

# March is Reading Month!

March 2017

March is Reading Month. Throughout the month there will be special events and activities at school to celebrate and promote reading. One of the most important and influential things you can do with your child is to read to him/ her everyday. Research consistently shows that this simple act produces greater educational results than almost anything other single thing a parent or teacher does. It helps model fluency, builds vocabulary, demonstrates reading for pleasure, and provides special bonding time.



Spring is almost here!

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

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## Staffing Update

One of our 5th grade teachers, Ms. Aurelia Berrocal, left our school a few weeks ago to pursue a new opportunity in California. While we are saddened to see her go, we wish Aurelia well on her new endeavor! We feel very fortunate to have been able to fill this vacancy with a talented and experienced educator, Matthew Simmons. Mr. Simmons comes to SWDCS with more than 17 years of experience teaching in Detroit.

## Family Mural Making Nights

Please join us Wednesday evenings in March (March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29) to work on tile murals for our school's entryway. The art room will be open to families from 5:00-6:30 PM to assist in creating four murals that will be hung in the hallways of SWDCS. No experience is necessary, and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Soccer

It's that time of year again! We are excited to roll out our soccer program as we take to the field and put our skills to the test. The program will utilize a soccer curriculum created by U.S. Soccer Foundation to develop core soccer fundamentals and experience the numerous benefits that soccer has to offer. We emphasize healthy living and



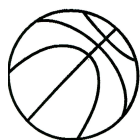
eating habits. This season, we will have a total of 5 teams consisting of K-2nd (2 teams), 3rd-5th (2 teams) and 6th-8th (1 team). If your child is interested, have them fill out a permission slip and return it to the office promptly as we expect to generate a lot of interest. Soccer permission slips have been distributed, additional copies are available in the office to participate in the raffle. We look forward to seeing you on the field! Thanks again for your continued support.

## Enrollment for Next School Year

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!

## Pennies for Patients

As a school, we raised \$380.07 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society! Thank you so much to everyone for encouraging your children to participate. Ms. Minhinnick's class brought in the most money and earned a pizza party. They will also have a dress down day, along with 2nd place classroom Mrs. Engel and 3rd place classroom Ms. Walicki on Friday, March 3rd.



### SWDCS Basketball and Cheer

SWDCS' basketball and cheer teams are winding down their season this month. See the attached calendar for information on the final games.

## School Website

Our school website is up and running! Please head over to [www.swdcs.org](http://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](http://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.