

**Progress Reports Go Home!**

Today you will find a progress report along with a letter from Mr. Yates explaining how to decipher the E2020 progress report. A separate document shows you how your child is progressing in their enrichment courses. There is a place for you to sign that you have received this information and it should be returned to your child's advisory teacher *no later than Friday* afternoon. Know that we will be scheduling our Parent-Teacher-Student conferences next month. We hope to offer these the same week that Los Lunas holds theirs. Your conference will be arranged by your child's advisory teacher who will conduct the conference and help you and your child set goals for success at our school.

Fund Raiser Kick Off occurred last week and continues until September 21, 2009. We hope that you, like us, appreciate that there is no junk to sell but rather our efforts are to get support for our school via donations. Your child should be giving each donor a slip containing a collection of value-saving coupons for businesses in the ABQ area.

Many Thanks! Parents and grandparents have been so instrumental in providing support to our students and teachers. Thank you to all who come to help at lunchtime and beyond. Thank you also to the many families who were represented at this month's PTC meeting. Please mark your calendars for October 13th. We meet every second Tuesday of the month. It is the PTC who has worked to get a fundraising campaign started. Without their work, future endeavors such as field trips may not be possible. A special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Brown who came to teach chess to a group of our students, and to Dr. Carpenter who came as a guest speaker on Friday. If you have any talents you wish to share, or think that you would wish to participate

in a career exposé slated for the spring, please send an email to Mrs. Greenley at: robyn_darling@hotmail.com.

Friday Service Learning, etc.

Fridays at the School of Dreams Academy are evolving wonderfully into a real alternative to anything we have ever observed at other schools. In addition to the hands-on community service initiatives, we have had two weeks of amazing guest speakers. Students are expressing their appreciation of these events in the journal writings they are asked to complete at the close of our sessions. Attendance on Fridays is essential as we cannot make up these events, thus your child cannot make up the learning and writing tasks that follow. Only one Friday absence per term is allowed before a student's grade for this part of the curriculum at S.O.D.A is affected.

This week students will be working on their own lesson plans on the topics of litter and keeping our community beautiful that one day they will be "teaching" to younger children. We need parental help for this activity. If you are available Friday from 8:15-11:10, please let us know ASAP.

Please take a look at some excerpts from our students' journal writings:

All of the presentations were so awesome! The art that Mr. Leyba makes is so amazing! I loved to see such time and effort being put into something that is so cool. I honestly couldn't believe that he actually does that for a living! I would think that would be so hard to be in a shop for hours at a time working, but for the way that all the art work comes out, it's so totally worth it!! Dr. Smith's presentation was very cool! It was made easy to understand exactly what she was talking about. Hearing what she had to say was really interesting. The only thing is, I have no way to describe the

anger running through me when she began talking about the bio-medical waste. The only thing that was going through my mind was that we have such a “yucky” county! I have no other way to really put it at all. Our county needs to start doing something!! I hate sitting by watching the dirtiness of our county, our state, our country! I have never been so interested in trying to find a way to help our environment until we got started with all this service learning. At first everyone kind of thought that it was going to be boring, or not cool, and I will tell the truth, at first I was thinking the same way! But now that I have worked with it and learned so much about it, I love it! Thank you so much for the great opportunities that you have given me. I really value everything that we have learned and done. I would really appreciate if you could pass on my thank you to all 3 of our presenters. They were all SO awesome and I enjoyed my time learning about everything they had to share! Thank You!!!!”

-Kailee Bryant

One thing I thought about after hearing the people that came to the school is that we should go back to the dump site so we can help the community. And as for the guy that knows about all the reptiles, I would really like to spend more time with him so I can know about all of the animals and things in our world.

-Mike Salazar

The second person who spoke was also a very good person who wants to help out the earth and the people who are hurt inside of it. I liked the fact that she was a doctor who went to Africa to help out children and families that have no one else. Her outfit was nice too, kind of something we are not used to seeing every day.....Once again I thank you and the staff for letting us have the opportunity to listen and see how it's not only us who want to save our earth and help others who do not have as much as they would like.

-Faith Lucero

The first speaker we had, Mr.Leyba the artist, was very interesting. I loved how he found a way to incorporate something he loves to do in his job. The way he made those sculptures and his reflection on them showed what mood he

was in when he made them. The way he incorporated something fun and something he loves to do really inspired me to start doing that with some of the work I don't enjoy as much. I would enjoy having him as a guest speaker again. The second guest speaker, Dr. Smith, really got me thinking about how we can really make both positive and negative outcomes on our environment. She really made me want to go start reaching out and helping and stop some of the illegal dumping. I really enjoyed seeing her fun energy and hearing how passionate she was about what she does. Her suggestion of wanting to try to display some of our artwork permanently was awesome!!!!!! She was really nice and I would love to have her come and guest speak for us again!!!! The last guest speaker Dr.Carpenter was awesome!! The last part about the sewage was really disgusting and makes me not want to go out to public swimming places ever again or drink unpurified water!!! Other than that his presentation was fun and made me want to jump out of my seat to help!!! I would love to have him come and guest speak again!! This is one of the best Fridays so far, besides going out and cleaning the illegal dumpsite!!

-Courtney Walker

Now if those students, (and so many others at S.O.D.A like them), don't make you proud, well.....you must come spend some more time around these kids! We will be writing letters of thanks to our guest speakers this week. Many students already wrote to Stacey Johnston, our guest speaker from the week before from Mothers Against Meth. She has become an invaluable ally in our fight against this horrible drug plaguing our society.

Request for hand-me-downs! As we anticipate our move and our new “digs”, we realize we will be in need of some picnic tables (with or without umbrellas), and a portable basketball hoop or two. Should you have either of these that you wish to get rid of, please let us know. Many many thanks!

Thank you Mr. Chris Baca from YDI. The pizza that you provided students and staff was delicious!