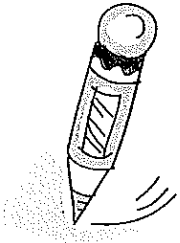


SCHOOL of DREAMS
ACADEMY

S.O.D.A NEWS

February 17, 2010

From the Desk of Mr. Yates, Principal



Believe it or not, the school year is almost 2/3 complete! How time flies. As I reflect over the past months, I feel that we have made amazing progress in establishing a meaningful alternative for students in Valencia County. The staff and I, however, realize that there is a lot of work ahead to keep building and refining our school. Recently we have been busy ordering materials and equipment that we need to finish the year and surge forward into the future. At the same time, many of the policies and procedures have been developed to establish common understanding of our practices necessary in quality institutions.

You will see a new face in the office within a week or so. By then we will restructure the office staff to be able to serve you and your students in a more efficient manner. We continue to need volunteers and have developed guidelines so that you will be more comfortable when you participate. As we are well into second semester, it is important to ask yourself if you have given of your 20 hours of volunteer time as agreed in the enrollment of your child. If not, now is the time to make that commitment. If you are unsure about where you might fit in, please call us.

We have found that students who regularly do additional time on E2020 at home are much more successful. If this is an area of concern for you and your child, feel free to call for help in utilizing the features of E2020 or in establishing rituals for good study habits. **An additional concern is that of**

attendance. We need to have a daily average attendance of 92% in order to qualify for Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated. If your child must be out, we recommend that he or she spend at least three to four hours on E2020 courses to maintain current progress.

As a partner in the school, we ask that you help us maintain the standards established in the **dress codes**. There are **four colors of shirts allowed; red, grey, navy blue, or royal blue.** Black and brown are not allowed. Also, please remember that pants must be worn at the waist and must not reveal the underwear. We are trying to teach students that wherever one goes in the work place, dressing nicely will have positive outcomes.

Finally, we plan to host **summer school** for 20 days. This will most be for those who need additional help or time to finish their courses. More information will be coming shortly. Let us know if you have suggestions that can improve our current situation.

Welcome Coach Chavez!

We have a new member of the S.O.D.A. "team". George Chavez has taken over for Mr. Tapia as our PE instructor, as well as our Social Studies teacher in the E2020 lab. Mr. Chavez has taught for 30 years, primarily in Tumcumcari and Rio Rancho. "Coach" has joined the S.O.D.A Running Club/Green Team and will work with Mrs. Greenley on preparing runners for a community 5K run in the Spring.

E2020 Training for Parents A Success

Mr. Romero reports that the 15 or so individuals who attended our training were able to gain many skills in helping their children become successful in

their studies. If you were unable to attend but wish to have such training, please call the school and request a tutorial.

Measure of Academic Progress Testing

Our server, at this time, is not cooperating and thus we have put the Winter testing cycle on hold. We expect that our Spring testing cycle will run smoothly as we get our computer-related glitches smoothed out.

Service Learning Update

Students are currently working in groups to create a video. This video will capture the themes of John Mayer's song "Waiting for the World to Change". Through this project they will strive to show us, the viewers of their video, that they **do care** about the plight of the world, contrary to the perception that the adult world has of them. We have many wonderful parent volunteers who have signed up to work with our students for the next 4 or 5 Fridays. If you too wish to come and lend a hand, we can always use you. Expect to be invited to view these videos at our school in the Spring. We will be planning an exciting evening to showcase our work.

Mr. Romero has group of students who chose not to participate in this endeavor, and he too can use some extra help. Contact us at school if you wish to help!

Thoughts on Service Learning

"Last Friday was really cool. I love that song so much so I am so excited for this service learning project! I can't wait! As soon as we started talking about what we are doing with the song so many ideas already went through my head! My group and I have already talked it over and we already have some great ideas going. This is going to be so much fun, especially because the entire topic is one that really gets to me! I can relate to this song so much so to be able to work with it is amazing!
-Kailee Bryant

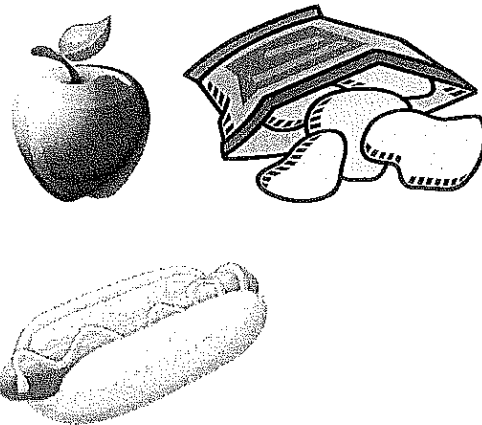
Goals of a College-Bound Student

Through advisory groups we have asked our students to set goals in preparation for their lives as college-bound students. Many of our students set these goals in November and were asked to "revisit" their goals last week to see if they are making progress. Students should have brought home to you

these goals to review. Your signature was requested as proof that you are discussing these goals with your children. If you have not seen these goals, please ask your child to show it to you. If your child has not been given this form, it is up to them to seek out their advisory teacher so that they may begin this important planning process.

Fundraiser Kick OFF Next Week!

S.O.D.A. will begin a big fundraising campaign that will include the sale of many delectable goodies. Your children's participation will help our school provide future field trips and other supplies that we would like to furnish our students. There is talk of the potential to provide occasional warm lunches, beginning with a **hot dog day** Wednesday, February 24th. Students can purchase a hotdog, an apple, and chips for \$2.00. Healthy beverages are sold in our vending machines for \$1.00. We ask that you **do not send colas** or other such carbonated drinks. Water, fruit juice, Vitamin Water, etc. are encouraged.



\$2.00

Lunch sold next Wednesday!

The Green Team Reminds You To
Please send in your old phone books for recycling.

Cell Phone for Soldiers Campaign
continues this month! Please send in your old, no longer needed phones and accessories. The proceeds for these items go toward buying soldiers phone cards to call home!