

Teacher Appreciation

May 2017



I am so very grateful to work with so many talented, dedicated, and amazing educators. They go above and beyond every day. They come early, stay late, take work home, and give up their weekends. They are teachers, yes, but they are also counselors, nurses, coaches, advocates, and so much more for our children. In May, we set some time aside to honor all they do for our children. There are many ways you can show your child's teacher you appreciate them. If you are able, you can participate in the parent group's luncheon on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. You can also have your child complete the blank card attached to this newsletter. Cards can be submitted to the office this week and we will display them to recognize and honor our teachers. Of course, the simplest and best way to let your child's teacher know that you appreciate them is to tell them. A few kind words can go a long, long way!

Later this month, SWDCS will continue our tradition of 5th grade camp. This is one of the capstone experiences we offer at our school. It is a special way for our 5th grade students to close out their elementary experience and transition into middle school.

This year SWDCS will graduate its very first 8th grade class. Many of our current 8th graders have been here since the school first opened. We are sad to see our young people leave us, but glad to know that we have prepared them well and they are going off to new and exciting experiences.

Thank you to everyone that participated in our Jeans Day for Autism last week -- our school raised \$270 for this cause!

I hope you are finding some time to enjoy the spring weather with your family! Have a good May!

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

Frank Donner
313.782.4422
frank.donner@swdcs.org

Spring Fling

This Friday, May 5, 2017, there will be an elementary dance and a middle school dance. Both dances will take place during the school day. Students should bring \$2 to dress down and participate in the dance. All proceeds will benefit SWDCS' music department.

Calendar Update for June

In order to allow students and staff to attend our 8th grade commencement, there will be a half day of school on Wednesday, June 21, 2017. Our Kindergarten promotion ceremony will take place in the morning, students will be dismissed at 11:30am, and the 8th grade commencement will be at 2:30pm at the Charles H. Wright Museum, 315 E. Warren Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201.

M-STEP

5th and 8th grade are wrapping up M-STEP testing this week while 3rd grade is beginning testing, followed by 4th, 6th, and 7th grades. 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).

NWEA

Our students take the NWEA Measures of Academic Practice (MAP) test each fall, winter, and spring. We are able to use the scores on this test to measure how much growth they have made over the course of the school year. This is a computer based test and it adapts to the student's level. It can be quite challenging. Students are only expected to be able to answer about half of the questions correctly -- and that's okay! That's how this particular test works. All students will be taking the spring edition of this test beginning in late May and early June.

Bike to School Day

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 is 'Bike to School Day.' Many of our staff members will be making an extra effort to ride to work on this day. Student are encouraged to participate too! If your child lives near the school and has your permission to ride to school, Mr. Donner will provide secure storage for bicycles during the day.

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. Games begin on Saturday, May 6, 2017. **Games are played at Patton Park -- please check the website or contact the office for more information on exact times.**



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!

Cub Scouts Pack 4001

Our cub scout pack now meets on Mondays at 4pm (instead of Fridays). If your child is interested in participating, more information and applications are available at the front desk.

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.



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!

Updated Board Meeting Schedule

The SWDCS School Board meeting scheduled for May 24, 2017 has been moved to June 7, 2017. An updated schedule of board meetings is posted in the school's lobby.

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.



UM Study

Does your child or teen excessively worry or suffer from anxiety? The University of Michigan is conducting a research study on youth between the ages of 7-17 using Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT). This study will include a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation, 12-outpatient therapy sessions and 2 fMRI scans. All study procedures are provided by our expert clinicians at no charge. *Participants will be financially compensated for their time.*

Who is eligible:

- Ages 7-17
- Showing signs of excessive anxiety or worry
- Not afraid of small spaces (fMRI)
- Has no metal in body (fMRI)

Contact UM to see if your child or teen qualifies!
734-232-0130
Anxiety-CBT-study@med.umich.edu