



Torch Dog Newsletter

May 21



Graduation Photo Opportunity

Along with the itslearning graduation videos, we will also have 3 signs out in the front of Southside from late on May 25th through late on May 28th. You can stop by and take a picture of your Torch Dog with the signs. The signs will be near the half circle. Reminder to practice social distancing while you are there.

How to access your child's Quarter 4th Growth Model Report Card

Dear BCSC Parents/Guardians,

It is time for this school year to come to a close. We want to thank you and make sure you are able to know about your child's educational growth during the fourth quarter of the school year. In order for you to access this information about your child through the Growth Model Report Card, use the BCSC PowerSchool Parent/Student portal. The portal is located on the BCSC website (www.bcscschools.org), in the PowerSchool program. Once logged on, please press the Report Cards tab on the navigation menu. If you have not already created a PowerSchool ParentPortal Single Sign On account, you can use your child's student access ID and password to log directly into ParentPortal; which is available from your teacher via email. You will not be able to view your child's Growth Model Report Card using the cell phone app, but can access through an internet browser. If you have questions regarding the use of PowerSchool Parent/Student portal, please contact the IT hotline at 812-418-0252 (until May 29). If you have questions regarding your child's grade(s), please contact your teacher. THANK YOU for your continued support.

VIDEO LINK - [How to Access Report Card for Families](#)

May 15

Southside News has essential information for pickup/dropoff, food pantry, etc.

<https://www.smores.com/g0sv1>

Virtual Chicago Trip



We have been creating a virtual trip to Chicago to go on Wednesday and Thursday next week. In order to make us feel more connected on this journey, we have added a very important item to the bags of items your students left at school before spring break. It would be great if you can be in line to pick up your student's items on Monday, so they have our gift for

the trip.

Graduation



Another important event for our 6th graders is also happening next week on Thursday afternoon. We have been putting together a special video to congratulate our 6th graders accomplishments. It has been an unusual end of our year, but we just can't let it end without some kind of recognition.

May 8

Mr. Backmeyer shared in his newsletter how students will pick up the belongings that are in their desks.

Please return these items when you pick up your belongings:

Southside locks (if these are currently at home)

Reading and Social Studies textbooks (marked with first and last names)

Southside library books

Kids Fun Run artwork- [document](#)

May 1

Northside Middle School Open House and Tour

https://youtu.be/NwwW34kJc_4

Central Middle School Orientation

Link: <https://www.smores.com/0fm5c>

Southside Parade Route can be found at:

[Newsletter link](#)

April 23

Middle School Cheerleading Tryouts

Typically, Central and Northside have cheerleading tryouts during the spring. With the social distancing restrictions around the coronavirus pandemic, we considered having virtual tryouts to create our cheerleading teams. However even if the middle schools had tryouts, no sports teams are allowed to practice or have summer camp yet. Practice is important for all sports, especially for safety reasons. Therefore middle school cheerleading tryouts will be postponed until we have a better understanding about the start of school year and all fall sports.

April 16

The teaching TEAM is inviting students to Google Meetings. This link reviews some expectations.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12BSmND7BbzfgvcAclq8DuPT42IT1tS7K/view>

Torch Dog teachers continue to use the “message” system to touch base with students and to send them reminders about missing work. Please ask your student if they have checked for messages on itslearning.

April 9

Smore newsletter from Central

<https://www.smore.com/tsbuf>

Central cross country summer conditioning

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1itNu3_kNswSiAGGBEP4Pqa37Jhreu

[9qancx_iXpPdGI](#)

April 8

Please read the following message on how to access your child's 3rd Quarter report card on PowerSchool:

Dear BCSC Parents/Guardians,

During this challenging time, we want to make sure you are able to know about your child's educational growth during the third quarter of the school year. In order for you to access this information about your child through the Growth Model Report Card, use the BCSC PowerSchool Parent/Student portal. The portal is located on the BCSC website(www.bcscschools.org), in the PowerSchool program. Once logged on, please press the Report Cards tab on the navigation menu. *If you have not already created a PowerSchool ParentPortal Single Sign On account, you can use your child's student access ID and password to log directly into ParentPortal; which is available from your teacher via email.* You will not be able to view your child's Growth Model Report Card using the cell phone app, but can access through an internet browser. If you have questions regarding the use of PowerSchool Parent/Student portal, please contact the IT hotline at 812-418-0252. If you have questions regarding your child's grade(s), please contact your teacher.

April 3

Math Facts

Elearning days could be a great time to master those basic math facts. Student created flashcards, online games, or a family game with a deck of cards are all great ways to practice math facts and become more prepared for middle school.

Torch Dogs ELA Course Request

Students need to be corresponding with teachers and submitting work that has proper grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. We are seeing lots of assignment submissions and itslearning messages that are in text lingo/slang. We all need to remember that elearning is still school. With spellcheck available, students can simply paste their writing into a Google Doc and spellcheck it from there by clicking on Tools then spellcheck.

March 27

E-learning hints

After just three days, many Torch Dogs are getting in the habit of checking every course every day. The Homeroom Course needs to be included in this daily routine. Several students have sent questions through “message” on itslearning. This is a small icon in the upper right hand corner of their screen. This is a great way to communicate with the teachers. We will continue to monitor and respond to messages.

As TDs navigate through their elearning day, it is possible to overlook an assignment from time to time. Torch Dog teachers are also using the “message” system to touch base with students and to send them reminders about missing work. Please ask your student if they have checked for messages on itslearning.

Some parents and students are wondering how they will know if all of the assignments are complete. Students should continue to use their assignment notebook and write down assignments from the running agenda. They can check off completed items to know when they are finished. Parents could also check the messages with their student to ensure missing assignments messages have been noticed and assignments are completed.

TD teachers are trying to assign a reasonable amount of work for a school day at home. If you notice the amount of work is consistently taking too long, please send us an email. If students are finishing very early, please remind them that there are options in the e-learning page of their 6th grade 19-20 course under the Study Hall box.

Some of these options include AR, IXL, and spelling. It is always a good idea for students to be reading books, at their own reading levels, on a consistent basis. Most of the students know how to find books online through Epic and other resources like Audible. Fortunately, many online companies are offering services for free in order to serve our country at this time. Also, students are now able to take AR tests at home.

March 23

Chicago

All field trips have been cancelled for the rest of the year. See Mr. Backmeyer's newsletter below for additional field trip information.

Mustang News from Mr. Backmeyer

We are going to miss seeing all of our Mustangs tomorrow morning! If you know of Southside parent/guardians that do not receive this newsletter, please share it with them! We will get through this time TOGETHER! #MustangsTogether

We have NEWS about Essential Item Pickup, Food Resources, Field Trips, Resources, etc.

<https://www.smores.com/2uq1n>

Keep checking email and Southside social media for UPDATES!
#MustangsTOGETHER

BCSC Meal Pickup Information -

SOUTHSIDE

12-1 PM

Bus Lot on **North** Side of the Building

STAY IN YOUR CAR

March 11

BCSC 1:1 Tech User Agreement

https://drive.google.com/a/bcsc.k12.in.us/file/d/1LYeDz92b8xdbPAgueo_OsQCuYGW50I4-/view?usp=drivesdk

eLearning Day

We have no remaining scheduled make up days on our school calendar for this year. In the event it would be deemed necessary to cancel school, we would “make up” the day by conducting an eLearning Day. For more information about an eLearning Day, please visit our eLearning website,

<https://sites.google.com/bcsc.k12.in.us/bcscelearning/about?authuser=0> , and look for notices from your child’s teachers and administrators.

SOUTHSIDE NEWS - PLEASE READ - we have the following for you:

<https://www.smores.com/qgfb>

- Statement re: Student Electronic Devices
- BCSC's Statement Regarding Spring Break Travel
- SOUTHSIDE FAMILIES - TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE USA?
- BCSC eLearning Update
- BCSC Statement re: Coronavirus-COVID-19
- Possibility of eLearning? What do you need to know about eLearning?
- HOW TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT SOUTHSIDE - sign up for REMIND (notification system)!

Chaperones for the DARE Dance

(chaperones need to be the parent/guardians of the Dare student(s) only)

The DARE DANCE will be held at the FFY on Friday, April 17th from 7:00pm-9:00pm

Chaperones should arrive at 6:30pm for a brief meeting. There will be approximately 600 students so we need all the help we can get! Basic duties include standing and watching some hallways, the dance floor, the activity room, etc. and a few are needed to serve drinks.

Those interested in being a chaperone are asked to RSVP your availability to:

Matt Harris dharris@columbus.in.gov

Reminder to Students & Parents/Guardians: The dance does not start until 7:00pm and ends AT 9:00pm. Everyone MUST be picked up by a parent/guardian (no one is to walk home), carpooling is encouraged. There are 2 lines to pick up out front of the FFY. No cars should be left unattended and if your student(s) are not outside in view, please park and walk up to go find them so the car line keeps moving. **Students should have a number for their parent/guardian in case of an emergency.**

Northside Middle School Cheerleading tryouts for 2020-2021

Call out Meeting: March 31st at 6:00 in the Northside Cafeteria

Tryout Clinic Dates:

Tuesday, April 14th- 5:30-7:30 @ Northside Aux Gym

****Mandatory Clinic Date**

Wednesday, April 15th- 5:30-7:30 @ Northside Gym1

****Mandatory Clinic Date**

Tryout Date:

Friday, April 17th starting promptly at 5:30. 7th grade will go first and then 8th grade.

March 6

Snow make-up days

School will be in session on March 9, 10, 11th for snow make-up days. Spring break will follow these make-up days.

Middle School Information

Counselors from Central and Northside came to visit us Wednesday. They shared a great deal of information in the hour that they were here. Your student has several papers that he/she needs to share with you about curriculum options, sports, clubs, etc. Also, there is a form that parents must complete and return to school no later than next Wednesday, March 11. The Central form is orange, and the Northside form is blue. Thanks for your help in getting those completed and turned in on time.

February 28

To celebrate the the start of spring and the close of the third quarter, we will be celebrating our favorite math holiday, Pi Day, on March 11. Festivities include solving circle themed problems and actually eating pie. Please check to see if your child has

volunteered you to provide a store bought product for the March 11th celebration, so that we may confirm the availability of supplies on Monday.

Middle School Information

Counselors will visit Southside to talk with students on Wednesday, March 4.

C4 Field Trip

On Thursday, March 5th, the Torch Dog team and the sixth grade AC class will be attending a field trip to visit the C4 program at the Columbus North, Columbus East, and McDowell campuses. We will leave Southside at 8:30 and return at 12:15.

C⁴ Columbus Area Career Connection provides career and technical education to high school students. C⁴ program offerings are organized in a career cluster format and include: Agricultural Science/Business, Business Management and Finance, Communications, Computer Technology, Construction Engineering Technology, Engineering Manufacturing Technology, Health Careers, Human Services (including Early Childhood Education, Cosmetology, and Culinary Arts), Protective Services and Transportation.

There will not be a field trip permission slip sent home for this visit since it is within the county and is covered by the permission slip parents signed at the beginning of the school year, and there is no cost to families. The team is excited that our students are getting this opportunity. You can look forward to a conversation with your child about the large variety of exciting options that will be available for them in the near future.

Math Contest

The Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) is pleased to inform you that the 2020 ICTM Indiana State Mathematics Contest will be held at 9:30 AM (local time) on Saturday, April 18, 2020 at IUPUC. For more host site information, please contact a local site coordinator. Local host sites will

recognize local top performers (1st, 2nd, 3rd places and top 25%). After all scores in the state are processed, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and top 5% state performers in each exam category will be recognized at the ICTM.

The cost for registration is \$7 (checks made payable to ICTM). Please visit <http://www.ictm.onefireplace.org/mathcontest> for test category information, a link to past exams, participant information, registration information with link, calculator policy and host site information.

Southside math teachers will begin the registration process. Please let us know if you are interested.

Northside Open House

Who: 2020-2021 Northside incoming 7th Graders

What: Northside Activity Fair, Large Group Informational Presentation, Small Group Q & A, School Tours

When: Thursday, March 26, 2020

Where: Northside Middle School, Gym I and Cafeteria, 1400 27th St. Columbus Come join the Northside staff for a glimpse into your child's middle school future. During your visit, you will learn everything from Northside's schedule to the process of checking on homework. We will also talk about transitioning from standard-based report cards to A-F report cards. The schedule of the evening is as follows:

- Activity Fair: 5:30 p.m. – Northside Cafeteria Club and athletic booths will be set up around the perimeter of the cafeteria. Take time to meet the coaches and club sponsors. It is a goal of the Northside staff to have 100% of our student population involved in extra- curricular activities.

- Session 1: 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Gym I Students and parents will meet in the large gym for a presentation from the school faculty. Included in this presentation is an overview of Northside's class schedule, curriculum, club/athletic opportunities, expectations, and procedures.

- Session 2: 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Individual Classrooms Families may attend a Q & A session facilitated by a student peer leader and classroom teacher. School tours will follow the Q & A.

The more often an incoming student can visit Northside, the more comfortable he/she will be on the first day of school. We look forward to meeting you! If you have any questions, feel free to contact: Amy Dixon, Principal (812) 376-4403 Evan Burton, Assistant Principal (812) 376-4403

February 21

Welcome to
Central Middle School
6th Grade Scheduling Calendar & Events
2020-2021 School Year
Main Office (812) 376-4286

February 20, 2020 AC Identification Committee meets to make selections; Letters to be sent out Mid-March. Wendy Foster, High Abilities Coordinator. fosterwe@bcsc.k12.in.us

Mar. 4th Middle School Counselors visit elementary schools to complete enrollment.

March 15, 2020 Deadline to apply online for Columbus Signature Academy and to submit Middle School transfer requests

April 8, 2020 CMS Open House for incoming 7th graders at Central, 6:00 pm.

Early April AC Appeal Interviews begin

May 21st 6th graders visit Middle Schools.

August 6, 2020 First Day of Classes!

Counselor Contact Information:
Kim Van vank@bcsc.k12.in.us 812.376.4407
Sharon Williams williamssh@bcsc.i12.in.us 812.376.4406

Southside News - <https://www.smores.com/tu0vp>

If you do not receive the Southside News and would like to text @southsidep to 81010

Instructions in Spanish - [click here](#)

CHANGE OF DISMISSAL PLANS

With 900 students, we struggle to meet the needs of the MANY phone calls we get to change student schedules! Parents should only call school in emergency situations. These emergency calls **MUST** be received before 2:00 p.m.

From the Southside Student Handbook:

All arrangements for after school must be made before the student arrives at school. Students are not allowed to use the phone for making after-school arrangements. Students must go to their own homes after school unless there is a note from their parent/guardian stating that other arrangements have been made. Changes in the student's usual form of transportation must be in writing and signed by the parent/guardian. The note must be specific. EX: Johnny will be a car rider with Sally Smith..not be Johnny will go home with Sally. This note must be taken to the homeroom teacher to be signed, and taken to the office to be stamped. If there is no note, the child will be dismissed from school in the usual manner. Parents should only call school in emergency situations. These emergency calls must be received before 2:00 p.m.

February 14

Chicago

Torch Dog students were reminded of their Chicago balance which will be collected the week of March 23rd. The teachers will organize the Chicago groups. These groups will be shared with students and families around May 6th. Since we are not able to accommodate 112 parent requests, we do not take any parent requests for Chicago groups. Parents who choose to not send their kids on the Chicago field trip should send their kids to Southside as usual on those two days.

Reminder:

If you change plans and cancel your Chicago trip after spring break, money paid out of pocket will be refunded minus the cost of non-refundable tickets to attractions.

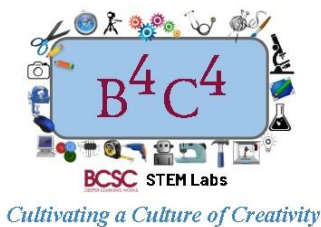
February 7

SPARK NIGHT

A flier was sent home about this free BCSC event. The event is open to the first 100 who register. Registration begins Monday, February 10th. Here is the [link](#) to the registration form

Central Cheer Tryouts

The call out meeting will be held on 3/26 in the cafeteria at 5:30. Tryout clinics will run 4/13-4/17 from 3:30-5:30 in the gyms at Central. Prospective athletes will need a completed physical. Individual parent questions should be directed to Coach Amanda Harmeson (harmesona@bcsc.k12.in.us) and Coach Megan Fenske (fenskem@bcsc.k12.in.us).



STEM Lab Needs

Have you heard?

Our “Engineers” are designing, creating and testing innovative Engineering projects each week during STEM Lab. So far this school year, second through sixth grade students have designed and created a long spanning wing, a self-deploying device, DNA origami structures and a Hydroelectric waterwheel. Kindergarten and first grade students have created communities, marble runs, and have learned about their various senses. As you can imagine, the “Engineers” do not want to run out of supplies and that is why we are asking for your

help. Below is a list of supplies broken down by grade level that are needed for the Spring Challenges for K-6th grade. If possible, please send in the supplies with your child to their STEM Lab teacher.

Thank you for your continued support of this amazing opportunity.

<p><u>Kindergarten</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Scotch tape → Pony beads → Ribbon/yarn/string → Toothpicks <p><u>First Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Duct tape (any color) → Manila file folders → Cardstock → Aluminum Foil <p><u>Second Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Hot Glue Sticks → Bendable Straws → Paper plates → 8 oz. styrofoam cups <p><u>Third Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Packaging Tape → Glue Sticks → AAA batteries → Plastic Spoons 	<p><u>Fourth Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Popsicle sticks → Index cards → Skewer (Kebab) sticks → Black Sharpie Markers <p><u>Fifth Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Pipe cleaners → Dixie cups - 3 oz. paper → 18 oz clear plastic cups → Pencils <p><u>Sixth Grade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 18 oz red plastic cups → Straight Straws → Aleene's Tacky/Craft glue → Construction paper <p><u>All Grade Levels</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Masking Tape
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*** We are currently stocked with plastic bottles and cardboard. Thank you for sending those in.

January 31

High Ability Notification Letters

You should receive an update through regular mail by Mid-March.

Kindness Week Theme Days! February 3-7

Monday:

Everybody gets aHEAD when we're kind!

Wear a Hat or Southside Hoo Rag Day!

Tuesday:

Be someone's hero with your acts of kindness.

Dress in your superhero gear for Superhero Day!

Wednesday:

Imagine a world full of Kindness.

Represent your favorite movie or book with Character Day!

Thursday:

Kindness begins with you, wear your red white and blue! Patriotic Day!

Friday:

Southside can be a rainbow of kindness: Favorite Color Day!

Wear as much of your favorite color as you can!

Does your child know their address? Phone Number?

Would you please consider placing your address somewhere your student could access this information in their backpack? Why am I asking this? Occasionally, we have situations where we have sub bus drivers or students need to ride with another bus driver to get home and the student does not know their address when the bus driver is checking with them! It would also be helpful if they knew the NEIGHBORHOOD or APARTMENT COMPLEX name if they live in one.

In our society today we are less likely to memorize phone numbers because of our access to our cell phones. What if your student is in a situation where they need to call you and they do not have

their or a cell phone? Would you please consider working with your child to memorize a family cell phone number?

INFORMATION TO SHARE REGARDING VIRUSES:

As a district, we monitor the health and safety of our staff and students on a daily basis. There may be periods of heightened awareness from public health officials where we would need to monitor student and staff attendance more closely.

In the event of a public health concern in our district, the school nurses and leadership work with our school physician, local health department officials and the Indiana State Department of Health to closely monitor the situation, notify parents, and implement measures to ensure the health and safety of staff and students. These measures also include focused cleaning and disinfecting in our buildings.

All students and staff are strongly encouraged to practice good health hygiene to prevent the spread of any illness, including viruses by:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Staying home when you are sick (fever free for 24 hours).
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Please contact your school nurse, principal, or BCSC Health Services Director, Kelli Thompson, at (812) 376-4234 if you have further questions.

Additional Resources:

- For information about [what you need to know](#) about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus and [preventing the spread of 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [Indiana State Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

January 24

Northside Middle School

6th Grade Scheduling Calendar & Events

2020-2021 School Year

Guidance Department (812) 376-4401

January 22, 2020 Global Studies Pathway (GSP)/AC Information Meeting at NMS 6:00 pm.

February 14, 2020 Deadline to apply online for Global Studies Pathway

February 20, 2020 AC Identification Committee meets to make selections; Letters to be sent out Mid-March. Wendy Foster, High Abilities Coordinator.
fosterwe@bcsc.k12.in.us

February 21, 2020 Global Studies Pathway selection letters will be mailed.

Feb. 24th-Mar. 6th Middle School Counselors visit elementary schools to complete enrollment.

March 15, 2020 Deadline to submit Middle School transfers

March 26, 2020 NMS Open House and Activities Fair at NMS 6:00 pm.

Early April AC Appeal Interviews begin

May 21st & 22nd 6th graders visit Middle Schools.

August 6, 2020 First Day of Classes!

Roller SKATING with SOUTHSIDE MUSTANGS

4:30-6:30 PM on Sunday, January 26

Columbus Skateland

\$5 per skater (siblings & parents may skate too!)

Proceeds benefit Southside's PTO. The cost is \$5, which includes skate rental. (Limited quantity of inline skates available for an additional \$1:50)

Questions: email SouthsideMustangsPTO@gmail.com

Parents, please plan to stay with your student. This is not a drop-off event.

January 17

Mark your calendars

March 4 - Middle school counselors visit with Torch Dogs

May 6 6:00-7:00 PM - Chicago meeting for chaperones (Room 269/Mrs. Mackey's room)

May 13-14 Chicago trip

May 21 - Middle school field trip

May 28 1:00 PM - Sixth grade graduation (gym)

STEM Lab Materials

[materials needed flyer](#)

January 10

Chicago Trip

Chicago payment information letters were sent home today. The Chicago trip is on Wednesday, May 13th overnight into Thursday, May 14th. Students/families who opt not to attend will be expected at Southside for those school days.

Thank you for your willingness to chaperone the trip. We have more chaperones than space will allow. If you volunteered to chaperone and your name is not written on the bottom in the chaperone information portion of the Chicago payment information letter, then your name has been placed on a waiting list. We will contact you if an opening becomes available.

Please let us know if your plans have changed regarding intent to chaperone or intent to have your child attend the overnight field trip. Please review the cancellation policy that was shared in August.

Cancellation Policy

I understand if I change my plans about going on the Chicago trip, fundraised money will go toward Chicago scholarships for other Southside students. Money paid out of pocket will be refunded if I cancel before spring break. If I cancel after spring break, money paid out of pocket will be refunded minus the cost of non-refundable tickets to attractions.

Middle School Information Evenings:

A flyer was sent home today for Northside and Central.

Is Your Child's SCHOOL BUS Late?

The BCSC transportation department has a website - <https://www.bcsc.k12.in.us/Page/329> - that communicates information about bus routes. This is managed and updated by the transportation department.

December 20

Pacers event

The flyer was sent home today.

The event is for Friday, February 7th. All of the money and forms are due back Wednesday, January 8th.

December 13

Annual Southside Food Drive

This week we kicked off our annual food drive. Please consider contributing with non-perishable food items or a cash donation to purchase perishable foods for nine different Southside families. Food will be accepted through the morning of December 20th, but the last day to bring money is Wednesday, December 18th.

December 6

D.A.R.E. Pizza Lunch - Friday, December 20th

Our last day before break is traditionally scheduled to be our D.A.R.E. pizza lunch. Part of the tradition is that we ask for contributions from each homeroom to supplement the pizza and drinks provided by D.A.R.E. All items must be store-bought and still sealed. Please send the food on the December 19 or December 20.

Domasky & Mackey - salty snacks
Horsley & Wallace - sweets

November 22

Southside Spirit Wear

Here is the link to the online store. <https://southsidemustangs19.itemorder.com/sale>

Here is the link for the flier.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uCVKzwmsKKy6BGxqafv5GSWlp0Am-Cd0/view?usp=sharing>

November 15

D.A.R.E. Graduation

This year D.A.R.E. graduation will be Thursday, December 19th at the Columbus North High School auditorium. Doors will open at 6:00 PM and graduation will begin at 6:30 PM. This event includes “Retro Bill”, a professional motivational speaker, and a raffle with prizes for 6th grade students.

November 8

Data Binders

Today, your student will be taking home his/her data binder. It contains the Growth Model Proficiency Scales and some of your child’s work. Please take some time to look it over. Torch Dog teachers will be meeting with parents and students for conferences next week. The data binder shows your child’s progress so far this year. Binders must be returned in homerooms first thing Monday morning.



The B.I.G. Project Press Release October 25, 2019:

Dayspring Church, the African American Pastors Alliance and BCSC desires to inform the entire community of Columbus, IN and Bartholomew County that The B.I.G. Project will take place November 15th at 7:00 -9:00PM, at The Columbus North Auditorium. The B.I.G. Project, Be Intentionally Great, is another ASAP Project Prevent ushered event.

“I am especially excited about doing something just for the youth with this event.”, shares Rev. Mike Harris, a member of the A.A.P.A. “We are looking forward to an inspirational Keynote address by Mr Kendall C. Wright”, shares Pastor Frank Griffin, , another member of the A.A.P.A.. We have been working to ensure that all of the 6th Grade -12th Grade youth in the city have a chance to get involved and participate. We have been working to make this a memorable event in each of their lives. An event where they can consciously decide to avoid drugs, peer pressure, and the issues that comes with addiction and drug abuse.

Many in the community are especially thrilled to hear from the Keynote speaker. The speaker is Mr. Kendall C. Wright of Entelechy, Training and Development, Inc., a leadership competency development firm, based in West Chester, OH. He has been to the city several times before. He is an expert in Leadership and has trained companies like Cummins, IBM and Microsoft to list a few.

By partnering with BCSC we have been able to secure the Columbus North Auditorium for the Keynote presentation on Friday at 7:00PM. There Kendall will speak to the youth, their parents, and the city about the devastation of drugs. As well he will share about the alluring opportunity to tap into our own unique potential and where it might lead crafted by Leadership.

On Saturday November 16th the youth will have two chances 10:00AM & 2:00PM to build a personal development plan at the Columbus North Cafeteria. Mr. Wright is a master facilitator and will engage the youth in documenting the spark that is most intriguing for their future. We expect to feed both groups lunch for free.

To cap it all off the team is working to provide plenty of freebies, gifts and door prizes. Everything and anything that we can do to paint a drug free future as the most appealing and attractive. Those donations brought to Dayspring Church are being accepted until November 13th.

November 1

Conferences

The Torch Dog teaching TEAM sees great value in having a face-to-face conference **with the parent(s), teacher, and student all present**. Information was sent home today about dates and times for conferences in the 2nd quarter.

Southside Cheer Clinic

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AHhZWF4JJsDo6HwI7tjKuWZrEbvGruvL/view?usp=sharing>



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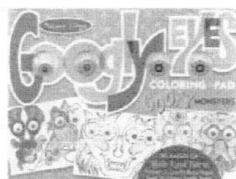


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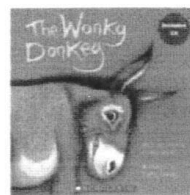
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Pre-order Dog Man #8: Fetch-22
coming December 10!

Book Fair Hours

Shop during your class library time OR
Saturday, November 9 from 8:30 - 11am
during Southside - Parkside basketball
Also open 8-8:30am, Tues-Fri

Can't shop at school?

Stop at Viewpoint Books from
10 am—6pm Monday-Saturday
Say "I want to support Southside!"

**** We can accept cash, checks (payable to Viewpoint Books), or credit/debit cards. ****

October 25

High Ability Testing Part 2

The second round of the mandatory high ability/middle school placement testing will take place from November 4th - November 7th. Please try to avoid appointments or absences during those mornings.

Changing Weather

Please make sure students dress for the weather. We have outdoor recess when the temperature and windchill are above 20°F.

STEM



Cultivating a Culture of Creativity

News from the STEM Lab,

We are very excited about the creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication that is taking place in our STEM labs this year! Each week when visiting the STEM Lab, students engage in hands-on engineering design challenges that fosters the love of learning and an understanding of the Engineering Design Process. Through these challenges, students are becoming critical thinkers, problem-solvers and collaborative team members.

To continue the growth of these 21st century skills in students, a bi-monthly Family STEM Project will be shared through your child's school newsletter for your family to build and problem-solve together.

This month's challenge is *How to create a Halloween Pumpkin Like a NASA Engineer*. Please click on the link to get started.

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project/create-a-halloween-pumpkin-like-a-nasa-engineer/>

- **STEM Lab Materials Needed-** [Materials Needed Flyer](#)

Veterans Day 2019

Dear Veterans,

You are invited to our Veterans Day program at Southside Elementary School on Monday, November 11th, 10:00 AM, in the Commons Atrium. Our school would like to honor you for your service to our community and country. Our Southside Choir and 6th grade students will present music for you with some special all-school surprises. We hope you can come, and we look forward to seeing you at the program!

The students at Southside Elementary

Red Ribbon Week

Next week is Red Ribbon Week. See the link below for dress-up activities.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TgpGK45bh9r-JkoaM_tOPoDQu7SYXVjp9jhIXQiT2M4/edit?usp=sharing

October 18

Teaching TEAM Updates

October 18, 2019

Dear Torch Dog Families,

This letter is sent containing some sad news and some good news. Today is Mrs. Williams's last day with us at Southside. We are so appreciative of her fulfilling Mrs. Hiday's maternity leave and for sharing her talents and time with us. Mrs. Hiday's first day back at Southside from her maternity leave was to be this Monday, October 21, 2019. Mrs. Hiday has made a tough decision to resign from her job here and move to a school district closer to her home. While we do not like losing a teacher during the school year, we are fortunate to have a very strong group of sixth grade teachers that work together in a format called a Professional Learning Community. This community of teachers teach and assess the standards and work together as a team to reteach and enrich. We have found a new teacher to add to their great team!

With the sad news of Mrs. Hiday not returning to Southside comes a great opportunity for your children to have a new teacher named Miss Morgan Domasky. We have been searching for someone and are so fortunate to have found her.

Miss Domasky has written a note to all of you below:

My name is Miss Domasky and I am a 2018 graduate from Auburn University with a major in Biomedical Sciences and a minor in Business. During the 2018-2019 school year, I was a teacher's assistant in the library and in sixth grade and worked closely with Mrs. Frazier and Mrs. Hiday. I really enjoyed this work and loved working with students. In college, I was an active volunteer with Project Uplift and at various medical centers.

Growing up I moved around a lot and have lived in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, and Alabama. I love to travel to see friends and family with my dog, Riggins. I have four sisters - Taylor, an aerospace engineer in Cleveland, Ohio, Logan, a senior at the University of Central Florida, Jordan, a freshman at Purdue, and Parker, who attends Central Middle School.

We are confident that we will have a great transition. Miss Domasky has been here this week getting to know the routine to help with a smooth transition. Please help us in welcoming Miss Domasky to Southside.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures. On the left is the signature of Jeff Backmeyer, which is stylized and cursive. On the right is the signature of Cathy Jackson, also in cursive but more legible than the first.

Jeff Backmeyer
Principal

Cathy Jackson
Assistant Principal

From Mrs. Williams:

It has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of the Torch Dog team the past 10 weeks. Although I am excited about spending more time with friends and family, I can't say I am overly anxious to leave this wonderful team. It has been a privilege to work with the students and the staff. Thank you to all of you for sharing your sons and daughters with me.

Pen Pals

Torch Dogs will be learning about life in Uganda as they correspond with students in Arua Hill. The first letters from Africa should be arriving soon.

October 4**Walk-a-thon and Prize Money Decision**

Southside's 16th Annual Mustang Walk-a-thon will be on Friday, October 18th. Letters and donation envelopes were sent home this week.

The Walk-a-thon is a fundraiser to benefit Southside, but for sixth graders it can also be an opportunity to collect money for the Chicago field trip. The all expense cost of the trip (travel, lodging, food, and tickets) is **\$220**. Half of your son's or daughter's total pledges/donations from the Walk-a-thon can be put into his or her Chicago account, if they opt out of selecting the prizes. Otherwise, if they want the prizes, all of the money will go to Southside's Walk-a-thon. Please have that conversation with your child. They will need to write "Chicago" or "Prizes" on their envelope on Thursday, October 17th.

Chicago is a privilege that a student earns throughout the school year. We have never left a child behind for financial reasons. Some scholarships will be made available, but we please ask that if you will not be able to pay the full amount that you capitalize on this final Chicago fundraising opportunity this year.

High Ability Testing

The first round of the mandatory high ability/middle school placement testing will take place from October 15th - October 17th. Please try to avoid appointments or absences during those mornings.

Report Cards

First quarter grades are final, and report cards will go home on Friday, October 18th.

September 27

Hot Air Balloon Launch Day

You are invited to join us on Friday, October 4th for the hot air balloon launch. Please park at the fairgrounds lot and check in at the main office before joining us on the playground blacktop. We are set to launch at 9:15. This event is weather dependent (windy or rainy) and subject to change. If it will be postponed, another message will be posted on Friday morning.

Basic Math Facts

All Torch Dog students should have their basic math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication & division) mastered. The Torch Dog TEAM has noticed many students do not have them mastered, and it is greatly affecting their success in math. Basic math fact skills are used daily while reducing fractions, finding the greatest common factor, determining the least common multiple and finding the least common denominator, to name a few. If your child is not fluent in their basic math facts, please work with them each night so that they can get them mastered. They have flash cards. They could also use online math websites and even apps (many are free) to ensure mastery is accomplished. The Torch Dog TEAM appreciates your collaborative effort in ensuring your child has the most successful educational experience possible.

September 20

Parent Portal

Gradebooks are up and running. If you do not have your own Parent Portal account, online gradebook, you may create an account at this link.

<http://www.bcsc.k12.in.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=242>

Next week is College Go Week.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rGi4Oyb6xt3plcLn1nmi5WPD Ao3M_Na-F6hXdKJxBtU/edit?usp=sharing

Community Program

KODE WITH KATE

Build your own website!

Monday, October 7, 14, and 21

At the Public Library 5:00 - 7:00

Bring a laptop or register at the Public Library to use a library chromebook

Questions? Text 219-252-2064

Suggested grades: 5-8

September 13

Choir

Southside Choir will begin Tuesday, September 10th at 7:30 AM.

Destination Imagination Family Info Night link

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Aascds%3AUS%3A3d23a77b-c353-4417-a5ab-bd8af849e0ee>

Academics

Language Arts

Each Torch Dog student receives 90 minutes of daily Language Arts instruction with Mrs. Horsley and/or Mrs. Mackey. Some co-teaching occurs in large-group situations. However, the majority of instruction takes place whole class and small groups. Language Arts involves activities in reading, grammar, speaking, writing, and vocabulary.

- **READING** skills are developed with the reading, studying, and discussion of fiction and nonfiction materials as well as our reading series. Students use the Accelerated Reading (AR) program. This program enables students to read materials of their choosing, independently, in efforts to practice reading comprehension. Students are to read AR books for twenty minutes each evening as homework. Each child has his/her own individual goal for each quarter. We do track students' progress towards these goals. Students are expected to earn at least 80% comprehension on each test and read materials that fall in the middle zone of their reading range. This ensures that what they read is not too easy or too difficult, but is just right for building reading abilities. When students are meeting these goals, they are meeting Growth Model Report Card expectations. Speak with your child about his/her progress. Is he/she meeting these expectations?
- **GRAMMAR** instruction is emphasized in the following areas: parts of speech, proper mechanics, sentence structure, and language usage.
- **WRITING/SPEAKING** occurs in all subject areas. Students have several

formal writing assignments during the year. Informal journal writing takes place on a weekly basis. Each student is expected to prepare and deliver at least four speeches/presentations on various topics throughout the year.

- **VOCABULARY** words usually correspond with instruction/independent reading. Vocabulary tests are given as part of the spelling test every two weeks. As part of meeting end of year expectations, there will be cumulative tests to ensure that students are retaining the meanings of these vocabulary words.

Math

Sixth graders use the GO MATH program. The Torch Dog math teachers are Mrs. Hiday (Mrs. Williams) and Mr. Wallace. Both classes are structured with similar procedures and technology. The math classes meet daily as 90 minute block classes and operate on the following ideas:

- **MATERIALS** – Students are expected to come to class prepared every day! Pencils, erasers, plenty of lined paper, Chromebook and a calculator are needed daily. Students need their paperback GO MATH Journal. At times students will be requested to bring a ruler or protractor.
- **LESSON** – A new lesson can be expected each class period, but some may take two days to thoroughly cover. Lessons are taught with hands-on exploration, games, projected examples, and interactive materials. Students who engage in active listening, note-taking, and questioning are well-prepared for each night's assignment.
- **HOMEWORK** – Students have 10-20 minutes of math homework daily. In addition, studying vocabulary, flashcards and preparing for tests sometimes increase the amount of homework time. From time to time students are asked to play some math games as homework, which reinforce new skills as well as basic facts. Quizzes based on the homework assignments are given at

the beginning of class.

Science

A variety of activities and exciting topics are explored during the school year. Science class often emphasizes teamwork skills to complete hands-on labs. Mrs. Hiday (Mrs. Williams) and Mr. Wallace devote class time to most science activities, so most of the homework can be completed in 10-20 minutes. Homework involves reading and underlining the textbook and reviewing class notes and study guides as students prepare for upcoming assessments.

Social Studies

Mrs. Horsley and Mrs. Mackey share social studies instruction. Routine lessons as well as creative projects occur throughout the year.

- **HISTORY** – This is the primary focus of social studies. Our existence is a *story*. We follow the major events that led to the development of modern North American, South American and European cultures using textbooks, PowerPoint presentations, and videos. There are also discussions of current events and the history we are living right now.
- **GEOGRAPHY**– When studying the history of a region, we examine its physical location. This often entails memorizing names of countries, states, provinces, and cities as well as applying map skills to answer questions about the actual places of the world.

September 6

Day of Service - Sept. 11th

Students will participate in the National Day of Service by cleaning up the fairgrounds and Southside school grounds. We are encouraging students to bring hats, sunscreen, and work gloves if possible.

Kiwanis Duck Fundraiser Deadline - Sept. 11th

Please note Wednesday, September 11th, is the last day we will accept duck forms and money. Any unsold forms MUST be returned to the school on Wednesday as well.

Picture Day

Wednesday, September 18th

August 30

6th grade Math Proficiency Scales can be found at

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XZKJwEwSe1Lt16oKwNqlcz9afBm_Sh_okT-xl_DxgMY/edit

6th grade Language Arts Proficiency Scales can be found at

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VgNVjIrTCqF1K5nDjkidAIcesdgc7ZsArLT097xp1IY/edit>

Team Building

On September 6 students will have an outdoor day of team building sessions at the county fair grounds. Ten volunteers from the Southside community will host different stations for group problem solving and bonding. Students need to wear clothing that will allow physical activity and shoes that tie. They should use sunblock and bring a water bottle.

Lego Team

Attention 5th and 6th Lego robotic/programming enthusiasts! If you are interested in being a member of the 2019 Southside Lego Team, please complete this Google form, found at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qxFOc0gJteiekFEFuvLbThxWRYcv_7v8IbHG9DgcHMA/edit?usp=sharing. All forms need to be submitted by 3:00 pm on Friday, September

6th. Students will be selected for this year's team based upon teacher recommendations and Lego programming experience. The team will be announced on Friday, September 13th. Questions? Please contact Mrs. Duchow at duchowk@bcsc.k12.in.us or Mrs. Lee at leej@bcsc.k12.in.us.

August 23

D.A.R.E.

As a part of our health curriculum, the D.A.R.E. program is beginning. A Columbus police officer will meet with the kids for the next 10-12 weeks (Usually Thursdays during block 1) and address them on making positive decisions regarding alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and social situations.

Kiwanis Duck Fundraiser

All duck adoption forms, including unsold adoption forms, must be returned to Southside by September 11th. While students can sell ducks, only people 18 or older are allowed to buy ducks.

BCSC Family Tech Night 2019: Family Tech Night will take place on ***September 18th, 6-8 PM at Columbus North***. All are invited to learn about chromebooks, online safety, eLearning, and STEM labs! [Family Tech Night Flyer](#)

August 16

A Chicago letter and a letter explaining Torch Dog responsibilities were sent home today. Please sign and return them on Monday.

Daily Homework

- Homework Guidelines

It is recommended that Torch Dogs spend approximately 60 minutes Monday through Friday on homework. In addition to completing assignments and reading AR, this homework time may include working on projects, preparing/practicing presentations, and studying for future assessments. Therefore, parents can assume that Torch Dogs have enough work each evening to fill up that one-hour long homework time.

- **Late Policy**

In order to prepare students for middle school, students are expected to turn in assignments on time. Torch Dog students, who consistently complete assignments on time, are awarded with a special TEAM activity on Wednesday. Two late assignments during the week or an incomplete assignment will result in missing the special TEAM activity. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in all late work.

- **Absence Policy**

It is a student's responsibility to gather and complete missing assignments. Students have the same number of days as the absence to complete the work without a late penalty. Students who are absent in a window of a long term assignment or scheduled test are held responsible on the original due date.

Kiwanis Duck Fundraiser

Students are bringing home a permission slip Monday that must come back on Tuesday, August 20th, if your child is going to participate. We have been given the opportunity to sell duck entries for the Kiwanis Club's annual Duck Splash. Students will earn 80% of their sales to apply toward the Chicago field trip in May. The cost of field trip this year is around \$220. We understand that the trip may pose a financial hardship for some families, however, this fundraiser is a great opportunity to offset this cost. There will be a few other fundraising opportunities this school year, but the Kiwanis Duck Splash by far offers the best return to our students.

August 9

- **Email**

williamsre@bcsc.k12.in.us (Mrs. Williams for Mrs. Hiday)
horsleyk@bcsc.k12.in.us
mackeyk@bcsc.k12.in.us
wallacem@bcsc.k12.in.us

- **Phone Calls**

- Contact information Southside's Phone number 376-4423
Extensions: 269 Mrs. Mackey
279 Mrs. Horsley
280 Mr. Wallace
284 Mrs. Williams for Mrs. Hiday

Resources

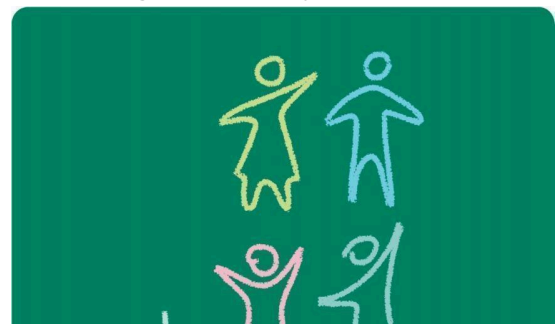
Torch Dog Assignments

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W5NJK0T4CG3L3D85aqCvbwrTy157yVd-GEwazVH37U8/edit>

TEAM

New members of the Torch Dog TEAM will quickly notice and perhaps wonder why the teaching TEAM always uses upper case letters when spelling the word. The unusual style is intended to emphasize the importance of the TEAM concept as it is applied daily at Southside.

The TEAM concept is emphasized to our student Torch Dogs from Day 1 of the 2019-20 school year. We believe that optimum growth for a student can best be experienced only when all members of the TEAM (the students, the students'



parents, and the teachers) are actively involved.

Evidence of the TEAM concept is obvious to students and parents in several ways. The progress of any given Torch Dog student often occurs at the center of a teaching TEAM (after-school, lunchtime, etc.) conversation. Multiple views and conversations on how to best help an individual student are much more likely to produce positive results than is a non-discussed singular viewpoint.

All questions from home regarding instruction, discipline, etc. are to be directed to the teacher directly involved (not necessarily the homeroom teacher). For advice on social matters, students are encouraged to seek the counsel of the teaching TEAM member with whom he/she feels most comfortable. That person might or might not be the homeroom teacher.

WE are a TEAM. Your child is a member of that TEAM. It is hoped that each and every parent will be an active participant on the TEAM. Meaningful communication between TEAMmates is a prescription for success.

Teaching TEAM members

Mrs. Horsley was born in Indiana, but has lived in Nebraska and Missouri as well. She started college later in life and graduated from IU/IUPUC with a BS of Elementary Education in 2003. Mrs. Horsley has taught in a variety of grade levels over the years, however most of her time has been spent teaching right here at Southside Elementary.

When not in the classroom, Mrs. Horsley enjoys spending time with her three daughters and five grandchildren. Her oldest daughter runs a home inspection business with her husband, her middle daughter is QA Engineer for an educational technology company, and her youngest daughter is a nurse practitioner. Mrs. Horsley and her husband, Robert, also enjoy traveling and volunteering in their community.

Mrs. Mackey was born and raised in Columbus. She is a former Mustang

herself as a member of the Academic Challenge Program at Southside for 4th-6th grades. She graduated from Columbus North in 1993, IU/IUPUC (BS) in 2001, and Olivet Nazarene University (MA) in 2008. Mrs. Mackey loves grammar and teaching language arts. The relationships that she builds with her students are by far the best part of being a teacher for her.

Outside of school, Mrs. Mackey is married to her high school sweetheart, Jason. They have two daughters, Lauren, a freshman at the University of Louisville, and Lillian, a freshman at Columbus North. In her free time, Mrs. Mackey enjoys boating, watching the girls' sporting competitions, and traveling.

Mrs. Hiday will teach math and science when she returns from maternity leave after fall break. Mrs. Williams will join the TEAM during this time.

Mrs. Becky Williams is starting her 42nd year of teaching. After retiring from Southside in 2015, she has been busy acting as a long term substitute in every grade from kindergarten to eighth. An Indiana University graduate, she began teaching at what is now known as Columbus Christian School. In 1980 she moved to Fodrea and in 1986 began teaching at Taylorsville. She became a staff member at Southside in 1996, teaching 6th grade Academic Challenge.

Mrs. Williams has been married to her husband, Larry, since 1978. They have one son and two grandsons. Her favorite activity is spending time with her two grandsons, Rhys 6, and Jonas 3 weeks.

Teaching is her lifelong passion, and she is happy to have this opportunity to spend the first quarter with the Torch Dogs.

Mr. Wallace has been teaching at Southside since 2003. He taught a multi-age class of fourth and fifth grade students his first year. Since that time, he has been teaching with the sixth grade TEAM. Mr. Wallace graduated from the University of Indianapolis in 1987 with a degree in social work. He graduated from IU in 2002 with a degree in elementary education. He received his masters of education degree from Olivet Nazarene University in May 2008.

Mark married Kathy in 1987. They have three sons. Nicholas is a lawyer in California. Christopher works in fund development for a non-profit organizations. Adam is in the Peace Corp in Uganda. Mr. Wallace spends his summer mowing, riding bikes and playing disc golf. He also enjoys hiking, spending time exploring nature and renewing his passion for the upcoming school year.

