

CAC /SFTJH Parent Newsletter 2 November 2011

A Message from Mr. Flax – I was going to write this over the weekend and comment on how great the weather was. Instead, I waited until this morning, and now will comment on the anticipated rain and snow for today. What a difference twenty-four hours can make! So I will begin with a reminder for students to be dressed appropriately for the fall and winter weather. While I have an opinion about shorts and t-shirts at school during the winter months, the decision to wear them in the cold weather is up to the parents and students. As we keep tabs on the energy use in the building, the rooms will not necessarily be “warm-weather friendly” over the winter months. I will remind students to wear jackets and coats, as always, but hope they will use good common sense in selecting what they will wear during the winter months. I am someone who really enjoys the fall, so this weather change is sitting really well with me. Ask me how I feel about that in a couple of months!



Traffic - I need to make a reminder about the traffic flow when dropping off and picking up students. I have worked with local law enforcement to determine what is acceptable and what is not allowed in regards to school traffic. First, the most important factor in

this is the safety of our students, families and staff. There is only one drop-off lane in the east parking lot, and that is the outside lane. The inner lane for that lot is not to be used for pick-up and drop-off. That is a direct line of traffic, and must be kept open. Folks who stop there interrupt the flow of traffic, and doing so traps those who are parked legally there. The other spot where we are having safety issues is the south side of the building. You may not stop on either side of the street there to pick up or drop off students. That is not safe, nor is it legal. The traffic folks and the local police personnel might be making reminders to you as necessary.

Carnival - The PTO Carnival was held in the building on the 22nd of October. It was well-attended, and everyone seemed to have a good time. I want to thank everyone who helped to run that off for us. PTO does provide the schools with lots of funding for classroom activities, supplies and trips. We are grateful to them. This year PTO has taken a different approach to meetings. Since the reorganization all PTO meetings had been held at the high school. While we thought that might be a good approach, fewer and fewer members of the PTO were attending meetings at that site. This year we are hosting the meetings back in the community schools. CAC hosted the first three meetings of the year. OAC will be hosting a few and then SAC will take their turn. I believe this is a good way to get the PTO back into the communities.



Activities Update – The fall activities seasons are over, with football, volleyball and cross country all finished for the year. Cross country runners had a very successful season, with most of the student athletes improving their times from meet to meet. The football teams also met some success this fall. The 8th grade team finished with a record of 3-4, while the 7th grade team finished 5-2. Both teams had

to overcome injuries and illness, but with hard work they did well for the year. The volleyball teams completed their season with the league tournament at Holton on October 1. The seventh grade team competed in two tournaments, finishing in third place in the Perry Invitational and fifth place in the Big Seven League Tournament. The 8th grade team finished with a 12-3 record, taking third in the Perry Invitational and winning the Big Seven League Tournament. Congrats to all our athletes who represented SFTJH very well this fall. Girl's basketball and wrestling are underway.



Food Service Changes – Last spring, Mrs. Carroll Schooler retired as the district director of food service. In a budget-reducing measure the district did not hire a replacement. The lead cook in each building has assumed the responsibilities of the food service department. We have also faced lots of food waste in the past, due to the students being served nearly their entire meal, whether they were going to eat the items or not. We have moved to self-serve, with the students going through the serving line selecting the foods they wish to eat, and food service personnel verifies that they have taken the required three servings of food. The menu is also being revamped to reflect foods that more students are inclined to eat. It is hopeful that in a few weeks we will be on a twenty meal rotation. While there are not any solid figures at this time, I believe that we are wasting far less food than before, and students are not complaining about the food choices.

Grade Cards/Conferences – I want to thank all of the parents who were able to make the parent-teacher conferences last week. For those who could not, please contact your child's teachers and visit about their progress. Report cards were handed out at

the conferences. If you were not here, they will be placed in your child's hands tomorrow (Thursday, November 3) and sent home. Please be looking for them. I will send an email and/or paper alert tomorrow as well.



Veterans' Day - We are going to celebrate Veteran's Day again with an assembly next Friday, November 11 in our gymnasium. It will begin at 12:45 p.m. Included in the program will be musical selections by the bands and choirs of SFTJH, as well as a guest speaker. During the assembly, we are going to ask our service men and women stand and introduce themselves, and tell in what branch of the armed service they participated. Some of the students have entered the annual Veterans' Day Poster Contest. The winners of that contest will be announced during the assembly as well. I want to make sure that all of the service folk who are friends and relatives of our students and the district communities are invited to participate in this assembly. If you would please make sure that your families and friends are invited, I would appreciate that very much. I need to thank Mr. Ed Hug who has done the planning for this event, as well as the music and art department personnel for their preparation and support.

Have you read to your child today?

Read to your child today!

The school district is glad to be partnered with the Drug Free Osage County, Inc. towards information and education about drug use and abuse among the students of Osage County. Each year we participate in the Communities That Care Survey, with students completing the anonymous survey and the results tabulated by the organization. Jeff King, Community Mobilizer for DFOC, has asked that I include some information for parents. I believe the results of the survey will be somewhat shocking to several of you, but wanted to share them just the same. Complete survey information can be found with the Drug Free Osage County, Inc. Here is a small item that Jeff King wanted me to share:

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2011 Communities That Care survey data indicates that over 27% of Osage County youth have consumed beer, wine or hard liquor in the last 30 days. Additionally, over 14% of Osage County youth have had 5 or more alcoholic drinks in a row within the last two weeks.

Research shows alcohol affects a teenager's brain differently than an adult's. Memory, learning and impulse control can be impaired seriously. The risk of addiction goes up dramatically. Drug Free Osage County, Inc., encourages you to talk to your kids about the dangers of underage drinking and to set clear rules about no alcohol use.

Items for your Calendars:

- Nov. 4 - 1st Quarter Rewards
- Nov. 5 - Wrestling at Emporia 9:00
- Nov. 6 - Daylights Savings Ends
- Nov. 8 - Basketball vs. Royal Valley at CAC and SAC 4:15
- Nov. 8 - Wrestling at Silver Lake 4:30
- Nov. 9 - BOE Meeting at DAC 6:00
- Nov. 10 - Basketball at Holton 4:00
- Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day Assembly in the CAC gym 12:45
- Nov. 12 - Wrestling at Silver Lake 8:15
- Nov. 12 - 7th Basketball at Royal Valley 10:00
- Nov. 12 - 8th Basketball at Mill Creek 10:00
- Nov. 13-18 American Education Week
- Nov. 14 - Basketball vs Hiawatha at CAC and SAC 4:15
- Nov. 15 - Wrestling vs Rossville and Oskaloosa at CAC 4:30
- Nov. 17 - Basketball at Sabetha 4:00
- Nov. 21 - Wrestling at Washburn Rural 3:30
- Nov. 22 - 7th Basketball at Baldwin 4:15
- Nov. 22 - 8th Basketball vs Baldwin at CAC 4:15
- Nov. 23-25 Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 28 - Basketball vs Jeff West at CAC and SAC 4:15
- Nov. 29 - Wrestling at Shawnee Heights 3:30
- Dec. 1 - Basketball at Perry 4:00
- Dec. 3 - League Wrestling at Royal Valley 9:00