

Shark Tales - September 2016



Welcome to the 2016 – 2017 School Year!

From the Administration

Hello Southbury Sharks!

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.

You'll see events for September listed on the right side of this page. We hope to see you at many of our exciting events!

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 (Home Student Organization) website, listed below.

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

Lindsay Allen

Cara Chase

Principal

Assistant Principal

Get Connected!

Look for school updates, details on upcoming events, and copies of this newsletter at our district website:

www.sd308.org/southbury

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Southbury308

Follow us on Twitter: @southbury308

Get connected via our HSO (Home Student Organization) website:

www.southburyparents.com

Upcoming Events

September 5

Labor Day Holiday – No School, District Closed

September 8

Culver's Night – Support the school and dine out

September 11

One Author/One School shirt order deadline

September 16

College Day – Wear your favorite college or Southbury colors (orange/blue)

September 18

Registration Deadline – Fun Run

September 23

Teacher Institute Day – NO STUDENTS

September 30

Southbury Fun Run

Read. Write. Think. Grow.

Southbury: A Community of Learners.

Teacher & Staff Updates

Kindergarten News

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 within the 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, addition sentences, etc.), 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!

1st Grade News

We are having so much fun in first grade. The first graders have already started reading *Stellaluna* and learning about story events. Our next book study will be *Time to Sleep*. Narrative writing is our focus this month. We are also learning from our families, schools and communities in social studies. In our first science unit, students will be focusing on the properties of objects. Baggie books will also be starting in September, more information to come. Second step is a social emotional program our first graders take part in. The first skill we practice is how to listen. We are looking forward to a busy year of learning. GOOOOO Sharks!



Physical Education Updates

Southbury PE has kicked the school year off with learning and playing soccer games. The student athletes have done a great job with many new games and activities we have been playing in PE.

After soccer we are going to get into our new fitness testing. Southbury student athletes are going to start training for this year's fun run by running a few minutes every time they come to PE. Our goal is to have all Southbury students ready to run the fun run at the end of September. Go Sharks!!

Music Updates

We are starting Fall Choir at Southbury and will be meeting on Thursday afternoons from 3:35-4:30pm. Choir is open for any students in 4th and 5th grade.

We will be performing at the Veterans Day Celebration and the Winter Holiday Sing-a-long. Choir students will be studying a wide variety of vocal music and performance techniques.

For more information please see the Choir flyer sent home with 4th and 5th graders or email Mr. Santoyo at tsantoyo@sd308.org.

2nd Grade News

Our second graders are doing a fantastic job starting off the school year showing great character and coming in each day ready to learn! In Reading we are learning about story structure and character and setting details while reading the story, "Trouble at the Sandbox." Students also have been starting writing their very own books and are already showing excellent author traits.

In Math, we are continuing to practice addition and subtraction facts in Unit 1. Some of our new vocabulary words are: sum, addend, count on, difference, and count back.

During Social Studies we are learning about the parts of a community. All second graders are going to choose a part of a community to draw and we will put them all together on a large bulletin board in our hallway soon. We already have a Bounce Town, Panera, Game Stop, and Fire Department in the works! We are looking forward to a fantastic year! Go Sharks!!

3rd Grade News

We are off to a great start in third grade! Our Social Studies Maps and Globes unit is going well. We have been having wonderful conversations about the use of maps and cardinal and intermediate directions.

In reading we are focusing on the actions and motivations of characters in our first chapter book, *The Case of the Gaspig Garbage*.

In writing, our focus is to create realistic fiction stories that include a natural sequence of events, with the use temporal words and dialogue.

In math, we are wrapping the chapter on rounding and place value. Our next chapter will focus on addition with carrying, and checking for reasonableness.



AVID

This year, our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers are excited to be implementing AVID Elementary (AE) into their everyday teaching.

AE is a foundational component of the AVID College Readiness System and supports AVID's mission to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

We look forward to begin this adventure with three grade-levels during the 2016-2017 school year and look forward to expanding AE into more grade levels next school year.

If you are interested in learning more about AVID and some of the strategies being taught, you can visit www.avid.org for additional information

4th Grade News

Meeting new and old friends, organizing binders and books, learning rules and routines, and rediscovering the savory delights of pizza sticks, beef nachos, and French toast; that's how Southbury's fourth graders are making a smooth transition back to school.

The children have organized and are using their AVID binders to keep track of assignments and work. They are learning to ask questions and annotate as they read. The students are reviewing genre and practicing how to select good-fit books. In both reading and writing, the children are building stamina to read and write for sustained periods of time.

In the first few weeks of school, fourth graders practiced place value in math by decomposing numbers, using number lines, and rounding. The children are also reviewing addition and subtraction algorithms, and they are learning problem solving strategies as well.

In social studies, the students are learning about the different types of landforms, and identifying continents and oceans. In science, the children will study rocks and minerals, learn about the rock cycle and different types of rock.

Front Office Updates

Welcome back Shark families and welcome new Shark friends joining us for the first time this year. Our 2016-2017 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, you can call anytime. Please *do not call the attendance line for changes in transportation*. 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.

Have you noticed the "Drop Off Box" in the front corridor? 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, etc. Please remember to have each item labeled with the student's name and the teacher's name.

In addition, 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.

We are working diligently toward having our kindergarteners work independently in the lunch room. If you can practice some skills at home, that would help expedite this goal. Some ideas would be, opening up their own fruit cup, Go-gurt, juice pouches and zip locks, just to name a few.

Finally, when picking up a student early or coming in to volunteer, please remember to bring a photo ID with you.

Mrs. Hathaway and Mrs. Quick



Art Updates

This year, in place of our Square 1 fundraiser, Southbury will be hosting a Fine Arts night at the end of the school year. Every young artist at Southbury will be featured during this exciting night celebrating the fine arts. Mrs. Chee will organize this event with her "Fine Arts" club. Details on this club will come later in the school year. Fine Arts night will also feature our Southbury Honor Choir lead by Mr. Santoyo.

The art room could use your old magazines (school appropriate please). If you have any you'd like to donate, please have your child bring them to Mrs. Chee during their art time. Thank you!

5th Grade News

It has been an exciting start to the year in 5th grade! After composing "I AM" poems, the fabulous fifth graders began a new adventure, as our focus shifted to unit one in reading. Within unit one, the students will be interacting with Night of the Spadefoot Toads, written by Bill Harley. Additionally, students are responding to the novel using AVID's Academic Language Scripts. These "scripts" help students express opinions, ask for clarification, offer ways to make appropriate suggestions, etc.

Within our first math unit, fifth grade is focusing on place value and comparing and ordering whole numbers and decimals from the millions through the thousandths. We will also work on multiplying whole numbers.

As for science, the students have been learning about "mistakes that worked." There can be accidents or mistakes. Some turn out well ☺, some not so well ☹. Mistakes are made every day and by many different people. If everybody knew the number of inventions that were accidental, they would be surprised! Some inventors were not only smart, they were also alert. Even though an idea they had failed, they found another use for their failure. Some of these mistakes turned out to be fun, interesting, and even... humorous! The mistakes that worked are from many different areas and have many different uses. Piggy banks, silly putty, potato chips and frisbees are all things that were invented by mistake!

Finally, Social Studies has us revisiting the Revolutionary War, focusing on the implementation of the US Constitution. The next unit will cover westward expansion of the United States. Needless to say, the 5th graders have been exploring many wonderful learning opportunities!

STARS News

STARS is so excited to be back at school!!!! We are thrilled to welcome a new teacher, Alyssa Andrade, to our program. 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.



You've been caught reading!

Reading

In order to encourage independent reading for our Southbury students, our staff is always on the lookout for students that are quietly enjoying a good book. When a student receives a 'You've been caught reading!' ticket, it can be put into a special bin. Each Friday one lucky reader's name will be drawn and announced school-wide. That student will be able to choose a special book to keep 'forever'! The collection of books was purchased with a generous grant from our HSO.

Try to catch your own student/s reading for enjoyment at home also! Talk about the story, listen to them read parts of it, and once it's finished, help find another good book to read!

Social Work News

With the start of the new year, Mrs. Epstein & Mrs. Gryniak want to share an article from The Sandbox Learning Company.

“7 Strategies for Preparing Children for New Experiences”

1. Help Children Understand When an Event Will Occur - Children can become very excited about activities. They may ask days or weeks in advance about plans. Help children gain an understanding of when an event will occur by marking it on the calendar and having a countdown. This strategy helps children better understand when an event will occur while working on simple math skills.

2. Set Expectations - New experiences often come with new rules and expectations. Be sure to set rules and expectations in advance. Prepare children by reading books on or role playing about the new experiences. Write rules down and review them. For trick-or-treating role play going to someone's door for candy. Have rules about going to homes with lights on, staying near an adult, and politely thanking neighbors for the treats.

3. Let Children Participate in Planning – Children will have more ownership in an event if they are able to help plan it. Let children help make a picnic lunch when going to a fall festival. Print a map of the zoo before going and include them in planning which animals to see at the zoo. Ask them to help pick out and wrap a birthday gift for a friend's party. These kinds of activities teach planning and independence skills that apply later in life.

4. Build on Existing Skills and Familiar Experiences - When children relate past situations or expectations to new ones they are able to build on existing knowledge. For example, if you are going to an amusement park you may tell a child the rules are similar to being at a mall. There will be many people, they have to stay with an adult, and there will be times when they have to wait in line. This allows children to have a parallel for their expectations and draw on their past experiences.

5. Leverage Opportunities for Learning – Whether counting Halloween candy, learning about new cultures during the holidays, or practicing greetings at a family reunion, events offer a multitude of opportunities for developing skills. Use naturally occurring events to teach new skills or develop emerging skills.

6. Use Visuals – Photographs, drawings, or lists can be used as reminders for rules, expectations, or schedules. Visuals can be viewed before, during, and after an event to set expectations, keep children on track, and review the experience. Make sure the choice of visuals is simple, understandable, and easy to access.

7. Reinforce Appropriate Behavior – Consistent and immediate reinforcement of appropriate behavior gives children a clear understanding of what they are doing correctly. People tend to note when children do things wrong rather than right. Be sure to positively and specifically identify correct behaviors. For example, “Ella, I like the way you just thanked Aunt Becky for your birthday gift.”



Southbury Home & School Organization

Meetings

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 @southbu
- It's that simple! You will instantly start to receive reminder texts about upcoming events, meetings and due dates.

Speech & Language News

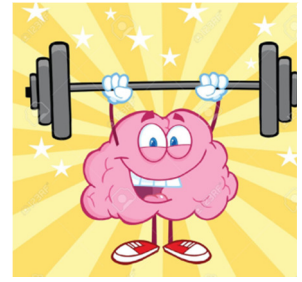
During the 2016-2017 school year there are three speech/language pathologists working at Southbury Elementary School.

Mrs. Deborah Convey - I am so happy to be one of the three speech/language pathologists at Southbury Elementary School. I look forward to working with my students and watching their communication skills improve. I have a Masters of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Illinois State University. I have over twenty five years of experience as a speech/language pathologist. This is my sixth year at Southbury Elementary School. Throughout the years I have also worked at other district #308 schools including Boulder Hill School, East View School, Old Post School and Oswego High School.

Mrs. Kelly Okel - I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., for my bachelor's degree. Following graduation, I moved to Wisconsin and began the master's program at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. After graduation, I quickly moved back home to be close to my family and started in private practice. I worked in a pediatric clinic for six years during which time I got married and had a child. In 2012 I realized how much time I was spending away from my family and began looking for a better fit for my life. I was quickly hired to cover a leave and fell in love with District 308. I love watching the students grow and accomplish things they viewed as challenging.

Mrs. Stephanie Tarmann - I am currently in my 11th year working as a Speech-Language Pathologist in District 308. I received my bachelor's degree in 2003 from Southern Illinois University in communication disorders. I immediately pursued a master's degree at Northern Illinois University in 2005 for Speech-language pathology. I began my career in 308 at East View Elementary and started at Southbury the year it opened. I love working with elementary students and look forward to new successes each year!

Please feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions or concerns about your child's communication skills.



Gifted Education

GE Replacement Math students started the year with ATTITUDE! Not an attitude ☺, but *with* attitude.

Students wrote "self-equations" to identify what it takes to be a great mathematician. For example, perseverance + risk-taking + "I can..." = Me the Mathematician.

Mathematicians need mental tools to build their best work, and they need to know when and how to use them. (**Check out the tools at the bottom of this page!**)

Remember, a "workman is only as good as his tools," so we need to practice our math skills to keep our tools sharp and to continue to grow the number of tools in our tool box. This requires a growth mindset, an "I can..." attitude, an understanding that mistakes are an opportunity to learn. We are making a daily choice to step forward and say, "I like a challenge! I can figure it out using my tools!" Students are choosing to grow their brain muscle, so we can lift heavy problems by working as a team!

Pass it on! Encourage your child to build someone else's attitude by giving advice for how to achieve their best. After all, what we practice saying is what we come to believe. What we believe, we become.

The 8 Mathematical Practices are the tools to use:

1. Make sense of problems and keep trying even when the problems are challenging.
2. Use numbers to describe situations.
3. Justify your strategies and listen to understand if other people's ideas logical.
4. Show your math in many ways: drawings, models, tables ...
5. Use a variety of mathematical tools.
6. Work carefully, revise your thinking when necessary, and use accurate language.
7. Use what you know about numbers, patterns, and properties.
8. Look for and use patterns to figure out and explain rules

News from Nurse Sara

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

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

Kindergarten exclusion information: The Illinois deadline for required Kindergarten health forms including physicals, immunizations, & vision is October 15, 2016. If forms are not submitted by this date, students will not be able to attend school on or after October 15th until requirement is met. Dental exam deadline is May 15, 2017.

2nd grade students will also need a dental exam submitted by May 20, 2017.

Please submit green health history forms ASAP. This form also has the authorization for emergency medical treatment included on it.

If you have found your child has outgrown some of their clothing, the nurse's office is always in need of some extra clothing. Sizes most needed are boys/girls 6 & above.

Please do not send any medications to school with students without a School Medication Authorization Form (found on school district 308 website). 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 etc.

If you have any questions, please reach out, my email address is: skarantonis@sd308.org

My other contact information includes: office (630) 551-9802 and fax (630) 551-9897.

Let's make this a great year by ensuring children are well rested, have snacks for class, as well as water to drink throughout the day. Thank you for helping keep our kids healthy!

Nurse Sara



LMC (Library Media Center) News

The 2016-17 school year is off to a terrific start in the LMC. It is obvious that many students had the opportunity to read some amazing books this summer. Hearing the excitement in their voices as they tell us about their favorite book is one of our favorite parts of returning to school.

Here at Southbury, students attend weekly lessons in the LMC that focus on literacy and technology. Each class has a scheduled day they come visit the library and checkout books. Kindergarten and first grade students may checkout one book during their library visits. These books are due back in one week. Second through fifth grade students may borrow two books during their visits and they are due back two weeks after they have checked them out. If a student is still reading a book, they may check it out for a longer period of time if there are no other students waiting to read that same book.

Fines: In SD308 elementary schools, there are no fines charged for overdue books. However, if a book is damaged or lost, a replacement fee will be charged in order for us to replace the book and the student will be unable to check out a book until the replacement fee is paid.

We look forward to a wonderful 2016-17 school year!

Mrs. Witcpalek and Mrs. Gotchie

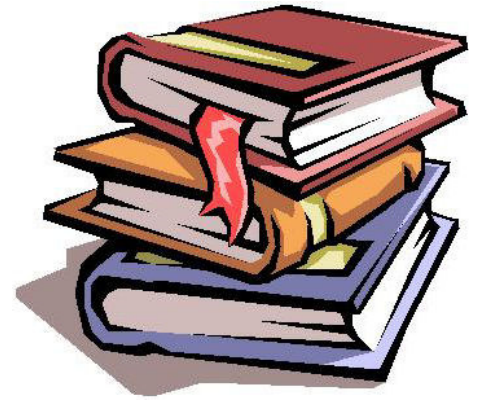
English As A Second Language Resource (ESL Resource)

Welcome back! ESL services began on August 29th this school year. I am excited to begin working with students!

All parents of returning ESL students from within the district will receive a copy of their child's ACCESS scores by September 30th, if you do not receive them by that date please contact Mrs. Serio at kserio@sd308.org.

Please sign up for Bloomz! Mrs. Serio's access code is: FTK7X9. I will use Bloomz instead of a newsletter this year to communicate with parents this school year. It is a secure, unique way to connect with your child's class. I will use it to update parents with important information, important dates, post photos of what the students are doing in class and to share learning updates.

Kristen Serio | 630-551-9858 | kserio@sd308.org



Book check-out tips!

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.**

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