

SOAR Sounder



Message From The School Director



February 2017

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, February 28

Energy Assistance Resource Fair
6 – 8 pm

Wednesday, March 1

2017-18 School Year
Commitment Forms Go Home

Friday, March 10

Dance Theatre of Harlem
Field Trip
9 am – 2 pm

Tuesday, March 14

Parent Advisory Council
6 – 8 pm

Monday, March 20

2017-18 School Year
Commitment Forms DEADLINE

Wed., March 29 – Fri., March 31

Parent/Teacher Conferences
EARLY DISMISSAL all days

Mon., March 27 - Fri., March 31

March Madness Spirit Week

Friday, March 31

Family Movie Night
6 – 8 pm

Dear SOAR Family,

We are all excited as we prepare for our first SOAR field trip on March 10! Thanks to the generosity of our partners, the Seattle Theatre Group, we were able to secure tickets to a performance by The Dance Theatre of Harlem at the Paramount Theatre in Seattle. The Dance Theatre of Harlem Company consists of 14 dance artists who will perform an eclectic and demanding dance repertoire of contemporary ballet. We are excited to bring this wonderful experience to our scholars. We'll be emailing families a study guide that will help our students better understand the different dance pieces being performed. Please take some time to read over the information with your scholar! Field trip details and permission forms were sent home with students. We need all permission forms to be completed and turned in **no later than Tuesday, March 7, 2017**. Due to overwhelming response from interested families (thank you!) we will not be taking any more volunteer chaperone names for the field trip as we have limited amount of seating at the venue.

As a reminder, our school day starts with a community breakfast with all our scholars and staff **at 8:15 am**. This is an important start to our day where we share announcements, do our SOAR cheer as a community, enjoy breakfast together and celebrate shout-outs for our different scholars. Lately, some of our friends have been missing this great start to their day and have even missed their shout-outs. Late arrivals also cause disruption to class since teachers need to accommodate the late students. Please bring your students on time to help them have a strong start to their day. If your student is late due to a medical or dental appointment, please remember to bring a note to the office. We appreciate your cooperation in making sure all of our students get off to a great start of their school day!

As we approach March, a long academic month with no extra school days off, we urge families to send extra snacks with their students. We have very limited snacks available for students so we need your help to pack your students' snacks for them in their backpack. It is hard for our young scholars to continue to pay attention while they are hungry so sending snacks with your children will help keep them learning!

Lastly, all during March we will be having our March Madness school-wide competition that will keep our scholars on their toes! Look for more information coming home soon! As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

With love and respect,

Ms. Liz Sanchez
[206-300-7781](tel:206-300-7781)



The Nurse's Corner

By Lindsey Royal, RN

As you may have heard, there is an increase in cases of mumps in our state. Mumps is a contagious disease caused by the mumps virus and is as contagious as flu. It can cause long-term health problems. The virus is mostly spread by coughing, sneezing or other contact with saliva from someone who is infected. Those infected with mumps usually are contagious before symptoms appear and for a few days after, so they can spread the virus without realizing it.

Symptoms of mumps are similar to many illnesses in that they include fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, and loss of appetite. Its most distinctive symptom is swelling of the cheeks, neck, jaw, or other glands though not everyone experiences this. Some people get no symptoms at all. Mumps can cause hearing loss, meningitis (swelling of the covering of the brain and spinal cord), brain damage, and even death.

The Washington State Department of Health is requesting the assistance of everyone to stop the spread! There is no treatment for mumps but it can usually be prevented. The best way to prevent getting mumps is through immunization with the MMR vaccine which, after 2 doses, provides lifelong protection to 9 out of 10 people. Most of your children have been immunized. **If you have proof of immunization for your child and have *not* provided it to the school please do so as soon as possible.** Some families may be receiving notification that their student's record is incomplete. If you receive such notification it is important that you provide documentation of the immunization status in a timely fashion.



If someone in your family is in need of vaccination or you are unsure if they have been vaccinated, you should see your primary care provider as soon as possible. If you do not have a primary care provider, please call or visit the Tacoma-Pierce County Public Health Department at 3629 South D Street, Tacoma, WA 98418, (253) 798-6500. You may also choose to call the Family Health Hotline at 1-800-322-2588.

In addition to receiving the MMR vaccine you can protect yourself and your family by avoiding kissing, hugging, and other close contact with anyone suspected of having mumps.

If you believe you have been exposed to mumps it is also important to contact either your primary healthcare provider or the health department, especially if you become ill after contact. You should also stay away from other people to prevent them from becoming ill. Stay home and contact your healthcare provider or the health department. Tell them you suspect you or your family member has mumps. They may not want you to come into the main waiting area and will provide instructions for entering the building so as to limit exposure to other patients.

Thank you for ensuring that your children have received all their immunizations. If you have questions or concerns about specific immunizations please feel free to contact me via email at Lindsey_Royal@senecacenter.org.

Sincerely,

Nurse Lindsey

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) February Highlight: March Madness!

By Ms. Celeste

March Madness at SOAR!

Who/Where: SOAR Academy! All Grades!

When: February 27th-March 31st

What: This will be a school wide competition to see which class can score the most scholar cards and basketball shots at Wednesday assemblies!

SOAR Academy will hold a five-week round robin Tournament with the goal of team building, incentivizing classroom-wide positive behaviors, and of course having FUN!

During each week, teachers, support staff, and administration will catch entire classrooms on task and doing well and reward them with scholar cards. The difference between SOAR bucks and scholar cards is that scholar cards are team-based incentives, meaning that the whole class must be working together demonstrating exceptional behaviors to earn scholar cards. Each scholar card will be worth 1 second towards attempts to make basketball shots during Wednesday assemblies.

Special orange cards will be given to office staff, Student Support Counselors, and Administration to award 3 seconds towards their basketball shooting time.

To especially re-inforce positive behaviors in dance class, Ms. Erricka will have purple scholar cards which are worth a whopping 5 seconds! Yes, our students will be extra motivated to focus and work together in dance class!

We will have assemblies on Wednesdays for students and staff that will be facilitated by our Student Support Counselors (SSCs). Teachers will choose two students from their class that have demonstrated exceptional behavior during the week to recognize them in front of the whole school by having them be the shooter during their classes allotted time. Each week we will recognize the most scholar cards and the most shots made in each head to head competition and award prizes accordingly!

Because it is a round robin competition, each class has a fair chance to win prizes.

We would like to especially thank SSC Mr. Nick Cruz for carrying out this tradition from last year. He is one of our bedrock staff who remembered that March is a long month for students. As a school we have the goal of increasing fun and exciting team-based opportunities for whole classrooms to increase motivation for positive and on task behaviors. THANK YOU MR. NICK!



Question: What is the plan to make sure students are motivated to have safe and respectful behavior on the bus? This is an unstructured time that many parents have had questions about....

Answer: We have a plan to coordinate with our bus company to roll out PBIS on the bus. One of our amazing parent partners has suggested we start having "bus bucks" and incentivize students to be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible. Specific expectations will be: 1) stay seated and face forward 2) Use a quiet voice and good language 3) Follow the bus drivers' directions. Students will be able to cash in their bus bucks for prizes at the end of the week. We are in the final stages of revising our bus policy which will also be available for parents to review. If you have any additional questions or ideas, feel free to let us know.

Volunteer Spotlight: Andrew Cray



Andrew Cray had wanted to volunteer for SOAR ever since his son Henry, became a founding 1st Grader in SOAR's inaugural

year last school year, "but my work schedule didn't allow it," said Andrew. Despite a busy work schedule, Andrew did find times to be a speaker at a rally supporting public charter schools and to testify publically in support of charter schools.

Now with two students at the school, 2nd Grader Henry and Kindergartner Robert, Andrew has come in to assist during Wednesday after school programming.

One rewarding aspect of volunteering for Andrew has been, "Seeing the kids function as teammates and the teamwork they exhibit when they are engaged in the activities during aftercare."

There is a lot of talent easily visible, and the after school program is a great way to try to not only help athletically, but could potentially be a

"chance to mentor the kids so that the enthusiasm they show in the athletic activities can also be shown through academics as well—they all have bright futures!" said Andrew.

"It was nice to have another male mentor and an extra set of eyes and ears open for the kids," said Markiss Cooper-Evans, Student Engagement Coordinator.

Self-reported as being "old-school" in some ways when it comes to homework, Andrew has his kids write their spelling words five times while spelling them out loud too. The spelling work repetitions and using coins and crafting activities to enhance math problems for example, are more hands-on versus more technological ways of learning that Andrew employs at home.

For recreation, Andrew and his family like outdoor activities such as going to the local parks and playing basketball or golf.

SOAR appreciates Andrew's volunteering and advocacy!

Pictured l. to r.: (front row) Natalie, Robert & Henry (back) Andrew



Parent Advisory
Council

**Save the Date for the Next Meeting
on TUESDAY, MARCH 14 at 6 pm!**

Ms. Nicole's Ops News

ATTENDANCE

In order for your student to have an excused absence from school, the office must be notified as to the reason for the absence. Please call the SOAR office at 253.444.6759 to let us know. If we don't hear from you we will also call daily to inquire about the reason for the absence.

LOST & FOUND

Is your student missing a coat, sweater or gloves? Please come and check out the SOAR Lost & Found located in the gym. We try our hardest to make sure that we send everyone with the things they came to school with—however, sometimes things do get misplaced. We have some items that have been in our lost and found for quite some time. If not retrieved by April 14 we will donate to Goodwill during our event on April 15. We ALWAYS check for names inside of clothing and will return all identifiable clothing to students. With this, we would like to remind families to please write names inside of any clothing and accessory items!

SCHOOL HOURS

A reminder that we unlock our doors to receive students at 8:00 AM. Please do not bring students before 8:00 AM as our teachers and staff are in meetings to prepare for the school day. If you are

picking up your student early from school please enter through the main office doors. For safety reasons we cannot open the main entrance doors until the students are dismissed at the end of the school day at 3:30 PM and 1:30 PM on Wednesdays.

TRANSPORTATION

It is very important to pick your students up on time from the bus stops. Please try to arrive at the bus stop a few minutes early to ensure you make it on time. If for any reason you are late, the bus drivers are instructed to move on to the next stop where you will be able to meet the bus and pick up your child. Please notify the SOAR office at 253-444-6759 as soon as you know if you are going to be late so we may relay the information to the bus drivers.

FOOD SERVICES

Please remember that SOAR Academy is a peanut-free school. Please ensure that you are not sending your student to school with snacks or lunch items that contain peanuts. For those families whose students normally enjoy peanut butter, try using soy nut/sunflower seed butter—families whose students have tried those alternatives have reported that their students usually couldn't tell the difference and enjoyed them just as much as the peanut butter. Contact the school office at 253-444-6759 if you have any questions.





Energy Assistance and Weatherization Services for Families *By Metropolitan Development Council*



The Metropolitan Development Council's (MDC) Weatherization and Energy Assistance programs

provide assistance to low-income individuals and families in Tacoma who need help to reduce the strain of energy costs while improving the comfort of their homes. Weatherization services are available for rental units, with landlord approval, and Energy Assistance provides one-time per year payment assistance.

Services include:

- * Insulation and air sealing
- * Furnace and water evaluations
- * Water heater and pipe insulation
- * Improved ventilation
- * Utility cost analysis
- * Electrical safety inspection
- * Gas assistance

The application process starts when you contact MDC. SOAR families attending the February 28 event can fill out an application and will be sent a list of documentation needed to complete the application after the event

For Weatherization contact: (253) 593-2336

For Energy assistance contact: (253) 572-5557

Energy Assistance

RESOURCE FAIR at SOAR Academy

Tuesday, February 28, 6 - 8 pm



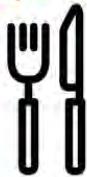


Are you entitled?

A Reminder...

SOAR Academy participates in the federal free & reduced lunch program. All school-aged children in **income-eligible households** can receive school meal benefits. This includes all income-eligible households regardless of the immigration status of household members. Information provided by the household will not be used for immigration-related purposes. A free & reduced lunch application must be submitted to the school in order to be considered for eligibility for the program.

Free & reduced lunch applications can be found in the school office. Please contact the school at 253-444-6759 or info@soaracademies.org if you have any questions.



Support SOAR Academy Fundraising Brunch



SOAR Academy will be hosting a fundraiser brunch in March to help raise funds to support our unique school programming. If you work at or own a business that would be interested in lending round tables, tablecloths and chairs and/or donating food items for the event, we would love to hear from you!

Email info@soaracademies.org or call 253-444-6759.

Thank You For Your Support!

Items sought for the event:

- Food Items (to be donated)
- Large Round Tables (to borrow)
- Tablecloths (to borrow)
- Dining Chairs (to borrow)



Commitment Forms



SOAR Families: Be on the lookout for a Commitment Form coming home March 1 to officially state if your student(s) will be keeping their seat(s) at SOAR Academy for the 2017-18 School Year. In order to ensure your student has a seat for the 17-18 School Year, your form must be returned to the office no later than March 20.

APPLY FOR YOUR UP-AND-COMING KINDERGARTNER!



If your SOAR student has a sibling ready to start Kindergarten, First, Second or Third Grades for next school year 2017-18, please fill out an application for them online at soaracademies.org/apply or pick up a paper application at the school office. The **deadline is March 31, 2017** at 3:30 pm so get your application in!*

**Although SOAR Academy Public Charter School has a sibling preference, parents still need to fill out an application for their incoming students for the next year. For more information, contact the school office at 253-444-6759 or apply@soaracademies.org.*