

Parents as Partners

December 2016

I hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving break with their family and friends. We are entering an exciting month full of activities in and out of school, and looking forward to a longer winter break at the end of the month.



The partnership between parents and the school is fundamental to ensuring that all of our students succeed. We love to have parents volunteer in our classrooms and throughout the school; we highly value parent communication; and we encourage active participation in our Parent Group (more information is below).

At the same time that we encourage a regular parent presence in our school, we also want to make sure that we honor instructional time for all students. We ask that parent volunteers do not engage in informal conversations with teachers because this distracts teachers from their main responsibility of teaching. Similarly, parents should not walk their children back to their classroom unless they have scheduled a volunteer opportunity. Quick informal conversations can add up to a big time commitment and distraction for classroom teachers. If you would like to schedule a meeting with your child's teacher, please contact them via email or leave a message with the front desk. Also, feel free to reach out directly to your child's teacher or anyone in the front office if you would like to volunteer.

Thank you for your support and partnership in your child's education!

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

Frank Donner
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Welcome Ms. Nykamp!

As many of you know, Ms. Dunne left her 3rd grade position in October to pursue another job opportunity. It is difficult to fill a classroom position mid-year, but we were fortunate to have several highly-qualified applicants. I am happy to announce that we have hired a new 3rd grade teacher: Alicia Nykamp. Ms. Nykamp has experience as both a classroom teacher and a special education teacher. She brings passion, experience, and a deep commitment to student learning. She is excited to join our school community and will officially begin on Friday, December 2nd. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Nykamp to SWDCS!

Winter Concert

SWDCS' Winter Concert will be Wednesday, December 14th at the Senate Theatre (6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48210). Grades Kindergarten through Third will perform at 6pm. The Choir, Orchestra, and Grades Fourth through Eighth (including Ms. Minhinnick's class) will perform at 7pm.

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.

As children grow out of clothes or the clothes wear out, it is necessary to acquire new uniform clothing. With the approaching holiday season, uniform clothing may be a good gift option for your child. Beginning in January, SWDCS administration and teachers will strictly enforce the dress code. Within the next six weeks, please make sure that your child has appropriate uniform attire.

Picture Day Make-Up

For any students that missed our school picture day, the photographers will return for make-up pictures on Tuesday, December 6. This is a free dress day only for students who missed the first picture day.

Lice

Whenever an occurrence of head lice is discovered at SWDCS, school staff do a topical inspection of surrounding students and family members of the affected student. Students with live head lice need to be treated at home before returning to school. If you discover lice in your child's hair, don't panic! Treat your child with over-the-counter lice shampoo and comb out all nits, thoroughly wash bedding and other clothes with hot water and dry on high heat, and vacuum the floor and furniture completely. Repeat these steps for a few weeks until evidence of lice is gone. As a courtesy, please contact the school if you discover lice on your child. Children that have been treated are allowed to return to school. If you need help identifying lice or treating your child, please reach out to SWDCS staff.

Lost & Found

There is a 'Lost & Found' area behind the front desk. If your child is missing a jacket, sweater, lunch bag, book bag, or other item -- please have them check at the front desk. Because of how quickly items accumulate we can only hold them for about 6 weeks, then we launder them and donate them to local charities. Items will be donated next Thursday, December 8th and again on Friday, December 23rd.

Parent Group Updates

The SWDCS Parent Group will host a Resource Fair and Book Exchange on Wednesday, December 7th, from 3:30-7pm in the library. Please feel free to bring used books to donate, as well as canned goods or toys to share with SWDCS families in need. Please call Raquel at 313-595-6492 with questions or if you'd like to help out with the resource fair.

The next Parent Group meeting will be Friday, December 16th at 8:30am in room 129 (coffee and holiday treats will be provided).

The Parent Group is sponsoring a sing-along during student lunch on Monday, December 19th, between 11am and 12:20pm. Call Rachael at 248-220-6841 with questions or to join in.

Some Family Events Coming Up in the Larger Community

Noel Night

Saturday, December 3, 5:00pm-10:00pm

Various locations throughout Midtown Detroit

www.noelnight.org

Southwest Holiday Fest

Saturday, December 10, 4:00pm-8:00pm

Various locations on W. Vernor and Bagley, between 16th and 24th Streets

Winter Break

SWDCS' Winter Break begins on Monday, December 26, 2016 and continues through Friday, January 6, 2017. School resumes on Monday, January 9, 2017. Have a safe and restful break!