

# Happy Fall!

October 2016

We had an amazing first few weeks of school! Students are learning classroom routines and procedures, starting to explore challenging content, making new friends, and having a wonderful time. There is a palpable happiness in the air most days!



It is fall now -- the leaves will be changing color and dropping soon, the days will be shorter, and the air cooler. Fall also means that NWEA testing is in full swing. 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. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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

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## Luciano Cruz

We continue to mourn the loss of our 1st grade student, Luciano Cruz. Luciano's funeral will be this Thursday. This will be a regular school day for students, though the schedule may be altered slightly to allow some staff members to attend the services.

Luciano's viewing will be Wednesday, October 5th at Professional Mortuary (3833 Livernois, Detroit, MI 48210) from 2pm-8pm.

Final viewing, church service, and burial will take place Thursday, October 6th beginning at 11:00am. Services will be at Faith Assembly Church, 25201 Outer Drive, Melvindale, MI 48122. Interment will take place at Woodmere Cemetery (9400 W Fort St, Detroit, MI 48209).

If you would like to contribute to the fund to cover funeral expenses for Luciano:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/2rnsxrj8>

## Count Day

Count Day is this Wednesday, October 5, 2016. 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 Count Day. Please note that this will be a regular uniform day. Classrooms with 100% attendance will receive pizza.

## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Please join Southwest Detroit Community School in the fight against breast cancer! We will be collecting any donations that your family is able to offer. These donations will help the American Cancer Society save lives by funding groundbreaking cancer research; providing free, comprehensive information and support to those touched by breast cancer; and helping people take steps to reduce their breast cancer risk or find it early when it's most treatable. There will be a decorated PINK JAR at the front desk for any coins or dollars. This is a movement and together we can make a difference. We appreciate your support!

## Professional Development Day

There will be no school for students next Monday, October 10, 2016. This is a professional development day for teachers. School will resume at 8:00am on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

## Afterschool Programming

We will be launching our first round of tutoring and afterschool programming within the next two weeks. Tutoring will be based on testing information and will be by invitation only. Look for invitations or specific sign-up forms coming home soon.

## Art Club

Art Club Sign-Up will happen this week. Art Club will begin the week of October 10 and last until the week of Thanksgiving.

Mondays: Grades K-4, 3:45-5:00 PM

Tuesdays: Grades 5-8, 3:45-5:00 PM

If you're child would like to be in art club, ask them to bring home a sign-up form.

## Parent Teacher Conferences

Fall 2016 Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Wednesday, October 19, 2016. 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. There is only one other Parent Teacher Conference day scheduled this school year: February 8, 2017. It is important that you attend

both conferences. Conferences will take place from 8a-5p. There is no school for students on these days. As always, translators will be available.

## Lunch Volunteers

Parents are welcome to volunteer in many capacities at our school. One of the areas where we often need an extra hand is in the lunchroom. If you would like to come in between 11:00am and 12:20pm to help distribute lunches, monitor students, and assist with clean-up please contact Ms. Gonzalez.

## Curriculum Night

SWDCS' curriculum night will take place on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 5:30pm. There will be information about the curriculum we use as well as information about how we use Title I funds to support our programming.

## BOOK IT!

Reading is at the heart of education, and the only way to get better at reading is to *do* it! To encourage your child to "read their heart out" this year, our Kindergarten through 6th grade classrooms are participating in the BOOK IT! Program. Students that meet their reading goal for the month will get a certificate for a free personal pan pizza at Pizza Hut! Look for more information coming home from your child's teacher.

## Art Night

There will be a special Art Night celebrating Latino Heritage Month on Thursday, October 27, 2016 from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

## Halloween

Halloween can be a very exciting celebration for children, but in order to maintain a calm, professional school environment we will not be permitting costumes during the school day. Students arriving to school in costume will wait in the office until an appropriate change of clothes is brought to them.

Individual classroom teachers may choose to spend the last hour of their day doing a fall- or harvest-themed activity. Please look for more information coming home about a brief Halloween celebration after school hours on October 31st.