

Hello Bulldog Parents and Students,

**Happy New Year to all!** February is quickly on its way. We have now *already completed the first half of the 2019-20 school year, and a new DECADE is upon us.* A big “thank you” goes out to all Bulldog students, staff, and parents for your efforts to make the 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 Homework (HW) Club at SMS meets regularly on Thursdays 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 Thursdays) during the school year for extra support from our staff.

Our Bulldog musicians, as always, provided some outstanding performances back in November & December during their winter concerts. In athletics, the SMS volleyball team was undefeated in the regular season, finished 12-0, and won the county championship. Way to go, bulldogs! We now look forward to the boys’ basketball and wrestling seasons. In December, our drama department also concluded months of hard work by many of our students with two fabulous presentations of our SMS musical, “Music Man, Jr.” It is exciting to see our Bulldogs making 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 last week on the morning of January 17. Our PTO also provides support at events like the Veteran’s Day Assembly, our school Spelling Bee, and Parent/Teacher Conference Nights. We do have a couple of PTO events coming up soon - **Bulldog Bingo on Friday, February 28, at 7:00 p.m.**, AND our **Student-Faculty Basketball Game on Friday, March 27, at 3:00 p.m.** Mark your calendars and 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 Doug Reavis, professional speaker & author, to our school on January 14<sup>th</sup> to share with our students his message of “Silent Strength” and the importance of kindness. Doug shared impactful personal experiences to encourage everyone to be kind to others with their words and with their actions. Finally, the SCA Valentine’s Day dance for all grades is coming up on **Friday, February 7, from 3-5 p.m.** We hope that many students will be in attendance.

I look forward to more success stories in the second half of this school year. Be sure to engage your student in conversations at home about their experiences at SMS, and encourage them to get involved.

**GO BULLDOGS!!!**

Lane Byrd  
Principal