

Spring!

April 2017

Spring is here: the days are longer, the grass is greening, daffodils are getting ready to open, and the Tigers' home opener is just a week away. There will be no school next week as part of SWDCS' Spring Break (April 3rd - 7th). We will have a long Easter weekend as well (there is no school Friday, April 14 and Monday, April 17).

This is a great time to make sure your kids spend some time outside playing, riding bikes, drawing with sidewalk chalk, and observing the seasonal changes. Make sure that your child is reading *everyday* for *at least* 20 minutes -- this includes being read to, so you can make it a family event!



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Staffing Update

Friday, March 31, 2017 will be Ms. Dollie Hansard's last day with us at Southwest Detroit Community School. She is leaving our school to better attend to her family. We are all saddened by Ms. Dollie's departure -- she has been an integral part of our school family over the last several years and will be greatly missed. Please join me in wishing her well in all of her future endeavours!

Family Mural Making Nights

Thank you to all the families that came out over the last month to help with our mosaic murals! They look beautiful! A huge shout-out to Ms. Ellis for all of her work coordinating this project!

M-STEP

Michigan's state proficiency test, the M-STEP, will be administered to 3rd through 8th graders beginning in April. If you have access to technology at home, you can view sample test items at <https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi/> (this only works with a Chrome browser).

Soccer

SWDCS' spring soccer program is up and running. Middle school students practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 5pm. 3rd - 5th grade students



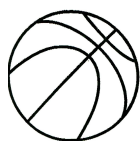
practice on Wednesdays until 5pm. And Kindergarten - 2nd grade students practice on Fridays until 5pm.

Enrollment

Several of our grades are fully enrolled, but we have openings in other grades. Please refer your family, friends, and neighbors to our school for the 2017-2018 school year!

Handicap Parking Spaces

Please do not park in the handicap spaces in our school's parking lot unless you have handicap permit. We have students that rely on those spaces and multiple visitors that also use them.



SWDCS Basketball and Cheer

Congratulations to the SWDCS' Panthers on their first basketball and cheer season! It was an amazing season of learning to work together as a team!

School Website

Our school website is up and running! Please head over to www.swdcs.org to check it out. You can view original artwork from our students, find staff contact information, catch up on current events, check the school calendar, look up what's for lunch, and much more!

Garden Resources for Families

For over a decade, the Garden Resource Program (GRP) has supported family, community, school, and market gardens in Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck. Participants in the Garden Resource Program receive resources for their vegetable gardens, including seeds and Detroit grown transplants and become part of a growing network of gardeners and advocates working to promote urban agriculture within a thriving local food system. Applications to join the program are available in the main office or can be accessed at detroitagriculture.net.



Recycling Bin

You may have noticed the new recycling dumpster in the parking lot of SWDCS. The container is specifically for paper, and we encourage our families to bring their recycling from home and add it to the bin. The school does receive money for the amount of paper by weight, so every bit helps! All types of paper are accepted, but please no brown paper or cardboard, metal, plastic, etc.

Embrace. Educate. Empower.