

Parents as Partners

December 2017

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!

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Parent Resource Fair and Movie Night

SWDCS will be hosting a Parent Resource Fair and Movie Night next Wednesday, December 6, 2017 from 5:30pm - 7:45pm. There will be a movie for kids with popcorn, chips, and snacks available for purchase to benefit SWDCS' 8th Grade trip to Washington, DC. While kids are watching the movie, parents can access resources including:

- City of Detroit's DetroitID (including on-site registration),
- homeowner assistance and tax foreclosure support
- information on youth programs
- SDEV - Healthy Homes and Safe Routes to School
- healthcare providers and information on services and programs

- Huntington Bank
- SERMetro Jobs and Training
- Chass Center - Community Health and Social Services
- Karmanos Cancer Center - schedule free breast and cervical exams
- Michigan Works! for jobseekers
- International Institute Immigration Resources
- City of Detroit Department of Neighborhoods
- and more!

This event is open to all community members -- please bring friends, family, and neighbors!

PowerSchool Parent Access

Through PowerSchool Parent Access you have real-time access to your child's grades and attendance. This service has been upgraded to now allow parents to create their own account and link multiple students to that one account. It is quick and easy to create your account following the steps below:

1. Visit the PowerSchool Parent Access Website: <http://www.swdcs.org/>
2. Click on the tab to create a new account. Enter in the required parent information to create your account:
 - *First Name
 - *Last Name
 - *Email Address
 - *Create a Username (it is case sensitive)
 - *Create a Password (it is case sensitive)
 - *Confirm your Password
3. Enter in the information to link your student(s) to your account
 - *Student Name: *Jane* (first name only)
 - *Access ID: *Doe.Jane*
 - *Access Password: *studentsuccess*
4. Repeat Step 3 for any additional students
5. Click Enter at the bottom of the screen

Principal and Parent Meeting

The next Principal and Parent meeting will be Friday, December 15th at 8:45am in the science lab (coffee and holiday treats will be provided). There will be general school updates given at 8:45am and at 9:00am SWDCS will be hosting a Cooking Matters Pop-Up Workshop. At this interactive workshop, participants will learn how to shop for healthy foods on a budget.

During the workshop, participants will practice skills like:

- buying fruits and vegetables on a budget
- comparing unit prices to find bargains
- reading and comparing food labels



- identifying whole grains
- and sticking to your budget!

After the workshop participants will receive a:

- FREE book full of tasty recipes and simple tips on buying healthy, low-cost foods
- FREE reusable grocery bag
- \$10 gift card or certificate to a grocery store

Space is limited! Please sign-up at the front desk if you are interested in attending!

Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Civic Youth Ensemble

We have had a history of superb music programming at SWDCS. Ms. Roberts did a fantastic job building an orchestral program over the last three years and Ms. Goodwillie is continuing that work now. There is no better evidence of the success of this program than the flourishing of our talented young people in orchestra. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra held auditions for their Civic Youth Ensemble at SWDCS last month and several of our students were selected to participate. This is a huge recognition and accomplishment! Congratulations to Balice F., Ella H., Joslyn G., Me'kiah F., Janiyah H., Adrianna Y., and Deniqua R.!



Winter Concert

Another way you can enjoy our fine music programming at our upcoming Winter Concert! Come out and celebrate Holidays Around the World with Southwest Detroit Community School on Wednesday, December 20th. First, Third, and Fourth grade students along with Fifth through Eighth grade orchestra students will be performing musical selections from around the world. There will be performances at 9:30am, 1:00pm, and 6:00pm at SWDCS in the Gymnasium. Admission is free! Please come out to see all that our students have been working on!

Dress Code

In cool weather students are allowed to wear sweaters or sweatshirts in school. These items should be solid blue, black, grey, or white. No writing, pictures, or large logos are permitted. Hoodies are permissible, but hoods can never be worn on the head while in school.

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.

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 in the hallway outside of the main office. If your child is missing a jacket, sweater, lunch bag, book bag, or other item -- please have them check this area. 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 Friday, December 8th and again on Friday, December 22nd.

Some Family Events Coming Up in the Larger Community

Noel Night

Saturday, December 2, 5:00pm-10:00pm
Various locations throughout Midtown Detroit
www.noelnight.org

Downtown Detroit Parks - Winter Events

Throughout December and January
Various events at Campus Martius, Beacon Park, Grand Circus Park and more
downtowndetroitparks.com/events

Eastern Market - Holiday Markets

Sundays in December at Eastern Market
www.easternmarket.com

Winter Break

SWDCS' Winter Break begins on Monday, December 25, 2017 and continues through Friday, January 5, 2018. School resumes on Monday, January 8, 2018. Have a safe and restful break!

We educate, embrace, and empower each other to become creative, thoughtful citizens.