1. Please check to make sure your name and address on your pay voucher is 100% correct.  If it is not, please contact Lisa Knorr immediately.  Her phone number is 217.392.2172.  Her e-mail address is supt337@adams.net.
2. All reimbursements (including mileage) will be paid the day after our monthly board meeting.  Please make sure all check requests, mileage forms, etc. are turned in at least one week in advance.
3. Teachers:  Your building administration will be starting our “Common Core Journey” in the upcoming months.
4. The influence we have on our students does not end everyday at 3:00 pm.  As educators, we cannot “clock out” each day and pretend we don’t have the most important job in the world.  Maybe it’s unfair.  But, the good ones never “clock out.”  The good ones realize that kids might not listen to us….but they always watch us (during off the clock hours too).  The good ones take care of their co-workers (I witnessed the other day a 20+ year staff member being extremely rude to a new staff member.  WOW!  And this new staff member is going to be really good….I hope they don’t think everyone is like that here).  Southeastern is known for many things…..taking care of each other is one of them.  Southeastern is known for many things…..staff members being quality role models is another.  It is so important our new staff members understand how we do things at SE337.  Showing them is more impactful than telling them.  It is important we don’t just talk the talk, but we walk the walk.
5. I want to take this opportunity to thank Pam Jefferson for speaking at the 2011 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony.  She did a great job.  As I stated at the ceremony, Mrs. Jefferson has been a rock of stability for our school district for over 20 years.  Her ability to mix tough love with a motherly compassion is incredible and exactly what so many of our students need.  It is so cool that our kids wanted her to speak.  Thank you, Mrs. Jefferson.
6. District Staff Christmas Party
* All Staff Members Are Invited
* December 21, 2011
* 6:30 pm
* Macomb Country Club
* Comedian Tim Laffey will be our after dinner entertainment.  Tim is a 1996 graduate of Southeastern High School and the son of Carol Laffey.
* More Information Later
1. Bereavement Day.  Each teacher shall be granted three (3) days per death as bereavement leave for which no deduction shall be made from accumulated sick leave. Such days may be utilized in the event of a death in the employee’s immediate family or in his/her spouse’s immediate family. For the purpose of this agreement, “immediate family” shall be defined as spouse, child, grandchild, parent, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, aunt, uncle, grandparent, niece, nephew, or legal guardian. Such days shall also be available to be used in the event of the death of a close friend not mentioned above.
2. Health Insurance Premiums.

It has been past practice to pre-pay our district’s health insurance premium one month in advance.  Therefore, the employee’s portion of the insurance premium is deducted one month in advance.  We are going to change this past practice.  Starting in January 2012, we are going to begin paying our health insurance premium the month it is due (instead of a month in advance).  Since December’s premiums will have been paid in November, there will be no insurance premium deducted on both December paychecks.  Starting in January of 2012, your premium deductions will resume.  Obviously, there will be no lapse in coverage.  If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

1. Walgreens.

The Express Scripts contract with Walgreens expires December 31, 2011.  Unless there is an eleventh hour agreement, Walgreens and Express Scripts will be parting ways.  You will be receiving a letter from Express Scripts in the upcoming weeks.  However, below you will find a letter from WAS Board of Control (Dave Thompson’s Office).  If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the district office.  Thank you. – Todd Fox.

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Several of you have called concerning a letter you have received from Walgreens.  Walgreens is informing their customers they will not be honoring Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI), our Plan’s drug card, beginning January 1, 2012.

Our Plan uses ESI as our drug card vendor.  ESI is the largest drug card vendor in the US and Walgreens is obviously a very large pharmacy chain.  Walgreens has been a participating provider of the Express Scripts drug card network in the past.

These two mega companies have been unable to renew their joint contract and it will expire on December 31, 2011.  The dispute is over the cost of the drugs sold by Walgreens to our employees.  Express Scripts has reported Walgreens does not want to continue at the same low cost discounts as in the past.

In rebuttal to the Walgreens letter, ESI has offered the following:

Headline:            **IMPORTANT  NOTICE  ON  WALGREENS** You have many options to fill your prescriptions – **Act Now!**

Copy:                    We want to let you know of an upcoming change concerning Walgreens.  Walgreens has publicly announced it will stop participating as a provider in our pharmacy network starting January 1, 2012.Walgreens wants to raise the cost of our prescriptions.  Even if you don’t see a difference in the amount you pay at the pharmacy today, these costs can affect your future premiums.

                                We and Express Scripts – the company we selected to manage your prescription-drug benefit – are very committed to keeping your prescription drugs affordable and accessible. Express Scripts will continue to ensure that you have convenient access to the care you need.

On average, there is **another network pharmacy within one-half mile of a Walgreens pharmacy**, ready and eager to help you with all your prescription needs. **You can move your prescriptions to one of these pharmacies in your neighborhood now** and avoid having to change pharmacies later.

**It’s easy to change pharmacies now**

Transfer your prescriptions to your new pharmacy by doing ***one***of the following:

1.      Take your prescription bottle to your new pharmacy; they will contact your old pharmacy to transfer your prescription.

2.      Call your new pharmacy and ask them to contact your old pharmacy.

3.      Ask your doctor to call your new pharmacy with your prescription information.

4.      Visit [www.StartHomeDelivery.com](http://www.StartHomeDelivery.com) to begin receiving up to a 90-day supply of your maintenance medications at home.

You can also find a complete list of local participating pharmacies by signing in to [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com) and clicking on Find a Pharmacy. **If you have any questions, please call the number on your member ID card.**

*Please note: Any existing home delivery prescriptions from the Express Scripts Pharmacy are not affected by this change.*

If Walgreens prevails in these contract negotiations the actual cost (to the Plan) for your prescriptions will increase approximately 20%.  We would estimate the prescription co-payment (your cost) to be increased proportionately.

Retail Drug Program:  (Up to a 34-day supply of a covered prescription drug)

        Generic Drugs                                             $10.00                      $12.00

        Brand Preferred Formulary                $35.00                      $42.00

        Brand Non-Preferred                              $50.00                      $60.00

Mail-Away Drug Program:  (Up to a 90-day supply of a covered prescription drug)

        Generic Drugs                                             $20.00                      $24.00

        Brand Preferred Formulary                $70.00                      $72.00

        Brand Non-Preferred                            $100.00                      $120.00

If ESI prevails we anticipate no increase in your prescription co-payments.  Walgreens would continue to accept the low cost discounts they have in the past.

If a contract is not reached between Walgreens and ESI, we do not anticipate an increase in your prescription co-payments.  However, Walgreens would not be part of the ESI pharmacy network.

We are watching these discussions carefully.  We are committed to keeping your prescription drugs affordable and with convenient access.

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D. Todd Fox