

Vision/Hearing

We were fortunate to have the local Lions Club out to conduct vision screenings on many of our students recently. This is a service they provide to thousands of students annually in the Pinal county region, and continues to be an important part of their mission as an organization. We thank them sincerely for their efforts.

Hearing screenings will be conducted here at SWEC, by Menta staff, on November 15.

New Staff

We are very happy to welcome the return of Miss Jody to SWEC. She is also very happy to have re-joined the team here, and we all look forward to her positive contributions to the team on behalf of our students and staff.

Upcoming Calendar

No School for Thanksgiving – Wednesday, Nov. 21 to Friday, Nov. 23 (Staff IN on 21st)

Early Release – Wednesday, Dec. 19 – 1pm

Winter Break – December 22 to January 6

Veterans at SWEC

We want to recognize SWEC staff – Mr. Robertson, Army veteran, and Mr. Chamberlain, Navy Veteran. Thank you

Students of the Week

Just a reminder, each week, one student is chosen from each class as Student of the Week. Those students have their pictures on the SOTW bulletin board and are treated to Wednesday pizza as a recognition of this accomplishment.

November OT tip:

When was the last time your child had an eye evaluation from an optometrist? Vision screening programs can't substitute for regular professional vision care. Children or adults who pass a vision screening could still have an eye health or vision problem. Professional examinations are the only effective way to confirm or rule out any eye disease or vision problem. Only an optometrist or ophthalmologist can conduct a comprehensive eye and vision examination.

- Vision is a complex process that involves over 20 visual abilities
- 70% of the sensory information that goes to the brain is visual
- Nearly 80% of what a child perceives, comprehends and remembers depends on the efficiency of the visual system
- One in four children has an undiagnosed vision problem which can interfere with learning and lead to academic and/or behavioral problems. It is estimated that 80% of children with a learning disability have an undiagnosed vision problem.
- Research is showing that a significantly higher percentage of children with special needs have

vision problems which, when corrected, can make a huge difference in their lives.

- It is important to know that children frequently do not report symptoms because they think everyone sees the same way they do.

(continued on back)

American Optometric Association Recommended Examination Frequency

Birth to 24 Months	At 6 months of age
2 to 5 years	At 3 years of age
6 to 18 years	Before first grade and every two years thereafter
18 to 60 years	Every 2 years

Children considered to be at risk for the development of eye and vision problems may need additional testing or more frequent re-evaluation. Factors placing an infant, toddler, or child at significant risk for visual impairment include:

- Prematurity, low birth weight, oxygen at birth, grade III or IV intraventricular hemorrhage
- Family history of retinoblastoma, congenital cataracts, or metabolic or genetic disease
- Infection of mother during pregnancy (e.g., rubella, toxoplasmosis, venereal disease, herpes, cytomegalovirus, or AIDS)
- Difficult or assisted labor, which may be associated with fetal distress or low Apgar score

- Known or suspected central nervous system dysfunction evidenced by developmental delay, cerebral palsy, dysmorphic features, seizures, or hydrocephalus
- Family history of amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (when the eyes are not aligned in the same direction), or eye disease such as glaucoma or age-related macular degeneration
- Family history of genetically influenced conditions: Nearsightedness, farsightedness, color vision deficiency (commonly called color blindness) or retinitis pigmentosa (a progressive decline of the retina)
- Individuals impacted by environmental influences. Researchers have found that students who spend a lot of time reading, using the computer, or playing video games show a more rapid progression of nearsightedness than do others.

If your child is nonverbal, does not know his colors/numbers, cannot follow directions or is unable to sit still long enough for an evaluation; a behavioral/ developmental optometrist may be the best professional to complete an eye examination.

References:

<http://www.aoa.org/patients-and-public/caring-for-your-vision/comprehensive-eye-and-vision-examination/recommended-examination-frequency-for-pediatric-patients-and-adults?sso=y>

http://www.artisanoptics.com/eye_exams/pediatric_eye_exams/children_s_eye_exams/

<http://www.vlca.com/specialneeds.php>