



THE SOUTHSIDE STAR

January 2011

Volume 5, Issue 5

Winter fun!

January is full of fun activities and residencies for Southside students! Here's what we're looking forward to:

A week-long dance residency with Larry Yazzie, a world champion Fancy Dancer. All students will work with Larry each day during the first week of January to learn the Native American Fancy Dance and to learn more about the Meskwaki heritage. This residency is sponsored by The Cowles Center For Dance & The Performing Arts.

Another residency with Midwest Food Connection. We are thrilled to work with MFC again this year. K-5 students will learn about winter vegetables, corn, grains, and wild rice in a 4 lesson series throughout January and February. A letter from the organization is included in this month's mailing. We will provide MFC with a list of known food allergies for students, but if there's something you think you may have forgotten to list on the initial health forms, please let Sherri know by calling 612-872-8322 ext. 450.

Japanese lessons for Brynne and Mel's reading class. In January and February, Becky Iverson, a teacher from Watershed high school, will be guest teaching at Southside. She will work with Brynne and Mel's classes to teach students Japanese. We're looking forward to her visit!

Read on for more information about upcoming field trips and classroom activities. Parents and other family members are invited and encouraged to attend any activities of interest. We can also use lots of volunteer help in the classroom during January, so **please consider spending a few hours at Southside if you are able.**



Finally, remember to dress for the weather! Despite the chilly temperatures, we will still be heading outside for free play and ice skating club, so be sure your child brings gloves, hats, jackets, and boots.

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Winter Conferences are coming up!

Conferences will be
Tuesday, February 1
from 5-7:40 p.m. or
Thursday, February 3
from 7:40-9:40 a.m.

Contact Tania to
schedule a conference.

What's happening in the classroom in January?

Right: Jonathan, Tyler, Seion, Xavier, Dova, and other Southside students listen to Sharaud Moore, one of the original Freedom Writers. Moore was one of a group of high school students in Long Beach who worked with their teacher to use reading and writing to overcome adversity in their lives. Their writing was eventually collected and published as the book (later turned into a movie) called Freedom Writers. Southside students were inspired by Moore's stories, humor, and wisdom.



From **Pete**, middle school math and 2nd grade level reading teacher:

In **math**, we will be finishing up exponents and moving on to signed numbers. We will start on Civil Rights word problems to prepare for the Civil Rights Trip.

In **reading**, we will be concentrating on the differences between fiction and non-fiction while creating examples of both forms of writing.

Social Justice discussion theme: The modern Civil Rights Movement.

January's **club** is ice-skating, offered to all as a time to learn or to practice skating skills at McRae Park.

In **Inquiry**, I will be focusing on "states of matter" science experiments with 5th graders as well as air pressure, electricity, and chemistry.

From **Maren**, middle school math and clubs teacher:

Wow! In **math** class students really stretched their thinking during December, and made great progress in understanding quadratic functions. In January, we will continue looking at this math family through algebraic and geometric models. This is some serious math.

In **club** students will do "Big Paintings," for grades 3 and up. In this club, students will enlarge a photo or drawing of their choice using the grid method, then paint their enlargement onto a canvas. The result is a painted masterpiece that lasts a lifetime — perfect for family photos, favorite hobbies, or pet photos. The grid method works even if you feel you have zero artistic ability, so choose an image to enlarge and join us!

What's happening in the classroom in January?

From **Lisa**, 4th grade level math and 3rd grade level reading teacher:

In **math**, students will explore decimals and measurement. Students will review the number line and reading and writing large numbers. Students will then learn associated vocabulary and compare fractions and decimals. Students will also learn measuring with standard, non-standard, and liquid measurements.

In **reading**, students will continue exploring immigration and child labor. We will be reading Three Cheers for Mother Jones, Fire at the Triangle Factory, and Working Children.

Discussion questions for reading:

1. **How were young children used in factories, mines, and fields?**
2. **What were ways workers resisted or stood up to their employers for better pay and working conditions?**
3. **How did the fire at the Triangle Factory spark a movement?**

In **Inquiry**, students in the 2nd grade will learn about the United States, world geography, and important mapping skills, along with vocabulary, through hands-on activities and games.

From **Brendan**, middle school math, Inquiry, and clubs teacher:

In **math**, students will learn how to multiply and divide with decimals. They will learn the meaning of percent. They will learn how to calculate the tip when they eat at a restaurant, calculate a sale price, compare interest rates on credit cards and comparison shop. Students will work with Pete's class on social justice and science word problems.

In **Inquiry**, first graders will learn how to make fruit salad, tofu pudding, applesauce, and beans and rice. They will learn about measurement and make seed art projects.

Bryne will be gone over January and February, but great subs will be covering her classes:

In **math**, students will learn borrowing and regrouping in 2 digit subtraction problems. They will also learn measuring and simple multiplication.

In **reading**, students will continue learning about slavery and begin to learn about the Holocaust, Japanese internment camps during WWII, and resistance movements during this time.

Recommended reading:

Journey to Topaz by Yoshiko Uchida

The Big Lie by Isabella Leitner

Pearl Harbor is Burning by Kathleen Kudlinski

In **Inquiry**, 7-8th grade students will learn about magnetism and electricity. 6th graders will learn about levers and pulleys, and both groups will be conducting lots of experiments.

What's happening in the classroom in January?

From **Susie**, 1st grade level math and middle school reading and history teacher:

In "**histerature**," my students have been working very hard as we continue to learn about the inception and design of the United States, at the same time that we press forward to the years after slavery, the Plessy v. Ferguson decision, and on to the Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954. We will continue to examine the laws, organizations and customs that supported the Jim Crow era and white supremacy. And, of course, we will study the organizations and individuals who struggled mightily against this oppression and injustice. By the end of the month students will be ready to take their 2nd, and cumulative, test covering dates, events, concepts, organizations, and people from 1492-1954.

If you are interested in reading what your child has been/is/will be reading ask them to share their packets from the following list:

Run Away Home

Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice

If you are looking for in-depth non-fiction, I would recommend any of the following.

Hahn, Steven: **A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration.**

Till-Mobley, Mamie. **Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime That Changed America.**

Marable, Manning and Mullings, Leith, editors: **Let Nobody Turn Us Around: Voices of Resistance and Renewal.**

In **math**, Tricky Teacher is having a very hard time tricking these brilliant first graders! They are adding and subtracting double digit numbers, and reading and writing numbers to the hundreds place. This month we are going to learn more about money and geometry, and perhaps start a 300 piece puzzle!

In the news . . .

Cut and paste the following links (or call Erin for a hard copy!) to learn more about these news stories you may be interested in:

Results from the Minnesota Student Behavior Survey (6th grade Southside students participated in the survey): http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/About_MDE/News_Center/Press_Releases/019015

Babies help prevent bullying! The New York Times and CNN have both covered study results that show infants in the classroom help children learn empathy and kindness:

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/11/08/fighting-bullying-with-babies/?emc=eta1>

Southside in the news. Coverage of the November storytelling event with Rainbow Rumpus and aMaze: <http://www.insightnews.com/education/6871-teaching-children-how-to-deal-with-bullies>

Volunteer Opportunities

Parents, in January we can REALLY use your help! Please let Erin know ASAP if you can fill in for any of the following:

Classroom and Field Trip Help

Because many of our volunteers are U of M students, we have very few volunteers the first few weeks of January due to their winter break. If you can help out in a classroom or during a field trip, please let Erin know. **High priority classrooms are:**

- Natalie's kindergarten class, anytime between 10:15-4:35, M-F
- Lisa's reading class on M, W, F 11:45-12:45 and on T, Th 1:15-2:15
- Brynne's math class, 10:15-11:45, M-F

Of course, other classrooms can use volunteer help as well during the school day, and we can always use more chaperones on field trips. Please let Erin know if you can help out in January.

Swimming Field Trips

We need adults who are willing to be in the pool with students for field trips to the midtown YWCA January 14 (K-2nd grade) & 21 (3rd-5th grade). We especially need male volunteers to assist with the locker room. Swim time is from 2:30-3:45 both days; you may meet us there, or come to the school and drive with us. Volunteers for this activity must fill out a background check, so please contact Erin ASAP if you are willing to go swimming!

January Field Trips and Residencies

January 3-7: Dance Residency with Larry Yazzie. Students will learn Fancy Dance and about the Meskwaki heritage.

12:30-1:20, Natalie, Pete, Mona's classes
1:30-2:30, Susie's class
2:40-3:40, Lisa, Mel, and Brynne's classes

January Field Trips and Residencies, continued

January 10: Climb Theater performances, Southside gym. Lisa, Mel, Brynne's classes: 2:30-3:15. Natalie, Pete, and Mona's classes: 3:45-4:30.

HCMC in Susie's class, time TBD. Topic: sex ed. and STI's.

Middle School Parents: Please see letter included in this month's mailing about this workshop.

January 11, 18, 25 (and February 1): Midwest Food Connection, K-5 students. The lessons will be
1: Winter Vegetables
2: Corn
3: Amazing Grains
4: Wild Rice

The schedule is:

12:00-12:45 Kindergarten class (Natalie)
12:45-1:05 Lunch
1:10-2:00 1st and 2nd grade (Pete and Mona)
2:05-3:00 3rd grade (Lisa)
3:05-4:00 4th-6th grade (Brynne and Mel)

January 14: Swimming at the Y, K-2. Depart at 1:50, swim time from 2:30-3:45. Return in time for busses.

January 20, 26, 27 (and February 2&3): Japanese Lessons with Becky Iverson, Brynne and Mel's classes. Wednesdays from 11:45-12:30 and Thursdays from 12:45-1:30.

January 21: Swimming at the Y, 3-5. Depart at 1:50, swim time from 2:30-3:45. Return in time for busses.

January 28: Children's Museum, K-5 students. Depart at 1:20. Museum booked from 1:45-3:45.

January 31: Career Day with Brooke Dierkhising, Mel, and Brynne's classes. Fundraising and development. 3:30-4:30.

Mark your calendars!

January:

3: Return to school!
8: Board meeting
17 & 24: No School

February:

1: Evening conferences, 5-7:40 p.m
3: Morning conferences, 7:40-9:40 a.m.
12: Board Meeting
18 & 21: No School



Important Reminders and Updates

Please sign in!

Please remember to sign in at the main office if you are dropping your child off after 10:30 a.m., and when picking up or dropping off students during the school day. It is extremely important for attendance and safety purposes that we have an accurate record of who is in the building on a daily basis. Thank you.

Parents of students in Pete's Math, Susie's Reading & Brynne/Pete's Science:

Students in the middle school receive a homework schedule every Monday from their teachers. If you would like the "Middle School Weekly Homework Assignments" chart emailed to you every Monday as a way of supporting your student(s), please contact Tania at x452 or Tania@southsidefamilyschool.org to be added to the email list.

Lost and Found Reminder

Lost and Found items will be out during Holiday Pops. **Please remember to check for your child's items! Due to the large amount of items we have accumulated, we will be donating remaining clothing to Sabathani Community Center over the winter break.**

Attendance Reminder

Research shows regular attendance is tremendously important to school success. At Southside Family Charter School we expect that a child will attend school daily. Below is a reminder of what counts as an excused absence:

- Illness/Doctor appointments
- Religious/cultural observance
- Family emergency
- Family travel (office must be notified ahead of time)

Please remember if your child has vomited or has had a fever over 100, they must stay home for 24 hours after all symptoms are gone.

School begins at 10:15 everyday. If you're child arrives after 10:30 a.m. without a valid excuse, they will receive an unexcused tardy. Three unexcused tardies equals one unexcused absence. If you know your child will be tardy or absent, please call the **Attendance Line at (612) 872-8322** to excuse them. Please also contact the school if you have any questions or would like to see the attendance policy in its entirety.

November Perfect Attendance!



Abhinav Peterson-Hilleque
 Aida Rian-Senna
 Amani Reichert-Giron
 Arlo Lusk
 Audrey Mathena
 Avery Hultgren
 Caden Miller
 Da'Jon Matanah
 Demetrius Edwards
 Elizabeth Neuhauser
 Ezra Sundance
 Felix Engel-Fuentes
 Frances Copenhaver
 Harrison Rede
 Hassan Jones
 Hazel O'Brien
 Helena Kouame
 Joshua Neuhauser
 Khalil Jones
 Luca Coldwater
 Lucille Anderson
 Magdalena Holtz
 Malia Knoblauch Killian
 Margaret Pikala
 Mariama Peterson-Hilleque



Mary Heard
 Mia Lambert
 Moneek Rendon
 Myles Hultgren
 Nara Coldwater
 Noah Hultgren
 Nokomis Rilya
 Om Harris
 Patrick Starr
 Paulina Poehlman
 Rachael Kuka-McGowan
 Rio Starr
 Roan Luker-Green
 Robbie Scott
 Saba Shaw
 Seion Engstrom
 Selah Stibbins
 Shannon Hart
 Sofia Marin-Sanchez
 Torin Mehmet
 Tramaine Stanford
 Trinity Shaw
 Tristan Miller
 Tyler Goodwin-Melo
 William Hart
 Zaria Thigpen

