

November  
December  
2009

## **STUDENT DRUG USE: HOW CAN PARENTS AND SEHS HELP?**

With each passing grade many students start talking more about drug use among acquaintances or friends, or have started using street drugs themselves. Some share their thoughts with parents, while others don't.

Do parents know enough? Should the school do anything else? Parent Council will address these and other related questions about street drugs in several ways. During January and February parents who attend the Parent Education Series will learn more from each other, from school staff, and from well-informed experts. In addition, parents who attend Parent Council Meetings can contribute any concerns or ideas for improving South in the future, whether related to street drugs or otherwise.

This year Parent Council is gathering all kinds of concerns and ideas from parents, and will submit the most compelling ones to the school for serious consideration (this year South's Site Council is producing the next three-year School Improvement Plan).

The Parent Education Series takes place the last Wednesday of each month from 7-8pm, and Parent Council follows from 8-9pm (or later for some), both in the school's cafeteria.

Note: there aren't any meetings in November and December due to holidays. Meetings will resume Jan. 27 and Feb. 24, 2010. Stay tuned for further details in the next newsletter.

## **PLEASE NOTE ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES**

The SEHS administration is working hard with our school staff to enforce attendance rules, knowing that regular attendance is the #1 factor associated with academic success. Parents, please note these procedures that the school follows:

First, if it's an absence for illness or family emergency, we expect parents to call in to excuse it. As a reminder, we use an auto-dialer, which should reach home phones that are not

blocked. As a further back up, every Monday we deliver notices to students who have unexcused absences from the previous week. If there is any mistake, they have until Wednesday at 8 a.m. for their parent to call in or to get a note from their teacher if it was his/her error. That's the deadline for excusing absences from the previous week to avoid immediate consequences. On Wednesday we run a new report of any remaining unexcused absences from the previous week and assign consequences. One or two unexcused period absences results in assignment to lunch detention; three or more result in an assignment to After-School Detention on Thursday from 3:15 - 6:00 pm. Finally, we continue to make it clear to students that if they accrue five or more unexcused absences in a class in a semester, they will be receive only partial credit.

Of course, if your student is ill, please keep him/her at home and call in the absence to excuse it. Please, if you have any questions about these procedures, contact the SEHS administration at 790-8000. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

## **AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS INVITED TO PERFORM AT ANNUAL EVENT**

The 19th year of ACT-SO has started! This program is designed for students of African American descent, grades 6-12. Students are connected with mentors and compete locally in over 25 science, humanities, performing and visual arts categories.

Student participants are eligible for school credit, prizes, scholarships and an all expense paid trip to the NAACP National competition in Kansas City July 5-9, 2010, and much more! Past national winners from our district include: Desiree Fontaine- Essay, Bronze, Churchill High School and Corey Mainor -Poetry, Silver, Churchill High School.

The ACT-SO Team looks forward to working with your child. For additional information or to register, please contact: Rayna Luvert, ACT-SO Chair 682-6394 or 556-7082.

The ACT-SO program will be held at the Hult Center, Soreng Theater, on April 24, 2010, from 7-9 p.m. Mark your calendar to attend this free event.

## **EXCHANGE TRIP TO JAPAN PLANNED**

There will be a meeting for interested students and their parents on an option for a summer trip to Japan. The meeting is planned for November 5, at 6:30 in room 29. SEHS will be hosting students again this year from Isagaki, Japan. If there is enough interest, students from South would go to Japan in June 2010. If you have questions, contact Pam Scott, 790-8059.

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear South Eugene Families,

I am very grateful to everyone who has helped the 2009 - 2010 school year off to a strong start. In these difficult economic times, the district has been forced to tighten the belt even further, but our staff, students, and parents are responding to the challenges with pride and professionalism. Our enrollment is steady; we actually have forty more students than we were projected and staffed for. While we don't get additional staffing this year, these students will count toward our staffing projection for next year. In the meantime, our teachers, support staff, and volunteers are working together to ensure that our students continue to receive a high quality education.



Despite the funding cuts, our teachers have implemented new courses this year in order to provide more choices for students. Our English department launched four new semester courses: Film as Literature, Contemporary Literature, Oral Communication, and Creative Writing. Our math department is featuring a new College Algebra course, and science is now offering a course in Environmental Science and the second half of the IB Physics sequence. New social studies courses include Economics and U.S. Government, and our MSAN "Courageous Conversations" class, available each semester, is now offering English credit. Kudos to these teachers for developing these courses and to the students for pioneering them.

Another development is in our Classic South freshman program. This year, we are making a considerable effort to teach and reinforce organizational habits by teaching all 9th graders how to set up and maintain a neat and orderly binder, divided into sections, and featuring a completed assignment sheet for every class. Weekly binder checks are held in Freshman Advisory and Teen Health classes, and these count for a significant portion of the students' grades.

On another note, our staff is beginning to schedule our OAKS testing dates. The Oregon Assessments of Knowledge and Skills is administered annually to 10th graders, and also to those students in English 9 Honors. We are considering moving some of the testing dates forward, in part because this year's sophomores will be the first class required to pass the OAKS reading test in order to graduate from high school. By moving the testing date earlier, we would have more time to re-teach and retest those students who do not meet the standard on their first try. Freshman parents, your students next year will also need to pass the OAKS math test to graduate. For both of these groups and both subjects, those who don't pass the test will get additional opportunities later in the year or, if necessary, during their junior or senior year.

All this, and sports, arts, and many other activities, too. A very successful fall sports season is finishing up, just as our

theater season is opening. Please come and see this year's musical, "Aida." Music concerts and other events are on the calendar, too. At all SEHS events our students continue to impress us with their talent and dedication. We are indeed fortunate to have such an outstanding group of students here at South!

Sincerely,

Randy

## THE LATEST AND GREATEST SCRIP NEWS

The "latest" news is that South is now selling "Unique Eugene" scrip in the main office. These scrip coupons may be used at any of 20 hometown merchants, including Sundance, Newman's, Saturday Market, Paul's Bicycles, Down To Earth, and many more. No need to purchase different scrip coupons for individual stores. You can spend them at any of the merchants listed as "Unique Eugene." Check them out at <http://www.uniqueeugene.com/about.html>. And for each purchase of Unique Eugene scrip at South, our school gets 10%. What a deal! South also continues to sell scrip for Capella's and Uncommon Scents.

The "greatest" news is that we have the potential to raise as much as \$100,000 or more through escrip if only we had more participation from our families and friends. Escrip does not cost you a penny; just register your credit, debit, or club cards and South gets approximately 2% - 4% of every purchase you make at participating merchants, including Market of Choice, Safeway, and many others. In recent years, we've raised about \$15,000 per year, and over half of that has come from less than 100 families!

Escrip is Parent Council's greatest fundraising source. To find out more go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and click on "Sign Up" and follow the instructions for Market of Choice and Safeway. Enter South Eugene's Group #6781184 (you can support up to three schools if you wish). If you haven't updated your account since leaving middle school, be sure to do so at this website.

If you're an Albertson's shopper, your Preferred Card can earn South 3% of your purchases. You just need to have the check-out clerk scan your card and then input South's school number which is 4 90001 00038 1. Then every time you use your card, South will benefit. If you did this prior to March 2009, you need to do so again because of a system update at Albertson's. We'll multiply our earnings with more supporters, so give your friends and relatives this number, even those who live outside of Eugene. Parent Council manages the escrip and paper scrip processes for South and uses the funds to provide additional staffing at our school, decided upon by the Parent Council each year. Right now funds are being used to fund additional staffing in math and the library and to fund our Volunteer Coordinator position.

If you have questions, please contact Helen Beardsworth at 687-2820, or check in the front office. Once you enroll in an escrip program or buy paper scrip you will be giving money to South every time you shop! Thank you!

## NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE / CAREER CENTER

**Seniors** should have scheduled a meeting with their counselor to review the credits and courses they need for graduation and to take a practical look at their post high school plans. So, if this hasn't happened yet, schedule your Senior Conference/Interview by signing up in the Counseling Center, Room 13. Complete the required items in your Naviance Family Connection online account before the interview. Forgotten how to access Naviance? See the College/Career Center in Room 7 at SEHS.

### Other Senior tips:

- Watch for early decision/action college deadlines as most are in November. Also check the scholarship application deadlines from each college—some of the best opportunities are college specific scholarships and some scholarship deadlines are different from application deadlines.
- University of California system applications are due by November 30.
- Now is the time to finalize your list of colleges; while the list may include a "dream" school it should also include reach, likely, and safety (sure thing) colleges. Note that yesterday's reach schools are today's dreams and many likely colleges have become reaches and so on. The College/Career Center has resources for students who need to broaden their list.
- If you haven't taken an ACT or SAT yet, register now.
- Be sure to line up teacher recommendations now.
- Work on essays: write, re-write, write again.
- Check whether interviews are required or recommended by the schools on your list.
- If your colleges require a Counselor Recommendation form, pick up the packet & instructions from Melinda in the counseling office.
- Plan to come to Financial Aid Night at South on Wed. December 9th at 7:00 pm.
- Colleges expect students to maintain grades, attendance, and behavior all the way until June!

**Juniors** are beginning their Junior Project to fulfill Career Related Learning Requirements (CRLS) for graduation. South juniors should sign up for three sessions in the Career Center. IHS juniors will begin sessions between mid-November and December during project periods. Junior projects should be completed by winter break and will be reviewed with counselors during the Junior Conference/Interview. Junior Counselor interviews will begin in February after first semester grades are posted. Plan on attending Junior Night, February 17th. PSAT results should be available to pick up in the Career Center in December. Watch or listen for announcements of their arrival.

**Sophomore** Night is Wed. November 18th. All sophomores and parents are encouraged to attend. Topics will include: Testing—which ones, what for, and why; financial planning for college; homework & time management; college planning & research; athletics and college; and more. PLAN test results should be back in December and may be picked up in the Career Center. Watch or listen for announcements of their arrival. Counselors will visit sophomore classes before Thanksgiving to review graduation requirements for students.

**Freshmen** began the first activity required for their Career Related Learning Standards (CRLS) on October 14th. In addition, all freshmen will complete a career exploration activity in the College/Career Center through their advisory classes in 1st or 2nd semester. Parents are strongly encouraged to see their student does not skip classes. Attendance is one of the main indicators of success in school. To check your student's attendance, you may call the attendance office at 790-8008. Freshman night will be Thursday, January 21st. **Note:** This is a change from earlier newsletter announcements!

**Parents of ALL grades:** Come to Financial Aid Night, December 9th, in the South cafeteria. It's neither too early, nor too late to learn about financing college for your students.

## DIRECT DONATION DRIVE UNDERWAY

Each fall, we kick off our annual Direct Donation Drive (DDD), which plays a most important role in supporting our students' education. The DDD is our biggest fundraiser, and every dollar is used to pay for staffing, without which we would have to cut programs and classes from our master schedule. We have come to depend on DDD funding to keep our programs strong. Our goal this year is to match last year's total of \$90,000. Considering that there are elementary schools in our area that raise close to that amount, even though they are one-fourth our size, we believe this is a realistic goal. This would provide for five classroom sections.

To give you some examples, if we lose one section of Geometry, the average class size, which is already large, would jump from 36 per class to 42 per class. The loss of one section of German or Japanese could mean the end of that program within a couple of years. Similarly, one less section of music or theater arts would severely impact these programs in which we take such great pride at South.

A few days ago, you should have received a separate mailing about this year's Direct Donation Drive. Many families like to make their tax-deductible donation before the end of the calendar year. Whatever you are able to contribute, we hope that every family will consider a donation that will provide direct support to our classrooms. Thank you.

## LIBRARY HAS NEW FACES AND TIMES

With the retirement of Kit Duchin, the library has not one, but TWO new librarians. If you come to the library on Monday or Tuesday, you will meet Richard Thompson, who travels here from Portland. He has extensive experience in working in high school libraries in both Oregon and Washington. He is also very tech savvy and will play a big part in maintaining our library's web site and online databases. Mr. T., as he likes to be called, has written two books, has taught high school and college Social Studies and English, and he has a degree in history, one of his big interests. On weekends he supervises vintage trolleys in Portland.

The other new librarian, Angela Ross, has worked in libraries at all levels, from grades K-12 and in universities. She worked as a librarian in Milan and Rome, Italy, and has taught high school English and German, and Italian at LCC.

The hours of the library have also changed. It is now open Mon., Tues, and Thurs. 7:30-3:10, Wed. 9:00-3:30, and Friday 7:30-12:25.

Can you donate your time as a volunteer? The library still needs parent volunteers. You can contact the library assistant, Lisa Curran, at 790-8050. We also need donations of student supplies, such as pencils, pens, colored pencils and glue sticks. If you are cleaning out your desk at home, keep us in mind for those items.

## VOLUNTEER NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

We're off to a flying start this year! Many, many thanks to those of you who have given of your time and energies to help South Staff and students begin another school year. We've worked together on School Registration, library organization, Career Center staffing, nurses for the Flu Shot Clinic and Senior Project Presentations, just to name a few.

As we look ahead, December 11 will be our annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon. December 11 is an early release day, so Staff take this rare opportunity to gather for lunch and time to be together. We are asking parents to consider bringing either a salad or dessert to complete the sandwich buffet we prepare. Also, if preparation, serving or clean-up are your forte, we need help with that too. This is a much anticipated event by the Staff; would you consider contributing in one of these suggested ways?

Volunteers are also needed for Senior Project Presentations on two upcoming dates; November 13, (morning and afternoon) and December 11(afternoon only). The opportunity to serve on a panel to evaluate these Senior Projects is a real treat. Those of you who have served know that it is amazing to see the spectrum of subjects and applications our seniors present. If your student is in Classic South, this can also serve as an example of the project your student will work on as a senior.

If any of these activities interest you, please contact me as soon as possible. As you can imagine, there are endless opportunities for volunteers to serve at South. If you haven't yet signed up, or have questions, please contact me, Kathy Ruggles at [ruggles\\_k@4j.lane.edu](mailto:ruggles_k@4j.lane.edu). Thanks again to all of you who make South such a great place to learn and grow!

## SENIORS IMPRESS EVALUATORS

On October 14, thirty-five Classic South seniors met their "extended application" graduation requirement when they presented an outstanding array of Senior Projects to staff, community members, and peers. Each of these Summer Experience students completed 25 hours vested in a community-based mentorship. Projects ranged from mentorships with professionals and in business to community service experiences locally and abroad.

Currently, other Classic South Seniors are engaged in the community to complete their 25-hour experience. Examples of some internships that have been established are in the fields of culinary arts, fashion merchandising, and video game development. Many of these students will finalize their experiences with a presentation on November 13. The final deadline for presentations will be in December or early January. If your Classic South senior is not meeting the extended application requirement through a CAM (Career Aligned Mastery) program, then s/he should already have begun an SEHS staff approved, 25-hour community-based experience.

Any parent who would be interested to serve on an exhibition panel or as a mentor is encouraged to contact Jocelyn Lamar, South's School to Work Coordinator, at 790-8012.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November

- 4 Winter Sports Registration, 6-8 pm
- 5-7 Musical, "Aida", 7:30 pm
- 11 No School - Veterans' Day
- 12-13 Musical, "Aida", 7:30 pm
- 13 No School - Mid-Term Progress Reports
- 15 Musical Matinee, "Aida", 2:00 pm
- 18 Beyond South/Soph. Night, 7:00 pm
- 19 Site Council, 3:30 p.m.
- 19-21 Musical, "Aida", 7:30, p.m.
- 24 Ensemble/Orchestra Concert, 7:30 pm
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 30 Canned Food Drive begins

### December

- 3 Band Concert, 7:30 pm
- 9 Beyond South/Financial Aid Night, 7:00 pm
- 10 Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 pm  
Canned Food Drive ends
- 11 Early Release (Noon) - Progress Reports
- 21 Winter Break begins

### January

- 4 No School - Professional Dev.
- 5 Classes resume

(See Google Calendar on SEHS website)

## PROGRESS REPORTS MAILED

During the week of October 19, progress reports were mailed home to all students who are earning less than a "C" in any of their courses. The intent of this mailing was to make contact with parents early in the semester so that they can work with their student and the school to do whatever it takes to help the student be on a better track for success.

During the week of November 16, mid-semester progress reports will be mailed home to ALL students. If you do not receive a report before the Thanksgiving holiday, please contact the school.

## KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE FLU!

### Action steps for parents to protect your family this school year

Public health officials recommend four main ways to help keep you and your family from getting sick with the flu at school and at home:

- **Practice good hand hygiene** by washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand cleansers also are effective. Avoid other ways viruses can be easily transmitted, such as sharing personal items (e.g. drinks, food, utensils).
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.
- **Keep children at home if they are sick with flu-like illness.** Stay home for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicine. Symptoms of the flu are a fever (over 100 degrees Fahrenheit) along with symptoms such as cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. A little sniffle is not a reason to stay home, but influenza is! Keeping sick students at home means that they keep their viruses to themselves rather than sharing them with others.
- **Get your family vaccinated** for both seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 flu when vaccines are available. Seasonal flu vaccines and H1N1 vaccines are available now. Watch for flu clinics at your doctor's office, clinic, pharmacy or elsewhere, and take advantage of them as soon as available. If you are not sure about whether or not you should get the vaccine, call your healthcare provider for advice.

Other recommended steps to prepare for the possibility of flu include: **update your emergency contact information** at your schools; **plan for child care at home** if your child gets sick or their school is dismissed; and **identify if you have family members who are at higher risk** of serious disease from the flu and talk to your healthcare provider about a plan to protect them during the flu season.

### For more information:

Eugene School District 4J: [www.4j.lane.edu](http://www.4j.lane.edu)

Oregon flu information: [flu.oregon.gov](http://flu.oregon.gov)

National flu information: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO

## AFTER-SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUB AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS

Many students are finding how our ASHC provides the missing ingredients that enable them to be successful in their math, science, and other courses. The After-School Homework Club is held in room 714 four days/week, from 3:15 - 4:00 on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and from 3:30 - 4:15 on Wednesday. We have adult tutors and peer tutors on hand every day to help students understand their assignments and complete them successfully. A snack is provided, and students quickly get to work on their daily assignments with 1:1 assistance as needed. If your student is earning a C or less in math, science, or any other courses, we hope you'll encourage him/her to attend our ASHC.

## SOUTH HIGH NEWS

**Editor:** Brenda Down, Staff

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## HEY, STUDENTS! SAFETY TIPS FOR RIDING LTD

If you plan to cross the street after getting off an LTD bus, please cross behind the bus. Wait on the sidewalk for the LTD bus to pull away from the curb, then using a marked crosswalk if available, cross the street when you have a safe interval between traffic.

The rules are different than when you are riding on a yellow school bus, where the driver expects you to cross in front of the bus. Here's why: Regular traffic is not allowed to pass a school bus that is stopped and has its red lights flashing. But traffic is allowed to pass by an LTD bus. If you cross the street in front of an LTD bus, you may not see oncoming traffic before it's too late. We want you to be safe!

**SAFE PLACE:** Did you know that LTD is part of the national Safe Place program? The program allows LTD bus operators and staff to provide youth with immediate help and safety. If ever you feel threatened, you can ask a bus operator to help you! And as a daily practice, it's a great idea to sit toward the front of the bus, closer to the driver.

## STUDENTS PLAN TO INCREASE FOOD DONATIONS

Student Government will hold their annual food drive again this year beginning on Monday, November 30, and running through Thursday, December 10. Because of the urgent need for food in the community, plans are underway to do competitions between rooms to increase food donations.

Donations of money will also be collected to purchase certificates that can be used to buy dairy products and meat. Students hope to break all previous donation records and make a dent in the need to help families in our community facing financial difficulties.

Parents can help by encouraging their students and helping them gather food and money for donations.