

Hello Bulldog Parents and Students,

**Happy New Year to all!** February is quickly on its way. And our school calendar for this year now means that we have *already completed the first half of the 2018-19 school year*. A big “thank you” goes out to all of our Bulldog students, staff, and parents for your efforts to make this first semester a huge success.

We have many accomplishments from the first half of the school year to celebrate. We appreciate all of the effort & determination on display in our classrooms daily. Students continue to earn BARK cards for their respectful, responsible, and productive actions here at SMS, and various rewards are given to winners in our weekly drawings. Parents and students are reminded that HW Club here at SMS meets regularly on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:00. HW Club is open to all students. Students who bring a signed permission slip can stay after school for HW Club (on most Wednesdays) during the school year for extra support from our teachers.

Our Bulldog musicians, as always, provided some outstanding performances back in November & December during their winter concerts. In athletics, the SMS boys’ basketball and wrestling teams have both enjoyed successful winter seasons, with end-of-season playoffs coming up for both teams. We now look forward to volleyball season. Volleyball tryouts begin on January 22, and the first game is on February 7. Recently, our drama department also concluded months of hard work by many of our students with three fabulous presentations of our SMS musical, “Singin’ in the Rain.” Our young Bulldogs continue to make great contributions *inside and outside* of the classroom.

The PTO continues to provide invaluable support for our students and staff at SMS. Through their efforts, we are able to provide many incentives as well as several fun events for our students during the school year. Our Honor Roll Breakfasts for the first semester were held this week on the morning of January 11. Our PTO also provides support at events like the Veteran’s Day Assembly, our school Spelling Bee, and Parent/Teacher Conference Nights. Coming up in March are a couple of PTO events that are always exciting for our school community - **Bulldog Bingo on Friday, March 1, at 7:00 pm**, AND our **Student-Faculty Basketball Game on Friday, March 29, at 3:00 pm**. Look for more information on both of these events coming soon. These PTO events are lots of fun for the entire family, and we hope that you can make plans to attend.

Our PTO most recently provided financial support to help bring Rohan Murphy, a motivational speaker, to our school to share with students. Rohan overcame unique challenges in his life to pursue his passion and become a successful collegiate wrestler, despite being born as a paraplegic with no legs. We are hopeful that the weather will cooperate and that we will be able to continue with our plans to host Rohan in the upcoming week. Finally, the SCA Valentine’s Day dance for all grades is coming up on Friday, February 8, from 3-5 pm. We hope that many students will be in attendance. As a reminder, February 18 and March 11 are now both snow make-up days for our students (both will be A days).

I am certain of many more success stories to come in the second half of this school year. Be sure to engage your student in conversations at home about the happenings at SMS, and encourage them to get involved. **GO BULLDOGS!!!**

Lane Byrd  
Principal