

# School of Environmental Studies

Early Fall Newsletter, 2009



September 10, 2009

*Dear Students and Parents of SES:*

A special thanks to all parents and students for getting SES off to a successful start for the 2009-2010 school year. For the fifteenth year we will be combining our best efforts with our great students to create the wonderful learning environment that is SES. Dan Bodette, *Principal*

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## **Open House including house presentations at 6:00**

An Open House will be held on September 17, 2009. Although parents and students are encouraged to stop by at any time between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. However, there are several scheduled events during the evening. From 6:00 - 6:30 each house will be presenting an introduction to the house. Meet the teaching staff, be introduced to the curriculum and find out how to stay informed during the year. In addition, several field study meetings will occur after the house meetings. Please note the times and room locations printed in the field study insert. Also note the payment schedule for all upcoming field experiences.

## **School Safety Drills**

The safety of students, staff and visitors to our school is a top priority that is under constant review. One of the ways we stay prepared for possible emergencies is by conducting annual drills like fire drills, tornado drills and lockdown drills.

Again this school year, Minnesota law requires that all schools statewide conduct at least five fire drills, one tornado drill and five lockdown drills during the year. Changes in this law have increased the number of required lockdown drills from one to five each year and decreased the number of required fire drills from nine to five.

In our school district, all five required fire drills will involve students and will be held throughout the year. The tornado drill will also involve students and will be held during severe weather awareness week in April. Three of the five lockdown drills conducted this year will involve students and staff, and the other two will involve staff only. The three lockdown drills involving students will be held in October, March and the last one during summer school in 2010.

All of the lockdown drills will involve our school's emergency planning team and staff working in close cooperation with the Apple Valley Police Department. The purpose of these drills is to help students and staff prepare to respond appropriately in the event of an emergency such as an intruder in the building. Students will be informed in advance when a lockdown drill is scheduled to be held and will be reminded that it is an important drill for us to practice.

If you have any questions about the emergency drills planned at our school this year, please call my office at 952-431-8750.

Sincerely-  
Dan Bodette, *Principal*

## **Stay informed and connected with SES emails**

This year communications will be sent home by email. Newsletters (like this one), progress reports, teacher communications and more will arrive in your email inbox. Emails were collected from parents at the back-to-school event and added to the list of district emails. If you need to correct or add an email please speak to one of the house teachers at the open house on September 17.

If you use a junk mail filter check it to ensure that emails coming from the school are not blocked. If you find them blocked please add the email address to your address book.



## Connected and Involved Parents...

### Parent Portals

The district continues to evaluate software that allows parents to access student progress, attendance, and other records online. RHS is using the the "SchoolView" version of this type of software while the other high schools are evaluating a system named "Campus" . You can view your SES student's progress through this "Campus" system. If the student is taking classes at AVHS, EHS, EVHS similar records can be viewed for those schools as well. RHS students will access the SchoolView system using a process sent home by RHS or available through the counselors there.

If you have been using the Campus system the login and password that worked last year will continue to work at SES this year. If you were not on the ISD 196 Campus system last year hopefully you had time to request a login and password during the back to school night. If we missed you that night you will have an opportunity to request a login during the open house on September 17th.

Those with a login can continue to access the site from the portal link on the SES main page at: [www.district196.org/ses/](http://www.district196.org/ses/)

Links to the portal from other district schools will work as well.

### SES Website [www.district196.org/ses/](http://www.district196.org/ses/)

Announcements and reminders are periodically sent sent home electronically from the office to those who have registered their email with us. New registrations are required each year. Click on the link Go to the Parent Support page from our main page and click on option 1.

### Attention Junior Parents

We need experienced adult canoeists willing and able to provide additional supervision and support to our juniors as they canoe on the Cannon River on Friday, October 9th We leave SES at 7:45, travel by bus to Cannon Falls, canoe to Welch, and return to SES by 2:00. Interested? Please contact Scott Haisting in the Rose House at [scott.haisting@district196.org](mailto:scott.haisting@district196.org) or Jean Unzicker in Blue House at [jean.unzicker@district196.org](mailto:jean.unzicker@district196.org).

### School of Environmental Studies Education Foundation (SESEF) - [www.SESEF.org](http://www.SESEF.org)

The School of Environmental Studies Education Foundation (SESEF) will have a booth set up during the open house on September 17th. Please stop by and learn how you can assist the foundation. SESEF is currently looking for new board members. Please see Mr. Bodette if you are interested in serving in this capacity. The eleventh annual SESEF campaign drive will occur during the fall. Information will be sent in a few weeks.

### Student - Parent - Teacher Conferences

The School of Environmental Studies (SES) will hold first-trimester conferences on October 8nd and October 13th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. As always, we recommend parents bring their daughter or son with them to the conference. Please note that teachers leading field study meetings will be unavailable during their thirty-minute field study meetings on October 8th. Please see the Field Study Insert for meeting times.

### Attendance

Daily attendance is very important at SES. Please call the office at 952-431-8750 before 10:00 a.m. (the earlier the better) to report an absence or to inform us that the student needs to leave school during the day for an appointment. We do not accept notes.

During the school day our attendance secretary will call parents of absent students lacking a matching parent phone call from home.

Students with unexcused absences are assigned a detention for each block of the school day they miss. All detentions must be completed before the end of each trimester. Students with outstanding detentions at the end of the trimester will receive incompletes or may be suspended from school.

The learning experience at SES is highly interactive and participatory. We appreciate your help to ensure that students at SES have good attendance in all classes.

Please monitor attendance through the parent portal.



## Intensive Theme

The Trimester One Intensive Theme time period is from November 5th through November 13th. During this time, SES students will either participate in one of several day-long SES classes such as Marine Biology, or they may be off on a field study in one of our fall locations. Regular trimester classes will then resume on November 16th and end on December 3rd. All schedule changes for trimester two will need to be completed at that time.

## Senior Information

Information will be coming shortly about SES senior graduation announcements. Most SES seniors have ordered SES announcements in the past, while some have chosen to order announcements from their home high school. All SES seniors order their high school caps and gowns at SES through Jostens. The Jostens representative will come to SES to take orders for all announcements, caps, gowns and more. Graduation will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 3rd, at the Minnesota Zoo Amphitheater- weather permitting.

## Testing

Year-after-year SES students excel on National College Entrance Exams. Brochures for the ACT test-prep sessions held at SES were mailed home during the summer. These brochures will be available at the open house September 17<sup>th</sup> and online at our web site. Many of our students take the ACT class at SES to improve upon their ACT scores. Please sign up early due to limited space.

SES will host the annual PSAT exam on the morning of Wednesday, October 14. Only SES juniors will be eligible to take the PSAT. The PSAT, which is an optional test, gives students valuable experience in taking college admissions tests like the SAT and the ACT. We highly encourage SES juniors to take the PSAT exam. Completed forms can be returned to the office at SES.

## United Way Contributions

Please note that you can designate your United Way contribution to the SES Foundation (SESEF). Simply list the School of Environmental Studies, 12155 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley, MN 55124 on your form.

## Art Department Donations Requested.

You can support the Visual Arts Department by donating unwanted or unused items. The following new or used items would be appreciated:

Dish drying racks and trays, a teapot  
Monopods and Tripods, 35mm SLR cameras – manual operation (no auto)  
Zoom lens and macro lens to fit Pentax K1000 style 35mm cameras  
Camera cases  
Portable/Collapsable sling-style stools for outdoors  
Lightweight, Portable easels  
Paper Portfolios 18"x24" & 24"x36" with carrying handles  
Plastic dry cleaning bags, Filament string (fishing line), Clothes pins

## Self-Administration of Non-Prescription Pain Medication (7-12th grade)

This school year 7-12th grade students are allowed to carry over the counter pain medication based on the following:

- Parents sign off on the emergency card
- The medication must be in the original container
- The student is determined to be knowledgeable in the proper dose, use and administration of this medication in a manner consistent with labeling
- Students may not carry any medication containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine
- Students cannot share medication with others
- If school administration determines these rules have been abused, the school may revoke these privileges

All prescription medications with the exception of Epi Pens and inhalers must be kept in the nurse's office. Generic Tylenol and Ibuprofen will still be available to all students with a signed emergency card. Call Kathy Herro (M,T,R) or Jane Schleisman (W,F), School Nurses, with any questions at their direct-dial number: 952-431-8796.

**The 2009 Million Acorn Challenge** is now under way with acorn collections. Collect acorns through September 17, 2009 only! It's important to collect the right species of acorns, and to refrigerate them after collection! So click on the link, and check out not just your neighborhood oaks but also the suggested acorn collection sites. So go acorn hunting and support this great event. The Great Weigh-in Party and Planting will be at Afton State Park on September 19. <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/acornchallenge.asp>

## SES Yearbook Information

The SES 2010 yearbook is underway! At SES we do not use mass marketing techniques to sell the book. Instead, newsletters like this one, announcements during the school day, and the school web site are the ways that parents receive yearbook news.

Yearbook orders were collected during the "back-to-school" day in September. Orders are still being taken in the SES office. Simply place a **check** made out to SES for \$34.00 in the envelope marked YEARBOOK ORDERS. Be sure to include the student's name on the memo line. Deadlines are

December 18	\$34.00
January 18	\$40.00

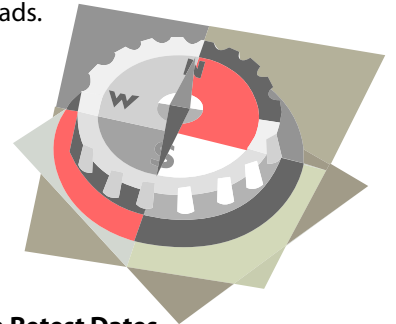
During the last week of school we will sell a limited number of extra copies for \$50.00.

Senior pictures are printed in color and should be turned in by November 17. Any reasonable size picture or high resolution JPEG-formatted digital photo saved to a CD may be turned into the folder marked SENIOR PICTURES located in the office. Your JPEG photos may also be turned in via email attachment to:

Diane.McNeil@district196.org.

School pictures were taken during the back to school event in September. Students who were not able to attend should have their picture taken on retake day September 21. These pictures are used for the school ID which is necessary for student access to outside agencies (MN DNR, ZOO, Fish and Wildlife, etc.) and SES resources during the year. They may also be used by yearbook staff.

Grad Ad forms are available for parents in the office and during open houses and conferences. Grad Ads are a great way for parents to congratulate their graduate and are due November 17. Turn in completed forms with a check for \$20.00 to the folder in the office marked GRAD ADS. See past yearbooks for great ideas of how to create meaningful ads.



## MCA II Math Retest Dates

Make-up dates for students who did not pass the MCA-II Math exam (April 2009) are November 3 and 4. Please contact Mr. Nelson if you have any questions.

# THE FIELD STUDY INSERT

Field Study Prep meetings occur during parent conferences and open houses. During these meetings itineraries are reviewed, forms are collected, deposits are collected and past adventures are shared. The meetings are important for students and parents. Be sure that someone from the family attends each meeting.



## Field Study Dates

Fall Trimester: November 5-13  
 Winter Trimester: Feb. 18-26  
 Spring Trimester: May 20-28

## Field Study Meetings During Fall Open House

September 17 - 30 minutes each

New Zealand	6:30	Forum	\$1200 payment due
Missouri Biking	6:30	Rose Science	\$300 payment due
South Florida	6:30	Green Science	\$380 payment due
Australia	7:00	Forum	\$600 payment due
Galapagos	7:00	Conference rm	\$2200 payment
Kilimanjaro	7:30	Conference rm	\$1300 payment
Alaska	7:30	Gold classroom	- informational
South Africa	7:30	Forum	\$800 payment due
Iceland	7:30	Green House	\$800 payment due
France/Spain	7:30	Blue Classroom	\$1200 payment due

\* Iceland is offered during even numbered years (2010) and Scotland during odd years only. Students should plan schedules accordingly.

## Meetings During October 8<sup>th</sup> Conferences

Listed staff will not be conferencing during each 30 minute session

Time	Study	Place	Payment	Staff
6:00	New Zealand	Forum	\$Bal.	Mr. Bodette
6:00	S. Florida	Green Science	\$380	Ms. Unzicker
6:00	Mo. Biking	Rose Science	\$300	Mr. Haisting
6:30	Curacao	Forum	\$1100	Mr. Nowicki
6:30	Winter BWCAW	Green Science	\$145	Mr. Johnson
6:30	Costa Rica	Rose Science	\$1050	Ms. Tunseth
6:30	Belize	Gold House	\$925	Mr. Everhart
6:30	Australia	Library	\$1000	Mr. Bodette
6:30	Kilimanjaro	Conference rm	\$1000	Mr. Nelson
7:00	Iceland	Green House	\$800	Mr. Johnson
7:00	Glacier	Library	\$350	Mr. Bodette
7:00	Peru	Rose Science	\$1300	Ms. Tunseth
7:30	South Africa	Forum	\$700	Mr. Bodette
7:30	Alaska	Gold classroom	\$400	Ms. Clements

## Options for Hepatitis A immunization

If a Hepatitis A series is needed for an SES Field Study there are several ways to accomplish this. When a field study requires a prescription for malaria medication along with a Hepatitis A immunization, the most efficient way is to go to your doctor or travel clinic and receive the prescription and 1st immunization for Hepatitis A. When a Hepatitis A immunization alone is needed or when you are receiving your 2nd/booster Hepatitis A you might find the following two options helpful:

Dakota County Public Health Department on the corner of Galaxie and Co. Rd. 42 offers Hepatitis immunization to students 18 years and younger by appointment or at 3rd Tuesday of the month Walk-in Clinics. The time is 4:00- 6:30pm for walk in or call 952-891-7528 for an appointment. A parent must accompany the student or send a signed note requesting Hepatitis A. Students without insurance coverage or students with a copay on vaccines will be asked for a donation of \$14 per immunization. If your insurance covers vaccines, you should go to your doctor or travel clinic to receive the vaccination.

Please call Kathy Herro or Jane Schleisman, SES Nurses, with any questions at their direct-dial number: 952-431-8796.



# Upcoming Field Studies

Payment deadlines for Intensive Theme field experiences – 2009/ 2010

T1 Intensive theme dates (Fall) – 11/5/09 to 11/13/09  
 T2 Intensive theme dates (Winter) – 2/18/10 to 2/26/10  
 T3 Intensive theme dates (Spring) – 5/20/10 to 5/28/10

4/16/09 Conferences • 9/17/09 Open house  
 10/8/09 Conferences • 1/21/10 Conferences  
 4/22/10 Conferences

*Please note the approximate costs and meeting dates. All meetings are 30 minutes long.*

*\*\*\*No refunds are given unless a replacement student can be found\*\*\**

## Studies in the Fall

New Zealand (Fall) - \$1600 plus airfare	(Bodette)
#2 September 17th	\$1200
#3 October 8th	Balance due
Southern Florida (Fall) - \$960	(Unzicker)
#2 September 17th	\$380
#3 October 8th	\$380
Missouri Biking (Fall) - \$600	(Haisting)
#2 September 17th	\$300

## Studies in the Winter

Curacao (Winter) - \$2400	(Nowicki)
#2 October 8th	\$1100
#3 January 21st	\$1100
Australia (Winter) - \$1600 plus airfare	(Bodette)
#2 September 17th	\$600
#3 October 8th	\$1000
#4 January 21st	Balance due
Kilimanjaro (Winter) - \$3800 plus air	(Nelson)
#2 September 17th	\$1300
#3 October 8th	\$1300
#4 January 21st	Balance due
Costa Rica (Winter) - \$2400 - estimate	(Tunseth)
#2 October 8th	\$1050
#3 January 21st	\$1050
Belize (Winter) - \$2150 estimate	(Carlson)
#2 October 8th	\$925
#3 January 21st	\$925
Galapagos (Winter) - \$4600 estimate	(Callahan)
#2 September 17th	\$2200
#3 January 21st	\$1700
Winter Expedition (Winter) - \$290	(Johnson)
#1 October 8th	\$145
#2 January 21st	\$145

## Studies in the Spring

South Africa (Spring) - \$1600 plus air	(Bodette)
#2 September 17th	\$800
#3 October 8th	\$700
#4 January 21st	Balance due
Peru (Spring) - \$2000 est. plus air	(Tunseth)
#2 October 8th	\$1300
#3 January 21st	Balance due
Iceland (Spring) - \$2300 estimate	(Johnson)
#1 September 17th	\$800
#2 October 8th	\$800
#3 January 21st	\$700
Alaska (Spring) - \$1850 est.	
#1 September 17th	Informational
#2 October 8th	\$400
#3 January 21st	\$700
#4 April 22nd	\$750
France/Spain (Spring) - \$3,100 estimate	
#1 September 17th	\$1200
#2 January 21st	\$1200
#3 April 22nd	Balance due
Glacier National Park (Spring) - \$1050 estimate	
#1 October 8th	\$350
#2 January 21st	\$350
#3 April 22nd	\$350
Boundary Waters (Spring) - \$410	
#1 January 21st	\$205
#2 April 22nd	\$205
Superior Hiking (Spring) - \$275	
#1 January 21st	\$145
#2 April 22nd	\$130

## ***Some Final Notes***

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Students received an SES student calendar on the first day of school that lists a number of important dates at SES. Please refer to the calendar for future events. If you wish, you can download the entire calendar as a PDF file from the SES home page.

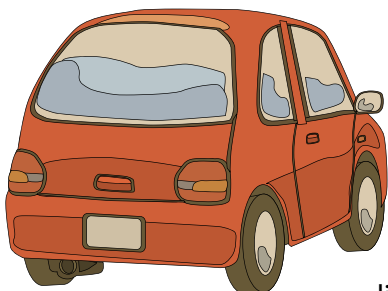
**For you and your child's privacy our school nurses, Kathy Herro and Jane Schleisman, have a direct phone line at 952-431-8796. Their voicemail is: 651-683-6969 Mailbox # 18796.**

We are interested in having volunteers help out in the career/guidance and main office area. Please give Mr. Nelson or Mr. Bodette a call (952-431-8750) if you can volunteer your time to SES.

The annual college fair will be held on September 30th for SES students. SES students are excused to attend during the day with a signed parent permission slip. This excused absence will count as one of the nine (five for elective classes) allowed during the trimester. A copy of the permission slip is enclosed with this newsletter. We encourage SES students to attend the college fair in the evening so they will not miss instruction during the day.

All ISD 196 high school students have the opportunity to participate in an "honors ranking" program. Please note that all SES Advanced Placement and Honors classes in the four core areas (math, science, English, social studies) will be applied to the "honors ranking". Many honors classes are available at SES. Please consider participation to take advantage of college entrance and scholarship opportunities that these classes create.

**During special event nights at SES, the Johnny Cake Ridge Road parking lot fills early.** Please use the SES parking lot on the zoo side of the building as well. Drive through the main zoo entrance and stay to the right until you find the first road that veers to the right. This will take you to the parking area on the backside of our building. When this lot fills please use the Zoo lot just outside our back gate.



School deficiency notices will be emailed the week of October 19th. Deficiencies are emailed to the parents of any SES student that is currently earning below 70% in a class. Stay current with your child's grades by using the parent portal and use the links on the portal to contact individual teachers with questions. E-mail addresses and phone numbers are on our web site as well

### **H1N1/ILI**

Chances are you have heard about H1N1. You will hear it being referred to as ILI (influenza Like Illness) as well. Since symptoms of H1N1 and the seasonal flu are so similar and testing for true H1N1 is not routinely being done in doctor's offices, it is too hard to tell which strain of flu someone actually has.

ISD 196 has been in regular contact with Dakota County Public Health and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in discussing plans for helping prevent the spread of sickness throughout our schools.

Symptoms of ILI include a fever of 100-degrees or higher and a cough or sore throat. According to the current MDH recommendations, students and staff who have experienced symptoms of influenza-like illness must remain out of school until they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines, which is typically 5 to 7 days. Before such time they can spread the illness and should not be in school.

To prevent the spread of ILI wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water or hand sanitizer. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a sleeve or tissue and try to avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Stay home if you are sick.

At MDH's request, our schools will continue to identify and report cases of influenza like illness. This daily reporting will not include your student's name. When calling the school attendance line, you will be asked if your child has symptoms of influenza-like illness. If these symptoms develop during the school day, parents will be contacted to pick up your child at school or allow them to drive home. We ask that you remind students who become ill at school to first come to the nurse's office instead of contacting you via cell phone.

As always, please contact our nurses Kathy Herro or Jane Schleisman @ 952-431-8796 with any questions or concerns

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**PARENT PERMISSION FORM – COLLEGE FAIR**

**(Print this page)**

**September 30**

The National College Fair will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The purpose of the College Fair is to provide an opportunity for junior and senior students to meet with representatives from the military, vocational schools, and colleges and universities to obtain information on college admissions.

Students from SES who wish to attend the College Fair must attend Wednesday, September 30, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (recommended time). To attend the College Fair during the school day on Wednesday, this form must be signed by a parent and turned into the Main Office at SES by Tuesday, September 22nd. SES students are not excused to attend the college fair on October 1st. Please do the following to attend the September 30th session.

1. Fill out and sign the permission request form below and have your student return the request form to the office by Tuesday, September 22nd. This form only will be accepted. Handwritten notes or faxes are not accepted.
2. Students will provide their own transportation.
3. The College Fair is not a school-sponsored activity; therefore, the signed permission request slip relieves SES of any liability for a student while he/she is away from school attending this event.
4. The absence is excused, but it counts towards the maximum number of absences a student may incur in a trimester.
5. By turning in this parent permission form the student will not need an admit slip to return to SES classes.

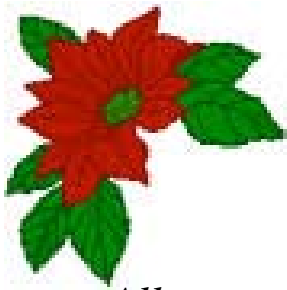
I have reviewed the above information regarding the College Fair and give my approval for my son/daughter to receive an excused absence from school in order to attend the College Fair on Wednesday, September 30th.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Student

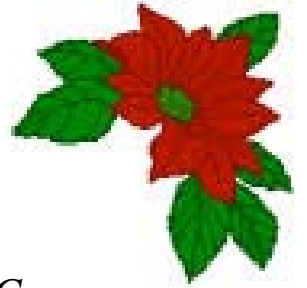
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home High School



# Poinsettias!



The annual SES Graduation Site Council's  
Fundraising Poinsettia Sale

All proceeds are used to support the SES Graduation Ceremony

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

SES House \_\_\_\_\_ Pod # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The flowers come from Gertens; they are beautiful and high quality plants.  
The poinsettias come in 8 1/2" pots with 9-15 bracts (blooms).  
Each plant sells for \$22.00.\

Please indicate the number of each color you would like:

Dark Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Bright Pink \_\_\_\_\_ Burgundy \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ (total # of plants) @ \$22.00 per plant.

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please write the check out to SES and send/return it to the School of Environmental Studies, 12155 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley, MN 55124, by Wednesday, October 21.

All plants will need to be picked up at SES on Wednesday, December 2. We will notify you and/or your student when the plants will be available. Students are welcome to bring the plants home.

Thank you for your support! The SES Graduation Site Council Graduation Site Council is comprised of a group of students who plan and fundraise for the graduation ceremony.