

Shark Tales

September 2017



From the Administration

Dear Southbury Sharks!

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! We are excited to welcome back all of our Sharks, as well as meet several new Sharks who have joined our family. The children have already started learning a great deal in the short amount of time we've been in school. It's wonderful to see everyone jump right in to their learning.

Be sure to keep up-to-date on all the wonderful things going on at Southbury Elementary School by visiting our website and our Facebook page. You can also check out our HSO website at www.southburyparents.com.

Here's to a successful school year – Go Sharks!

Lindsay Allen
Principal

Cara Chase
Assistant Principal

Front Office

Welcome back Shark families and welcome new Shark friends joining us for the first time this year. Our 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start. We are having lots of fun with our themed daily announcements: Alma Mater Mondays, Two Riddle Tuesdays, Character Counts! Wednesdays, Learning Tree Thursdays and You've Been Caught Reading Fridays! Sometimes our students come down to the office to help to deliver the broadcast!

There are a couple of reminders to help make our school year go smoothly. Please remember to call **630-551-9801** whenever your child will be absent or late. This line is open 24 hours! Remember that your child needs to be fever free (without the use of fever reducing medicines), vomit or diarrhea free for at least 24 hours to be able to return to school. Please do not call the attendance line for changes in transportation.

Finally, if you are sending a note to school, please include the first and last name of your student as well as the name of your child's teacher. Please remember to bring a photo ID with you when pickup up a student or if you are volunteering. Here's to a great 2018 School year!

Mrs. Hathaway and Mrs. Quick

Upcoming Events

September 7

6:30-7:30 HSO Meeting in the Community Room

September 14

Culver's Night

September 18

No Preschool

September 22

NO SCHOOL- Teacher Institute Day

September 29

HSO Fun Run

Volunteers and Visitors

All volunteers and visitors must check into the main office before entering the main building. A driver's license or valid state picture ID is required to enter the building. Please be sure to check out in the front office before leaving.

Remember to reach out to your child's teacher if you would like the opportunity to help out in the classroom.

Read. Write. Think. Grow.

Southbury: A Community of Learners.

What's Happening in...

Kindergarten

Welcome to Kindergarten! We have been very busy learning different procedures throughout the day. We are focusing on learning the rules at Southbury as well as our daily routines. Our rules in Kindergarten are: Listen and Follow Directions, Use a Quiet Voice, Keep Hands and Feet to Ourselves, Use Walking Feet, and Keep Our School Clean. We have also started introducing new letters along with their correlating sound. You can practice at home by having your child find letters and words within books! We have read several different read alouds where we focused on the characters and setting within stories. We will soon start learning about different types of settings!

In Math, we have been exploring several math concepts during Calendar time. We focus on counting, identifying numbers, different ways to show the same number (10 frames, tallies, etc.), graphing and what number comes before/after a specific number. We have also started learning about position words! We are using hands on activities to identify words such as: above, below, next to, etc.

Kindergarten is hard work, but a lot of fun!

First Grade

We are having so much fun getting to know one another in first grade. The students have already started reading Stellaluna and learning about story events. They have been busy applying those events through their writing. We are looking forward starting our baggie book program this month. We are also discussing our community and how we learn from each other. Number sense is the topic of our math talks and will continue to be a part of our first unit on addition. We can't wait to be scientists with our first unit, Physical Science. We are looking forward to a busy year of learning. GOOOO Sharks!

Second Grade

Wow!! What an amazing start we have had to Second Grade! The students have learned the rules and routines of school and our classroom. They are showing great character and earning LOTS of Dojo points for it!

We have started our ReadyGEN with Unit 1. Module A. Our focus is learning about story structure, character and setting details while reading the story, "Trouble at the Sandbox" (a chapter book, the students were very excited about it! 😊). In Writing, we have been



Home & School Organization

Come join us on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month from 6:30-7:30 at Southbury Elementary School.

Free Child Care is provided, reservations for childcare are required. Email us at sbhomenschool@gmail.com to reserve your childcare spot.

GET TEXT MESSAGE reminders about upcoming due dates and events!

- Send a text message to (331) 215-6780
- Type @southbury
- It's that simple! You will instantly start to receive reminder texts about upcoming events, meetings and due dates.

working on narrative writing; with a focus on the characters, setting and sequence of events.

In Math, we have started Unit 1 of My Math where we are continuing to practice addition and subtraction. With the excitement of the Solar Eclipse last month, we have jumped into Science with enthusiasm. Some of our Science themes will be matter, ecosystems, plants and seeds, and life in different habitats.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year in Second Grade! GO Sharks!!

Third Grade

We are off and running! In our new ReadyGEN reading curriculum, we will read from our text collection, our trade books, and our chapter books. We will be learning benchmark vocabulary as we go as well as applying reading skills such as identifying characters, learning temporal words and phrases, comparing and contrasting, and comparing narratives.

Knowing how to express numbers in standard form, expanded form, and word form has been new for third grade. We are finishing rounding to the nearest ten and hundred. Chapter 2 in Math will cover addition properties, addition patterns, adding 3 and 4 digit numbers, and estimation.

We will be finishing up our Social Studies unit on Maps and Globes, and we are excited to delve into our new Science curriculum on Physical Science/Force & Motion.

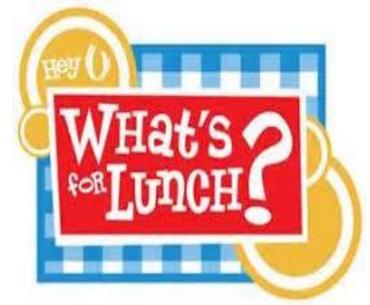
Last but not least in Writing, we will describe a story, write about an event, describe characters' experiences, and revise to include details and dialogue. I'm going to admit that probably creating our Writer's Notebooks was the highlight of our month. We will continue to add creative ideas, maps, and story ideas to these awesome notebooks.

As you can see, we are off and running with much to do!

Fourth Grade

Full of excitement, wonder and perhaps a touch of trepidation, Southbury's fourth graders burst into school with new notebooks, pencils and crayons. For some children and teachers, Southbury was a new, unknown school, and for others, Southbury presented a new grade and new challenges. But for everyone, the new school year meant meeting new friends.

Now, with a few weeks of school under their belts, Southbury's fourth graders are accustomed to new routines and schedules. The children have organized and are using their AVID binders. They are well prepared for a year of learning and academic adventure.



Lunch and Snacks

We are working diligently toward having our kindergarteners work independently in the lunch room and at snack time. If you can practice some skills at home that would help us quickly reach this goal. Some ideas for practice are: opening up fruit cups, Go-gurt, juice pouches and zip locks, just to name a few.

Drop Box

Did one of your kiddos forget something? We have a "Drop Off Box" in the front corridor just for forgotten items. This is where you can leave any items your child left behind that needs to be dropped off at school for them; i.e. lunches, homework, library books, glasses, etc.

Please remember to have each item labeled with the student's name and the teacher's name and they will be delivered in a timely fashion.



In math, the children are switching classes to allow for greater differentiation of instruction. In reading and writing workshops, the students are learning to pick "good fit" books and to create lists of potential writing topics and things they wonder and dream about. In both science and social studies, the children are learning about landforms and the forces that change the earth.

And Southbury ... is starting to feel like home.



Fifth Grade

As Miss Chase told us on the first day of school, Fifth Graders have reached the "pinnacle" of their education at Southbury! We are off to a fantastic start to the school year! Teachers were so thankful for the number of parents and students who attended preview night. Our first week and half here at school has been spent getting to know each other as we focus on building strong relationships that hopefully last all this school year and beyond! In the classroom we've spent time on our "I am" poem and also a one-pager that is all about the students! You will see these hanging in the hallway throughout the year. Science is also beginning as we look at Mistakes That Worked. Did you know the Potato Chip happened by accident? Reading, Writing, and Math have started and we've begun to develop routines that will help us succeed throughout the school year. There is no doubt that fifth grade is going to have an awesome school year!

STARS

STARS is so excited to be back at school!!!! This year we are welcoming three new teachers to our program. Bre Hoffercomp, Brett Assell and Gretchen Wheatley.

Our first couple weeks back have been a great success, and we look forward to the wonderful year ahead. It was wonderful to see all of our STARS family both during the open house and curriculum night. We love having you involved, so if you want to volunteer, just contact your child's teacher.

This month we will continue to get used to the routines in our new classrooms. We will also be reading and writing about Fall. As the weather starts to change, be sure to pack your children an extra sweatshirt.

Early Childhood STARS

We are so excited to welcome our youngest learners to Southbury this year! Along with the new students, we also have three new Southbury staff members in the Preschool classroom. Gretchen Wheatley is the new classroom teacher and Susan McMahon and Julissa Hernandez are the

Physical Education Updates

PE classes are kicking the year of right by learning and playing different soccer games!! We have new curriculum in PE this year called Spark! Spark has an amazing amount of new and fun fitness based activities that will correlate with all of the sports and games that Southbury student athletes learn and play. After we have completed the soccer unit we will move right into the football unit! Next we will be starting our first quarter fitness testing and preparing to the annual fun run!!! If you are interested in volunteering for the fun run please contact our home and school. September is going to be an outstanding month for all Southbury students!! Go Sharks!!!



amazing classroom assistants. We are starting out the school year learning how to use our schedules and where everything is in our huge, new school! So far we have learned the Letter S with Jolly Phonics and are working on sorting and counting in math. We love music and enjoy using the listening station to read books.

We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and collaborating with the families of our students this year at Preview Night, Curriculum Night, and would especially like to offer our deepest gratitude for the families who welcomed us into their homes for our first round of home visits of the year! We look forward for many more opportunities to participate in the parent involvement activities available in the Early Childhood STARS program. Thank you so much to all of the teachers and staff at Southbury for helping to get the classroom and school ready for us. GO SHARKS!

More Important News

Reading and the Common Core Standards

"The Common Core State Standards are national standards that say what K-12 students are expected to learn in math and the English language arts." Check out the link below for more information on these standards. Our ReadyGEN curriculum teaches and builds on these standards each day.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-parents-can-support-common-core-reading-standards>

Happy Reading and Writing!

Katie Landers
Reading Specialist

Stephanie Townsend
Literacy Specialist

Speech and Language

Hello Shark Families! The speech department is excited to be back and looking forward to a successful school year. This year we are fortunate to have three full time speech/language pathologists working in our building.

Mrs. Debbie Convey
Tarmann
630-551-9851
dconvey@sd308.org

Mrs. Kelly Okel
630-551-9891
kokel@sd308.org

Mrs. Stephanie
630-551-9872
starmann@sd308.org

Feel free to reach out to one of us if you have any questions or concerns related to your child's speech/language development.

Art Updates

Ready, set, create! I am so excited to be here at Southbury to teach Art while the fantastic Rachel Chee is enjoying her new bundle of joy! In the last five years of teaching art, I have gathered a fantastic amount of diversified projects for our Southbury Sharks. I will be emphasizing the "elements of art" to articulate the decision making of our projects. I will also use the "principles of design" to help our young minds form a context for our work. Already, we have started a "name themed" project in each grade level that is stirring up quite a bit of wonder and excitement. I am looking forward to a colorful year here at Southbury!

Music Updates

Hello everyone, my name is Ms. McWethy and I am your child's new music teacher! I am so excited to work with all of the students at Southbury this year. We have spent the first few weeks of school reviewing musical concepts from last year and working on new songs and instruments.

Next week 5th grade students will start rehearsing this year's musical: The American Dream. The musical will take place on November 16th. Additionally, 4th and 5th grade choir will begin in January after Winter Break. Students will bring more information home later in the fall.

All Southbury students have been spending the last few minutes of every class discussing what musical concepts they learned that day. Feel free to ask your students what they have been learning in music class! If you ever have any questions, please email me at mmcwethy@sd308.org.

Coming Soon!

In the fall, we will be offering a *Children in Change Group*. This program is an educational and support group designed to help young people better understand their feelings related to recent, significant changes in their lives. These changes can include, but are not limited to: divorce, separation, the death of a relative, a move to a new home or school, homelessness, a family member who is incarcerated, a new baby, or substance abuse.

The group provides an outlet for discussion and interpretation of the emotions that children experience with change, and provides instruction in coping strategies. The goal of the group is to help children learn how to deal with those feelings in a healthy, manageable way.

The curriculum we will use to facilitate the group is Family & Children Service's *Children in Change* curriculum, and will be facilitated by Tanya Gryniak, School Social Worker, and Sara Goodrich, Learning Behavior Specialist.

Be watching for a permission form to come home! Please contact Mrs. Gryniak (630-551-9850) or Sara Goodrich (630-551-9884) if you have any questions!

LMC

We are off to an amazing start for the 2017-2018 school year in the LRC. We have many new, enthusiastic sharks at our school this year and we look forward to working with them! As the students come through the LRC it is exciting to hear them share the titles of their favorite read from the summer.

In the library we aspire to create a warm nurturing environment that encourages students to grow a desire to be life-long learners. Each class has a designated day that they come to the LRC for a lesson and to check out books. Kindergarten and first grade students may borrow one book a week. These books are due back after each week but may be renewed one time if they have not finished reading it. Students in 2nd through 5th grade are allowed to borrow 2 books and need to return them after 2 weeks. If a student is still reading a book that is due to be returned, they may renew it one time for an additional 2 weeks.

There are several fun events hosted in the LRC such as the fall and spring Scholastic book fair, Monarch and Bluestem voting, poetry month and a pumpkin decorating contest. Some of the mentioned events require additional help. If you are interested in helping out in the library there are several different ways that you can help!

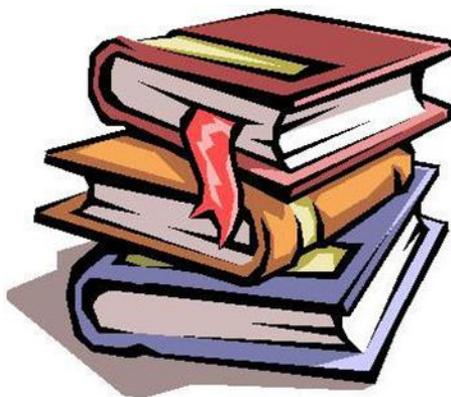
- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|
| *Shelving books (1 morning a week) | *Cleaning and repairing books | |
| *Book fair (Fall-Nov. 8-10/ Spring March 7-9 th) | *Seasonal displays | *Bulletin boards |

If you are interested in becoming a library helper, please call or e-mail Mrs. Witcpalek at:
ewitcpalek@sd308.org or call at (630)553-9803 LMC

Book Check-Out

Checking out books is an exciting time for students. Please help your child understand the importance of responsibility and respect for the books as they bring them back and forth between school and home. Below are a few tips you can help reinforce at home:

- 1.) **Have clean hands before reading books.**
- 2.) **Turn the pages carefully.**
- 3.) **Carry books in your backpack away from any liquids.**
- 4.) **Have a safe place to keep your books at home.**
- 5.) **Return your book on time.**
- 6.) **Report any damaged book to library staff.**
- 7.) **Don't try to mend the book yourself at home.**
- 8.) **Use a bookmark to keep your place in the book.**



ESL Services

Welcome back to school! There are a few changes for ESL parents to be aware of this year.

- Each student will have a green ESL Resource folder that will go between home and school. This folder will contain communication from me, ESL only handouts and students' ESL classwork. Please look for your child's folder daily, beginning the week of August 28th.
- The exit criteria for the ACCESS test have changed. In order to exit any EL program in the state of Illinois a student must have a composite score 4.8 or above.
- If your child took the 2017 ACCESS test this past school year you will be receiving his/her scores within the month of September. WIDA raised the expectations for language use on the ACCESS test, there for you will see some scoring changes in your child's proficiency levels. Please see the information from WIDA below. If you have any questions regarding your child's results please contact me to set up a meeting.

I'm looking forward to working with all of my returning students and I am eager to get to know all of the new ESL resource students. Let's have a fabulous year!

Mrs. Serio's Contact Information:
kserio@sd308.org 630-551-9858

AVID



What is AVID?

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college/career readiness and success in a global society. Two components of AVID are student success skills and organizational skills.

Student success skills encompass communication such as listening and speaking. Teachers will be starting the year working on these critical skills. Students will learn various language sentence stems to help support them with this very important component.

Organizational skills are equally as important. The school year will begin with learning how to use organizational tools. Your child's teacher will be sharing more information with you about this skill.

Understanding Your Child's 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Scores

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is an English language proficiency assessment for students in Kindergarten—Grade 12. The test is administered every year to help school districts monitor the English language development of students identified as English language learners. Your child's scores are reported on the Individual Student Report. We encourage you and your family to look at your child's scores to know where he or she is in the process of English language development.

Proficiency level scores are reported as numbers that range from 1.0—6.0, for example, 2.2 or 4.0. You can think of a score of 1.0 as a "beginner" score, while 6.0 can be considered an "advanced" English language proficiency score.

What's new in 2017?

New academic standards and assessments for core subjects like mathematics, science, and language arts have increased the complexity of the language all students are expected to use at school, including English language learners. To meet the demands of these new academic standards, the expectations for language use on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 have also increased. The difficulty of test questions on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 has not changed, but students will need to demonstrate higher language skills to achieve the same proficiency level scores. This gives everyone confidence that the assessment provides the information needed to support decisions that impact the education of English language learners.

What does this mean for my child?

If your child's scores on the 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 go down from their scores on the 2016 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, don't worry. It doesn't mean your child is doing worse in English. The 2017 scores more accurately show the language skills your child needs to demonstrate before exiting the English language support program. Because of the changes described above, your child may receive a lower score and still have made progress in English since last year.

Questions to ask

We encourage you to discuss the 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 scores with your child's teacher(s). Here are some questions to ask:

- Based on these test results, what type of English language support do you provide my child?
- How are the scores shared with my child's teachers?
- Will my child take this test every year?
- What scores does my child need to exit the English language support program?

If you have questions about your child's ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 scores, please contact your child's school.



English language learners are students who are eligible to receive support at school with the English language.

Language proficiency is a measurement of where students are in the process of language development.

Language development is a process that takes time. Students move along this process at different rates.



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Client Services Center toll free: 866.276.7735 | help@wida.us
www.wida.us



Got Questions? Books Have Answers

Welcome back to another year of exploration and growth, not only academically for your child, but socially and emotionally too! And books are a great place to begin! Engaging your child in quality literature with characters that encourage reflection about their feelings, concerns, and interests can help students gain insights into their own lives and identify with others. Children frequently seek books about "kids like me."

Biographies and autobiographies frequently serve as role models for gifted students by illustrating how even prominent or successful people experienced triumphs, failures, and hardships throughout their lives to help them to be prepared as they encounter ups and downs. Encourage your child to seek biographies of famous people in their areas of interests.

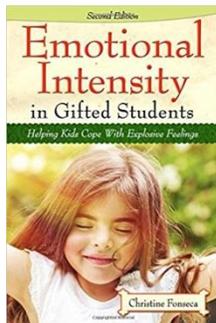
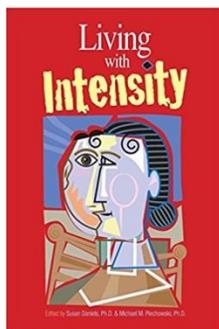
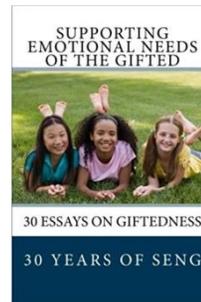
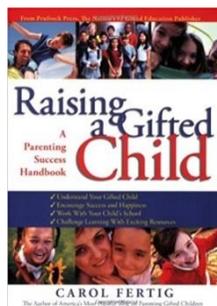
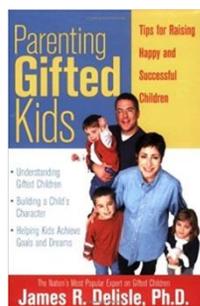
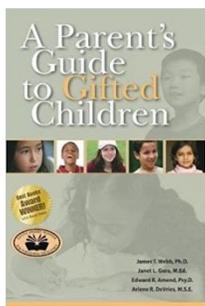
First, read a book first before suggesting it to your child. By reading the book yourself, you may increase your own insight, be better prepared to discuss the book with the child, and avoid recommending a book that is not appropriate. After your child has read a book, be available not only to discuss it but, more importantly, to listen to his/her perceptions. When appropriate, encourage your child to talk about the areas in which they agree and disagree with the character while they pose alternative problem approaches and solutions.

Here are two great lists of books with both real and fictional characters that will encourage growth.

<http://www.bertiekingore.com/gtchildreninlit.htm>

http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/featuring_gifted.htm

And with the growth and changes ahead, having some great text resources on hand as a parent will help when questions arise. These are just a few that address parenting gifted children.



Nurse Sara's News

Hello Southbury families, it's fantastic to be back and meet new friends and see old friends again!

If your child has changes to their medical history, please complete a health history form ASAP. If there are life threatening food allergies please bring the necessary medications along with emergency food allergy action plan and medication forms for each medication to be stored in the health office during the school year.

An important reminder regarding medications: It's a yearly requirement for any type of medication including over the counter cough drops, eye drops, as well as any prescription medications/inhalers to have a **School Medication Authorization Form** completed by parent and pediatrician. This form can be found on the school district 308 website.

Kindergarten exclusion information: The Illinois deadline for required Kindergarten health forms including physicals, immunizations, & vision is **October 15, 2017**. If forms are not submitted by this date, students **will not be able to attend school on or after October 15th 2017 until requirement is met.**

Dental exam deadline is May 15, 2018.

2nd grade students will also need a dental exam submitted by May 20, 2018.

We will be having Dr. Miller from Athena Dental at Southbury at the end of September. A packet with information will be sent home, if you would like your child to be seen by the dentist, please fill out the forms in their entirety and return. This dental visit does meet the requirements for kindergarten and 2nd grade state requirements so feel free to have your child seen by the dentist at school to fulfill this requirement if you choose.

Hearing and vision screenings are scheduled for Sept 19th and September 20th.

For our kindergarten friends, please send in an extra set of clothing if you have not done so already.

Please discuss the importance of hand washing, drinking water through the day, and covering our coughs with your children. Thank you for all your help in keeping our students safe and healthy, I look forward to another fantastic year at Southbury.

Nurse Sara, MSN, RN
skarantonis@sd308.org
Office (630) 551-9802
Fax (630) 551-9897

