



Southview *Trackings*

The Principal's Newsletter of Southview Elementary
www.district196.org/sv

September 2009

Dear Families

Welcome back to the 2009-10 school year! I would like to extend a special welcome to all the families who are new to our Southview community. I look forward to getting to know you and your child in the months to come. It was great to see so many of you at our annual open house on Wednesday, September 2.

We are off to a great start. There are exciting new things happening this year that will benefit our students. Here is a brief list:

- We are excited about the addition of new technology in our building. The computer lab has 35 new computers. Computer projectors have been mounted in all of our grade-level classrooms. Six new SMARTboards will be installed bringing our total to 13 in the classrooms.
- There is one new curriculum adoption in the area of music. Mr. Barnes, our music teacher, has exciting new materials and resources to use with the students.
- This is the second year our district is participating in the Schools for Energy Efficiency (SEE) program. This is a multi-faceted energy conservation program that gets both students and staff involved in making energy-saving changes. Last year Southview was eligible for an energy star rating that placed us in the top 20% of similar schools nationwide. In addition, we reduced our overall energy usage by 13%.
- We continue to make building improvements with new blinds in eleven classrooms.
- Four new staff members were hired this summer to join our talented staff.
- Many new students and their families joined the Southview community this summer bringing our enrollment to 689.

As you can see from the list above, we have a great deal to be excited about as we start the new school year. We look forward to working with you to make this school year a fun and successful year for your child.

September dates

- 14 *Grade 5 Parent Information Night, 6 p.m.*
Grade 3 Parent Information Night, 7 p.m.
- 17 *Grade 1 Parent Information Night, 6 p.m.*
- 18 *Picture Day*
- 21 *Fall MAP testing begins*
- 22 *PTO meeting, 7 p.m.*
- 23 *Bus Safety, 9:30 a.m.*
- 28-30 *PTO Box Top/Campbell's Labels Collection Week*
- 29-30 *OLSAT testing*
- 30 **Innisbrook Orders Due**
Grade 1&2, Climb Theater, 1:45 p.m.

Plan Ahead

- 1 *OLSAT testing*
- 1-2 *PTO Box Top/Campbell's Labels Collection Week*
- 5 *Wendy's Night, 5-8 p.m.*
- 8 *Principal Appreciation Day*
- 9 *Popcorn Day*

Arrival time

School doors open after 8:15 a.m. Students who walk or are driven to school should not arrive before 8:15 a.m. **No supervision** is available prior to this time since staff is involved with meetings and preparation for the school day. Students who arrive before 8:15 a.m. should remain outside the building until the bell rings. Afternoon kindergarten students should arrive no earlier than 12:10 p.m.

Bussing

If your child will be picked up or dropped off by the school bus at a stop other than the one near your home (e.g. at a daycare provider's house), you have to fill out a transportation/daycare form. Even if you filled one out last year, you must complete a new one this year. Forms are available in the Southview office.

School calendar/handbook

Each family should have received a copy of the 2009-10 Southview Calendar/Handbook at the Open House on September 2. The handbook is designed to answer many of your questions regarding school policy and procedures. If for some reason you did not receive one, please request one from the office.

Parking Ordinance Reminder

The city of Apple Valley has a parking ordinance banning all parking on the east side of Gardenview Drive from Whitney to Baldwin. This ordinance will be enforced 24 hours a day throughout the year.

There is also no parking allowed on the south side of Whitney Drive from 7 a.m.–3 p.m. from September 1 through June 15. In addition, Apple Valley has an ordinance that bans parking directly in front of mailboxes on any street 24 hours a day.

The ins and outs of our parking lots

The parking lots at Southview are very busy places before the start and at the end of the school day. As a result, they are also potentially dangerous places for students if safety procedures are not followed. To ensure the safety of our students, we have developed the following set of procedures and guidelines for picking up and dropping off students. We need your cooperation to make sure our parking lots remain safe places for students, staff and visitors.

Whitney Parking Lot

- This lot is reserved for **bus drop off and pick up only** from 8:15-8:30 a.m. and 2:35-2:55 p.m.

Gardenview Parking Lot

- This lot is reserved for **car traffic** of parents who are dropping off or picking up students at the beginning or end of the school day.
- Please do not park and leave your car along the yellow curb. This is a no-parking area used only for picking up and dropping off students.
- Please wait in line until you are stopped along the yellow curb to pick up your children or let them exit from your car.
- Talk to your children about waiting on the sidewalk until they can be safely picked up at the curb.
- Please park in designated areas only. Cars parked in unauthorized areas make it very difficult for other cars to safely navigate through the lot to drop off or pick up students.
- No left turns are allowed onto Gardenview Drive between 8:15-8:30 a.m. and 2:45-3 p.m.

Thanks for your help and cooperation in making safety a number one priority at Southview!

Good home-school communication is important

Good home-school communication is important to us at Southview. All printed information such as newsletters, flyers, field trips and program information will be sent home on Fridays only. Students' classroom work and papers will be sent home at the discretion of the classroom teacher. A specially designed Friday Folder will be provided for each student. It is a red and white folder with the Southview wolf logo. Please make a point of asking your child for this folder each Friday to ensure that you receive important information in a timely fashion.

Issues of *Southview Trackings*, the principal's newsletter, will come home the first Friday of every month. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed about the school. Your comments about the format, news contained in the newsletter, or other suggestions are welcomed. In addition to *Southview Trackings* you will receive classroom newsletters that will keep you informed of things that are happening with curriculum and special activities in your child's classroom.

Office hours

Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday. Also, a reminder that all visitors must register in the office before visiting our instructional areas.

New staff joins the Southview team

We are excited to welcome the following new staff members to the Southview team:

Molly Howe	KindergartenTeacher
Laura Baker	ResourceTeacher
Kim Vitullo	ELL Teacher
Jennifer Eversman	Art Teacher

We are excited to welcome back Sharyn Nelson (DCD), Kirsten Schroeder (Gr. 1) and Kathy Prinske (Gr. 2).

Southview Discipline Policy

One of the key ingredients for getting the year off to a good start is making sure students know what is expected. During the first two weeks of school, staff will be teaching students the rules and routines they will need to know to have a successful year. Parents can help by reviewing and discussing the following Southview rules:

- Respect people.
- Respect property.
- Always walk (in the building).
- Use appropriate tone of voice.

In addition, parents should spend time talking with their children about the misbehaviors and consequences outlined in the *Overview of Student Rights and Responsibilities* handbook. Copies of the handbook were mailed to every family with school-age children in August. Teachers will review a simplified version of the handbook with their students during the first two weeks of school. Families who did not receive a copy of the handbook should contact the school office.

Check out the Southview web site!

The Southview web site www.district196.org/sv provides a wealth of information about the school. Here is a sampling of what you will find on the site:

- *General information about the school
- *Grade-level information
- *Principal's newsletter
- *Online resources and Internet bookmarks
- *Report absences
- *Upcoming events
- *Check lunch balances
- *Student activities
- *What's new at Southview

We invite you to check it out!!!

Southview Green Team Helps Get New Plantings Established

Last year Southview was awarded a Tree Trust Grant, funded by Dakota Electric. The grant provided us with a beautiful landscape design which included an outdoor classroom located in the courtyard area on the west side of the school. Trees, bushes, mulch, benches and birdhouses were also provided as part of the grant. At the end of the school year, all students were involved in the planting and caring for the new trees and bushes that were part of the grant.

The new plantings needed lots of water to grow and get established over the summer months. During the months of June, July and August a group of dedicated volunteers provided the care and water the trees and bushes needed to get established. A big thanks goes out to the following families and troops for the care they provided: Green, Korba, Balding, Pederson, Hoversten, Hoffman, Dodge, Soderbeck, Starkey, Milbauer, Troje, Williams, Lynch, Owen, Mutch, Lichty, Nelson, Wunderlich, Stark, Hanks, Mertes, Hoeft, Gilmore, Barnas Girl Scout Troop, Elumba Boy Scout Pack, and Wunderlich Daisy Troop. Thanks to their efforts we look forward to the beauty and shade these trees and bushes will provide in the years ahead.

New District Policy for Birthday Treats

Starting this school year, the district is implementing a new birthday treat policy. Children may not bring food or small gifts such as pencils or stickers to share with other students. The primary reason for this change from the past practice is to comply with our district's wellness policy on making healthy choices as required by Section 204 of the Child, Nutrition and WIC reauthorization Act of 2004. The change also addresses increasing concerns about students affected by food allergies, childhood obesity and economic disparities.

We know that birthdays are important days for

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children. Classroom teachers will recognize students in a special way on their birthday. In addition, names of students having birthdays will be read during morning announcements and they will receive a birthday button. Saturday birthdays will be recognized on Friday and Sunday birthdays on Monday. Half birthdays will be recognized according to a schedule beginning in the spring.

Southview's Biggest Fund-raiser begins September 11

The Innisbrook Wraps fund-raiser brings great value to Southview students! Sponsored by the Southview Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) this event raises about \$20,000 every year. These funds are used to provide a variety of student activities and programs as well as to purchase "Wish List" items identified by teachers and our Site Council. Some examples include the Artist-in-Residence Program (bringing in poets, writers, dancers and storytellers to work with the students), buses for field trips, rewards and incentives within the classrooms, classroom library books, an adult crossing guard, musical instruments and playground equipment.

Your PTO has selected the Innisbrook fund-raiser because they provide quality gift wrap and gift items at reasonable prices plus 50% of all sales will go to Southview as profit. Innisbrook wrapping paper is often less costly per square foot and sturdier (won't tear as easily) than most retail store gift wrap. For example, one standard 40 sq. ft. roll of Innisbrook paper wraps 13 shirt boxes and costs \$7.00 (\$3.50 to SV as profit). Retail Store paper of comparable size will cost approximately \$11.50 (no profit to Southview). Therefore, Innisbrook is not only a good buy but it benefits Southview as well!

The fund-raiser kickoff is Friday, September 11. Orders are due Wednesday, September 30 and product arrives Thursday, November 5, just in time for the winter holidays!

Thank you for supporting this fund-raiser and our school!

Free and Reduced Lunch Program

The Free and Reduced Lunch Program is available at Southview. If you receive MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program) or food stamps, you are likely to qualify for free meals. If you are not an MFIP recipient, please refer to the figures below to see if you may qualify. *If you have qualified in the past, you must still complete a new application every school year.*

If you think that your family would qualify for this program, please give Stacy Swenson, the school social worker, a call and she will send you an application. She can be reached by calling 651-683-6969, ext. 93928. You can also stop in the office and pick up an application. If you need assistance filling out the form, she can help you with that also. **This information is private and will only be seen by limited school officials to determine eligibility.** This does not include your child's classroom teacher. All students are treated the same in the cafeteria whether they are on assistance or not. Your own child does not need to be told if they are on this program.

REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Household Size	Yearly \$	Monthly \$	Weekly \$
1	20,036	1,670	386
2	26,955	2,247	519
3	33,874	2,823	652
4	40,793	3,400	785
5	47,712	3,976	918
6	54,631	4,553	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	1,317
Add for each add'l family member	6,919	577	134

Our goal is to make sure all Southview students have the benefit of good nutrition and a full stomach!



Nutrition News Flash

Welcome back to school meals! Nutritious food is directly linked to student achievement, and we all want to “grow” healthy students who are ready to learn.

SchoolView

We encourage the parents of elementary school students to sign up for SchoolView, a FREE and convenient way to access information about your child's meal account. FeePay can be accessed through SchoolView, and payments can be made to your child's meal account using a credit card (with 4% charge) or checking/savings account transfer. Parents can also utilize the low-balance alert feature in FeePay to eliminate receiving the blue low-balance notes. Please contact your child's school to sign up for SchoolView.

Free or Reduced-Price Meals

Students who qualify for *free* meals are eligible to receive both a free breakfast and a free lunch each day. Students who qualify for *reduced-price meals* may receive a free breakfast and lunch for \$.40 per day. Southview's breakfast serving times are 8:15-8:35 a.m.

Local Lunch

We plan to offer a “Local Lunch” each month featuring a food item that is grown in Minnesota as a way to bring the Minnesota farm-to-school activities to our students in the district. Be sure to ask your child about the fresh, locally grown corn-on-the-cob that will be served in school cafeterias on Sept. 29. October will feature grass-fed beef hot dogs from Cannon Falls.

Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™

Remember to celebrate Family Day, a national initiative to remind parents that what your kids want at the dinner table is you! The parental engagement fostered during frequent family dinners is an effective tool to help keep kids substance-free. Family Day reminds parents that “Dinner Makes a Difference!”

Video Cameras on School Buses

Video cameras are used on some school buses in our district and are intended to decrease student misbehavior and allow safe bus operation for students, drivers and other motorists. This is to notify you that your child may be videotaped while riding the bus. When a significant misbehavior occurs on the bus, the driver or principal will notify the transportation department so the videotape can be pulled and reviewed as soon as possible. Parents will then be notified regarding the inappropriate behavior and appropriate consequences will be applied.



Calling all absences...



When your child(ren) will be absent or tardy, please call and report their absence to Southview. Messages may be left on the Southview nurse's voice mail. If you have a touch-tone phone, you may call the voice mail 24 hours a day at (651) 683-6969. Press 18375 when you hear the recording and leave the following information:

- Child's name
- Child's teacher and reason and dates for absence