



S.O.D.A NEWS

September 30, 2009

### **S.O.D.A website is up!**

The long awaited website is operational and full of wonderful news and photos of our school. You will find links to teacher email addresses, news articles, our S.O.D.A bi-monthly newsletters, and many photos of our students. You can find us at:

[www.schoolofdreamsacademy.com](http://www.schoolofdreamsacademy.com)

When contacting teachers via email you have two options: (1) via our new school email addresses (find these on our website) and (2) via E2020.

Your children email us often on E2020 and know how this works.

### **Tools to Success with E2020**

Finding time at home to access E2020, either during the week, on weekends, or both, is clearly an important step to be made for the majority of our students. When we look at the hours on task for each student within our E2020 program, there is a HUGE discrepancy between students. There are about 10-15 students who are regularly, if not daily, working from home. Some parents are looking at their children's coursework from home and when their children return home at the end of the day they know just which subject(s) need to be attended to. It is not unreasonable to expect a half an hour's worth of E2020 time to be done at home per day. If your child is **absent**, it is imperative that they make up the 3 + hours of time they would normally be on line at school. This can present a challenge to parents without high speed internet access.

Libraries, neighbors, family members, etc. may be the only way to address this for some. We have many students who miss school regularly. Illnesses are the cause of many absences, but we want to be sure families are aware that the hours lost at school on the computer **MUST** be made up in order to be successful and complete the four primary content areas, Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts. Again, if you need further training on E2020, just give us a call and express interest! **866-SODA**.

### **Constitution Day with Dr. Melzer**

While we may long for our future home on Main Street, did we ever luck out on Constitution Day being housed at UNMVC! On Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> the students at our school were invited to join one of New Mexico's finest history professors in a discussion of both the US Constitution and our very own New Mexico Constitution. Our students were fantastic throughout and seemed to enjoy this experience.

### **Service Learning Update- S.O.D.A students prepare to become teachers!**



I thought the service project would be boring, you proved me wrong. That was a good way to spend our time after our cleaning project, especially with us not being able to finish our clean up and all. I also liked the fact that I could be teaching my brother because he is in kindergarten. I feel like a teacher. I got to make a lesson plan and have other students help.

-Isaiah Relaford

I felt that we got a lot of work done on Friday. The groups seemed like they were deliberately put together, but I liked working with the parent that helped us. We made good progress, and I hope that we do just as well this coming Friday. Our "theme" was going from what the Earth could become if we continue down this path, and what it could be if we clean up our act.

-Abel Romero

This last service learning was one of my favorites. I had fun being grouped up. I enjoyed creating a lesson plan for younger students. I am excited for our presentation.

-Meagan Chamberlain

### **“The Move” Update**

While nothing is definitive yet, we do wish to keep parents in the loop as to our move plans. As we wish to be sure that we can successfully complete the Fall MAP testing cycle, we will do this here at the VC campus while we know our computers are operational. On the afternoon of 10/16 we hope to begin the move and throughout the weekend we will be hauling and unpacking. *Hopefully* by 10/19 we will be ready to welcome our students into their new school! We promise to keep you updated as things become concrete.

### **Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences**

We hope to have our sign-up process available soon for conferences Tuesday-Thursday, Oct 20-22. Plan for these days to be half-days for our students, with dismissal at 12:30 and conferences to follow. We have our usual half day of school on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Thank You Parents and Grandparents!**

A very heart-felt thank you goes out to the parents and grandparents who continue to work with our students as they prepare their lessons for their elementary audiences. We couldn't do this without you!

### **S.O.D.A loves Paul's Son Signs (of Belen) and Tierra Bonita (our local chapter of Keep America Beautiful)**

Thank you to both of these organizations for their support in providing us with a banner for our S.O.D.A pledge.

### **PTC Update**

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 13. This will be the last time we meet at the UNMVC campus. Our fundraiser is complete. We thank all the students and their families who participated. If your child has not returned the donation cards/coupons provided, please return ASAP. We are charged for each card, thus missing cards negate the work of others. **Box Tops for Education** – The PTC would like to ask all families to begin to save and send in any Box Tops found on products from home. Every little bit helps, and this can be a nice source of a

little extra money for our school. Students can hand these into their advisory teacher or to the office. We need to consider future fund raisers for our school in order to take our students on field trips this year. S.O.D.A is no different than the other publically funded schools who have tight budgets and must come up with creative ways to provide extra enrichment off campus.

**School Photographs Coming Soon!** Our PTC is meeting with vendors to discuss school photos this week. Expect a date and order form to be provided very shortly.

**A special thank** you goes out to our student body from Mary Ann Silva. Ms. Silva is our security guard and she works very hard to ensure that kids get to their classes promptly and are safe while attending our school.

### **Nurse's Corner**

Our nurse, Carol Shadron, has seen a lot of our students lately. She wants to remind us all that when we are ill it is best to **stay home and get rest**. Fortunately students can work on E2020 from home and thus don't run the risk of becoming terribly behind due to staying home. Our seasonal flu symptoms are: fever, cough, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, fatigue, headache, body aches, and sometimes diarrhea and vomiting. The symptoms of the “Swine” flu (H1N1) are the same. The flu spreads very easily. A flu shot is recommended by the CDC and nurse Shadron.

### **Request for Supplies**

If your child is new to S.O.D.A and/or was not able to send the school supplies we requested at the start of the year, we kindly request that you send the following supplies our way. We are trying to keep our keyboards, desktops, and hands clean...this requires a lot of hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.

- \*\*disinfecting wipes**
- \*\*hand sanitizer (pump version)**
- \*\*tissue (we have lots of nose blowing)**
- \*\*ream of white computer paper**

*Thank you to the many families who sent these supplies at the start of the year!!*

**We are still accepting applications for this school year.**