



Superintendent's Message:

In May of 2023, we embarked on a transformative journey to redefine our Vision Statement, Mission Statement and establish a strategic plan to guide our academic and financial priorities moving forward. Over three days, we engaged in a collaborative workshop involving community members, our administration team, and staff to shape the future of our school district.

A Strategic Plan serves as a living document, setting clear and measurable goals that form the foundation of our operations. Now firmly in place, our Strategic Plan provides a framework that informs all our future planning endeavors. From the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) to budget allocation, staffing decisions, curriculum development, and more, the Strategic Plan is our compass. Even as the Board membership or school leadership may evolve, this plan will remain a steadfast guidepost. While adjustments may be made over time, the Strategic Plan ensures a consistent and robust structure throughout any changes.

For more on our strategic plan check out our new website. <https://www.sesk12.org/district/strategic-plan/> If you haven't gone to the new website this year I would encourage you to do so. It has a lot of valuable information about our school.

- Cheryl Griffiths, Superintendent

Mrs. Strand's Kindergarten:



Each student made an Apple Zone Buddy. Each hand of the apple is a different Zone of Regulation color. The kids all picked the tools they can use when they feel stuck in that zone color to help them move out of it.



1st Grade field trip to Pinecrest for the day.



After Mrs. Butterfield's **3rd Grade** Class went to the Friendship Conference last month, Mrs. O'Brien, with the class, made a friendship quilt in Art. The kids wrote about friendship and illustrated it.

Student of the Month, October:



We are pleased to announce our October Student of the Month, Camryn Smith. Camryn is the daughter of Alyssa and Steven Smith. Camryn has been a student at Sonora Elementary since kindergarten. She is a 4.0 student, a musician, an athlete and an overall wonderful student.

She plays the piano, is a saxophonist, and a vocalist. As an athlete, she

plays volleyball for Sonora El, just taking up the sport in 6th grade, and also has played for a travel volleyball team for three years. With her achievements, she feels the secret to her success is to find joy in everything, which can be found if you look for it. She is off to Sonora High next year and looks forward to taking advanced classes. Her teachers describe her as kind, diligent, a true leader, and has a strong character. Great job, Camryn.

7th Grade Hands-On Learning Experiences:

Nothing compares to the benefit of learning from hands-on experiences with your peers. A couple of recent examples of this were learning experiences for our students in 7th grade. First was a lab to represent how atoms are put together to make molecules. Students created molecules to represent water, carbon dioxide, ammonia, methanol, and a sodium chloride using toothpicks and gum drops.



The students also engineered catapults and had a medieval castle shooting competition out on the playground. Winners were Joe Brown, Caleb Cicero and Asher Berg. We had been learning how important castles were in protecting the people during feudal times and the students acted as Germanic Tribes and tried to overtake the castles with their catapults. This was our wrap up to our lesson on feudalism.

Inclement Weather Days:

On days of freezing temperatures or snow, Sonora Elementary will assess the roads and the campus in the early morning hours and determine if there will be a delay or a full school closure no later than 6:00 am. If a delay or closure occurs, this information will be submitted to **mymotherlode.com**, under their 'School Delays' tab. In addition, a message will be sent out to all parents by **phone and text at 6:30 am** on the day of the delay/closure and only if there is a delay/closure.



Red Ribbon Week/Healthy Choices:

We kicked off our focus of "Healthy Choices" with a parent/guardian informational evening on October 17th, here at SES, with keynote speakers Dr. Kim Freeman and Program Specialist, Katie Johnson, as well as Rob Egger from TCSOS. Topics included ways to assist children in establishing healthy habits, address stress, and provide support to parents relative to drug awareness and education. Six community resource agencies were present to provide information to parents, including TUPE, AWARE, Yes Partnership, County Public Health, County Behavioral Health, and Red Feather Clinic. This was a very informative evening; keep an eye out for future parent/guardian events! Continuing on in our celebration of **Red Ribbon Week**, on Tuesday, October 24th, our entire 7th grade attended the annual "Drugstore Project," a day-long drug prevention program that is designed to educate students about the dangers of drug use. On Wednesday, October 25th, Dr. Freeman and Ms. Johnson returned to SES and presented on healthy choices and positive habits at assemblies for our 1st - 8th graders. We wrapped the week with County resource agencies setting up resource booths at lunch on Friday, October 27th.

- Kristie Quinn, Associate Principal

SES Cross Country Team:

Our long-distance runners in 6th through 8th grade wrapped up another successful season in County competition. Each student-athlete pushed themselves, battling through warm, and sometimes hot, afternoons to build cardio and physical strength to compete at a high level in races. Congratulations to the following runners who placed in their grade level/gender category at the County Finals:



Caroline Hodson, 6th Grade, 2nd Place, Girls
Jemma Smith, 6th Grade, 3rd Place Girls
Trace Richards, 6th Grade, 1st Place Boys
-(Trace also won the Tri-County Frogtown Race)
Audryna Vann, 7th Grade, 2nd Place Girls
Asher Berg, 7th Grade, 2nd Place Boys
Zoe Kjaer, 8th Grade, 2nd Place Girls
Yzaac Santiago, 8th Grade, 2nd Place Boys

K-5 Science Adoption:

Sonora Elementary is very excited to announce that we have selected Discovery Education for our K-5 science curriculum adoption, with a supplement of Mystery Science. We are confident Discovery Education, with Mystery Science, will meet the rigor of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Discovery provides a platform where students are motivated to ask important questions, plan investigations, use evidence-based reasoning to support their claims and solve problems.

8th Grade Science Labs:

Mrs. Gray's 8th Grade Science classes recently studied energy, forces and collisions by developing and engineering their own rollercoaster.



Online Safety Tips for Parents:

As parents and guardians, your role in ensuring your children's safety and appropriate use of technology is vital. Here are some essential online safety tips to help you, and your children, work through their digital access:

1. *Communication* - Foster open and honest conversations with your children about their online activities.
2. *Set Boundaries* - Establish clear rules/boundaries for screen time and social media use.
3. *Privacy Settings* - Familiarize yourself with privacy settings on social platforms to control who can interact with your child.
4. *Monitor Activity* - Regularly check your child's online activity and be aware of their online friends/connections.
5. *Cyberbullying Awareness* - Educate your child about cyberbullying and encourage them to report any incident.

-Turner, Monique. *Empowering Parents: Online Safety Tips and Resources*

Congratulations to our 7th Grade Girls Basketball team for winning the Bill Vonich Postseason Tournament at Curtis Creek in dominant fashion. These ladies are incredible to watch and so talented at basketball.



Calendar:

- 11.29 4th Grade Stanislaus Forest Presentation @ SES
- 6th Grade to SRT Cinderella, 11:25 am
- 11.30 6th-8th Grade Wrestling @ Summerville EI, 4:00 pm
- 12.1 SSS/SES Skate Night @ High Country Sports, 6:00 pm
- 12.4-12.8 Parent Conference Week, Minimum Days All Week
- Book Fair @ SES Library, All Week
- 12.4 TCSOS Dinner with a Scientist
- 12.12 6th-8th Grade Wrestling HOME v. Curtis Creek, 4:00 pm
- 12.13 Board Meeting, SES Library, 6:00 pm
- 12.14 1st Grade Christmas Performance, Multi-Purpose, 6:00 pm
- 12.16 6th-8th Grade Wrestling, County Meet, 9:00 am
- 12.18 6th-8th Boys Basketball, Practice Begins
- 12.19 G.A.T.E. to Motherlode Escape Rooms, 1:00 pm
- 12.22 Minimum Day
- 12.23-1.5 Winter Break, Return January 8th, 2024