

November 30, 2009

# The South Viewer

A publication of South View Middle School – Edina, Minnesota

## EventsView

Mon., Nov. 30 –“A” Day

Tues. & Wed., Dec. 1 & 2

8th grade MCA-III math field test  
(Note: This is not a high-stakes test, but a sampling of future MCA assessments. Testing during regular math classes.)

Thurs., Dec. 3

7 p.m., 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra concerts, Auditorium

Tues., Dec. 8

7 p.m., Jazz band concert, Cafeteria

Wed., Dec. 9

Mid-markers posted

Thurs., Dec. 10

11 a.m., new families tour

Fri., Dec. 11

All day, Barnes & Noble Book Fair at the Galleria, Edina

Tues., Dec. 15

7:30 a.m., Spirit of South View breakfast, Cafeteria

6 p.m., 6<sup>th</sup> grade band concert, Auditorium

7:30 p.m., 7<sup>th</sup> grade band concert, Auditorium

Wed., Dec. 16

2:45 p.m., Mandatory meeting for Variety Show participants

Thurs., Dec. 17

6 p.m., 8<sup>th</sup> grade band concert, Auditorium

7:30 p.m., 9<sup>th</sup> grade band concert, Auditorium

Mon., Dec. 21-Fri., Jan. 1

Winter Break

For the complete 2009-2010 Calendar, go to:

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/southview/pdfs/SVCalendar200910.pdf>

## Note from the Principal...

Thank you for attending conferences this past week! We had a wonderful attendance of students joining parents! If you did not have a chance to meet with your student's teachers and have questions or concerns, feel free to contact them to schedule a time to talk about your student. Otherwise, you can continue to access student progress information on Edline.

Although formal conferences are held only once a year, you can promote your student's process of reflection all year. The grades themselves are not the most important piece of information. *What?! The school principal is stating that grades are not the focus point?!* Art Costa says that "we must constantly remind ourselves that the purpose of evaluation is to enable students to evaluate themselves." But we are reminded as educators, and as parents, that students don't come by this habit naturally. We have to build into our lessons opportunities for reflection to help students recognize their strengths, identify their areas for growth, and set goals for future learning. You, too, can assist your student in this process. Hold conversations with your student that might include a shift, using the following questions:

Instead of, *What grade did you receive on that history assignment?* ask, *What did you learn and how does this relate to what you have already learned? What is the significance for you of what you learned?* I remember visiting a classroom once and asking these sort of questions to middle school students who were studying the climate and weather. I asked them why this information was important to know. A student looked at me dumbfounded and responded, "Well, we DO live on the planet and should understand these things." This student understood the importance of what he was learning and wondered how I could even question it. Other questions you might ask could include: *How would you evaluate your work on this assignment? What would you do differently next time? How did you plan your work to get it done? Would you change anything about how you used your time?* These questions will assist your student in taking ownership for his/her learning and re-focusing on what is really important – the job of learning!

*--Dr. Beth Russell, South View Principal*

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## Mark it down...

The Barnes & Noble Book Fair is Friday, Dec. 11. A percentage of purchases by families and friends of South View will be donated back to our school. This year, there is a new opportunity for out-of-town relatives and friends to buy books at their local Barnes & Noble and have a percentage earmarked for South View. This is an important fundraiser for our school, so wait to make your holiday book purchases until Dec. 11! More info to come!

## InsideView...

*...How you can help our staff*

*...A teacher gift that keeps on giving*

*...Silent fundraisers are easy money for our school!*

*...Edina Ed Fund luncheon – save the date!*

The South Viewer is published weekly by the South View Parent Council. If you have questions, feedback, or ideas for articles, please email [patty5537@gmail.com](mailto:patty5537@gmail.com)

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## How to help teachers

Many parents ask how they can help out at the middle school level and also what they can do for teachers, so a new system has been set up to get your help. Beginning Dec. 2, teachers will submit requests for needed classroom items. Office staff will write teachers' names and requests on notes and post them on the bulletin board near staff mailboxes. If you'd like to help by donating items, please visit the board and grab a posted note – or two! Purchase the items, return them to the office, and staff will make sure the teachers get your donations. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help our wonderful teachers make their classrooms more productive and fun.



## Edina Education Fund Staff Honorariums

This year, give the gift of appreciation by recognizing a staff member with an Edina Education Fund Honorarium gift. Take the stress out of holiday giving with a donation to the Edina Education Fund in honor of your child's teacher, specialist, or paraprofessional. Half of your tax-deductible donation will be directed to programming at your school, with the other half supporting our Innovations Grants program given annually to teachers across the district. The minimum gift is \$25 and must be submitted by December 10 for this program. For more information: [http://www.edinaedfund.com/PDFs/2009\\_Honorarium.pdf](http://www.edinaedfund.com/PDFs/2009_Honorarium.pdf) or call (952) 848-4224.

## Silent Fundraisers support our school

At South View, we are taking advantage of the many silent fundraising programs out there for earning money for our school. These programs include Box Tops from General Mills, milk lids from Land O'Lakes and Kemp's, Tyson food labels, and Campbell's labels. These companies give our school cash for each piece collected from their products. Simply collect these product pieces and have your student bring them into the office.

These programs are an easy way to raise money for our school! If you have any questions or if you would like to help with the program, contact the coordinator, Leanne Villano, at [lmvillano@comcast.net](mailto:lmvillano@comcast.net)

## Thanks, volunteers!

Several parents have given their time to support our school's events recently. Our thanks to the following for staffing the Parent Council table at conferences: Denise Elmquist, Amy Alvero, Kim Melin, Kirsten Kemp, Sue Breker-Dinger, Mary Pease, Lynn Wagner, Lisa Beaupre, and Patty Burley. And many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the staff meal during conferences: Laura & Alex Davis, Elaine Foley, Sue Breker-Dinger, and Patty & Maddie Burley.

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## Reminders

We are no longer listing students' names in announcements for picking up lunches, musical instruments, retainers, forgotten homework, etc. Dealing with items for an average of 50 students each day has become an inefficient use of office staff time. We are working to help students use their planners to organize work and think ahead to what they need each day. Assignment information is on Edline or Moodle. We also understand that forgetfulness goes along with this age group. Please communicate to your student that if they forget an item, and you would be able to bring it to school, it's their responsibility to come to the office to get it. There are plastic bins for each grade in the office, and parents can put most items there. (We'll keep items of value, like laptops, at the main desk.) So far, students have been doing a great job with this system.

**Also:** Please try to schedule doctor, orthodontic and other appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. If you make an appointment during school hours, please send a note with your student in the morning and have him or her hand it to the classroom teacher, so they can be excused from class. The student then takes your note to the office, so the attendance clerk can check him or her out officially. This eliminates *our* need to interrupt class and *your* need to come into the building. If a student returns to class, they need to check back in with the office. Thanks so much.

## *Save the date:*

### **Edina Education Fund Show-&-Tell Luncheon Monday, February 8, 2010**

11:30am - Registration and Demonstrations  
12:00-1:00 p.m. - Program

Mahon Center, St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
6820 St. Patrick's Ln., Edina

Please join the Edina Education Fund for lunch and an exciting program! You'll experience firsthand the profound impact the Edina Education Fund has on students throughout Edina Public Schools. There will be hands-on demonstrations from our most recent grant recipients, live presentations, and more.

We are looking for people to serve as Table Captains for this event. If you are interested, please contact Sue Carlson at [suecarlson@edina.k12.mn.us](mailto:suecarlson@edina.k12.mn.us) for more information.

**Edina Education Fund • 5701 Normandale Road  
Edina, MN 55424 • 952-848-4222 • [www.edinaedfund.com](http://www.edinaedfund.com)**