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Community Newsletter - October 2023

Dear South Nodaway Family,

Welcome to the 23-24 first quarter edition of the South Nodaway School District Community Newsletter! We are excited to share with you the latest news, updates and highlights. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about important events, achievements and opportunities within our educational community!

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE & DISTRICT NEWS

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we wrap up the first quarter of another school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect upon our shared goals and values and provide some important updates.

We are entering the second year of South Nodaway's strategic plan crafted by a committee composed of various stakeholders after three nights of collaboration, data analysis, needs assessments, reflection and evaluation. We are pleased to report that, despite being less than halfway through the 3 year plan, 65 of 98 action steps have been completed and another 7 are in progress. Additionally, 11 of 11 SMART goals have been addressed in some fashion. Please use the following link to find the CSIP if you're interested in those goals!

CSIP link: <https://www.southnodaway.k12.mo.us/vnews/display.v/SEC/CSIP>

The district recently applied for and received a **School Safety Grant and put those funds to use improving safety protocols**. One such improvement is aesthetic as well as practical in the form of window graphics and shatterproof film. The security camera system is also receiving a long overdue update. We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for our students and SN family.

I want to express my gratitude to our SN family for your unwavering support and dedication to our school. It is by your collective efforts that we continue to strive for excellence in education and create an inclusive and nurturing environment for our students to thrive!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Our students have consistently demonstrated remarkable achievements in academics, with many receiving recognition at local, state and even national levels. Some recent achievements and milestones include:

Madilyn Beck was recognized as **Student of the Month** at the Northwest Technical School for exhibiting the character trait **integrity!**

Tucker Klamm recently began an **internship** with the Daily Forum newspaper in Maryville and has covered football games under Friday night lights!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

We're excited to commend Sonya Buckles and her yearbook team for their **National Yearbook Program of Excellence** award! Per Jostens this award is given based on the extraordinary efforts that go into creating a yearbook and making it accessible to every student. Criteria include: A meaningful yearbook for all students, a yearbook in every student's hands and effective project management.

Sonya has demonstrated remarkable leadership, creativity, problem solving and a positive attitude throughout this endeavor setting an inspiring example for the team! This accomplishment not only showcases Sonya's remarkable talents but reflects positively on the yearbook team and the entire South Nodaway family! We are fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated person on our team and I look forward to her future achievements. CONGRATULATIONS SONYA and the yearbook staff on this well-deserved success!

CURRICULUM CORNER

A renewed emphasis on literacy at the state level with the passage of recent legislation provides some **validation of South Nodaway's traditional commitment to the prioritization of reading and phonics education.** Over the last few years we have invested time and resources in the "Really Great Reading" program to the benefit of our students. Teachers have attended LTRS training for the last couple of years to sharpen their skills related to phonemic awareness and foundational phonics. The district has made use of the NWEA screening tool this year to assess all kids K-6 for reading fluency and K-3 for dyslexia to promote early interventions.

It is encouraging to see the state place significance on something South Nodaway has long considered an integral part of your children's education!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Please look for our annual survey soon. We value our strong connections with the Longhorn community and appreciate your valuable input and feedback!

We want to give a special **THANK YOU** to **Julie, Jeff and Heather Martin** for their generous donation of beef to the SN food service program! We'd also like to thank **Barnard Processing** for their contribution! **Our students will now be eating locally grown beef as part of their school lunches!** We also want to thank those that have donated produce and other healthy snacks to our salad bar and after school snack cart.

PARENT RESOURCES AND INVOLVEMENT

We strive to keep parents and the community informed about school happenings. Please visit our website at www.southnodaway.k12.mo.us where you will find a live master calendar of events. You will also find the Lumen Portal login to keep up with your child's grades and assignment information.

Community members can sign up to receive text alerts through TextCaster on your mobile device. Please follow our Facebook (South Nodaway Longhorn Family & Platte Valley Athletics) and Twitter pages (@SNLonghorns & @PlatteValley1) for additional content. Parents of students taking virtual classes also receive access to an additional parent portal through LAUNCH where they can monitor their online student's progress.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

As always we take the health and wellness of our students, staff and extended Longhorn family very seriously. We recently hosted the mobile dentist for easy access to dental care. Our school and community flu shot clinic was well attended and helps to better prepare for the upcoming cold and flu season. The district also received grant funds to purchase air purifiers for each classroom and common areas in hopes of catching and negating some of the cold and flu viruses.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and engaging. **I can't emphasize enough that your involvement in your child's education is invaluable.** Whether it's attending parent-teacher conferences, participating in activities or simply being a supportive presence at home, **your engagement plays a crucial role in our collective success!**

Additionally, your involvement in our school district is essential and we encourage you to stay connected, attend events and support our students' successes. Stay abreast of school events and initiatives through our website, school calendar, social media pages, text alerts and regular communications.

If you have any feedback, suggestions or contributions for future newsletters please contact me!

Thank you for being a valued member of the South Nodaway family! Together, we are committed to providing the best possible education for our students! I feel truly fortunate to have the opportunity to work and live amongst a community that places such a high priority on children and their education!

Warm regards,



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