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Dr. Bill Szakacs Principal
Mrs. Emily Behrens, Dean

DesMoines
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

APRIL 2015

South Union Elementary

Mission: South Union exists to prepare students to be productive citizens through academics, arts, and wellness **Vision:** Dedicated to Success Everyday

Principal News

Dr. Bill Szakacs, Principal

Dear Parents and Citizens of South Union School Community:

I hope this addition of the South Union Parent Newsletter finds you well and enjoying the early warm weather of spring. We will be entering the last trimester of the school year shortly, and it's truly hard to believe the school year has gone this fast. With that being said, we are very pleased with our students and their individual academic growth. We are hoping that our hard effort; student focus, and teamwork will lead to an improved performance on the Iowa Assessment exam this school year.

After the Iowa Assessment exam is completed in grades three, four, and five this Friday the 3rd; all of our students still have two very important months of the school year to continue to become a better student. We are asking for your help and encouragement to continue to remind your children that the school year is not done with much more to accomplish before the year ends. I present to you a few tips to help you with your child regarding

school in the spring and staying focused: 1.) Maintain a consistent bed time. With a longer day before the sun goes down, children will want to be outside playing, sports, etc., all fun stuff. Please continue to enforce that sleep and getting a good rest for each school day is important. 2.) Continue to review homework; read stories, and talk about school with your child. The more they see you engaged in their learning – the better. 3.) Maintain high expectations of performance in the classroom every day. This will certainly help the school with sustaining a great teaching and learning climate for all. 4.) Exercise – please go for a walk, run, bike ride, or play a fun game with your child. Any and all movement outside the school day helps us, as well as your child and maintaining overall good health.

On behalf of the South Union Faculty and Staff,

we wish you all a very nice Easter and happy month of April. We have so much to be thankful for and when we are given an opportunity to teach, learn, and have fun at school – it's an amazing thing to be a part of. We appreciate your trust, friendliness, cooperation as we educate all students who attend South Union to the best of our ability. Thank you for the opportunity.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Bill Szakacs
Principal
South Union Elementary School

Important Dates

Iowa Assessments	March 30-April 2
2nd and 3rd Music Program	April 2
PTO Meeting SU Library	April 7 6:00 pm
Math and Literacy Night	April 23 5:00
Culture Day at SU	April 28
Kindergarten Experience for incoming K students	April 28 5:30 pm

School Hours

- School Hours: 8:15am-3:00pm
- Main Doors Open: 8:00am
- Breakfast in the Classroom: 8:00am

Students are tardy if they arrive later than 8:15am.

Every Wednesday Early Dismissal at 1:30pm

News from the Nurse

Susan McDonald, School Nurse



FROM THE NURSE:

Now that the weather is getting warmer, kids will start playing outside more. Please make sure that your child is wearing the proper protective gear for whatever activity they are doing.

If your student is in 4th or 5th grade, they may ride their bike to school after the parent signs a consent form. Please make sure your student wears a properly fitting bike helmet when riding their bike. Every year, approximately 382,000 children are seen in emergency rooms with injuries resulting from bicycle crashes. The majority of bike crashes occur in parks, on bike paths, or

driveways- not on roads. Many of those injuries are preventable by wearing a bike helmet. Bike helmets reduce the risk of injury by 85%. Also, please review bike safety rules with your child.

Taking these precautions will help make it a safer spring and summer for all of our children.

Just a reminder to parents who will have an incoming kindergarten student this fall, to be sure to make your doctor/ dental appointments as soon as possible for required immunizations, requested physical and dental ex-

ams for school. These forms can be brought to school as soon as they are completed.

If you and your student will be attending the South Union Kindergarten Experience on Tuesday, April 28th from 5:30-7:00pm (And I hope you are), you can bring any completed medical forms with you to give to me that evening.

Thank you,

Mrs. McDonald

Dean of Students News

Mrs. Emily Behrens

Never Stop Learning!

During spring break I had the opportunity to travel with three South Union teachers to the ASCD Annual Conference in Houston, TX.

The conference focused on teaching and learning as well as assessment and leadership. The teachers and I brought back many ideas for the implementation of blended learning in the classroom. Blended learning is the use of traditional instruction along with technology support. Des Moines Public Schools is moving toward a blended learning approach. Classrooms were

issued Revolve tablets this year and the students have enjoyed using them in their daily work.

The team of teachers and I will be sharing what we learned with the staff at SU and the students will benefit from our learning as well.

It's so very important to remind students that

learning never stops-even when you're an adult!



Art News

Fourth grade students will be taking a docent lead tour of the Art Center and Pappajohn Sculpture Park on Tuesday, April 21st. We will be leaving at approximately 9:30 am and returning around 1:30 pm.

South Union students will have "Culture Day" on Tuesday, April 28th. We will have several presenters in the building sharing their unique art, movement, music and stories with us that day. The presentations will be held during a designated time that day. We look forward to learning about different cultures!



Music

News



Concert dates are set!!!

4th Grade – Thurs. May 7
12:45 PM

5th Grade – Thurs. May 7
2:00 PM

**All concerts are held in the South Union Gymnasium.

Thank you to all the family members who supported their children by attending the concerts. We've had great attendance thus far!

PE News

Students are very active in PE running, jumping, and moving around in the gym. It is very important they wear proper shoes on the day they have PE to make sure they are safe. Tennis shoes or athletic shoes are the best on PE days.



Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Helpful hint

If you are unsure of when your child has P.E. have them keep a pair of tennis shoes in their backpack or locker so they are always prepared!

Behavior Specialist

Mr. James Puderbaugh

Dear South Union Parents,

Spring has arrived and the weather is warming up. Our students have returned to school from Spring Break refreshed and ready to learn. With the warmer weather come more outside recess. Kids are excited to get outside and get fresh air. The South Union staff have been reviewing playground expectations so everyone will continue to have fun and be safe.

I am excited to report that over 420 students during term 2 have not received a behavior referral.

This is great news. A lot of these students have not gotten a referral all year. We will be celebrating these students this week. Please look for a certificate regarding your child's great behavior choices. Thanks for supporting the school by having behavior expectations for your child while at school. Students following these three expectations help make our school a great place to learn and

grow.

Well Done!

1. We will show respect for ourselves, other students, staff and property at South Union.
2. We will be on task, focus on our learning, and be responsible for our behaviors and actions.
3. We will come to school ready to learn with materials and a mindset to show our best effort.

Counselor

Ms. Jennifer Roberts

Now that it's finally Spring, we just get busier! Students are finishing up our Study Skills Unit, and will be moving on to our Career Unit.

It's a very important time of year for 5th graders, as they are gearing up to make the transition to Middle School! They will be learning a lot in the next few weeks about schedules, changes to expect, and combination locks. Our students will have an opportunity to visit with middle

school staff at various times: Brody staff will visit South Union on April 30, future Weeks students will visit Weeks on May 1, and future McCombs students will go to McCombs on May 18. Middle schools also hold Open House events for incoming 6th graders, so watch the mail for that information. Each middle school holds summer activities to help with the transition; I would encourage each student to sign up if possible. It's a great way

to meet new friends and find out more about the first days of school!



Additional Information

FOOD SERVICE

Breakfast Program:

- ◆ Free to students who attend SU.

Lunch Program Prices:

- ◆ Free to students who attend SU.
- ◆ Adult lunch \$3.30

Joining us for lunch?

If you would like to join your child for lunch and plan on eating a school provided lunch please send the money to school with the child. The cafeteria staff do not want to handle money during the lunch hour. If you are able to provide exact

ATTENDANCE (Tardies & Absences)

Daily, punctual attendance is an integral part of the learning experience and is required of all students to receive the maximum benefit of the educational program. Students will be expected to attend classes regularly and to be on time. This year students are allowed 3 unexcused absences trimester.

If you have any questions regarding attendance, please refer to the Attendance Policy that was given out at registration or call the school office at 242-8409.

EQUITY STATEMENT

The Des Moines Independent Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socio-economic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator

District Mission Statement

“Des Moines Public Schools exist so graduates possess knowledge, skills, and abilities to be successful in the next stage of their lives.”

Persons with disabilities who need information about accessibility or who need sign or language interpreters, please contact the Director of Student and Family Services, (515) 242-7714