What's Happening at South Side School

South Side PTA's Weekly Newsletter March 6, 2009

Please email newsletter submissions to Mark Atkinson at mark.a@southsidepta.org by 6 p.m. any given Wednesday.

South Side News listserv: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southsideschool
WH online: http://sites.google.com/a/southsidepta.org/whats-happening/Home/pdffiles

Scholastic Book Fair

The spring Scholastic book fair will be Tuesday, March 17 through Friday, March 20.

It’s your opportunity to buy some good books for your children or the classrooms and meanwhile raise money to purchase books for South Side’s library.

The book fairs are the one major fundraiser to benefit our library!

Please contact Sarah Tufte if you can volunteer: stufte2002@yahoo.com

The book fair will be open during these times:

Tue., March 17: Lunch 11:30-12:45 and after school 2:45-3:45
Wed., March 18: Lunch 11:30-12:45
Thur., March 19: 3:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (during conferences)
Fri., March 20: 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (during conferences)

News from PTA Council:

The school board election will be here soon! There are many candidates this time around...how will you know who to vote for? The PTA Council is sponsoring a school board candidate forum on April 2nd from 7-9 pm in the Mellon building board room.

The forum will be moderated by Brian Barnhart of WDWS/WHMS, and will feature questions from PTA members and parents such as yourselves. Don’t miss this chance to learn about the candidates and their views on educational issues.

Families who have a child with asthma needed

Researchers are recruiting families who have a child, ages 8-12, with asthma for a focus group. Earn $50 for two hours of time discussing difficult aspects of asthma care, learning other families’ tips about managing asthma, and creating an asthma backpack.

E-mail AsthmaFamilies@illinois.edu or call 244-3511.
(from Anna Kasten)

Support your South Side PTA!

To join, call Kerry Rossow, VP of Membership - 356-8317

“We would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves.” ~ Anna Quindlen
Thanks!

School supplies are always needed at South Side. The office wishes to thank that parent who recently thought to donate 42 boxes of new crayons to our school. These will be put use in our Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classrooms.

Mary Kay Gwinup, South Side Office Manager

A big thank you to everyone who came out to our last PTA discussion forum on homework issues. The conversation was informative, as always—I think we all came away with new understanding about how to make the homework experience successful for children.

A special thanks to South Side staff members, PTA officers/babysitters and Dr. Pomerantz from the University of Illinois for their participation in this forum. Our next PTA forum will be on Thursday, May 2nd @6:30 pm in the school gym. Contact Brenda Koenig at bakoenig@sbcglobal.net if you have a topic you would like addressed.

Brenda Koenig, South Side PTA Vice-President of Education

A big THANK YOU goes out to Sheila Lammers and her literacy committee! South Side students are using the take-home library books that you worked so very hard to get ready. Thank you, thank you. You have made a difference in the reading lives of our children! Also, thank you to all of the wonderful Book Club discussion leaders. Kim Shinew has done a great service by organizing this activity. Kim, you have enhanced our reading program at South Side.

On another note...we need help putting together sets of some trade books for guided reading. Maybe there are some titles on your book shelf that you would like to donate to help us complete a set of books! We are looking for as many copies of The Indian In The Cupboard as we can scrounge up! Also, we need 3 more copies of Amber Brown Sees Red, 4 copies of Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon, and any copies of The Littles (and any from that series), Henry and Mudge books, Cam Jansen books, and Step into Reading books, levels 1 to 3.

If you have any of these and would like to donate them to our guided reading program, please drop them off in the Literacy Room next to the office. (blue basket) Thank you South Side! (If you ever feel the urge to donate money to our Literacy Center for books...just see Mary Kay in the office! We need help!) South Side families are the BEST!!

Amanda Bell, South Side Literacy Coach

A gross omission in my thanks last week for help with What’s Happening was that of extending appreciation to Sheila Lammers for her work in collecting, editing and sending to me entries for the Book Reviews, written by South Side students and published here. Great job! While we don’t have any reviews this week, the form is printed below for submissions. I do get feedback that the kids are very excited when they see their names in print - keep those reviews coming!

Mark Atkinson

I’d like to tell my South Side friends about one of my favorite books!

The title is: ___________________________________ The author is:____________________________________

This is what it’s about and why I like it: __________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

My name: ___________________________________________  Grade: __________________________

Put this form in the “Book Review” box on the PTA table in upstairs hallway of South Side. Feel free to include a picture of yourself. (Parents may email photo to lammers@illinoisalumni.org) Reviews will run in “What’s Happening?” throughout the remainder of the school year. Happy Reading!

“I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks.” ~ William Shakespeare
Spring ChessFest 2009 Is Just Around the Corner!

Save the date and get those completed ChessFest entry forms (below) returned to the main office as soon as possible! For the tenth time, Unit 4 and its partners are sponsoring a chess tournament open to any and all elementary and middle school students in Champaign or Urbana. Spread the word! Your child does not have to be a member of South Side’s Chess Club to participate in ChessFest! Simply fill out the entry form below and return it to school by Wednesday, March 11. This will be the sixth ChessFest that South Side’s Chess Club has participated in, so join the fun and excitement as our fifth graders play their last chess tournament for South Side! If you have questions, please call Jim Washburn or Emily Klose at 359-2146 or send us an e-mail at IMEM1@aol.com Details of Spring ChessFest 2009 are below.

Where: Jefferson Middle School  When: Saturday, March 14, 2009

Schedule: Sign In: 12:00 - 12:15  Games: 12:30 - 5:00  Prize Giving: 5:15

Who: Elementary and middle school students in a Champaign or Urbana school.

Cost: Entry is free thanks to sponsorship from Unit 4, Rotary West, and PTAs, and donations collected at ChessFests.

Why: To play social games against players from other schools in Champaign-Urbana.

Spring ChessFest 2009 Entry Form

Please sign and return to South Side’s Main Office by Wednesday, March 11th

____________________________________________________  [Print Student’s Name]

will attend Spring ChessFest 2009, Saturday, March 14th, 12:30 pm.

__________________________________________  [Student’s School and Grade Level]

I understand that I must arrange transportation to and from Jefferson Middle School.

______________________________________________  Parent Signature  ___________________________  Emergency Contact number

Please note if the player will arrive late or leave early: ____________________________

Please describe if your child has any special needs that will affect their participation in ChessFest:

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

I am willing to volunteer in the following areas (please check as appropriate):

Computer Results Entry ___  Registration ___  Snack Room Monitor ___

Break Room Monitor ___  Pairings Monitor ___  Results Monitor ___

Set Up ___  Clean Up ___

Name:__________________________

Email:__________________________

Phone:__________________________

I would like to make a donation to ChessFest. I have enclosed $_________. Donations are voluntary and help keep ChessFest free to all children. Checks may be made payable to Unit 4 School District, with ChessFest in the memo line. Thank you for your support!

“Avoid the crowd. Do your own thinking independently. Be the chess player, not the chess piece.” ~ Anon