



S.O.D.A NEWS

October 14, 2009

URGENT 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 ASAP:

****disinfecting wipes**

****hand sanitizer (pump version)**

****tissue (we have lots of nose blowing)**

****ream of white computer paper**

Our last request for supplies resulted in just one response; thus we try again. We can't over-emphasize how essential these items are! We are trying to keep our keyboards, desktops, and hands clean...this requires a lot of hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.



PTC sells S.O.D.A Fall / Winter gear!

Long sleeve t-shirt and sweat shirt order forms went home last week. They will continue to be sold this week with orders being collected on Friday. The PTC volunteers come each Friday at lunch to handle these orders, thus we ask that you don't send money with your child on any other day. If your child needs an order form, have them go to the office to request one. Update on Fall fundraiser: We now have some funds in our account from which to work, albeit not as large a sum as we had hoped for. Future fundraising campaigns are being discussed, thus we would love to hear from you if you suggestions. Join us the second Tuesday of each month for our meetings. Your attendance counts toward your 20 hours of volunteer time. Our meetings will now be held at our new school.

MAP Testing

The Measure of Academic Progress examination has begun. We are testing this week, Tuesday-Thursday, with make ups on Friday. As a state-funded school we are required to complete this assessment and will use it to provide you with important feedback on your child's academic strengths and areas for improvement. We will do this both in the Fall and in the Spring. Your child's advisory teacher will share this data with you at our Parent-Teacher-Student conferences next week.

Conferences and 1st Quarter Grades

Students took home a letter requesting your attention in signing up for a conference. We hope that no later than tomorrow you will have sent that form back so that teachers can confirm dates and times with you. Again, we will have half days Tuesday-Friday of **conference week (Oct. 20-23)**. Dismissal time will be _____. You will get your child's report card at this meeting, as well as get to look over their progress on E2020 with the teacher. Goals will be set with your child at that meeting, thus they **too are to attend**.



In the event that you **cannot** attend a conference time, you must arrange for a phone conference with your child's advisory teacher before the report card will be released to the student.

A friendly reminder that if you would like to have some training in E2020 so that you can better support your child from home, let Mrs. Baca in our office know. 866-SODA

Volunteer of the Month!

Veronica Trujillo, grandmother of Marcus, has been a wonderful help to our school. We were most impressed by her dedication to helping our students during our Service Learning initiatives as of late. Thank you Veronica!

Youth Development Incorporated Steps In

Y.D.I. has already begun the work of sharing some of their many programs and resources with the students of S.O.D.A. Friday, Oct 2nd, three community educators worked with our kids to teach them about healthy lifestyles and the dangers of smoking and drinking. We expect them to play a meaningful role in the outreach that occurs at S.O.D.A in the months and years to come.

Opportunities to Volunteer

Many of you have easily surpassed the commitment of 20 hours of volunteer time per year that S.O.D.A asks of all families. However, if you are wondering how to get involved, please give us a call and we will share some of the areas we could use your help in. At our new school we will continue to need lunchtime help. We anticipate having 2 lunch periods, thus our lunchtime window will be longer. Our big move occurs this Friday and Saturday. If you would enjoy helping in this way, please call the office to indicate interest.

Tardiness and Attendance

We are still struggling with quite a few students who arrive late each morning. We ask that you be sure to get your child to school on time. School starts at 8:00 a.m, not 8:05 or 8:10. If you are arriving late you MUST walk your child to the office and sign him or her in. Students who are missing a lot of school are too a cause for concern. Aside from a bout of the flu, attendance patterns for some are quite alarming. Know that attendance concerns are reported, just as they would be at any other public institution.

Kudos to Student Presenters

Friday, October 2nd a group of our students reported a presentation to our student body about the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Thanks to these young “teachers” we learned why October 2nd (Gandhi’s birth date) is considered the International Day of Non-Violence. We appreciate that Gandhi influenced and inspired so many of our own heroes and other champions for peace and non-violence.



”Be the change you wish to see in the world” - Gandhi

“An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind”- Gandhi

Requests for Picnic Tables, etc.

Should you have a picnic table you no longer use and would be willing to donate to our school, please be in touch. We would be most grateful. Additionally, if you have a portable basketball hoop that is not in use, we have just the place for it at S.O.D.A.

That Darn Gum Topic Again

Gum, candy and carbonated drinks are not welcome at our school. A day does not pass where we don’t find evidence left behind of one of the three.

Life Touch to Provide School Photos

November 9th we expect to offer school photos. Order forms will be forthcoming.

Move In Around the Corner

If the stars are in our favor, we will open our doors to your children on Monday, October 19th, just in time for conferences.

Car Pool Families Sought

We would like to ask for an update on carpool requests and availability. We have families who are struggling to get their children to S.O.D.A and we would love to know that there were options for these families. Your help is greatly appreciated. If any parent has time to volunteer to help coordinate car pooling efforts, that too would be a big help.

Friday Activities at S.O.D.A

Students who attend school activities on Fridays must complete a “quick write” reflection on our day’s work in order to earn credit. Quite a few are not. Please remind your child to do this via E2020 communications to Mrs. Greenley. More than one absence on a Friday results in a lowered grade.