

**SOUTH ELEMENTARY ELC
FEBRUARY 2012 PAPERWAD**

February is I Love To Read Month

Feb 2	Groundhog Day - Will he see his shadow?
Feb 3	<i>Give a Kid a Smile</i> (contact your dentist - see article below)
Feb 7	Day 100 !!
Feb 13	Parent Council meeting 6:30 p.m. in media center
Feb 20	President's Day NO SCHOOL pre K-12
Feb 21	Late Start Day (class begins at 10:00)
Feb 23 & 24	Early Childhood Screening



LOOKING AHEAD:

Mar 1	Parent Teacher conferences 4-8 p.m.
Mar 8	Parent Teacher conferences 4-8 p.m.
Mar 9	Parent Teacher conferences 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. NO SCHOOL pre K-2 ONLY
Mar 12	Parent Council meeting 6:30 p.m. in media
Mar 22	End of 3 rd quarter
Mar 23	NO SCHOOL pre K-12 (Teacher Workday)
Mar 27	Late Start Day (class begins at 10:00)
Mar 29	Kindergarten Roundup
Mar 30	Report Cards go home

Punxsutawney Phil

(a groundhog), made his *first official* weather prediction on Feb 2, 1887. Residents claim that Phil the Groundhog has never been wrong!

"If the Groundhog sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, it means spring is just around the corner."



Thank you for your donations of food &/or money to the St Peter Area Food Shelf in December. We delivered 700 pounds of food!! Money that was donated will be used by the food shelf to purchase additional items. Many area families benefit from your generosity.

Donations are always accepted at the Food Shelf.

Thank you again!

Give Kids a Smile

MN Dental Association is sponsoring a statewide outreach effort on Friday, Feb 3.

Family budgets & government funding of dental programs are tighter than ever, but children still need and deserve care. Several local dental professionals are providing care to children whose families cannot afford to pay for dental care. Please call Riverside Dental 931-5646 to make an appointment.



At the October 17, 2011, school board meeting, the board of education approved a request to add two late starts to the 2011-12 school calendar.

The two late start days are:

Tuesday. February 21, 2012

School starts at 10:00 a.m.

&

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

School starts at 10:00 a.m.

On these days, buses will run two hours later than their usual time. All schools will be open at regular hours to accommodate students who need to be on a regular schedule due to daycare or transportation needs.

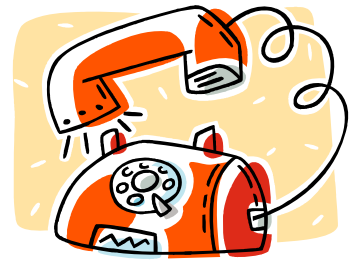
At South, we will provide supervised academic enrichment & activities. Students will need to preregister to be able to be part of this arrangement. Parents will be responsible for transportation. Registration forms will be available in the office the beginning of February.

REMINDER: At 8:00 am the front doors to the school are locked. If you are dropping off your child after 8:00, please walk them to the door or wait until they are buzzed in to the building.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is absent from school - whether sick or with a parent, you must call and report their absence on our attendance line: 934-2754, ext. 226.

If your child is absent and we have not heard from anyone by 8:30 or so, we will begin making calls to identify the whereabouts of our students. We are asking for your assistance in this matter to insure the children's safety.



Staying Indoors at Recess:

Students are expected to go outdoors at recess when the weather is suitable. It may be necessary, on occasion, for students to stay in for health reasons. A parent's written request is needed for a child to remain inside, and a doctor's excuse will be expected if a student needs to stay in for an extended period of time. Please be sure students are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. A warm coat, hats, snopants, mittens or gloves, and some water-proof footwear should be provided for winter weather. We feel that all students should try to get some fresh air daily. The recess period during cold or inclement weather (0 to -10 degrees) will be shortened. If the temperature or wind chill is -10 degrees or below, the students will stay indoors. Even when it is -10 degrees or so, we MAY dress the students for a short fresh air break. Please send extra socks, pants, etc so your child will have a change of clothes in the event that they get their clothes wet.

No School?

Let's go to the Pool!

The St. Peter High School & Community Pool will have Open Swim from 1:00pm-3:00pm on February 20st (no school day). Also every Saturday until March 26th. Cost is \$2.00 per swimmer ages 7 and older. Children under 7 years must be accompanied by an adult 13 years or older.



PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING - FEB 23 & 24, 2012



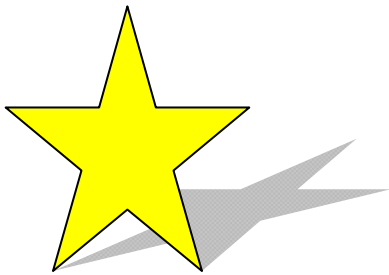
Preschool screening is required by Minnesota State Law. If you are unsure if your child has been screened, please call Community Ed at 934-3048.

Kindergarten Round Up
for the 2012-13 school year
March 29th, 2012 5:45-7:30 p.m.

If you have a child (or know of someone) that will be 5 years old by Sept 1, 2012, they are eligible to start kindergarten. Information will be sent out soon to families that we know have a child that would be eligible to come to kindergarten in the fall. Plan to attend this informative evening. You will have an opportunity to tour the building, meet the kindergarten teachers, the principal, as well as other South staff. We look forward to meeting you and your child!!

2012 Greetings to Parents of District 508
From Rebecca Arsenault,
School Social Worker/Homeless Liaison Representative

In these tough times, I wanted to share a really helpful website with you. Bridge to Benefits is a multi-state project by Children's Defense Fund to improve the well being of families by linking them to public works support programs and resources. It is a one stop access point & it's easy and confidential.



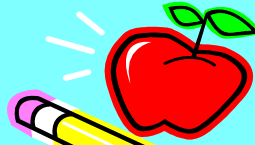
www.bridgetobenefits

COMING SOON!

Watch for order forms for the 2011-12 Yearbook!



SOUTH ELEMENTARY



January 2012

Parent Council Newsletter

Welcome!

Welcome back new and returning parents! We encourage everyone to attend the parent council meetings.

Original Works Program

Thank you for your support of the Original Works Program. We have already raised \$1650 for our school this year! Currently taking reorders of Original Works until Jan. 20th. Any questions, please contact Sue Busse at bussesue@hotmail.com.

Program Updates

Don't forget to collect and turn in your Box Tops! Please drop off at collection box located outside of front office. Recently received a check from Box Tops for \$1,492!!

Pancake Breakfast

South will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast in March. Looking for volunteers to help with donations, silent auction, venue options, etc. If interested in helping on the committee, please contact Maureen Pettis at dmpettis@myclearwave.net

Upcoming Events

Five Guys Burgers & Fries Fundraiser

Tuesday, January 24th, 4pm to 8pm
Come eat some good food and support South! Five Guys will donate 10% of all net sales to South Elementary!

Parent Council Meeting

Monday, February 13th, 6:30pm

Guest Speakers

A special thanks to teachers, Kaari Bly (1st grade) and Lori Pierret (2nd grade), for an overview of the Daily Five. The Daily 5 allows students to work smarter, not harder. The "5" tasks done by students are a self-directed series of literacy tasks which students complete daily allowing teachers to work simultaneously with small groups. The Daily 5 consists of:

- 1) Read to yourself
- 2) Read to someone
- 3) Listen to reading
- 4) Work on writing
- 5) Word work/spelling.

About the Parent Council

The Parent Council is open to all parents and/or guardians of students at South Elementary and is intended to promote an environment of open communication, understanding and common purpose among parents and faculty. We strive to create the best possible environment for our children by supporting and enhancing the school's educational programs and activities.

Tracy Stuewe, Chair: btstuewe@msn.com
Karen Snay, Vice-Chair: ksnay41@gmail.com
Laura Boomgaarden, Treasurer: MLBoomgaarden@msn.com
Jen Letts, Secretary: lettsjen@aol.com
