

## 2012 Financial Aid and Enrollment Information

Our high school counselors have been busy preparing for all the various activities that need to be addressed during the second semester. Plans for enrollment begin during the staff development day on January 16 as teachers review and revise current course descriptions and offerings. Classroom visitations will follow soon with enrollment projected to be completed near the 1st of May. The process has already begun to provide our seniors information regarding scholarship possibilities. The information listed below will appear in the January newsletter and has been sent to all junior and senior parents via the K-12 Alert system.

The annual Financial Aid Workshop for Santa Fe Trail High School was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 in the High School Media Center at 7:00.

A representative from the Financial Aid Department for Washburn University gave a presentation about general financial aid procedures. The information about filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), and other financial aid (academic and needs based) that apply toward any school was presented.

Information also was available about the Jones Foundation Educational Assistance, the Masonic Loan Program, and other sources of financial assistance.

Parents with any questions regarding scholarship, financial aid options, or enrollment may call Joy Schmidt or Linda Wilson at 665-7161 or 835-7656 or e-mail at [jschmidt@usd434.us](mailto:jschmidt@usd434.us) or [lwilson@usd434.us](mailto:lwilson@usd434.us).

### January Dates to Remember

*January 16 No School*

*January 17-21 BB @ Burlington*

*January 23 Scholar's Bowl @ SFT*

*January 24 BB @ N. Heights*

*January 26 Wrestling @ SFT*

*Senior Night*

*January 27 BB @ SFT W. Franklin*

*Cheerleading Mini Camp*

*January 31 BB @ SFT Royal Valley*

### NHS Raises Scholarship Funds

Pictured below are SFT NHS members selling hot chocolate before school on Friday's. Proceeds go to the NHS Scholarship Fund.



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# *SFTHS January, 2012 Newsletter*

## **Junior Conferences**

The counselors have done conferences with juniors for several years. This year we are expanding the conferences to hopefully include more parents. From January 17th to January 26th, Monday – Thursday, the counselors will be available for parents to come in between the hours of 8:30 AM – 7:00 PM. We anticipate the conferences will last around an hour. Appointments can be made by calling Student Services at 665-7161 or 835-7656 or by e-mail at jschmidt@usd434.us or lwilson@usd434.us.

Topics include: Graduation Credit Check

Post-secondary Plans & Visits

Federal Aid & Scholarships

Tests requirements for Post-secondary institutions

ACC information

Teacher Recommendations

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## **1st Semester PowerSchool Statistics**

<b>Total logins by parents:</b>	<b>4551</b>
<b>Total logins by students:</b>	<b>10880</b>
<b>Total logins by parents and students combined:</b>	<b>15431</b>
<b>Number of students whose records were accessed:</b>	<b>351 / 403 (87.0%)</b>
<b>Avg. length of parent visit (minutes):</b>	<b>10.5</b>
<b>Avg. length of student visit (minutes):</b>	<b>13.3</b>
<b>Avg. number of parent logins per day:</b>	<b>30.5</b>
<b>Avg. number of student logins per day:</b>	<b>73.0</b>
<b>Avg. number of parent and student logins per day combined:</b>	<b>103.5</b>
<b>Number of parents signed up to receive progress reports via email:</b>	<b>231 (57.3%)</b>

The information listed above is the school summary for statistics indicating usage of PowerSchool to track student progress for the first semester. We are extremely pleased with the very high number of accesses that have occurred for our students during the first semester. Parents may want to note the opportunity to receive progress reports from PowerSchool via email. While we currently have 57% of our parents utilizing this service, we can see the benefits of expanded parent information being sent via email. Parents may sign up for this service on the parent side of PowerSchool or contact Student Services for further information.

# SFTHS January, 2012 Newsletter

## Activities Report

- Winter activities are in full swing since the return of winter break. Our current varsity records for our winter athletic team are: the boys' basketball team is 2-5; the girls' basketball team is 6-1; and the wrestlers are 8-7 in duals.
- The first half of the season has been completed. The second half is filled with excitement and anticipation. Both basketball teams have at least 15 games remaining and the wrestlers have a good part of their tournaments left too.
- Things are really just starting to pick up as we get into the month of January. We have three home basketball games and two home wrestling duals.
- Plans are being finalized for the upcoming school year regarding activities and our schedules.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The most recent Communities That Care survey indicates the average age for Osage County teens to take their first significant drink of alcohol is 12.89 years. When asked how old they were when they first began drinking alcoholic beverages regularly (at least once or twice a month), Osage County teens answered an average of 14.17 years of age.

These answers create reasons for concern. The introduction of alcohol to the brain in the crucial developmental teenage years has significant, perhaps irreversible, impact. The areas of the brain most affected are those governing memory and decision making. Furthermore, The American Journal of Psychiatry reports that first use of alcohol at ages 11-14 greatly heightens the risk of progression to the development of alcohol disorders (including abuse and dependence).

Drug Free Osage County

## **HYVEE Scholar Athlete of the Week**

Alison Zaldivar, SFTHS senior, has been named the HYVEE Scholar Athlete of the Week. Ali has been a huge part of SFT success in athletics during her time at school. However, her best work is done in the classroom where she excels and is a Top Ten member of her class. Alison has also completed numerous college classes, and is in the running for class valedictorian and salutatorian.

Congratulations to Ali, an outstanding member of the SFT community. We are proud of her accomplishments at SFT and wish her well as she completes her senior year and moves on to further endeavors.

**Th**

**Santa Fe Trail**  
**High School**

Grades 9-12  
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## Current Projects

Fall semester was a busy one in the art department with all advanced classes churning out wonderful art pieces including ceramics, drawings and paintings.

Among the many projects created, students in Art 2: Ceramics & Sculpture worked for weeks honing their hand-building skills as they created large ceramic garden totems. Hopefully the finished pieces are sprucing up gardens all over Osage County!

Inspired by historical Native American pottery of the four-corners region, students also created traditional forms using terra cotta clay. The best part of this project is always the primitive firing process we use. Primitive firing – using actual fire - results in a darkened smoke-kissed surface.

The Art 3: Ceramics class spent hours learning basic wheel throwing skills. By the end of the semester, most students were able to throw cups, bowls and vases without assistance. They also did delicate carving in porcelain, created large Japanese inspired lanterns and learned about slip casting with donated molds.

Art 2: Drawing & Painting students did several pieces using various media such as graphite pencil, colored pencil, charcoal, pastel, acrylic paint and oil paint. The most difficult drawing of the semester was a photo-realistic colored pencil rendition of candy. The wording on the wrapper and reflective packaging offered quite a challenge, which the students most definitely conquered.

We also tackled oil-paint for the first time. Students found it ten-times messier than acrylic paint, but the extended workability of the paint made that okay with most kids.

This semester brings a new batch of students to the art department with three Art 1 classes. Two Crafts classes and an Advanced Drawing class round out the day. The crafts classes are currently learning about metal finishing and copper enameling while the drawing students are tackling a metamorphic self-portrait.

Art 1 classes have started to learn about the building blocks of art – the art elements; line, shape, form, value, color, texture and space. As the semester progresses, they will learn basic drawing skills and dabbling in a wide spectrum of art media.

nts!



Learning to draw is really about learning to see. Students are taught a series of perceptual skills that make the process of drawing manageable and enjoyable.



Levels of Art Learning



Finished Garden Totems were 2' tall!



Students work on large scale abstract pastel pieces.



Students are always eager to learn wheel throwing, but quickly discover that it's harder than it looks. Wheel throwing requires commitment, persistence, acute fine and gross motor skills and a willingness to get dirty.

## **Look At Our Art!**

Take a moment to visit Santa Fe Trail's virtual art gallery at [www.artsonia.com/schools/santafe2](http://www.artsonia.com/schools/santafe2). On this website you can view artwork done by Charger Artists this year and in years past. You can even leave positive comments for students about their work.

## **Why Art?**

The importance of art education is essential as a core component of education, particularly in today's society where we are continually bombarded by the media with information via commercials, videos, advertisements, printed materials, flashing signs and graphics. The development of visual literacy through art education teaches children how to thoughtfully and responsibly interpret and use visual information, which helps them become educated consumers in society. In addition art students are taught to appreciate and create images in ways that require advance thinking, decision making, communication and learning.

Benjamin Bloom classified levels of intellectual behavior important in learning. Updated in the 1990's, this taxonomy (figure 1), shows six levels of cognitive complexity of the learning process. In a nutshell, as learning tasks move higher up the implied pyramid, they increase in difficulty and quality of learning. Through the very nature of art, students are regularly engaged in the top tiers of learning behaviors – creating, evaluating and analyzing. Not only are students making original art on a regular basis, they are evaluating and analyzing their own work and the works of others. Mrs. Towle strives to teach students self-checking skills, pushing them to leave their personal comfort zone and aim for the best work they didn't know they could create.

## **Your Trash is Our Treasure**

Art teachers are by nature resourceful folk and occupational hoarders, grabbing on to anything and everything that could be used in the production of art in an attempt to save a dime and pinch a penny. If you have items that are just collecting dust at your place, consider donating them to the art department. Donated items might include any old art & craft tools or materials, hardware (nails, screws, etc.), wire hangers, functioning crock pots, blenders & irons, stainless steel bowls, old kitchen utensils, old tools, altoid tins, buckets, burlap, and latex house paint (old, but still usable). Also, if you have a quantity of anything that you're willing to get rid of, chances are that Mrs. Towle can find a use for it. Call (ext.1038) or email [jtowle@usd434.us](mailto:jtowle@usd434.us).

## **Art Jubilee 2012**

Mark your calendars! Wednesday, April 18th, 5:30 – 7:00, is the 2nd Annual Santa Fe Trail Art Jubilee! Come view artworks from the 2011-2012 school year. All art students are required to attend this event.

## Counselor Information

### College Goal Sunday

2-4 p.m. Feb. 12th

Receive FREE help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Enter to win a \$500 scholarship. (First –semester freshman in fall of 2012)

Location:

Topeka

Washburn University

Henderson Learning Resources Center, Room 100

1850 SW Jewell Avenue

### 2011 ACT Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
February 11, 2012**	January 13, 2012	January 20, 2012
April 14, 2012(at SFT)	March 9, 2012	March 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 18, 2012

<http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html> - web site to register for the ACT

### WASHBURN TECH

Jan. 20th - SFTHS students interested in attending Washburn Tech will take a tour of the campus on Jan. 20th in the morning. Students need to sign up in student services by Jan. 17th.

SENIORS:

FASFA: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) (FREE application for Federal Student Aid)

Needs to be filled out ASAP

Local scholarships will be on the [usd434](http://www.usd434.com) web site by Jan. 17