

Brrrr!

February 2017

I hope you are enjoying our relatively mild winter, though it's brisk and snowy as I write this!

Thank you to all the families that joined us on January 19th to declare our commitment to making our school a safe and welcoming space for all. We are committed to making Southwest Detroit Community School a sanctuary.



We continue to expand and enhance our after-school programming. Our first competitive basketball team begins playing today. Next week our inaugural cheer team will begin supporting the team at games. Cub Scouts, Middle School Girls Group, and 8th Grade Coding Club all launch this month. Girl Scouts continues and in the spring we will resume soccer and garden club. SWDCS is committed to offering a robust variety of programs to meet the needs of all our students.

In addition to our after-school programming, there are a few other special experiences we provide. Our 5th grade students will continue the SWDCS tradition of going to camp in May, and our 8th grade students will start a new tradition of going to Washington, D.C. in June. Both trips require a great deal of fundraising on behalf of our students.

Re-enrollment for current families is in full swing! Make sure you preserve your child's spot at our school by returning the re-enrollment forms ASAP! Next month, we will begin enrolling new students into our school and I will ask you for help to fill open spots.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Donner".

Frank Donner
313.782.4422
frank.donner@swdcs.org

Winter Count Day

Winter Count Day is next Wednesday, February 8, 2017. Please make sure your child is present in school! Attendance is important everyday, but it is crucial on Count Day. The funding we receive from the state is based on our enrollment and attendance on the Fall and Winter Count Days. Please note that this will be a regular uniform day.



Valentine's Dance and Dress Down

On Thursday, February 9, 2017, students can bring \$2.00 to dress down and attend a special Valentine's Day Dance. All of the money raised from this event will go towards the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Friday, February 10, 2017. (Please note, Parent Teacher Conferences were originally scheduled for February 8, 2017 and have been moved.) More information about signing up for a specific time will come home through your child's teacher. This is an important time for you to connect with your child's teacher, review your child's progress, and make plans for a successful school year. Conferences will take place from 8a-5p. There is no school for students on these days. As always, translators will be available.



SWDCS QUIZ BOWL –Monday, February 27!

This year in honor of Black History Month, we will have a friendly competition to quiz our students' knowledge about Famous African Americans! Quiz Bowl is an activity that will allow grade levels to go up against the rest of their classmates and be declared a winner! If your child wins, they will then compete with another student in a different grade. Your child will bring home a list of questions that all students grades K-8 will be asked. There is a bonus page for those students who make it to the final competition on Tuesday, February 28!

Kindergarten and First grade students will only be responsible for the first page, which are 20 facts. Other grade levels will compete under the following facts:

Grade	K-1	20 facts
Grades	2-3	30 facts
Grades	4-5	40 facts
Grades	6-8	45 facts

Remember to start with the first list. If you have any questions please reach out to Ms. Lackey!

Enrollment for Next School Year

All current students need to complete re-enrollment paperwork in order to maintain their spot at our school for the 2017-2018 school year. Re-enrollment forms were sent home on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. Return it as soon as possible. The re-enrollment period ends on February 24,

2017. Enrollments after this date will not be given re-enrollment preference and will become part of the general application pool. If you need another re-enrollment form, please call 313-782-4422.

Testing

Students are wrapping up NWEA Measures of Academic Progress testing right now. We are currently administering make-up tests to students that were absent when their class originally tested. Check in with your child and see if they attained their growth target! Teachers will review this data in more depth at Parent Teacher Conferences on Friday, February 10, 2017.

Beginning next week many of our students will be tested as part of the WIDA assessment. This assessment measures the reading, speaking, listening, and writing abilities of English Language Learners.

Pennies for Patients

SWDCS is beginning a school-wide fundraiser called Pennies for Patients. This fundraiser benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which helps pay for treatment for children with blood cancer. Everyone is encouraged to donate by bringing spare change to their classroom box. Last our year school raised \$3,000, let's see if we can do it again! Classroom that raises the most money wins a pizza party.

SWDCS Basketball

SWDCS' first varsity basketball will take place on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 5:30pm. It will take place at Michigan Technical Academy, 23750 Elmira, Redford, MI (the corner of Plymouth and Telegraph). The entrance fee is \$2.00.



Sonic Pi

SWDCS, in partnership with Macro Connect, will be offering a Coding Club to 8th graders. Beginning on February 15th, the Coding Club will meet once a week on Wednesdays for 8 weeks. Participants will learn to use computer code to create their own electronic music! Space is limited to the first 16 students. More information will go home directly to 8th grade students.

Cub Scouts

There will be a Cub Scout parent meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 5:30pm in the school's library. This is an opportunity to find out more about the program and start to plan our school's pack! Spanish and English applications are available at the main desk for students in 1st through 3rd grade.

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!

Dress Code

SWDCS' dress code consists of solid dark blue, light blue, or white collared shirts and dark blue, black, or khaki bottoms. Shoes should be mostly black or brown. In cool weather students are allowed to wear sweaters or sweatshirts that are dark blue or black with no hoods or writing on them.

24 Hour Rule

Please remember if your child is sick, they need to be vomit/fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child returns to school any earlier, they will be sent down to the office and you will be called to come pick them up. This is for the safety and health of all students.

Snow Days/ Emergency Building Closures

In the event of a snow-day or emergency closure our school name will appear on channels 2, 4, and 7, and will also be on the local radio stations. An automated text or phone call will be sent out to parents confirming the closure. In extreme cases in which we may close school in the middle of the day, parents will be contacted by phone. It is important that we have up to date phone numbers in your child's record so that we can reach you. If your contact information has changed since the beginning of school, please see Ms. Emma to update the information.



We are a joyful, inclusive family of learners who embrace education as a lifelong journey. As self-determined and productive people, we nurture our whole selves physically, mentally, emotionally, and artistically. We work in solidarity and love with our greater Southwest Detroit community. By critically and creatively participating in our world, we affect positive change and empower ourselves and each other to become the people we want to be. We are limitless!

Embrace. Educate. Empower.