To the Parents of South Junior High:

Each fall at South Junior High, South’s students, staff, parents, and a St. Cloud group called BLEND pull together to complete the one and only fundraiser of the year; the South Junior High Walkin’ Wildcats Walk-a-Thon. BLEND is a community organization that supports healthy habits both at home and at school. They have been a part of South’s walk-a-thon in the past, along with a lot of other events in St. Cloud that you may have been a part of.

You may be asking yourself, what is a walk-a-thon and why do we do it? A walk-a-thon is an event where students actively seek donations for South Junior High, and for every dollar a student raises, the more they get walk on the track!

Why do we do a walk-a-thon? In the past there have been many fundraisers here at South, many of which included selling lots of unhealthy food. For the last five years our focus has been the walk-a-thon and it has proved successful and fun. This year’s 8th graders can attest to the great day we had last September. Last year alone, students of South raised just over $35.000 dollars in just over a week! Not only is a walk-a-thon a healthier choice, but it is also a fun and exciting event.

The money raised goes right back to each one of your students. The following is a brief list of where some of the money goes:

\* Student agendas \* Art Materials

\* Retreats and field trips \* 8th Grade Language Arts Portfolios

\* New books in the library \* Graphing Calculators

\* Scholarship funds for athletics \* Physical Education/Fitness Room Supplies

\* New equipment in the fitness room \* Industrial Technology Architectural Printer

How does it actually work? Students and their families that choose to participate can request donations to South. For every dollar a student raises, they are allowed to walk 1 lap around the track. The more money a student raises, the longer they get to walk around the track, although we don’t make a student walk any longer than they choose.

So sure, the school benefits if we all pull together and to try top last year’s record of over $23,000, but what’s in it for the kids other than improving the school? Well, there are lots of great prizes and here are just a few that are going out to the students this year:

* The top ten students that bring in the most donations will receive a lunch party.
* The top two Homebases will receive a root beer float party!
* The top students will earn three gift cards to the Crossroads Mall.
* Any students that brings in more than $60.00 in donations will also receive a Walkin’ Wildcat T-shirt to wear the day of the event.
* NEW THIS YEAR – Dunk Your Favorite Teacher!

**Drawings for individual prizes that will be drawn for include:**

* Apple iPods
* Digital Camera
* Mountain Bike
* South and Tech Clothing
* Many Various Gift Certificates

Here are some things to remember: The date of the fundraiser her at South is all day on **September 30th**. Students will start receiving information here at school about a week in advance. Lastly, the more volunteers we have the better. If you are interested in volunteering, please stop by our table by the office and fill out the volunteer slip and we will contact you when the event gets closer.