



The Spur Sentinel

Ellen Andersen, Principal

Michelle Townley, Asst. Principal

What is SES?

SES is supplemental Education Services, commonly known as tutoring. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, SES tutoring is offered to students on free or reduced lunch who attend a Title One school that has not made AYP for at least two years. Many of you received an application in the mail over the summer. If you did not receive an application and are on free or reduced lunch, please contact the office (499-2830). All applications for SES tutoring are due to the Title One Office in Bartow by September 10th. If you have additional questions about SES, please call the Title One Office, Cindy Stybel at 534-9242 or Donna Ray at 519-3602.

A Message from Mrs. Andersen

Dear Parents,

If you are new to our school, we'd like to welcome you and invite you to become an **active** part of your child's education. Southwest Elementary has had a long history of including parents in all we do. There are numerous ways you can get involved including becoming a member of PTA, joining your child on field-trips, attending school functions or helping in the classroom. If you are already an approved volunteer, you do not need to do anything in order to continue your volunteer status. You are "good to go." However, if you are new and have never been a volunteer before, there is a new process we must follow to get you on board. Our district has shared the following explanation:

*Because the security of our students is critical to the district, all volunteer applicants undergo a background check before serving in our schools. In the past, the district has been able to assume the burden of that cost, but recent budget constraints now prevent the district office from providing that support. **Beginning in 2009-10, first time volunteer applicants will pay a one-time, non-refundable fee of \$24 for a Florida Department of Law En-***

forcement background

check. *Payment must be in the form of a money order (available for free at Wal-Mart) or a cashier's check (available from your bank) and brought to the school where the application will be submitted. Some criminal charges can prevent applicants from being approved and are listed on the volunteer application, so that individuals can determine if approval is possible. **Volunteer approval is continuous from year to year and is applicable at all Polk County Public Schools.** Payment for background checks does not apply to those who have been approved before 2009-10.*

I do hope you will consider applying for volunteer status. The background check fee is a one time cost, while the years of volunteer experience with your child will be priceless.

As we begin this new school year, please know that my door is always open to you. Call or stop by, if you have questions or concerns. It is our desire to make your child's school days filled with learning in a happy, safe environment.

Warmest Regards,

Ellen Andersen

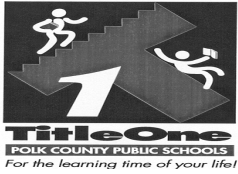
CAR RIDERS

Please stay in the car rider line. When parents park to pick up their children it presents a huge safety hazard. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you are in need of a car rider tag, please come to the front office or write a note in your child's agenda asking for a car rider form.



OPEN HOUSE: K-2 September 22nd OPEN HOUSE: 3-5 September 24th



What is Title 1?



Title 1 is the largest federally funded educational program. Title 1 status is determined by the socio-economic makeup of a school. The purpose of Title 1 is to assist schools in improving student achievement through effective instruction, professional development, and family involvement.

Southwest Elementary uses Title 1 funds to add highly qualified staff, support family involvement, improve staff development, purchase additional instructional materials, add technologies and equipment, provide referral services for adult literacy, and provide information to limited English proficient families.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The following is a list of important dates for the next few months. Please plan to join us for family involvement activities here at school for these events!

Sept. 7th - Labor Day, No School

Sept. 2nd-18- F.A.I.R. (reading) Testing

Sept. 21st- No School, Teacher Workday

Sept. 22nd- Open House K-2, 6:30

Sept. 24th- Open House 3-5, 6:30

Sept. 25th- Fall Pictures

Sept. 28th - Fall PTA Fundraiser Kick-Off

Sept. 30th - Structured Review Day! (All Students need to be present...teachers will review important materials.)

Oct. 1st - Hearing Screenings, K & 1st grade

Oct. 13th - Vision Screenings, K, 1st, & 3rd grades

Oct. 16th—SAC Meeting 12:00

Oct. 20th—Coffee with Administration, 8:30

Oct. 23rd - No School, Teacher Workday

Oct. 28th - Structured Review Day! (All Students need to be present...teachers will review important materials.)

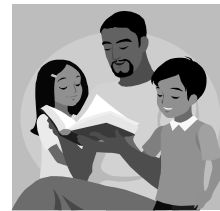
Oct. 30th - First AR Store of the Year!

Nov. 17th - Academic Night, K-2nd

Nov. 19- Academic Night, 3rd-5th

Nov. 23-27 - Fall Break, No School

Please join PTA!



Help strengthen Southwest's Home-School Connection.

The cost is only \$4.



Thank you students, parents, and staff for an excellent start to the 2009-2010 school year. This is going to be a FANTASTIC year!