



SAPSA News

A monthly publication of the St. Anthony Park School Association



October 2009



October Calendar

SAP Elementary Calendar

October 3:
St. Anthony Park Foundation's
Fall Festival (see pg 3 for details)

October 5:
First Grade Family Science Night,
6:30

October 8:
Coffee with the Principal
Office, 9:15 a.m.

October 12:
Site Council meeting, 5 p.m.,
SAPSA meeting, 6:30 p.m.

October 15-16:
MEA teacher meetings

October 19-22:
Sixth graders will study at Wolf
Ridge, an environmental learning
center in northern Minnesota

October 22:
Coffee with the Principal
Office, 9:15 a.m.

October 23:
Conference Prep/No School

October 30:
Fall Festival, Silent Auction &
Scholastic Book Sale

SAPSA President's Column

by Doreen Theverapperuma

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new and returning families of St. Anthony Park Elementary and to share a little information about the St. Anthony Park School Association, known as SAPSA. We are a non profit organization made up of parents, teachers and staff who help to raise funds for a number of school enrichment programs like field trips, artist residencies, environmental learning opportunities and writers' workshops.

SAPSA sponsors many of the SAP Elementary School's traditions and fundraising events like the Fall Festival, Spring Carnival and the Plant Sale. We encourage all parents to attend SAPSA meetings so that you can have input on improving the school experience of your child and all the children at SAP by being involved in SAPSA decision-making.

In addition to monthly SAPSA meetings, there are numerous volunteer opportunities throughout the year that offer you an opportunity to be involved in the school and with SAPSA, see page 3 for more information. You can either volunteer with the students or spend some time volunteering at a specific fundraising event. Any volunteering effort is highly appreciated by the students and staff at our school. Thank you in advance for your involvement in St. Anthony Park Elementary and I look forward to seeing you at the next SAPSA meeting on October 12.

St. Anthony Park Elementary's Fall Festival

Friday, October 30
6 - 9 p.m.

Square Dance with
Adam Granger Band

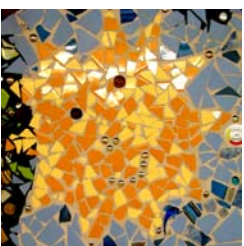
Pizza & Bake Sale

Taco-in-a-Bag

Crafts & Photobooth

Silent Auction

Buy-a-Chance Pumpkin Patch



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Principal's Column

By: Ann Eaton Johnson

Dear St. Anthony Park Families,

Fall has finally arrived! Our students are settled into the rituals and routines of their new classrooms and come to school each day ready to learn. A powerful way to support your child's progress is to ask daily, "What did you learn in school today?"

The first brown envelope went home in mid September. All families should have received a copy of the newly revised District Student Behavior Handbook Rights and Responsibilities. Historically, the book has been used to as a guide for student rights and school responses to negative behavior. The new handbook begins with a focus on positive behavior to ensure a safe and responsive learning environment. It recognizes that relationships are a cornerstone to student learning.

We expect that we will see more cases of the flu this year than in past seasons because of the typical seasonal influenza and the H1N1 influenza, which gained notoriety this year. Influenza of any type can be easily spread from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in Saint Paul Public Schools. Our highest priorities are to keep our schools safe and our students learning during this flu season. But, we need your help to do this. We are working closely with the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education and the Saint Paul/ Ramsey County Department of Public Health to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

Here are a few things you can do to help.

- Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You need to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils. Teach them to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues or to use the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Sym-

ptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

- Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- Do not send children to school if they are sick. Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home. Plan now for childcare if your child gets sick.

I am very pleased to work with a dedicated, school community. I am grateful for our wonderful families who give so much time and effort to support their student and the school. I am proud that SAP has such committed teachers, support staff, secretary, custodians, and nutritional service staff members. We all want the very best for the students at St. Anthony Park Elementary and it shows!

Happy fall!

Contribute

Have you always wanted to see your name in print? Have an event that you'd like to share with the SAP Elementary community? Ideas for stories you'd like to see in SAPSA News? You can submit to the newsletter in one of three ways:

1. Send your materials to sapsanews@gmail.com.
2. Call-651-646-2336, or email me with ideas for stories or news topics that you want covered.
3. Create your materials in a hard-copy format and let me know where to pick it up.

Deadlines for SAPSA News

October 21 for November SAPSA News
November 18 for December SAPSA News
No December deadline & no January SAPSA News
January 20 for February SAPSA News
February 17 for March SAPSA News
March 17 for April SAPSA News
April 21 for May SAPSA News
May 19 for June SAPSA News



Get Involved at SAP

Volunteer

by Misty Havens, SAPSA Volunteer Coordinator

Welcome Back SAP Families! We have a great year ahead of us and we have many opportunities for volunteering. We are very lucky to attend a school with such committed parents and I want to thank those of you who have decided to continue to hold your chair positions for SAPSA Fundraising Events. I would also like to thank those of you who have worked so hard in the past! This year there are still plenty of opportunities to help out around school on a regular basis or to make a difference at a larger fundraising event. All families should have received a volunteer interests form in their child's classroom folders the first week of school. Please fill out the form and we will contact you with opportunities that fit your availability and interests.

I do want to take this moment to emphasize a specific area of need. SAP has unfortunately lost their librarian due to District restructuring. We are fortunate enough to have a part-time teaching assistant willing to work with classes as they come into the library to check in and out books. However, **we are in great need for regular parent volunteers to help shelve books and assist classes while they are in the library.** Please contact me if you are interested in helping out! There are plenty of options and any amount of time is appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at misty@havenswebdesign.com or 651-645-7439.

Upcoming Events-

If you haven't already signed up to volunteer for these events, please call Misty- 651-645-7439!

Scholastic Book Sale- October 30- Volunteers help organize and assist with the sale of the books.

Fall Festival- October 30- Volunteers help with the food sales, activities, pumpkin sale, art activities and more.

Silent Auction- October 30- Assist with the collection and arrangement of items for Silent Auction.

Wrapping Paper Sale- Volunteers distribute items to the students when the order arrives.

Conference Dinner- November 12- Provide on potluck item (homemade or purchased) for the teacher's dinner during conferences.



Support

The school is looking for support for its instrumental music classes. **The Instrumental Music Fund** was created last spring in response to district budget cutbacks. If you are interested in donating, any amount is appreciated. To donate please make out your check to St. Anthony Park Elementary School with "Instrumental Music" on the memo line. Send to: St. Anthony Park Elementary School, 2180 Knapp Street, St. Paul, MN 55108.

You can directly support the enrichment programs at St. Anthony Park Elementary School by sending your checks made out to SAPSA to: SAPSA, 2180 Knapp Street, St. Paul, MN 55108. SAPSA is a 501(c) 3 and your donations are tax deductible.

A number of companies have fundraising opportunities for schools.

Box Tops for Education- Clip tops from General Mills products. Each Box Top is worth \$0.10 and the school can redeem up to \$2,000 each year.

Kemps Nickels for Education- Collect specially marked caps and labels from milk cartons and sour cream. Each item can be redeemed for \$0.05.

Campbell's Soup- Paper labels can be used to purchase items for the school from Campbell's catalogue.

Trash to Cash- Collect used inkjet and laser cartridges (not Epson and not remanufactured) and cell phones and raise money for SAP! Collection box for cartridges and phones is outside the stage door. The rest of the items are collected in the Drop Box in the Library.

Participate

Attend the annual **neighborhood Fall Festival** hosted by St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and the Como Merchants on Saturday, October 3. You can finish out a day of fun with a wine-tasting event, held from 2:00-5:00 and hosted by the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation, Milton Square and The Little Wine Shoppe, that will benefit St. Anthony Park Elementary's Music Program. **Support the school and sample 36 different wines!** A donation of \$25 is suggested for this event.

SAP Lost & Found

Our school's Lost & Found is located in the stairwell area on first floor nearest to the Multi-Purpose Room. The volunteers who organize the SAP Lost & Found donate unclaimed items to charity at the end of each month so remember to check for any lost items frequently.

In addition, there are several things parents can do to prevent loss of personal belongings during the school year:

- 1. Label your child's belongings.** This can include lunchboxes, bags and outwear.
 - 2. Place found items in the Lost & Found Box.** Thank you!
 - 3. Check to see that a child comes home with the articles of clothing and supplies you sent to school each day.** Losing items is not uncommon, but the sooner you know it needs to be claimed, the more success you'll have in claiming it.
 - 4. Coordinate with your alternate caregivers.** If parents have alternate caregivers performing care duties, please coordinate with them on these tips and communicate about what your child brings to school each day.
 - 5. Make a point to check the Lost & Found frequently during the month you have lost an item.** Good times for this can be during drop off or pickup, when volunteering or during special school wide events, like the Fall Festival- October 30!
- If your child has left a personal belonging **on the bus**, please call the school office staff person who will contact the bus company. The main SAP Office telephone number is 651-293-8735.

Science Curious Question for October:

What is R.O.Y. G. B.I.V. ?

(look for the answer in the next SAPSA News)

2009-2010 Site Council Members

Co-chairs:

Teacher: Bill Leslie
William.Leslie@spps.org 293-8735

Parent: Lisa Steinmann
lisa.steinmann@gmail.com 645-0135

Principal: Ann Johnson
ann.johnson@spps.org 293-8735

Teachers:

Kim Hughes (Discovery Club)
kim.hughes@spps.org 293-8735

Jeff Budin
jeffrey.budin@spps.org 293-8735

Justin Terrones
justin.terrones@spps.org 293-8735

Mary Bekele (union rep)
mary.bekele@spps.org 293-8735

Parents:

Steve Marchese
stevenmarchese@gmail.com 917-0040

Pinar Karaca-Mandic
pkmandic@umn.edu 756-8288

Don Hedges
Dwhedg@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us 646-1430

Vicki Stewart
vgstewart@comcast.net 644-6526

Jackie Sticha
jackiesticha@yahoo.com 489-8075

SAPSA Officers 2009-2010

Doreen Theverapperuma, President
chrisht@gmail.com 917-5379

Ann Rutten Commers, Vice President
acommers@msn.com 646-8295

Susan Bougie, Treasurer
susan@humanmindworks.com 489-8675

Andrea Banat, Secretary
imsamiusa@yahoo.com 646-2573

Neza Guevara, Fundraising Chair
nezaonline@gmail.com 647-9118

Misty Havens, Volunteer Coordinator
misty@havenswebdesign.com 645-7439

Two Organizations Provide Strong School Support: Site Council & SAPSA

by Lisa Steinmann, Site Council Parent Co-Chair

On behalf of the St. Anthony Park School Site Council, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all students and their families at the opening of this new school year. Please feel free to contact me or my co-chair, teacher Bill Leslie, with questions or concerns you may have. Parents are always welcome to attend site council meetings.

I was glad to see that at the first site council meeting of the year on September 21, SAPSA president, Doreen Theverapperuma, and vice-president, Ann Rutten Commers, were in attendance. We had discussed last spring the desire to strengthen Site Council ties with SAPSA. Both groups share the goals of making St. Anthony Park Elementary School a success and to make a difference in the education of all children.

Many folks ask, what is the difference between SAPSA and Site Council? I think one reason many of us wonder about this is because we grew up attending schools with a single parent teacher organization; at my school it was called the PTA. Today, many schools have both a PTA and a Site council.

Parent teacher organizations, such as SAPSA, have evolved into organizations that focus primarily on fundraising. SAPSA is actually a non-profit organization, independent of the school district. SAPSA is very successful in its mission to support learning at St. Anthony Park School by recruiting parent volunteers and in fundraising to support the enrichment activities that are the hallmark of the school.

Site Councils, such as the one at SAP Elementary, act as advisory boards to the school district. A Council, composed of parents and teachers, works closely with the principal on issues that affect the school. The St. Paul School District has required schools to have Site Councils since 2000. A comparison of the two groups is below:

Site Council

Membership: Site Council is made up of the principal and parents and teachers, elected by their peers.

Meetings: Site Council meets the second Monday of each month 5--6:30 p.m. in Room 202, childcare available

Role:

- Work to define and support St. Anthony Park Elementary School's vision, mission and goals.
- Study and make recommendations on issues such as staffing, admissions and recruitment, following district guidelines and evaluate and approve the budget
- Each year, evaluate and adopt the school improvement plan (SCIP).
- Work to increase family and community involvement
- Drive school change and develop conditions for academic success for all students.

How to get involved: Attend meetings, join a Site Council committee, contact a Site Council member to express your opinion, run for Site Council in the spring. Contact Lisa Steinmann, lisa.steinmann@gmail.com or Bill Leslie, William.Leslie@spps.org.

SAPSA

Membership: All parents and teachers at the school are members; an executive committee directs meetings.

Meetings: SAPSA meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30—8 p.m. in the library, childcare available.

Role: To support, encourage, and enhance the learning at St. Anthony Park School by encouraging parent involvement and through fundraising for enrichment activities.

Monthly fundraising events, such as

Fall Festival	Spring Carnival
Read-a-Thon	Wrapping Paper Sale

Support enrichment activities, such as

Books for the library	Field trips
School supplies	Environmental learning
Artists-in-Residence	Destination Imagination

How to get involved: Attend meetings, offer to join a committee, volunteer! Contact Volunteer Coordinator Misty Havens, misty@havenswebdesign.com and see page 3 for more ideas.

School News

Vocal Music

by Brad Ollmann

Welcome back to school! I enjoyed my third consecutive summer in Guatemala, spending seven weeks with the same host family. I studied Spanish six hours a day and Salsa/Merengue/Bachata one hour daily. I am back refreshed and eager to help your child develop musically. I purposely have held back on sending dates of programs because dates, times, and locations have not been set. I have, however, begun planning. Many traditions will be carried over from previous years and a new tradition will begin. As in previous years, kindergarteners will perform in a Make-A-Memory program in December. First and second graders will sing at the Memorial Day program. This year, fifth and sixth graders will perform together in March. A new tradition is the Martin Luther King Jr. program, which will feature the third and fourth graders singing.

As far as curriculum, kindergarteners and first graders will be taught using a curriculum developed by John Feierabend. This will be year two for First graders. I am going to have an open house for Grade K-1 parents in October to see this curriculum in action. Second graders begin reading and writing music, and this year they begin learning how to play the xylophones. Grade 3 students will begin to sing more sophisticated songs that allow them to gain an understanding of music in the context of history and culture. Fourth graders will receive their recorders at the end of the month. Fifth and Sixth graders are invited to bring in a piece that they find meaningful. We will study the piece as a class and look at the historical and cultural significance. I am hoping to show these students how to take any song, be it pop, R&B, hip-hop, and be able to articulate the musical happenings within that piece. For example, how does the music bring out the text? What is the form of the piece? etc.

As always, I am eager to hear your thoughts about music class. I feel like all of my classes are off to a great start and want to continue that momentum so that all students have an affirming experience in music class.

From the Art Room

by Courtney Oleen

Welcome everyone to the new school year. Time again to start planning for the Minneapolis Art Institute Art Adventure! The Art Adventure Program introduces K-6 students to works of art from a variety of cultures. Trained school volunteers visit classrooms with posters of art relating to a common theme, such as animals, celebrations, or relationships.

This year we again have the month of November reserved for us and the set we will be studying is People and their Environments. I'm hoping to enlist new volunteers for this very fun project.

October 2009 Science News

by Mr. Schrankler

Welcome back to SAP Science in 2009-2010. There are many exciting science opportunities both inside and outside the Science Lab this year. Students in grades 1-3 will be having their Family Science Nights this Fall:

Grade 1 Monday October 5th, 6:30-7:45

Grade 2 Monday November 16th, 6:30-7:45

Grade 3 Monday December 7th, 6:30-7:45

The students in Grade 3-6 will participate in the Science Fair on March 22nd, 2010.

Students will be participating in a number of science related field trips throughout the year. These opportunities are made possible by a district Engineering Initiative. Students in Grades 2,4 and 6 will also have a new Engineering unit during the year. Look for details regarding all of these experiences in the coming months.

As always, please feel free to stop by the lab and check out what is going on. Keep Investigating!

Grade 4

by Forrest Ahrens

In fourth grade the students have been doing a program called Steps to Respect. We went on our first field trip September 22 to Valley Branch Nature Center. Some of the activities we participated in at Valley Branch were pond and stream, radio tracking, orienteering, marsh studies, digital photography, and archeology. It was a great day!

SAPSA

Proposed 2009-2010 Budget

SAPSA will vote on this proposed budget at the next meeting on October 12, 6:30 p.m. in the Library. All parents of SAP Elementary students are members of SAPSA and are encouraged to attend the meetings. Childcare is available.

INFLOWS

Direct Support

Direct Contributions	\$ 4,000
Corporate Match	\$ 500
Grants / Directed Giving	\$ 7,000
Total Direct Support	\$ 11,500

Fundraisers

Box Tops / Milk Caps	\$ 400
Spring Carnival	\$ 3,400
Fall Festival	\$ 6,000
Gift Wrap	\$ 9,000
Plant Sales	\$ 2,500
SAP Read-a-thon	\$ 10,000
T-Shirts	\$ 1,500
Other / Misc / Calendar Sales - WR	\$ 2,000
Total Fundraising	\$ 34,800

Interest Income	\$ 450
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$ 46,750

OUTFLOWS

Administration

General Administration	\$ 200
Postage & Supplies	\$ 100
Bank Charges	\$ 50
Printing: Calendar /Directory /Newsletter	\$ 1,500
Total Administration	\$ 1,850

General Expenses

Appreciation	\$ 400
Area Learning Center Extended Day (ALC)	\$ 500
Hospitality	\$ 700
Math Specialist	\$ 480
Physical Education	\$ 2,100
Science	\$ 2,760

OUTFLOWS- General Expenses- Continued

Library/Donate-a-Book	\$ 1,500
Vocal Music	\$ 1,800
Technology	\$ 1,800
Classroom Grants & Fieldtrips (non-itemized teacher allotments)	\$ 12,108
Angel Fund	\$ 1,000
Total General Expenses	\$ 25,148

Enrichment

Art Enrichment	\$ 1,800
Art Enrichment, MIA busing grades K-6	\$ 800
Artists-in-Residence	\$ 15,000
Destination Imagination, general	\$ 1,000
Destination Imagination, globals	\$ 1,500
Literary Mag / Young Writers	\$ 600
Wolf Tracks / Student Council	\$ 200
Young Authors Conference	\$ 700
Wordmasters Competition	\$ 500
St. Anthony Park Reads (aka Book-of-the-Month)	\$ 800
Other, incl. Mr. Hao hip hop residency grades 4-6	\$ 1,000
Total Enrichment	\$ 23,900

Environmental Learning

Valley Branch (busing grade 4)	\$ 300
Camp St. Croix	\$ 1,500
Wolf Ridge	\$ 4,000
Total Environmental Learning	\$ 5,800

Extra-curricular

Assemblies	\$ 1,000
Yearbook	\$ 1,000
School Patrols	\$ 400
Total Extra-curricular	\$ 2,400

Other / Misc

TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$ 59,598
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SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ (12,848)
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SAPSA Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2009, 6:30-7:45

Attendees:

Holly and Eric Samshal, Dana Galsor, Bob Muellner, Becky Lien, Anne Aarness, Deena Anders, Sonja Batalden, Frances Homans, Vicki Stewart, Rita Goodrich, Janet Lawson, Misty Havens, Doreen Theverapperuma, Beth Breidel, Andrea Banat, Julie Fortier

I. Call to order

- a. Explanation of SAPSA to parents
- b. Meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month during the school year with the exception of December, when there is no meeting.
- c. Next SAPSA meeting is Monday, October 12.
- d. The SAPSA Executive Board meets 15 minutes prior to start of the monthly SAPSA meeting if anyone wants to come and talk about anything.

II. President Report-Doreen Theverapperuma

- a. Introduction of 2009-2010 SAPSA Executive Board Members
Vice President - Ann Commers,
Treasurer- Susan Bougie,
Secretary- Andrea Banat,
Fundraising Chair- Neza Guevara,
Volunteer Chair- Misty Havens
- b. Introduction of Site Council Leaders
Co-Chairs Bill Leslie, SAP Math Teach and Lisa Steinmann, Parent Representative
- c. Grant/Fund request procedure on behalf of SAPSA
 - i. In the future, if parent or staff wants to submit a grant on behalf of SAPSA, they must get consent and signatures from the President, Doreen Theverapperuma and Treasurer, Susan Bougie, of SAPSA.
- d. Future meeting Topics Handout passed out to attendees.

III. Principal's Report-Ms. Ann Johnson

- a. Student body 477 children
- b. H1N1
 - i. Just talking about influenza generally since H1N1 is not different from other flus, just easier to catch as it is not a common strain. Teach kids more hand washing, not so much touching, cough into arms not hands, no kissing. SAPSA donated hand sanitizer.
 - ii. Sick kids are sent home immediately and are to stay home as long as symptoms persist. Must be 24 hours with no fever and no medication before returning to school. The 7 day guideline pertains to preschoolers, not elementary.
 - iii. On overnight field trips sick kids must go home.
- c. MCA
 - i. 87% scored proficient in reading, 85% scored proficient in math, 77% scored proficient in science (top 3 in St. Paul), 95.2% made adequate yearly progress.

IV. Fundraising Report-Neza Guevara

- a. Wrapping Paper Sale- Current fund raiser, brings a lot of money to school, last year brought in around \$10,000. The deadline is October 2nd. Sonja Batalden mentioned that orders are done online this year and magazines are included.
- b. Fall Festival-Volunteers are needed. Date for festival is October 30. Kids can wear costumes but no weapons please.
- c. Silent Auction- Donations and time greatly needed. Vicki Stewart is Silent Auction Chair.
- d. Also a note that Speedy Market will not be able to do the receipt fund raiser this year in accordance with their vendors.
- e. Community Foundation is holding a Fall Festival on October 3 and proceeds are going to SAP Music Department.
- f. Beth Breidel spoke on Wolf Ridge-Every 6th grader can go. They hold their own fund raiser of a calendar sale with goes from October 2nd-12th.
- g. Frances Homans to be contacted for anything that needs to go on school calendar

V. Treasurer's Report-Susan Bougie

- a. 2009-2010 budget overview (tabled for 1 month and then will be voted on) See page 7 for proposed budget.
 - i. Executive committee met and discussed budget for school year
 - ii. Teacher allocations stayed the same for the most part except the combining of the band/orchestra
- b. Requests for new line items
 - i. MIA-\$800 so all kids can go
 - ii. Destination Imagination global fund-Beth Breidel
- c. Set up committee for clearing up funding concerns. Explanation of SAPSA's role in funding. Funding from the district has been up and down throughout the years. SAPSA's funding is determined on how much the district will fund. Cannot really give amount until number of kids going is determined. Rita Goodrich gave idea of time frame of policy to re-evaluate, but it holds until then.

VI. Volunteer Requests

- a. Lisa Steinmann- Needs artsy people to get involved with Artist-in-Residency program. Wants the program to continue and wants to train someone new in.
- b. Misty Havens- BBQ this Thursday needs volunteers and you can still eat with your children. Any volunteering is helpful from 1 hour a week or a month. There is no librarian this year, help on days your child's class goes to the school library.
- c. Beth Breidel- Does the Read-A-Thon and would love a co-chair. Remember that 10% of proceeds go to Angel fund.

Adjourned