



Thank you to the many parent volunteers who have been serving our student body these last couple of weeks. Last Wednesday lunch was sold to our students for \$2.00 and was really appreciated by the students. We could not do this without the help of our parents. The PTC will discuss expanding this initiative this month at their meeting **Tuesday, March 9th** at 6:00 p.m.. We encourage you to attend. Our PTC committee is strong and growing stronger. Come join us and get involved!

Additionally we have had busy afternoons for the Yearbook committee, facilitated by parent volunteers entirely. Service Learning Fridays have had a great show of parent involvement. We hope that more of you can join us in the future, as your help is both appreciated and needed.

Spring Break quickly approaches. We will be taking a week off March 13th-21st. For that reason our next newsletter will go home on March 23rd. While many students have made wonderful strides in catching up, thanks in large part to the open lab hours on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, we have many others who will need to devote hours to E2020 during Spring Break. If your child has not moved on to semester 2 courses, this is problematic for your child's ability to finish their courses by the end of the year. We are nearly done with the 3rd quarter. Progress Reports will be coming

home soon. Again, **summer school** will be available for **20 days**. If you have questions about your child's ability to finish in time, please make an appointment with our counselor, Mrs. Conroy, who can sit down with you and look over your child's academic success. Please remember that your child is expected to complete 5.5 % of each of their four E2020 courses each week. One day missed from school means 4 hours of lab time that must be made up in order to stay on target for completion.

9th Grade Parents – Special Meeting Tuesday, March 9th

Our counselor, Frances Conroy, invites you to an important 9th Grade parent meeting next week. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Some of the many topics that will be covered are:

- Requirements for graduation
- N.M. Competency Exam
- What happens if your child's courses are not completed/passed?
- Getting extra academic support for your child, etc.

Please contact Frances Conroy for more information.

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Student of the Month- Emma Clary-Gelinas!

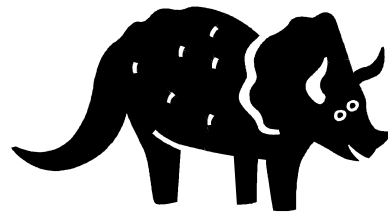
9th grader Emma Clary-Gelinas was an easy nomination for our March “Student of the Month”. Emma’s been a stellar student since entering S.O.D.A in the fall. She impresses the staff as someone with superior qualities in character and academic excellence. Emma’s interests are vast, but she is especially accomplished as a dancer. She has danced since she was very small and currently dances with a performing youth group that will be traveling to NY this summer to perform below the Statue of Liberty. Her dream is to attend a university for performing arts in either California or New York. One day she sees herself training in Russia. Other interests of Emma’s are the fields of Environmental Sciences, Ecology, and Conservation. She is an avid writer and hopes to be able to travel the world one day, writing about her experiences.

Volunteer of the Month- Pam Lovedahl

Pam Lovedahl, mother of students Skylar and Donnie, is a regular face at S.O.D.A. Pam helps wherever she is needed and has always opened her heart to the students here. We thank Pam for her help with our Service Learning projects. Recently Pam helped to bring her daughter to our school as a guest speaker. Her daughter, an advocate for animal welfare in our county, shared about her work with the Valencia County Animal Shelter. Pam, thank you for your dedication!

8th Graders Go On Field Trip

Mrs. Noble took her 8th grade students on a field trip to the Natural History Museum this week. Reports from those who participated were that the day was a worthwhile one. According to Roy Goforth, who attended the field trip, “What made it a really fun day was we were able to learn as well as ask questions about the earthquake in Chile. The seismologist who spoke to us let us see how earthquakes travel and how the various earthquake stations monitor their strength and destruction capabilities”. Thank you Ms. Noble for making this activity happen. Another heartfelt thanks to the many parents who attended.



New Staff Member- Mrs. Susan Garcia

We welcome a new and friendly face to S.O.D.A. Susan Garcia has replaced Mrs. Baca as our Administrative Assistant. She comes to us with many years’ experience with Los Lunas Schools, as well as more recently time with the Juvenile Drug Court and Hogares. Mrs. Garcia says she is very happy to be a part of our unique school.

Course Happenings at S.O.D.A

Digital Arts (Mr. McConnell)

This is a class that gets rave-reviews by S.O.D.A students. Presently students are coming up with ideas for short films that they will be able to shoot themselves. To do this they are learning the art of editing and

the techniques needed for adding music and sound effects.

Adventures in Literature (Mrs. Greenley)



We are exploring the world through internationally focused literature this semester. One section of A.I.L is reading a novel set in Warsaw, Poland during WWII called Milkweed by author Jerry Spinelli. Our main character is a gypsy who resides with a Jewish family during the worst days of Nazi-orchestrated terrorism. Students are learning a great deal about the horrors of prejudice and discrimination, particularly the events of the Holocaust. The other section of students are reading a book set in ancient Iraq called Seven Daughters and Seven Sons. We are learning about life in the ancient Iraq as well as trying to understand something of the cultures of this part of the world today.

Contemporary World Issues (Mrs. Howe)

This class is busy studying the Preamble, Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution. As we learn about our world today, these founding documents of the United States of America help students understand what makes our country unique and what our founding fathers saw as essential in building our nation.

Family and Consumer Sciences (Mrs. Howe)

Egg-baby projects have come to an end. This project was very engaging for the students as they considered some of the responsibilities needed for caring for something fragile.

Espanol (Mr. Romero)

Spanish classes continue to improve upon their beginning skills in greetings, question-asking, etc. Students have nightly homework that they are accountable for. When learning a second language, practice and repetition are imperative. We are looking at opportunities to make a field trip occur for this course before the end of the semester.

Drama and Speech Classes (Ms. Vanderhayden)

Students in this course are currently practicing their fairy tale plays. Group A has been staging “Cinderella Outgrows the Glass Slipper” and “Once Upon a Hundred Years Nap”. Group C has been staging “Two Pigs, a Wolf and a Mud Pie”.

Art Classes (Ms. Vanderhayden)

Art students have completed scratch board and stained glass-looking art etchings. Portraits will be completed soon.

IMPORTANT REMINDER- Fund Raiser

Please be advised that all of our students have received their fund-raising packets and are asked to help in our efforts to raise money for our school. We hope that with these funds, we will be in a position to provide occasional hot lunches, as well as fund field trips. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kerra Howe at 866-SODA.