

Southside High- Center for International Studies

PTSA NEWS

Volume 2 Issue 2

NOVEMBER 2004

PTSA MONDAY, NOV 22

5:30 (ESL) 6:00 (GENERAL)
Update on the School Report Card and AYP (adequate yearly progress). Art exhibit.

Reunion de Padres y Representantes Hispanohablantes Lunes, 22 de Noviembre

5:30 p.m. Lecture Room

"Spanish students have begun a new publication at Southside, "El Platillo latino". You can pick up a copy in the main office or read it online. Go to the "student" section of the Southside web site, click on student publications and click on "El Platillo latino." Students in levels 3, 4, and 5 as well as native speakers are invited to contribute to the next publication. Contact Mrs. Sargent for more information."

The **IB Parents Council** will meet in the Cafeteria at 6:00 before the PTSA meeting on November 22. Ms. Carrero will have several of the teachers present to explain the requirements for the IB Diploma. This is especially important for pre-IB parents, so they can learn what will be expected of their students, and they will understand their students curricula. This will be your opportunity to ask questions and learn how to support your students.

Principal's Message

Many of you have probably read the information in the Greenville News concerning Greenville County Schools that have met all objectives for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). I'm sure that many of you have wondered just exactly what that means, how does AYP effect your child's education and how does the faculty intend to address issues concerning AYP at Southside. As the principal, I am very concerned that in 2005-06 Southside be listed as one of the district high schools that meet all objectives and qualify for adequate yearly progress.

What is AYP?

Measurement of Adequate Yearly progress is a result of the federal **No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act**. Each state develops their criteria for AYP. In South Carolina it is a measurement of the number of students

who score proficient or advanced on the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Exit Exam and the number of seniors who graduate within four years of their date of entry into high school. All high schools in the state administer the HSAP in October and April. The April test is used to measure for AYP.

In April all students who are in their fourth semester of high school are tested. Most of the time that means that the student is in the tenth grade, however some students who were retained will be classified as ninth graders. A subcategory is any group of 40 or more students in the school who have common characteristics.

The scores for HSAP are broken down into below basic, basic proficient and advanced. Students who make a score of basic or above pass the HSAP test. However, in order to meet objectives AYP, at least 33% of the students in each subcategory of the school have to score proficient or advanced

Dates to Remember

Dec 2	Progress Reports
Dec 22-32	Winter Break
Jan 10-13	Semester Exams
Jan 20	Report Cards
Jan 17	MLK Holiday
Jan 29	Ms. Southside
Feb 21	Holiday
Feb 28	PTSA Mtg

in English Language Arts (ELA) and at least 30% of the students in each subcategory of the school have to score proficient or advanced in mathematics. Along with the measurement of the number of students who score proficient or advanced, a second objective is that at least 95% of the students in each subcategory must be tested. The last objective that is measured for AYP is the graduation rate for the senior

Visit

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Stay informed!!

Donnetta Ham Martin Scholarship Initiative

Please save this date: Dec. 19, 2004, 2:00 p.m. In memory of Mrs. Donnetta Martin, the Southside community is inviting all those who knew her and were influenced by her loving example of dedication and community service to our first formal event to endow the scholarship in her memory. We welcome all

alumni, colleagues, church and community members to join us as we share our thoughts on how Mrs. Martin inspired those around her to make the world a better place. This will be a ticketed event which will feature opportunities to share remembrances, anecdotes, and pictures. Our aim is to publish a booklet of tributes that show how

our community was touched by Mrs. Martin and to draw inspiration from her life of faith so that her light will continue to shine through those whose lives she touched. An early dinner will be served so that those involved in that evening's Cotillion will be able to join us. Please contact Christine Cadorniga or Helene Robinson for more information.

International Festival This year's International Festival will be held on Thursday, February 3, 2005. Students will once again prepare projects and performances. We hope that all of our families will make every effort to support this celebration of our wonderful cultural diversity at Southside. Doors will open to the public at 6:00. As in the past, admission will be \$1.00 per person and one international dish per family. Please mark your calendar now.

VOLUNTEER... There are many ways you can be involved with activities at SHS you can sign up in the office or at the next PTSA meeting:

- ◆ Hospitality ◆ School Store
- ◆ After prom ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ School improvement committee

The school website has a (Make a Suggestion) available on the parent page. Your constructive feedback, suggestions and comments are welcome.

Category	Number Enrolled	% Tested	Adjusted % Prof. & Ad	Met Performance Objective	Met % Tested Objective
English Language Arts					
All Students	234	94	47.4	Yes	No
White	45	93.3	68.3	Yes	No
African-American	138	97.1	43.8	Yes	Yes
Hispanic	40	82.5	23.3	No	No
Subsidized Meals	97	91.8	35.4	Yes	No
Mathematics					
All Students	234	93.6	43.3	Yes	No
White	45	93.3	70.7	Yes	No
African American	138	96.4	35.7	Yes	Yes
Hispanic	40	82.5	23.3	No	No
Subsidized Meals	97	90.7	30.9	Yes	No
Graduation Rate for All	62.5			Yes	

What does the chart above mean?

Baseline Data: In 2004 Southside High School met 11 objectives and did not meet 10 objectives. Southside did not meet 9 objectives because an insufficient number of students were tested. Column 1 indicates the categories of students (to qualify as a category at there must be at least 40 students). Column 2 is the actual number of students who tested in each category. Column 3 indicates the percentage of students who were tested in each subcategory. Column 4 is the percentage of students in each category who scored proficient or advanced on the HSAP Exit Exam.

Columns 5 and 6 tell us whether or not we met the 21 objectives that we needed to meet in order to make AYP. Column 5 indicates whether or not enough students scored proficient or advanced on the two sections of the test. A sufficient number of students passed HSAP in ELA and in math in all subcategories except Hispanic students.

Column 6 indicates whether or not enough students were tested in that category. Two subcategories meet the objective to test at least 95% of the students, 97.1 African American took the English Language Arts exam and 96.4 took the math exam. Simply stated, we did not have enough students who took the exit exam in the spring of 2004.

What are the implications for students at Southside?

Several other issues surface when we examine the chart. White students scored higher than Hispanic, African American students and students who receive subsidized meals by a large margin in both English and Math. The implication is that the faculty and staff at Southside must examine the achievement gap in order to know if deficits exit upon students' entry into high school. By offering a rich curriculum to all students we can improve students' ability to overcome deficits. Instructional delivery has to be examined for all students. Ensuring that all students are taught the standards that are measured on the test before they sit for the exam is critical.

We have already put into place some interventions to help us to meet all AYP objectives for 2005-06. We have examined the standards for each subject area. All teachers have been directed to teach the South Carolina standards to all students. We are addressing student deficits by identifying those who will need to build reading and math skills before they take the test.

The data also has an implication for parents. You can help by knowing testing dates so that you can ensure that your student is present on the days of testing and that he/she gets proper rest and nutrition before taking the exam. It is important that we all emphasize the importance of taking and passing the HSAP Exit Exam on the first attempt. By working together we can create a community of student winners.

For more information and to view the complete data chart please visit the state web site at www.myschools.com.

If you are a Booster Club President please contact Mr. Felix Blassengale at fbllassengale@charter.net. All Booster Club Presidents are invited to be a member of the PTSA Board. We need the support and participation from you and your organiza-

JOIN PTSA TODAY There is still time to join!!!!

WAYS TO HELP:

The **Publix cards** are here! Please support the PTSA by picking up your Publix cards. The cards are available in the office. Please submit your card to the cashier at the beginning of your transaction.

Bi-Lo A+ for schools, sign up on line through Bi lo website www.bi-lo.com or call the toll free, automated phone line 800-950-BILO (2456). Our school number is 2700.

Shopping at Office Depot put 5% in our account to purchase supplies. When shopping for school and office supplies please ask for your 5% is awarded to Southside.

We need your empty inkjet, laser cartridges and old cell phone to recycle. Our recycle box will be available in the media center and office area for drop off. A complete list of qualified cartridges will be listed online.

The PTSA would like to thank everyone for their support and participation! The faculty, student body, parents, community, and business partners of Southside High School has started the year 2004 – 2005 in an optimistic direction. Currently our PTSA membership is approximately 80%. We are striving for 100%. It is not too late to join.

Remember: Attend 1 Meeting, Volunteer 1 Hour, Attend 1 School Event.

Register BI-Lo Bonus Card for contributions to SHS

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Name on Card: _____

Bonus Card

: _____

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**



YEARBOOK PHOTO CONTEST. PRIZES. NOV. 19 DEADLINE. SEE MRS. SKARDON FOR INFO.

Southside High School Robotics Team Receives \$9,000 Lemelson-MIT Grant

Blazing fires and intense heat, clouds of choking smoke, hefty and bulky equipment all combine to make the life-saving tasks of firefighters risky and burdensome. While it's never going to be easy, Southside High School's Engineering/Robotics Team is working on an invention which should help.

Southside is one of only 13 schools nationwide to participate in this year's Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam program. The program provides a unique opportunity for students to create an invention. The Engineering/Robotics Team received

\$9,000 to invent and build the "FireBot", a motorized stair-climber that would be able to carry fire fighting equipment, such as air tanks, up and rescued victims down the stairways in burning buildings. The FireBot could be operated manually or remotely from outside the building. According to firefighters, a device such as this can significantly reduce firefighter stress and overexertion. Surprisingly, these are the leading causes of on-the-job firefighter deaths.

The Robotics team of Southside has a

large group participation of students from ninth to twelfth grades. Tom Rogers, the physics and computer science teacher of Southside, is the coordinator of the team. Along with him are several mentors from the school, the Gantt Fire Department, the General Electric Company, Ahold U.S.A., the Center for Research in Wireless Communication from Clemson University, the Southside Improvement Committee and several parents from the community. The students serve different groups either in the design aspect of the project or for support in research and administration.

"Peer tutors are available for Spanish every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 to 4:00 in room 215. Some tutors can also continue in the library during GE tutoring. Parents should contact Mrs. Sargent or their child's Spanish teacher if they want him/her to receive tutoring. IF an AM tutoring session needs to be set up, that can be arranged for one of the GE mini-lab locations."

HELP PROVIDE HOLIDAY CHEER FOR SHS STAFF

THIS IS ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP AND SAY THANK YOU TO THE STAFF.

CONTACT ANY PTSA OFFICER OR HARRIETT CUNNINGHAM (299-0079) ABOUT GIFT CONTRIBUTION BY DEC. 8.

SCHOOL WIDE TUTORING SPONSORED BY GE

Tuesday and Thursday SHS Media Center 4:00—6:00

All students are encouraged to participate. Assistance in:
Reading Science Math

SOUTHSIDE HIGH- CENTER FOR
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Greenville, SC 29605

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Fax: 299-8395

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SUPPORT ATHLETICS

VARSIY BASKETBALL

Nov. 30	Carolina	H
Dec. 2	Mauldin	A
07	Hillcrest	H
09	Chapman	A
10	Mauldin	H
14	Hillcrest	A
17	Carolina	H
Jan. 3	Chapman	H
07	Greenville	A
14	W. Hampton	A
18	JL Mann	H
21	Blue Ridge	H
25	TRHS	A
Jan 28	Greenville	H
Feb. 1	W. Hampton	H
4	JL Mann	A
8	Blue Ridge	A

11 TRHS H

J.V. BASKETBALL

Dec. 2	Carolina	A
5	Mauldin	A
09	Hillcrest	A
12	Mauldin	H
15	Chapman	H
16	Hillcrest	H
18	Carolina	H
Jan. 6	Chapman	A
Jan. 10	Greenville	A
16	W. Hampton	A
20	JL Mann	H
23	Eastside	H
27	TRHS	A
30	Greenville	H
Feb. 3	W. Hampton	H
6	JL Mann	A

10 Eastside A

13 TRHS H

WRESTLING

Nov. 29	Southside Ch	A
Dec. 4	Wade Hamp. Tourn.	
8	TRHS	H
13	Southside Ch	H
15	Blue Ridge/CC	H
Jan 5	Greer	A
10	96/Greenwood	A
14-15	All County	
19	Greenville	A
22	Greer Tourn.	
26	JL Mann	A
31	W. Hampton	A

**Athletic Booster Club
Dec. 13 & Jan. 10**