

Santa Fe Trail Junior High School

December Family Newsletter
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Better Together!

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

I can hardly believe the end of the first semester is upon us. It seems like just two weeks ago we were welcoming students to school. Where did the time go? Maybe time really does fly when we're having fun!

The last few weeks of a grading period are always crucial as it is so often the last minute efforts to get all assignments completed and turned in. Please do take time every couple of days to review assignment completion with your child. When you have any questions at all, contact your child's teacher(s). They all truly want to support the very best they can. If you want access to review academic grades in PowerSchool, please do call our school office.

In the last semester we have had a significant number of school computers sustain damage here at SFTJH. We are requiring all students to use the provided case (be sure to zip it closed) and to be sure to gently lay down the school district's computers when using them. Showing responsibility in these ways will extremely limit the number of broken screens and missing keys and will reduce the fees that families are required to pay when damage is due to mistreatment. Won't you help us save some money?

Just before Thanksgiving our eighth grade Chargers worked throughout the Carbondale community and our school campus to spruce up yards galore. Under the leadership of Mr. Bachura and 8 staff members our students practiced responsibility and kindness in the true spirit of the holidays. Their efforts positively impacted nine families and local businesses. Kind, thoughtful, hard-working students and staff is just one of the many reasons I love our school. We truly are a great family! Thank you for being a part of it.

Jodi Testa

Positive Office Referrals

Staff members have been busy noticing and celebrating positive student choices by writing positive office referrals. We are celebrating whole-class and individual endeavors in the following areas:

- ♦ Cooperation
- ♦ Highly Active Learners
- ♦ Eagerness to Give Effort
- ♦ Academic Success
- ♦ Ready and Willing to Learn
- ♦ Respect
- ♦ Self-Motivation
- ♦ Goal Focused

Whole-class acknowledgements are celebrated with a special treat from Ms. Testa and a 'shout-out' during our morning assembly. Individual acknowledgements are mailed home to families for your personal celebrations.

To celebrate a staff member send an email to JTesta@usd434.us. Celebrations of staff will be shared at our all-school morning assembly!



Our head custodian, Jim, challenged grade levels to donate canned goods for the honor of shaving his head.

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

November was a full month for the staff and students at Carbondale Attendance Center. Here are a few highlights:

Fourth Grade worked and worked with Ms. Alexis Soby preparing their winter music program "KSNW: Radio Holiday Spectacular". Such singing! And those moves! Woo! Who knew we had such a talented group of performers in our midst?!?!?

KAY held a food drive to support the Topeka Rescue Mission and surrounding charities. They collected a record number of items--nearly a thousand! Our lead custodian, Jim Harris, put it all on the line, and allowed the winning class to have the honor of cutting off his long ponytail. We did the ceremonial trim at morning assembly, and the fifth grade was excited to be named the winners!

Girl's Basketball is still going strong. Their last home game is December 2nd, and the final season game will be December 9th. Coaches [Lizzy Olorunfemi](#), [Cyndee Washington](#), and [Michele Herren](#) have brought out a real determination and grit in our girls, and their records show it. If you have a moment to catch them, you will not be disappointed.

Our 7th and 8th grade bands and mixed choir gave a lovely performance midway through the month. Ms. Kara Mason directed her first ever junior high concert, and brought some strong voices with her! Mr. Lance Quilling had things under control with the bands, but we all know that Ms. Mackenzie Rice was right there with them making the band sound extraordinary.

We have a new club starting soon, under the sponsorship of our library paraprofessional Keturah McKitterick: Book Club! We hope to have notices going out soon. This club will be meeting once or twice a month after school to discuss their favorite books.

Coach [Regan Erickson](#) Chad Schmale, Cal Lyle, and Christian Gulker led our wrestlers to another season full of championships, including the Emporia Invitational and the League Championship. Big thanks to Melissa Strother for helping with our home meets, and to the SFT PTO for running concessions for them. Ms. Jarrett couldn't have asked for a better crew to help her learn all about wrestling, and the wrestlers themselves really enjoyed teaching her the ropes.

StuCo elections were held for grades 4-8. Look for more StuCo news and notes to come.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL

LEARNING AT ITS FINEST

Focus Area: Personal Responsibility and Respect to Others

We met as a staff during the professional development day in November with a focus on continual growth and improvement. We drafted, revised, and adopted the following as our school rules. We hope you will join us in helping all students achieve these expectations.

Chargers will be ready, respectful, and responsible.

We then moved forward and described what it looks like and sounds like to be ready, respectful, and responsible in all locations within our school. We have taught the behavior expectations for classrooms, hallways, and the lunchroom. We will continue to teach the expectations for behaviors in the bathrooms, playground, and buses over the next three weeks of school.

On our next professional development day in January, 2022 we will design a list of staff options for responding to misbehaviors when they are shown by our students. When we have that drafted our Student Council and Site Council will be asked to review it and provide feedback to us before we implement it. We also plan to share that with all families via email for feedback, too. I envision that will be out to families in mid to late January. Please do watch for it as we do want your feedback.

Parents are invited to observe in classrooms to learn how to further support your child at home. To book time in your child's classroom email the classroom teacher or Jodi with 24-hr notice at JTesta@usd434.us. We look forward to partnering with you for our Chargers!

NEWS FROM SCHOOL NURSE—MRS. CAROTHERS

Healthy Futures Dental Clinic is coming to Santa Fe School district in January, 2022. The dates of service for our district are as follows SAC/HS on 01/18/2022, OAC on 01/19/2022, CAC on 01/20/2022. This is an opt-in program. Your children will only be seen if you complete the forms and turn them in. If you have questions regarding the dental program you can contact Amanda Holding at Healthy Futures dental clinic at 785.841.7297 ext. 5601 or you may email her at aholding@heartlandhealth.org. The link to an online form is provided as well as the pdf to print and complete. You may turn your forms into any nurse's office in the district that is most convenient for you.

Online Link to the English Forms
<https://app.formdr.com/practice/Nzk1MQ==/form/b0eJ6CwAFz01N33LKxYJX6ZPa0JSqghO>

If you prefer we send home a paper copy of the Healthy Futures form from SFTJH please call us and we can certainly do that for you. We are happy to help!

CELEBRATING OUR PARENTS!

In early November many parents of our students celebrated and thanked our SFTJH staff for an entire week. Some of the ways they showed us appreciation included: donuts w/ coffee, Pineapple Whip truck on-site to take our personal orders, brownies, thank you cards with candy attached, encouraging words were hung in our teacher center, and several other ways. Educating children is a wonderful career and to be acknowledged for our hard work and dedication is the icing on the cake. Thank you so much!



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

This month, Ms. Fuller and the SFTJH staff, is wanting to make sure that we teach our students to be good digital citizens. Digital citizenship refers to using technology in a responsible and respectful way. This has become especially important as our students begin or continue to navigate the world of social media. We also continue to use mindfulness as a coping skill for anxiety, anger management, and conflict resolution.

With the holidays approaching, this can be a very joyous time in our lives but also a time of stress. Please feel free to reach out with any concerns, comments, or questions for Ms. Fuller and let her know how we can better support your child (ren) and your family.

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