

Springport Middle School

"Springport Middle School is committed to providing a first-rate education to our diverse learning community. We are dedicated to meeting the individual needs of each student, as we prepare them to be productive, responsible citizens, and successful in furthering their education."

P.O. Box 100, 300 W. Main St. Springport, Michigan 49284

517-857-3445 www.springportschools.net



SPARTY TIMES

November 2009



*Log onto our website
for:*

- Daily Announcements
- Sports Schedules
- School Board meetings dates & times
- School Calendar
- Reviewing Your Students Grades
- Lunch Menus

Upcoming Events:

Parent Teacher Conferences	11-11 11-12
Early Release Day Students Released @ 12:55 p.m.	11-11
No School	11-13
Board Meeting	11-16
Middle School Play	11-20 11-21
Thanksgiving Break	11-26 11-27

The Principals Desk: Tanya Overweg, Principal

Flu Season is Upon Us!

Like many other schools in Michigan, SMS has had our challenges with illnesses. We have been anywhere between 80 and 93% of our students in attendance. Should it drop below 75% as a district, this is when we will consider closing for a few days.

Please remember to keep your child home from school if he or she is sick and especially if they are running a fever. We ask that all students be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school so that other students and staff are not in jeopardy of catching it. As always, frequent hand washing is the best defense. Please be sure students make up any work they missed due to illness.

Safe Routes To School

SMS was fortunate to be one of the schools in Michigan who was selected as a recipient of the Safe Routes To School Grant. This funding allowed us to partner with the Village of Springport to replace sidewalks be-

tween Green Street and the school, improve lighting, and even paid for a new bike rack and parking area near the front door. We are asking students and parents to complete a quick survey regardless of whether your child walks or gets a ride to school to help provide us with information about the program. Please go to the district homepage at <http://www.springportschools.net> and click on the Safe Routes To School Survey link at the top right hand corner of the page. It should only take 1-2 minutes to complete.

Parent Teacher Conferences

November 11 is an early release day, with conferences taking place that day and again on the 12th. You should have received information from your child's teachers to schedule an appointment. Please contact your child's Advisory teacher if you do not yet have a conference time.

The annual report is completed and is available for your review in the middle school office.

Reaching Higher Program:

Cindy Adams, Coordinator

Reaching Higher is SMS's brand new After School program. This is a program funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Center in partnership with Highfields, Inc. It is a one year grant, renewable for 4 additional years.

The program started on September 28th. It runs for 32 weeks during the school year, and six weeks during the summer. Goals of the grant include: Improve MEAP scores, improve grades in reading and math, increase parental involvement, and decrease behavioral referrals throughout the school day. Each day consists of Academic reinforcement through hands-on learning and an elective life skills class. Supper and a snack are provided; and transportation can be arranged.

There are currently 52 students enrolled in the program. Up to 45 attend daily. Enrollment for the

second session will begin mid-November, with registrations due by Nov. 30. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Adams, Site Coordinator at (517) 262-6683

The Counselors

Corner:

Steve VanWinkle, Counselor

RESPECT, CARING, RESPONSIBILITY,

HONESTY, CITIZENSHIP, SELF-DISCIPLINE

Building a *Community of Character* is the aim of our middle school character education program. Transforming school culture requires integrating the character traits into every aspect of school life. That's what we're attempting to do.

Every 6 weeks a new character trait is introduced. Creative and exciting assemblies, classroom lessons and prizes provide motivation for students. As parents, you'll want to follow-up at home, engaging your son/daughter in conversations about what's happening at school and what they're learning about. When your son/daughter is nominated for displaying good character at school, you'll receive a letter of congratulations; they'll receive a wrist band and have their name entered into a drawing for a prize. Together, let's make a big deal about good character, because it is.

SEASONAL SERVICE PROJECTS

The middle school student council is leading our school in 2 exciting service projects that will begin soon and continue through Christmas

vacation. The first is the Caring Cans Food Drive. Students are asked to bring in non-perishable canned goods to supply the local food pantry. This project will run through November 25th. For every 3 cans a student brings in, he/she will receive a ticket. Tickets will be used for admission and snacks at a special after school Christmas Movie Matinee scheduled for Friday, December 4th.

A second project is the popular Toys for Tots program. This effort will provide toys for many needy children in Jackson County and mid-Michigan. Collection boxes will be available in each of the grade level pods. If students and their families wish to participate, new toys will be collected through December 11th.

TALKING WITH YOUR TEEN

Looking for ways to keep the conversation lines open with your son/daughter?

Provide a consistent opening. Perhaps you always stop by your son's bedroom to say good night or linger over dessert together after dinner. Consistent routines let your teen know there's always a time you're available.

Offer a specific opening. If you suspect your teen is upset about a certain event, give him or her a clear opening to talk about it; "You seem upset about..." or "If I were in your shoes, I might be disappointed that..."

Talk about things your teen likes. Sports, favorite music, TV shows, friends or video games can all provide openings for enjoyable conversations – which can provide a doorway to more serious discussions later.

When your teen wants to talk, give him or her your full attention. Let your teen know that you value your time with him or her.

Try texting or instant messaging. At times, a cell phone text message may be just the thing to remind your son it's time to do homework or tell your daughter "good luck" before volleyball tryouts.

Skip the lecture. If you must tell your teen to do something, make your request in one or two sentences. Any longer, and your teen's likely to tune out to what you're really saying...so what's the point? (Mayo Health Clinic Solutions, February, 2009)



National Junior Honor Society

Advisor, Katie Konkol

Our NJHS chapter is growing and we are thrilled to get it back up and moving for the new school year! We are very excited to get started on collecting our service hours and teaming up with the high school chapter on some upcoming projects. We strive to create service projects to better our community and our school such as collecting money for breast cancer awareness month and donating costumes for Halloween. If interested in applying to the National Junior Honor Society the application process will be coming in February. One requirement to keep in mind is a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. We are looking forward to a strong year in teamwork and school spirit!

Happy Thanksgiving!

