

Southside Elementary School Chit Chat

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Thank You!

I want to start this newsletter with a thank you to all of our parents. In some ways this year has started out more difficult than last year. Because of the recent rapid spread of the COVID virus we have definitely experienced some challenges. However, due to the resilience of our parents, students, and teachers, we continue to offer face-to-face learning at a high level every single day. It has been heartwarming to be able to witness the teamwork our staff brings to the school each day to make sure all of our students have a safe and nurturing learning environment. With your continued help and understanding we will continue to be successful in our efforts to maintain face-to-face learning! Thank you!

~Mr. Schiller

Prepare for Winter Weather:

Winter weather will be here soon. The mornings are already cool enough for a light jacket. Please help your student be prepared for the cool mornings by helping them select the appropriate coats, jackets, gloves, and hats. If your family is in need of a little help when it comes to having coats, hats, or gloves, please contact Southside Elementary School at 764-6183 and we will do our best to help out! Also, New Life Church will be giving away coats, size infant to adult, on October 14 & 15 from 9-5. New Life is located on Road 10/Tower Blvd south of Ave E.

Early morning arrival:

Please don't drop off students earlier than **7:45 a.m.** We do not provide supervision on the playground before 7:45 a.m. The only exception we have to the 7:45 a.m. arrival is for our early buses. They begin arriving around 7:30 a.m. and those students stay in the cafeteria until 7:45 a.m. when supervision is available on the playground. Thanks for your help!

New Contact Tracer for Elementary Schools:

WELCOME to Mrs. Kailee Mullen, the new Contact Tracer for the PCSD#1 Elementary Schools. Beginning the week of October 11 – 15, she will be the person that contacts parents about contact tracing, isolations, and quarantines. If she contacts you about a student being quarantined, she will have all of the necessary information to provide you options for the quarantine including quarantining at home, masking at school, when the quarantine begins and ends, and if she doesn't know the answer to any questions you may have, she will work diligently to find the answer and get back to you! She will be busy as she is going to be working with all three elementary schools!

What types of Treats and Snacks are allowed in the classroom?

While all of our teachers have communicated about snacks and treats in the classroom, we would like to clarify: All treats, including birthday treats, need to be **store-bought and individually wrapped**. We will continue with this precaution and hope to move to simply individually wrapped eventually.

Parent Teacher Conferences in November:

Last year we experimented with a four day format for P/T Conferences and it went pretty well. This year we will take what we learned last year and apply it to a 3 day P/T Conference Schedule. Our teachers will meet and work through the sibling schedule and then schedule individual students with no siblings.

Teachers will be sending out a schedule in the next couple of weeks for parents to review. Plan accordingly for a successful P/T Conference on **November 8, 9, or 10!** Included with this year's P/T Conferences is our annual **Book Fair**. The book fair provides an opportunity for students and parents to shop for high interest books!

Annual Turkey Trot:

The annual turkey trot will begin later this month and run until just before the week of Thanksgiving. Participants will have a chance to win a turkey for their families for thanksgiving. The Turkey Trot will conclude our Fall Marathon opportunity. Look for more information in later newsletters describing the Spring Marathon opportunity which will also have a new twist!

Hallway Halloween:

Southside will once again host Halloween in the hallways! The SCO came up with a great idea to set up an **outside viewing area for parents** between the exit/entries of the primary and intermediate playground doors. Please don't forget this awesome Halloween experience relies on parent and business donations of candy for the hallway treat giveaway.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Parent Group (SCO): If you love to be active in your child's school community, please consider being an active member of our Southside Community Organization. This group is instrumental in helping with special events such as fundraising for field trips, special classroom supplies, snacks for the afterschool program, etc. They also provide volunteers to help with events such as school pictures, P/T conference meals for teachers, support for the marathon(s), school t-shirts, etc.

Volunteer: Please contact your teacher if you want to volunteer in the classroom. The guideline we are following is only one adult volunteer in the classroom and they need to be an adult in the **immediate** household of a student in that classroom (i.e. Mom or Dad).

BREAKFAST & LUNCH:

All meals continue to be **free** for enrolled students the **entire** school year. If your student needs an additional milk with their school lunch, or gets a school milk to go with their lunch from home, that cost is **\$.40**. You can help Southside by filling out the free/reduced application either on-line through Infinite Campus or paper application that was sent home the first day of school. This helps our school acquire funding that is vital to providing academic interventions and enrichments. This money also funds important educational programs and our Title I Staff who help meet the needs of our students in the areas of Math and ELA across all grade levels.