

Service Learning/Experiential Education Update

Last week we had the opportunity for a guest speaker from the Valencia County Center for Domestic Violence. Mrs. Barela came to share with us ways to be on the alert to cyber-bullying, teen-dating violence, and a whole host of other topics. Students who completed their "Quick Write" reflections seem to have really enjoyed the session we had. Here is what one student had to say:

Service Learning on Friday was really fun. I never knew that there was so much teenage domestic violence happening. The handouts are really cool and I think that they have a lot of useful information in them. I liked how Karla Barela was really straight forward about everything and how she talked about all the

different types of domestic violence. She taught us what to watch out for and how people on the internet can trick you and make you think they're someone they're really not. She also talked about drugs and pets and how they can be involved in teen dating violence. I also liked how at the end she told us that if we had any questions that we wanted to ask her privately then we could. She helped me A LOT with something I've needed help with. This Service Learning was probably one of my favorites.

-Lachelle

These final two Fridays before the holidays will be busy ones. This Friday students who are working on their lessons plans for teaching to elementary students will be finalizing their lessons and rehearsing. Mid January we will be walking to DFE and BFE (now housed next to DFE) to teach elementary students about caring for the environment. We have many parent /grandparent volunteers who help us with this work. If you too wish to join the fun, just come on down! Mr. Romero could use some extra adult hands as well as he works with the kids who opted out of teaching on an alternative project.

Our last Friday will include writing letters to soldiers serving in Afghanistan or Iraq. We are working with the Blue Star Mothers to put together a parcel of helpful items to go along with our letters. Attached you will find a list of these items. **We ask that in January, if you can help, you send with your child what you can and we will add it to our parcel.** Thanks so much!

The Green Team Requests Your Cans!



If you have aluminum cans you can share with us, please send them in! We are

going to use the monies we obtain from recycling to expand our efforts to make our school even better!

Adventures in Literature Students Share Poetry

In addition to reading and analyzing poems, the A.I.L. students have been busy writing their own. Here are a few Haiku poems written by our students. Haiku, a Japanese form of poetry, employs a unique pattern of 5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables.

Thanksgiving by Emma Clary-Gelinas

Warm glow of firelight.
Surrounded by those who care.
Everyone feels love.

Red, orange, yellow and brown;
the colors of Fall are here.
Smiles fill the air.

Food is almost done.
The smells, keep the people near.
The table is set.

Finally it's time.
The thanks is passed between us;
a wonderful time.

Giving by Nicholas Aragon

Once again we give
thanks, for the freedom we share.
Joy and happiness.

Rounding the Barrel by Faith Lucero

The timer starting,
as we go around the three.
The swift horse runs free.

E20/20 Update

In an effort to monitor our student's work on E20/20, as well as assist with essay writing assignments that occur in the Language Arts component, Mrs. Greenley has for some weeks been giving writing strategy support to students. Know that for your child to complete the LA course for the semester, all student journals must be marked as completed (and thus they must be comprehensible and sufficiently answered) and their essays must be passed with at least a 75%. She will be available for assistance over the holidays, via email. Mrs. Greenley can read and give support on essays from home through the E2020 program.

**From all of us at the School of Dreams Academy,
we wish you a very peaceful holiday season!**