

Seoul American Middle School

December 19, 2008
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Principal: Darrell Mood
736-7337

Acting Superintendent: Doug Kelsey
738-5197

Superintendent: Sam Menniti



"Home of the Tenacious
Bulldogs"

Principal's Corner

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."

~Janice Maeditere

The winter holiday is a season to open our hearts. Often, we reflect on our accomplishments, particularly those that have influence beyond our own lives. I am proud to say that SAMS students have already had an enormous impact in that area this school year. In support of the affective domain, numerous opportunities have been made available for students to embrace the holiday spirit, and demonstrate their altruistic nature by sharing their material goods and by giving themselves.

Our NJHS and student council joined forces to collect items for a charity in Afghanistan. Our students have completed a package of Christmas cards for the service men and women serving in Southwest Asia. Finally, the Marine Corps Reserves "Toys for Tots" barrel in the main office is another testimony to the "caring school community" at SAMS.

Our students also give their labor. We have several well-developed programs to help our own students. The Bulldog Ambassador program was designed to ease the transition of our new students. This program, which has been copied by other middle schools in the Pacific, provides the new student a pair of hosts. The student is escorted to classes, nutrition break, and lunch. They are assisted with lockers, clubs, and other important nuances of SAMS culture. This program enhances the welcoming atmosphere found at SAMS. Another group, the Peer Mediators, solves peer-to-peer problems at the lowest level. Both of these student groups form the foundation of problem solving to assist with the myriad of challenges facing middle school students. The NJHS students have accepted the responsibility of enhancing our seminar peer tutoring program. Our most academically successful students have developed a system to help those who struggle, but desire assistance.

Should we evaluate our students by the size of their hearts, then SAMS students are exceeding in all facets. Happy Holidays!

Respectfully,

Darrell Mood, Principal

Mission Statement

SAMS serves as a caring part of our military community, devoted to the academic and social advancement of all students, inspiring them to become lifelong learners and responsible global citizens.

School Improvement Goals

Goal 1:

All students will increase their ability to gain information from text in all curricular areas.

Goal 2:

All students will improve writing skills across the curriculum.

Important Dates:**This Month:**

December 22-Jan 2 - Winter Recess

Coming Months:

Jan 6- Boys Basketball (During Seminar) @1315

Jan 8- Girls Basketball (During Seminar) @1315

Jan 10- Ski and Snowboarding Club

Jan 12- Boys Basketball (During Seminar) @1315

Jan 13- SAC Meeting

Jan 14- SAMS Drama

Jan 15- 7 Blue Study Trip Co-Ex Aquarium

Jan 16- Study Day, no seminar activities

Jan 19- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day -No school!

Jan 21- Study Day, no seminar activities

Jan 22- 2nd Quarter Ends

Jan 23- Teacher Work Day, No School!

AAFES Lunch

Federally approved lunch: \$2.05

Milk: \$0.60

Additional Items: \$0.75

Visitors

Parents are welcome to visit, but please remember to sign in at the main office before proceeding to the classrooms.

Yearbooks can be purchased in the front office. Prices change starting in January to \$38. Make sure to order yours!

Box Tops

We are still collecting Box Tops for Education. Students can bring in as many Box Tops as they want but it must be in increments of 20. Please place them in a bag marked with the student's name and turn them into the office. Thank you for your support of our school.

**Registrar's Corner**

If you are going PCS anytime throughout the 2008-2009 school year, you must begin out processing your child in the registrar's office two weeks prior to PCSing. If the student is taking high school credit classes and you are departing after 10 December in the first semester (14 May for Second Semester), you need to notify the office thirty days prior. Please bring a copy of your orders.

Also, please update any changes to your personal information including changes in DEROS date (need supporting paperwork), phone numbers and address. Contact Mike Heath (mike.heath@pac.dodea.edu) at 736-5087 for more information.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

We want to know how you feel about SAMS. Parents please take some time and complete the Customer Satisfaction survey. We value your input and finding ways to support student programming, curricular initiatives and more. You can find the survey at

<http://www.dodea.edu/home/index.cfm>

Attention All Parents and Family Members

As the weather gets *c-c-c-colder*, we strongly urge you to dress for the weather as we regularly spend time outside going between buildings for classes as well as Nutrition Break. And speaking of Nutrition Break, *Students, breakfast before you leave home is very important.* Breakfast before school helps you to think better and research has shown you can raise your grades when you have something in your stomach to feed your *Brain.*





SAC Corner

The SAMS SAC is trying to identify those students who live separately from their soldier parent or their parent is stationed at a location that they are away from home many days each month. Please fill this form out and return it to the office or e-mail Dr. Speer (george.speer@pac.dodea.edu) with the name of the parent, branch of service, names of children and the grade they are in at this time. We would like to do some transition programs with those students.

Any Questions please contact
[Dr. George Speer](#)
[Dr. Kathleen Stander](#) or [Mr. Darrell Mood](#)

Student's Name _____ Teacher's Name _____

Deployed parent? If YES...deployed to _____

Timeframe? _____

Soldier parent lives and works away from child's home, except most weekends?

If YES...where? _____

Any CONCERNS you would like me to know about? If Yes _____

Name _____ Phone# _____

6th Grade AVID

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a program designed for students who anticipate going to college, but may not be achieving their potential at the present time. This is a great program and will be offered to 6th grade students this 2nd semester. There is a limited space. AVID would take the place of their encore wheels. SAMS is a demonstration/model school. Call or see the counselors for more information.

Dr. Speer (Blue team) at 736-5082 or Ms. Wilde (White team) at 736-5083.

Scholastic Books

Parents:

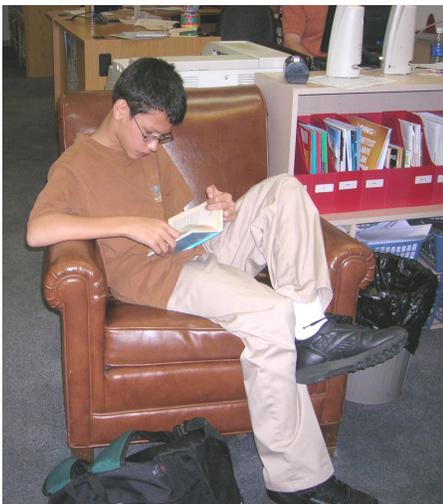
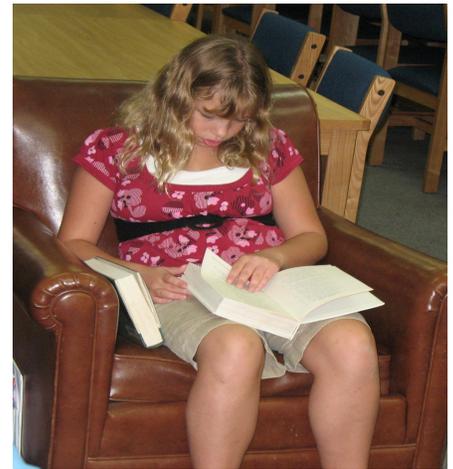
SAMS would like to begin ordering Scholastic Books for students. **In order to do this, we need approximately 6 parents to chair our SAMS PTO Scholastic Book Committee – one parent for each team (6 White, 6 Blue, 7 White, etc....).** Volunteer chairs can then ask others to assist with their team orders.

I have exciting news... this year we will be placing Scholastic Book orders online!

Browse all the great monthly Club selections at low prices and order online - all while helping your student's team earn **FREE books, software, and resources.**

Here's how it works:

1. Use the information that will be provided to you to access the Scholastic Book Clubs Web site (a username and password will be provided to each team).
2. Browse the titles with your student, and place your order securely with your credit or debit card.
3. Your order will come to your SAMS team chair, and your credit card payment will go directly to Scholastic's secure server. There's no need to send money to school.
4. After each team submits the entire team's order to Scholastic, your order will be delivered to our school for your student to take home.



Remember, placing your online credit card order is completely safe and secure.

Ordering online is the **most convenient** way to use Scholastic Book Clubs. You can **order anytime**, right up **until the online order due date**. You can order online from up to five catalogs that will be posted each month.

PS: Ordering online is also a good way for grandparents, family, and friends to order books for your student. Just have them follow the above directions (be sure they use your student's name (first and last) in the ordering process. The books are delivered right to the school and given to the student, and shipping is **FREE!**



What is your favorite Book?

Winner: Moses Williams



If you have a favorite book, you are a winner, too! Students chose their favorite books at SAMS Information Center and submitted an entry for a drawing for \$25.00 and a free book. The entry by sixth-grader Moses Williams was drawn December 16, 2008. He was presented the award by Mrs. Wiley, librarian. Congratulations, Moses. The AAFES Gift Card was donated by SAMS P.T.O.

7th Grade Computer Applications and the School-Home-Community Partnership



Mrs. Cappellano-Sarver's classes learn all about job opportunities through the Commissary. Using the school improvement process in the SQ3R and Cornell Notes, they evaluate and research the Commissary website. Their research discovered employment opportunities pricing, and scholarship programs. Also, the students compiled an electronic shopping list that was tailored for their homes. Students were encouraged to engage their parents to use the list each week to make grocery shopping a little easier!

Thanks to our PTO who provided PX Gift Card prizes;
The following students were winners:

- First Prize - \$100.00 PX gift card (PTO) - Jerrika Sampayan-Taylor
- Second Prize - \$75.00 PX gift card (PTO)- Alison Kamae
- Third Prize - \$25.00 PX gift card (PTO) - Blake Sparks
- Fourth Prize - Commissary Snack Box (Mrs. Sarver) - Sarah Ko

Nurse's Corner

IMPORTANCE OF DRINKING WATER

The brain requires large amounts of water to function and unmotivated students could become motivated simply by getting well-hydrated. Water carries electrolytes such as sodium and potassium throughout the body. These electrolytes are responsible for nerve conduction and muscle contraction. Water helps to maintain a normal body temperature, carries waste material out of the body, and is a primary transporter of nutrients throughout the body.

Students come to the nurse's office often complaining about headaches, lightheadedness, nosebleeds, and dizziness. Middle school students tend to not drink enough water everyday causing dehydration. Our students need to drink enough water everyday to stay healthy. Dehydration means your body does not have as much water and fluids as it should. The signs and symptoms of dehydration include: excessive thirst, fatigue, headaches, dry mouth, little or no urination, muscle weakness, dizziness and lightheadedness.

It is recommended to drink eight 8-ounce glasses ("8x8 rule") of water a day. Encourage your students to drink water and eat breakfast especially before physical education. Your student may carry water bottle throughout the day to maintain hydration.

Influenza (FLU) Symptoms

The influenza has symptoms similar to a cold, but they are usually more severe and come on quite suddenly. Symptoms include a fever (101 to 104 F), headache, muscle aches, pain in the muscles around the eyes, fatigue and weakness, sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, cough and chills. These symptoms may last five to seven days.

If you notice your child exhibiting more than one of these symptoms, you should keep him/her home from school. Please do not send your child to school with a fever. **All students should be fever free, (no Tylenol or Motrin) for at least 24 hours.**

Home care:

1. Take aspirin, acetaminophen (Tylenol), or ibuprofen (Motrin) to relieve headaches, muscle ache, and fever. You may call the pharmacy, 121 General Hospital (737-7984) for correct dosage and choice of the drug for your student.
2. Rest.
3. Drink plenty of liquids. Your body needs extra fluids when you have a fever. Also extra fluids help keep the mucous more liquid which can help prevent bacterial complication such as ear infection and bronchitis. Salt liquids (e.g., chicken soup, bouillon) can help with dizziness.
4. Saline gargle: Add $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt to two cups of warm or cool water. Gargle as needed to relieve sore throat pain.
5. Honey-Lemon cough mixture: Mix two parts honey with one part lemon juice. The honey is soothing to the throat and also acts as an expectorant. The lemon juice helps reduce the viscosity of the phlegm. Take this mixture by the teaspoonful as needed.

Dragon Hill Lodge Advance Band ConcertChristmas Concerts

On Monday, December 15 and Tuesday, December 16, the SAMS Music Department presented their annual concerts of holiday music. Performing groups included Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Bands, String Ensemble and Chorus under the direction of Melinda Fleming and Elise Penn.



Chorus, Band, and Strings Ensemble Pictures Continue



French Class Study Trip



Two cultures exchanged ideas on December 16th as students from Ms. Ratta's French classes visited Lycée Français de Seoul. Student shared letters to Santa written in French with elementary age children. They sang songs, exchanged words, and information about their cultures and different school. Students learned that school is always school, no matter where you go, and they had fun learning from French school students.

Volunteers are Most Welcome to Help in the DAWG HOUSE!



The SAMS DAWG HOUSE is ALWAYS in need of volunteers. The Dawg House requires at least three to four adult volunteers to prep, sell, and set up for the next day. We are open Monday through Thursday. Volunteers are needed from 0830-1030.

If you are interested in helping us on a daily, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis or even if you can be on an "on-call" list...WE NEED YOU! Hope to see you at the Dawg House soon.

Penni Code
SAMS PTO Nutrition Break Coordinator
penni.code@us.army.mil

Disciplinary Rules and Procedures

DoDEA Regulation 2051.1, "Disciplinary Rules and Procedures," April 4, 2008, explains the grounds for student suspension or expulsion and provides a consistent guide for student discipline on campuses, at school activities, and on contracted bus services. Click on the following link for a further information on the Rules and Procedures. http://www.dodea.edu/foia/iod/pdf/2051_1.pdf

School Hours

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Teacher's Hours Monday-Friday 7:40am-3:05pm |  | Office Hours Monday - Friday 7am-4pm |
|--|---|---|

Visit our School Web Site at <http://www.seoul-ms.pac.dodea.edu>
Our Intranet/SharePoint site <http://extranet.sams.pac.dodea.edu/default.aspx>