

February 1, 2010

# The South Viewer

A publication of South View Middle School – Edina, Minnesota

## EventsView

Mon., Feb. 1  
NO SCHOOL, Staff clerical day

Tues., Feb. 2 – A DAY

Fri., Feb. 5  
9<sup>th</sup> grade panoramic photo during  
ConnecTime

Mon., Feb. 8 – A DAY  
Edina Ed Fund Luncheon, St. Pat's  
Church, 11:30am; RSVP at  
[www.edinaedfund.com](http://www.edinaedfund.com)

PCN Forum: Dr. Peter Benson, 7-  
9pm, EHS Perf. Arts Center, tickets  
[www.edinapcn.com](http://www.edinapcn.com)

Tues., Feb. 9  
Spirit of SV Breakfast, 7am, Caf.

Parent Council Mtg., 11am, Media  
Center

Coffee with the Principal, Noon,  
Media Center

Thurs., Feb. 11  
Prospective New Family Tour, 10am

Mon., Feb. 15  
NO SCHOOL, Presidents' Day

Feb. 16-19: SPIRIT WEEK!  
Tues., Feb. 16 – B DAY  
Pajama Day

Wed., Feb. 17  
Twins & Multiples Day

Thurs., Feb. 18  
Wacky Tacky Day  
6<sup>th</sup> grade Choir Concert, 6pm, Audit.  
7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade boys Choir Concert,  
7:30pm, Auditorium

Fri., Feb. 19  
Edina Day  
WINTERFEST, 6:30-8:30PM

For the complete 2009-2010  
Calendar, go to:  
<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/southview/pdfs/SVCalendar200910.pdf>

## Note from the Principal...

What is the type of work we want students to be able to do? How do you know if the work your student is doing is assisting them to think? For several years policy makers, corporate leaders and key commissions have asked that schools raise the intellectual quality of schoolwork for all students; however, there has been little agreement on what they would look like across the country. The Center on Organization and Restructuring of Schools examined the cognitive activity of adults who worked successfully with knowledge in a variety of occupational settings to look for common features in the cognitive work done by adults that might inform schools about the type of work in which students needed to engage. What they found was that memorizing individual tidbits of information was not helpful to students. What was helpful was assisting students to use knowledge rather than reproduce it. They found that deeper understanding of limited topics, rather than superficial acquaintance with many topics and communicating one's understanding or conclusions, was more significant and long lasting. Finally, they found that the products and conversations and performances that students produced in which there was some personal, social or aesthetic value beyond the classroom had the most lasting impression on learning.

At South View, we regularly invite students to ground themselves in the knowledge, concepts and skills that will help them develop an understanding of issues, problems or situations beyond the classroom, which means that students will hear and be exposed to multiple perspectives and ideas. As a staff, we are working to identify the essential standards that are key to deep understanding and learning. We are asking students to work in groups to develop products and discuss ideas that will hopefully push their thinking. We are asking students to think and reflect, which is hard work, especially at this age, but which are key skills for the 21st century.

### **TRAFFIC CONTROL: Another important point**

At this time, we ask that you continue to drop off students on the west side of the building and not in the front or back. Several of you have commented that it is also unsafe in the west parking lot when you are dropping off your student. Right now, we have an issue with safety **wherever** parents are dropping off students. We are working on some better solutions for this, but at this time, we believe this is the best solution. What I noticed recently on the west side is that parents are **driving too fast** in the parking lot, especially after they have dropped off their students. I noticed parents dropping off students while they were in the lanes that exit the parking lot. PLEASE drop off your students in the lane closest to the building. I want to encourage you to have your students take the bus to school as well. This is the best option for reducing traffic and ensuring a safe arrival to school. Thank you for your attention to this.

*-Dr. Beth Russell, South View Principal*

## South View Winterfest 2010!

Friday, February 19

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Feb. 16-19 is Spirit Week! See “dress-up days” on calendar at left.

We need many parents to help! Go to:

[http://southviewparents.com/volunteer\\_winterfest/entry\\_page.php](http://southviewparents.com/volunteer_winterfest/entry_page.php)

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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## **EDINA PCN NATIONAL SPEAKER FORUM**

*Finding & Nourishing Sparks: The Power of Families*  
**Dr. Peter Benson, President & CEO, Search Institute**

Monday, February 8, 7-9 p.m.  
Edina Performing Arts Center (EHS)  
Tickets: [www.edinapcn.com](http://www.edinapcn.com)  
\$15 advance, \$20 door

According to Dr. Peter Benson, Creator of the 40 Developmental Assets...  
*"SPARKS are...the hidden flames in kids that excite them and tap into their true passions. SPARKS come from...the gut. They motivate and inspire. They're authentic passions, talents, assets, skills, and dreams. SPARKS can...be musical, athletic, intellectual, academic, relational: from playing the violin to working with kids or senior citizens. SPARKS can...ignite a lifelong vocation or career, or balance other activities to create an emotionally satisfying, enriched life. SPARKS get...kids going on a positive path, away from the conflicts and negative issues..."*

"Purpose and passion are the hallmarks of a life that matters, a life worth living. They are the source of joy and happiness. All adults learn this basic truth, yet often discover it later in life. The greatest gift parents can give their children is to help them discover and act on this truth now."

## **U.S. Figure Skating: National Skating Month!**

*Braemar Arena...Where Olympic Dreams Begin!*

In honor of National Skating Month, you are invited to ice skate for free at Braemar Arena and receive free help from their award-winning staff of professional skating instructors!

**Date:** Saturday, February 13

**Time:** 1:45-3:15 p.m.

**Place:** Braemar Arena • 7501 Ikola Way, Edina

**Hosted by:** Braemar-City of Lakes Figure Skating Club and Braemar Skating School

**FREE PRIZES, FREE REFRESHMENTS, FREE SKATING...** and free demonstrations by national and state competitors, featuring Alex Johnson, 2009 National Bronze Medalist!

## **We need you at Winterfest!!**

Winterfest is a fun-filled evening for students in the middle of a cold Minnesota winter! There will be games, music, kayak racing in the pool, food, & much more! It is fun for everyone but cannot go on without parent support and supervision! More than 160 volunteers are needed to make the night run smoothly. Please volunteer TODAY at:

[http://southviewparents.com/volunteer\\_winterfest/entry\\_page.php](http://southviewparents.com/volunteer_winterfest/entry_page.php)

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## **Pops Rocks!**

### ***Concert Band to perform 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Pops Concerts***

The Edina High School Concert Band, directed by William A. Webb, is proud to present its 57<sup>th</sup> annual POPS Concert on Feb. 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. in Fick Auditorium. The Concert Band will perform pieces ranging from major works for band to light novelty music and everything in between. Students will sing, dance and collaborate on the overall concert theme. The Jazz Band will also perform.

Tickets are \$13 for reserved, \$10 for adult general admission, and \$6 for students and senior general admission. Tickets may be purchased in any of the following ways: 1) Online at [www.edinabands.com](http://www.edinabands.com). 2) In person at the Edina Performing Arts Center Box Office (EHS Door 3) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26. 3) One hour before each performance at the Fick Auditorium Box Office. Senior passes can be used for the Feb. 19 or 25 performances only. All student general admission tickets are 1/2 price on Thurs., Feb. 25. For more information, call the Pops hotline at (952) 848-3144. Tickets cannot be ordered over the phone.

### ***Pops Silent Auction...***

Along with this year's Pops Concert, the band boosters will sponsor an annual silent auction. Bidding will be open one hour before each performance and during intermission. Each performance will host a different set of items up for bid, with most items being sold at the end of each concert. Selected big ticket items will draw bids at all five concerts and be sold at the closing concert. It is not necessary to be present to win. All proceeds will fund band opportunities beyond traditional curricular offerings, including guest conductors, special events, commissioning musical pieces, etc. Please check out the band website at [www.edinabands.com](http://www.edinabands.com) for more information about the EHS Band program.

## **Help avoid classroom interruptions**

*We are no longer listing students' names in announcements for picking up lunches, musical instruments, retainers, forgotten homework, etc.* 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.

*We also will not call students out of class for items parents drop off, such as treats.* We know some of you like to surprise your student, but it's a disruption to teachers and the rest of the class. Thanks for your cooperation with this.

*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 to be excused from the room. The student then takes your note to the office, and the attendance clerk will check him or her out officially. If a student returns to school, they need to check back in with the office before going to class.