A Note from the Principal

Dear SMS Families,

What a splendid time of year! I hope that you all enjoyed/are enjoying this happy time of year. It sure was a quick jump from Thanksgiving to winter holidays, for those that celebrated a holiday--much happiness and joyous celebrations to you and yours! And for those that don’t celebrate a winter holiday, I hope you had a lovely break with family and friends-- and to all a Happy New Year!

Parents, many thanks to those that helped sponsor our faculty holiday breakfast at the Depot Deli! Donations covered almost half of our teachers breakfast! It was such a special time to get out and enjoy one another's company, the festive time of year and all of our accomplishments thus far this year.

When we return in January it will be a very busy month. We have a team of teachers and students alike being trained in Sources of Strength, we are going to see Martha Redbone as a school at the Tower Theatre and no doubt it will be a fantastic cultural/historical/musical experience, we will do our next round of district testing, we will have an interim day for students--which is a day to leave their normal schedule behind and pursue areas of passion or service learning for the day, and students will have a few days off (January 20th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day and January 23rd/24th: Teacher Work/Grading Days) and we will begin our third quarter on January 27th!

As you bid 2019 farewell, take time to reminisce with your student on their goals and accomplishments and as you begin 2020 plan for ways to continue to reach goals, aspirations and holistic greatness!

Your partner in education and community enhancement,

Mrs. Haney (Baglien)
A Note from our Assistant Principal on Cell Phones

As we push into the winter months, I want to take a moment to reinforce the SMS expectation that all student’s cell phones are off and in their lockers from the time they arrive until they leave the school building. The reasoning at the most basic level is that distracted learning is similar to distracted driving…not a recipe for success. Here are a few of the drawbacks of using cell phones in the classroom.

Distractions and interruptions
When students use their cell phones to check social media and text their friends in class, it leads to distractions for those students as well as for their peers. This can cause disruptions in class, particularly if the teacher is constantly telling students to turn their devices off.

Cyberbullying
Cell phones can also lead to increased problems with bullying on the school ground. Cyberbullying can be harder to see than other forms of bullying, making it difficult for teachers to identify and stop when it is happening.

Disconnection from face-to-face activities
While cell phones can help encourage participation by offering different channels, this can also lead to less in-person discussion and fewer learning opportunities. Learning to work together with others face-to-face is an important part of students’ education, and can be lost with too much dependence on cell phones and other digital technology.

Please help us reinforce this expectation with your students at home, and if you need any assistance do not hesitate to reach out. GO OUTLAWS!!!!!

7/8 AVID toured COCC and OSU Cascades Nov 6th
Partnering with the VFW

Each year, the VFW sponsors an essay writing competition called The Patriot’s Pen. This is a nationwide competition that starts at a local level, and has the opportunity to continue to a national winner. The theme for this year’s Patriot’s Pen essay was, “What makes America great!” Each year we have numerous students participate in this amazing opportunity, and this year we are excited to announce Blake Parker as this year’s winner from Sisters Middle School.

Blake received a $400 cash prize and will be a participant in the next level of regional competition. Congratulations to our winning 8th grade contestant, Blake Parker! Also honored for her commitment to supporting Veteran’s was Mrs. Aylor!

Notes from the Front Office

Parents, please do not text your child during the school hours. From the moment each student walks into the building ALL electronic devices must be OFF and IN YOUR LOCKER until the student leaves the school building. Headphones are allowed in class at teacher’s discretion and if included in an individualized education plan. If they are out during the school day, devices will be confiscated for the day. Repeat incidents will lead to further consequences. Students may use the phone on the counter in the Main Office. Please ask the secretaries for permission to be sure the phone is available for use. No personal cell phones may be used during the day, including passing periods.

Notes from Leadership

Yearbook purchases will be on-line this year, only. Go to vbpay.lifetouch.com Use SMS Yearbook ID code 14044520. Yearbooks are $25.00 until January 31, 2020. They will go up to $30.00 February 1, 2020.
8th Grade Promotion!!
Calling all 8th grade parents! It's that time of year to start planning for the 8th grade promotion party. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee please contact Jamie Vohs at rjvohs@gmail.com or (360) 731-5702.
Thank you,
Jamie

Unplugged Correction
There is a correction on the Unplugged Gaming days. Unplugged is on Mondays and Thursdays after school.
**Spirit Gear**

We still have a few sweatshirts and one last pile of t-shirts in various sizes, if you are a new student or simply a student or family member in need of new or more SMS spirit gear. Sweatshirts are $35 and can be taken to Momentum for free personalization and t-shirts are $20. You can purchase these items through the office.

**English Language Development (ELL)**

Services for English language learners continue throughout the year. If you have any questions about services, please call Dawna Spencer at 541-549-2099 ext. 5540 or email dawna.spencer@ssd6.org. It is a pleasure to work with such amazing students!

**Homework Tips for Parents of ELLs**

Homework is important for students and their academic success, but helping children with homework can be difficult — especially if you are still learning English. Here are some ways you can make homework easier for everyone — and remember that your involvement is the key to your child's success, no matter what language you are using!

- **Help your child get organized**
  Help your child pick out a special homework notebook or folder, and make sure your child has homework supplies, such as: pencils, pens, writing paper and a dictionary.

- **Get Into A Routine**
  Set a regular time for homework every day, and look for a homework area with good light. Help your child get into the habit of getting homework done before doing other activities.

- **Limit distractions**
  Turn off the TV and video games, and restrict phone calls and texting during homework time. If your child is using the computer for homework, check in periodically to make sure he is getting homework done.

  [https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/homework-tips-parents-ells](https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/homework-tips-parents-ells)

**Spanish**

It has been such a pleasure to work with 6th grade students in Spanish this year and watch them grow in their Spanish language ability. As a learning community, we integrate reading, writing, listening, speaking, and cultural understanding into our daily basic Spanish lessons. We also have the opportunity to explore several countries in our four weeks together, such as Mexico, Spain, and Bolivia.
We were fortunate to have guest speaker Señora Derksen come in once every four weeks to give a presentation on Bolivia. Señora Derksen lived in Bolivia when she was a young girl for several years. She has shared about the culture, language, and her experiences with the Spanish language.

Latino Family Connections
We would like to thank our families for coming to the second Latino family event of the year last month. It was wonderful to be able to spend time as a community. We so appreciate your thoughtful feedback for any areas of improvement in serving families and students. Thank you! The district welcomes Gabriel Cobos as our new Latino Family Connections liaison! If you should have any questions, or need any assistance, please feel free to contact him.
G​abriel Cobos, 541-549-8981 ext. 5272, gabriel.cobos@ssd6.org

We would like to invite families to an exciting third Latino family event on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 from 4:30-6:30 pm. It is a special night, as the band Las Cafeteras will be performing at 7:00 at the high school. We hope our families will attend this Sisters FolkFestival concert! We appreciate the collaboration with Citizens 4 Community & Sisters Folk Festival. The schedule will be as follows:
- 4:30-5:30 Presentation by Las Cafeteras
- 5:30-6:30 Pizza dinner with the band
- 7:00 Concert in the SHS Theater
New SMS Staff

AVID-MTSS Teacher: We have hired a new teacher to replace Mrs. Aylor. As previously mentioned Mrs. Aylor is starting a new administrative adventure! We welcome Molly Pearring, Molly comes to us with a wealth of knowledge! She has strong knowledge and experience in Special Education, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, administrative roles and teaching a variety of grade levels. Mrs. Pearring will be starting at the beginning of February. We have a long-term sub who will be filling in the interim.

Part-Time Paraprofessional: We happily welcome Crystal Vogt to our team of para-professionals helping with lunch-recess supervision and academic support.

Our 2020 Sparrow

Sparrow is a fantastic organization that supports families in need of financial assistance due to medical needs. A generous outside donor (the Weitzman family) matches $10 for each and every community service hour that a student completes AND reflects on. There is not a cap on how many hours any student can complete. The funds are given at the end of the May to our Sparrow and those funds help the family with their medical expenses. Please grab a service hour sheet from our front office and help our Sparrow. This year’s Sparrow is our very own 7th grader with one of the kindest hearts around, KB!

5th Grade Vaping Prevention Curriculum

Vaping across the country continues to be a large challenge for schools, families and students of middle schoolers. Our fifth grade team is taking a proactive approach via a grant to teach our younger students the dangers of vaping using Click City.
Calling All 5th Grade Singers
Sisters Outlaw Singers is returning! Sara Miller, Sisters Elementary Music teacher, will once again host a 3rd-5th grade choir. Logistics: Rehearsals will be at SES in the music room, Rehearsals will be on Late Start Wednesdays from 8am-9am, the choir program runs January 15-May 27, BLACK OUT DATES (NO REHEARSALS) on 1/29, 2/5, 4/15, and the fee is $30 (for the cost of music and t-shirt). If you are interested in joining, please email Sara Miller at sara.miller@ssd6.org for a permission slip to sign and return.

NWEA Map Testing
MAP testing is our triannual benchmark assessment for our school district. We conduct benchmark testing as formative assessment to see how each student is doing, it is immediate, detailed feedback for teachers to doctor their instruction and for students to see where their strengths and areas of growth lie. Our mid-year testing will take place on January 14th (Language Arts) and January 16th (Math). Please ensure your student has had adequate rest, eaten a solid breakfast and is in a good mindset. We understand that tests are only one piece of the puzzle, but it’s very valuable information for teachers, students and families.

Lost & Found
Lost and found is overflowing, come and claim your lost belongings! Parents you are welcome to come in this week between 8:40-8:50am and 3-3:10pm to look for you child’s belongings.

Notes & Dates
- January 6th: Return from Break
- January 14th-16th NWEA Testing
- January 15th: Latino Family Night 5pm at HS
● All School Field Trip to Martha Redbone at Tower Theatre
● January 20th: MLK Day--No School
● January 22nd: No LATE Start
● January 22nd: Interim Day
● January 23rd & 24th: No School for Students; Teacher Work/Grading Days
● January 24th: End of the 2nd Quarter
● January 30th: Coffee with the Principal at 2:30pm

….looking ahead to February……Our next movie in the year long movie series is: Finding Kind on February 3rd at 6pm, No School on February 17th, Presidents Day and Coffee with the Principal on February 27th.

Thank you!

● Thank you to Sisters Folk Festival for your continued partnership coordinating artists to participate in our Interim Day and for booking our visit to see Martha Redbone!

● Thank you to Central Oregon Stem Hub for professional development and tools to use with our students