

A monthly communication keeping you in touch

Letter from the Principal

To Parents and Friends of South Christian:

The Spring season is here and with it the many activities that make us busy. Thanks for your constant support and please keep praying for the staff and students as we go into the last 9 weeks of the year.

Remember to make your appointments for **Parent/Teacher Conferences** on Wednesday, March 31 beginning at 6:30 pm.

Want to talk with a Board member? We will have a table at the conferences this year staffed with a few Board members to dialogue with you about any question or comment you may have. No appointment needed. If you have no questions - thank them!

Have a great Spring Break and stay safe!

Larry Plaisier, Principal

Tornado Watches And Warnings

Students will not be sent home during a tornado watch or warning. If a warning is in effect at the end of school, students will be kept in safety areas until it is safe to leave. Parents are free to pick up students during a weather watch.

If a weather watch is in effect when after-school activities begin, the administration will announce a decision regarding cancellation of those activities.



Calendar 2010-11

As we have in the past, the South Suburban Christian Schools will be starting before Labor Day next year. While public schools are mandated by the State of Michigan to start after Labor Day, this mandate doesn't apply to non-public schools. Some rationale for South Christian to start before Labor Day include:

*Educationally it makes more sense to begin school before Labor Day. In August, students (and their parents!) are eager to be back in school. In June, most are eager to call it quits for the year.

*Since many of our high school sports practices begin August 1, there is a feeling of "let's get going" by the students and coaches who are here already. In addition, our marching band has a chance to practice and participate in more football games.

*Beginning before Labor Day gives us more days of instruction before standardized testing takes place in the spring. This is important for the students taking the Michigan Merit Exam and Advanced Placement tests.

*When the mandate was being debated in the legislature, they noted that faith-based schools do not receive any state funding. Therefore, "it would be good to give them the freedom, in this case, to begin and end school with a calendar that best meets the needs of their families. History has shown us that they do not cut corners when it comes to educational quality. Let's leave this issue for them to determine."

It is interesting that the legislature acknowledged the educational quality of our schools and our ability to meet the needs of our community. This is what we want to do.

I hope this adds a little perspective to what goes into the decision. August 30 will be here before we know it! You can find the 2010-11 calendar on our website under "Calendars."

L. Plaisier

Dances

Psalm 149:3 and the first part of verse 4 says: "Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp. For the Lord takes delight in his people."

I take these verses seriously, and I believe they are instructive for us with respect to the dances we have at school. I love the picture that is created of our God watching our young people, full of energy, laughing, screaming, dancing, jumping around, being down right silly and just enjoying time together—and delighting in that.

We have worked very hard this year to make our dances activities in which God delights. In order to do this, we concluded that we needed to do a better job in two areas: the way the students dance and the music they dance to. Teaching students what is appropriate dancing is not really difficult. They know what it is, and we adults simply need to demand appropriateness. However, finding appropriate music is more difficult as we found out.

A group of students and teachers was assigned the task of finding appropriate music. For a song to be chosen, it had to meet 3 criteria:

The song needs to be "danceable".

The song should not be blatantly immoral. (The song should not celebrate being high on drugs, being "wasted" or being sexually immoral.)

The song should be relatively popular among the students.

Sadly, it was surprising, even to some of the students how difficult it was to come up with 60 or 70 songs that fit these criteria considering that there are thousands to choose from. However, they found the music, and we had a Sadie Hawkins.

Please be in prayer for us as we strive to provide safe, fun, and wholesome activities in which God can delight.

G. Guichelaar

Parent Chaperones Needed For the "Junior Senior Prom"

Each spring, the Juniors host a special evening as a tribute to the Seniors. Again this year, the Juniors will be hosting a dance at the VanAndel Museum on Friday, May 7. Parent chaperones are needed. If you would be interested in helping out or volunteering, please call June Atsma at 455-3210 or email June at jatsma@schs.org. Parents of both Juniors and Seniors are welcome to help out.

Shopping for a Prom Dress

Now that spring is officially here, we start thinking about spring activities. The Junior Senior Event is one of the highlights, and some of you have already started shopping for that "perfect" dress.

The "perfect" dress doesn't have to be a "new" dress. Since Prom dresses are worn for only a few hours, they really don't wear out! Consider buying a used dress. South Christian doesn't have a used Prom Dress Sale, but some schools do. Consider trading dresses with cousins or friends from other schools. Check with some of the bridal stores; they sometimes have sample bridesmaids dresses at reasonable prices.

The "perfect" dress should also be a "modest" dress. Dresses with plunging backlines, slits cut way up the thighs, and low-cut bodices are inappropriate. Often dresses that are inappropriate are also really uncomfortable to wear and hard to move around in. Since we will be at the VanAndel Museum again this year, you want to wear a dress that allows you to move. You want to be able to ride the Carousel, climb the steps to view the exhibits, and dance the night away!

June Atsma, Asst. Principal

NO HOT LUNCH!

Because there are 5 Wednesdays in March, no hot lunch will be served on **Wednesday, March 31 as well as Thursday, April 15** (due to the choir tour). Please make sure your student packs a lunch as underclassmen will not be allowed off campus - even with a parent call!

Toward the end of May, hot lunch service will end. Please watch your May issue of *South Scenes* as well as daily announcements for the most up-to-date information.

Also, the Parents Guild is in need of a hot lunch coordinator next year. This person will create the serving schedule as well as be here every Wednesday to make sure there is proper coverage. If interested or have further questions, contact Judy VanderLaan at 554-9096.

ATTENTION JUNIOR PARENTS

It's hard to believe that your junior is only a couple of months away from entering their senior year. The senior year for a student is a special time. One of the most memorable is the Senior All-Nighter party that is held immediately after graduation.

It is time to find a few parents who are willing to coordinate this fun event. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please contact Jackie Naber at 554-5097 or Kim Bruin at 538-9936.



New Life Thrift Store

Enclosed in the March issue of *South Scenes* was a letter from Larry Plaisier, principal, asking for our SCHS parents to volunteer at the New Life Thrift Store.

- For the month of April, if your last name begins with S - T, please call the store at 534-7134 to schedule your shift. In May, those with the last name initial of N - R are asked to volunteer.
- As the weather continues to transition into Spring and you sort through your closets, please remember to box up your clothes (and household items) and bring them to the New Life Thrift Store at 4339 S. Division. Remember, all the money received goes back to SCHS and its feeder schools.
- Onsite pick up at the feeder schools will resume after Spring Break.
- Check out our website at www.newlifethriftstore.org.

Parent Guild Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, April 20
7:00 pm in the Media Center**

Plan to attend this meeting and hear what the Parents Guild has accomplished over the last school year and how they plan to disburse the money they have raised.

This committee has worked hard over the year providing hot lunch on Wednesdays and organizing the Garment Sale.

Show your appreciation to *Oklahoma* cast/crew members

Flowers and fan-o-grams will be sold prior to the show as well as during intermission and delivered to your favorite cast or crew member. Proceeds to support the Choir trip to New York City in April. You can purchase carnations for \$1, roses for \$2, or candy with a note for 25 cents.

Tickets for the show which is March 25 - 27 are \$7 and are available at the SCHS office or at the door.

Garment Sale Friday, March 26 9:00 am—5:00 pm

Come shop for SCHS clothing on Friday, March 26. All items will be discounted. All proceeds from the Garment Sale go to the Parents Guild which helps the classrooms, students and teachers at SCHS.



Drama Camp

The SCHS Drama Department will be holding its Drama Camp June 14—18. During the week students will learn the fundamentals of effective drama in the morning; then put those ideas into practice in rehearsals in the afternoon as they prepare to present a play and other items at a Friday program.

The camp is offered to any students from grades 6 on up. If you have any questions, call Bob De Weerd at 455-3210 or e-mail him at bdeweerd@schs.org.

Registration forms available at feeder schools and on our website www.schs.org/extracurricular/drama beginning in April. Cost is \$80 and includes a camp t-shirt.



From the Athletic Department

Is the game cancelled or will they play?

Check our website each day **after 2:30 pm** for sports updates and cancellations. Any changes to the schedule will be posted on the scrolling message as soon as we know.

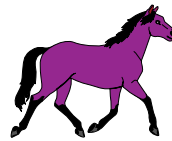
NOTE: The decision to cancel or play is often made in the last 30 minutes of the school day. Please refrain from calling the school before 2:30 pm. Thank You!

Hosting an International Student

Eagle Christian School in South Korea provides a one semester experience in an American high school during their freshman year. They have asked if we can have 4 or 5 students next year. If you would like to consider hosting a student for the fall semester, please contact Mr. Guichelaar at gguichelaar@schs.org or call 455-3210.

Sports Boosters Annual Golf Outing

It's a perfect time of year to be dreaming golf! Please reserve Monday, June 21, at Railside Country Club. Shotgun Scramble with a very special theme this year. Stay tuned! Contact Bob Sack at bdsack@comcast.net for sponsorship and participation information. Or check out SCHS website www.schs.org under Athletics.



Equestrian Team

If you would like to join the SCHS 2010 Equestrian Team, please contact Coaches Sherri or Dot Zoppa at (616) 891-9630. Practice is in August and meets are on August 28 and September 11 and 18. Deadline to sign up is July 30, 2010.

Jr. Equestrian Team: For students presently in grades 6 - 8 at our SCHS feeder schools, South Christian is starting a Junior Equestrian team for interested students that own or have access to a horse and would like to show on a team. There will be one show on May 8 at the Lowell Fairgrounds. If you would like to join or need more information, please call either Sherri or Dot Zoppa at (616) 891-9630. There will be a few practices before the meet. Cost is \$30 and the deadline to sign up is April 15.

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Mar 31 NO HOT LUNCH Parent/Teacher Conferences	1 School dismissed at 12:05	2 School and office closed	3
4 Easter	5 School and office closed	6 School and office closed	7 School and office closed	8 School and office closed	9 School and Office closed	10 ACT
11	12 Order Scrip Chicken Strips Lunch	13 Pizza lunch	14 BBQ lunch Academic Breakfast	15 NO HOT LUNCH Choir tour to New York	16 Pizza lunch Choir tour to New York	17 Choir tour to New York
18 Choir tour to New York	19 Order Scrip Chicken Strips Lunch	20 Pizza lunch	21 Turkey lunch	22 Pasta Pick up Scrip	23 Pizza lunch	24
25	26 Order Scrip Chicken Strips Lunch	27 Pizza lunch	28 BBQ lunch	29 Pasta Pick up Scrip	30 Pizza lunch	May 1 Student Council Stage Show