

# Shark Tales – October 2016



## Happy Fall Sharks!

### From the Administration

Hello Southbury Sharks!

We are more than halfway through the first quarter of school, and there has been a lot of learning going on all around the building. This year, we have three School Improvement goals that we would like to share with all of you.

**Goal #1:** The students of Southbury Elementary School will meet or exceed an average Student Growth Percentile (SGP) of 50% in STAR Renaissance Reading in each grade level.

**Goal #2:** The students of Southbury Elementary School will meet or exceed an average Student Growth Percentile (SGP) of 50% in STAR Renaissance Math in each grade level.

**Goal #3:** The percentage of students referred to the office will be maintained at 7% for the 2016-17 school year.

In order to achieve these goals, we hope to work closely with all our students, staff, and parents (Kindergarten through Fifth Grade) to ensure our children are receiving the best education to succeed in all academic areas.

Halloween is right around the corner!!! That means children are getting excited for the Halloween parade and Halloween party that is held at school. Please be sure to read the information that is located in this newsletter regarding the specifics about this exciting holiday. If you would prefer that your child(ren) not participate in the festivities, please send a note to the office so we are aware of your request.

Thank you for a wonderful start to the school year! We look forward to working together as a team to continue this success for our children.

**Lindsay Allen**

**Cara Chase**

Principal

Assistant Principal

### Upcoming Events

#### October 6

HSO Meeting, Community Room – 6:30pm

#### October 10

Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL

#### October 13

Dine out at Culver's Night

#### October 14

HSO Family Game Show Mania – 6pm

#### October 18

End of 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester – Kindergarten Only

#### October 21

End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades

#### October 21

School Improvement Day – School Dismissal is at 12:45pm

#### October 31

Halloween Parade – 2pm,

Halloween Parties – 2:30 – 3:30pm

**Read. Write. Think. Grow.**

*Southbury: A Community of Learners.*

## Teacher & Staff Updates

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### Kindergarten News

The kindergarteners are really getting the hang of the routines and structure of the school day. We are so proud of them! We continue to introduce letters, sounds and high frequency words. The kids are exploring sounds and words during phonemic awareness such as chopping out sounds to make words (ex: sit= s-i-t), producing rhyming words and identifying the number of syllables in a word.

In reading, we have focused on the elements of a story (characters and setting) and finding the main topic and key details. In math, we continue to practice counting forwards and backwards, number identification 0-10 in random order and writing numbers 0-10.

**Tip for home:** Look for math around your house. Where do you see the number 7? Can you count how many toy cars you have? Who has more french fries? What do we have 6 of in the kitchen?

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### Physical Education Updates

Southbury student athletes in PE will be taking their first quarter fitness test. It is a new format starting this year. It is called Fitness Gram. I will be testing 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. 5<sup>th</sup> grade scores will be sent to the state.

Coach Parr's classes will also be finishing up our football unit. At the end of October Southbury student athletes will participate in other fun team sports. It's going to be a great month for Southbury PE! Go Sharks!

### Music Updates

Veterans Day Performance will be Nov. 11th at 9:15am. This event is for veterans, staff and students only. If your student has a friend, family member, or neighbor who has served our country, please encourage them to share this special event with us. Any veterans who plan to attend or would like to have their picture included in the assembly, please send a picture with the veteran's name, years of service, division and student's name to [tsantoyo@sd308.org](mailto:tsantoyo@sd308.org)

Musical rehearsals for Dig It! are starting for our Southbury 5th graders. There will be two performances on Nov. 17th. One performance will be during the school day for our student population, the other will be that same night for our parents at 6:30pm.

### 1st Grade News

October will be a fun month in first grade. The students will be reading new stories and learning about story elements in ELA. Remember, your student can log onto Pearson Realize and reread the stories we are practicing at school. Opinion writing, nouns, adjectives and verbs will be the focus during our writing block.

We practice good posture during handwriting instruction. Baggie books have started so please read those daily with your child. Subtraction will begin in math along with wonderings about math story problems.

Our community unit will come to an end this month and we will start learning about where we live. In science, the students will be hypothesizing and then completing experiments involving motion. We are looking forward to our Halloween parties! Go sharks!!!!

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade News

Second grade is already flying by! The students have been doing an amazing job! In Reading, students are now focusing on nonfiction texts. We are working on answering questions and finding the main idea and supporting details. Students will begin transferring these skills over to their writing by working on informative paragraphs. Students are learning how to focus on a topic and support it with important facts.

We will be wrapping up Unit 2 of Math here soon. Students continue to work on even and odd numbers, arrays, and number patterns. Unit 3 will focus on adding 2 digit numbers.

Last but not least, we have taken a Social Studies break and now are just focusing on Science. In Science, students are learning about solids and liquids. We will discuss the different properties of solids and liquids and will do many hands on experiments to help reinforce these concepts.

Please be on the lookout for conference information coming home soon! Have a wonderful week!

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News

We're more than halfway through 1st quarter! In Reading, we just finished our chapter book on *The Case of the Gaspig Garbage* and *The Treasure in the Trees*. Students did a great job analyzing character traits, identifying the setting of a story, putting events in proper sequence, understanding the importance of descriptive words, using the text to provide evidence and support to comprehension questions, and identifying the central message of a text.

In Math, as we finish up Chapter 3 on Subtraction, we move to Chapter 4 on Multiplication. We will be dividing into equal groups, understanding the relationship between division and subtraction and division and multiplication, and finally understanding and using inverse operations.

Finally in Writing, students will learn the method for researching a topic, taking notes, categorizing information, and producing a magazine article on an animal of their choice.

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## AVID

A couple of weeks ago our 4th and 5th grade students participated in a Binder Check.

Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Allen, and Miss Chase worked with classroom teachers to check each student's binder and provide suggestions of things to work to keep the binders well organized.

The students did an outstanding job and are showing excellent organizational skills. Keep up the great work!

## EPEC Updates

Exceptional Parents of Exceptional Children (EPEC) 308 is a parent-teacher organization for students with an IEP and/or 504 plan.

The October Meeting and Parents as Advocates Workshop is scheduled for October 12th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Eastview Kindergarten Center.

Please enter through Door #1. Pepi M. Silverman, M.Ed., PhD from Educational Advocacy and Consulting in Naperville will be presenting.

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News

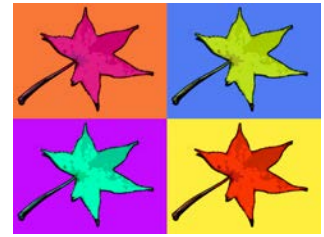
Southbury's fourth graders are smashing mock rocks into tiny pieces and carefully analyzing what they find. In a science unit called Earth Materials, the children are pondering what rocks are made of, how rocks are formed, and what fossils can tell us about Earth's history.

In reading, the students are continuing to focus on informational texts about the skeletal structures of different animals, and they'll also learn how science and history helped identify the grave and debunk some of the myth about a long-dead English king.

Multiplication will take center stage in math. Students will focus on memorizing multiplication facts, and they will learn and practice methods of multi-digit multiplication. The children will continue to work in problem solving strategies as well.

In writing, students will continue crafting a variety of informational pieces, and in social studies, the children will begin learning about the Native Americans who lived on the continent prior to European exploration.

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## Front Office Updates

**Help Wanted** - Help is needed in the form of substitute teaching assistants! If you might be interested in learning more about this opportunity at Southbury, please visit the district website ([www.sd308.org](http://www.sd308.org)) and click on the Employment Opportunities tab. Interested individuals would need to fulfill the job qualifications for a teaching assistant, and the job duties would also follow suit.

A few gentle reminders from the front office:

- If your student is going to be absent or tardy, please call the attendance line at: 630-551-9801 to report the absence or tardy **before 8 AM**.
- Please do not email the teacher to report an absence as we do not always get them forwarded to us in a timely manner.
- We encourage students to take responsibility for forgotten items but if you must drop something off for your student, please be sure it is clearly marked with their name and their teacher's name and place in the blue box located in the front corridor.
- Students are not called out of class to pick up items left in the office. Items are placed on the counter adjacent to the school hallway for students to pick up at an opportune time.
- With the weather being a bit unpredictable, please remember to send your child with a sweatshirt, or light coat to school. Students do go outside for recess when the temperature is above 10 degrees F.
- Finally, a couple of reminders regarding Halloween parties –
  - The district policy states NO FOOD is to be brought in for the classroom parties. We ask that you adhere to that policy.
  - If you are one of the 4 room party volunteers for the Halloween

## Art Updates

The Art Room is busy with the arrival of Fall! Some students will make autumn themed art while others will create "spooky" pieces to be displayed in the hall for Halloween. Many will learn about the history and culture behind the celebration of el Dia de los Muertos. 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be making "sugar skull" masterpieces that are always colorful and detailed. \*

Our young artists are also preparing pieces to be displayed during the upcoming musical, "Dig It" as well as during Veteran's Day next month.

### Art room wish list:

- Clean plastic Gerber baby food containers and lids
- School-appropriate magazines, architectural magazines
- Old calendar pictures (great as drawing references)
- Tooth-picks
- Any and all yarn types
- Your leftover **sample-sized** wall paint test colors
- Anything else you think Mrs. Chee can use to get our kids' creative juices flowing! 😊

Any donations can be sent to school or dropped off in the front office labeled with "Art Room" or "for Mrs. Chee". Thank you in advance!

*\*(Projects are adapted for some students out of respect for their religious beliefs.)*



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## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News

The 5th graders are enjoying first quarter! In Writing, they have been learning all about narratives and writing from different perspectives.

In Reading, they began a new adventure, encompassing the theme "Depending on Each Other." By reading the novel *Night of the Spadefoot Toads* by Bill Harley, the students have been focusing on three Enduring Understandings: Readers understand that themes in literary texts are developed through the characters, settings, and events. Writers understand that various narrative techniques can be used to develop stories. Learners understand that people change in reaction to their surroundings.

Prime and composite numbers, prime factorization, exponents, and multiplication have been the major topics in Math. Students are working diligently to master these skills.

As for Science, the fifth graders are studying Ecology. They will have fun creating mini landfills, discussing ways of being ecologically responsible, and learning how they can truly make a difference in shrinking their human footprint.

In Social Studies, they have been learning about the westward expansion of the United States. Their next unit will cover the Underground Railroad, slavery, and the Civil War. Needless to say, the 5th graders have been exploring many wonderful learning opportunities!

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## STARS News

It has been a fabulous month in STARS! All the staff and students have settled into their daily routines. This month we are looking forward to learning about and celebrating the season. We will be doing classroom Halloween parties at the end of the month. Please contact your child's teacher if you are interested in helping out.

The end of the quarter will be October 21<sup>st</sup>, and parent teacher conferences will be the first week in November. Please remember that there is no school Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and a half day Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## 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](mailto:sbhomenschool@gmail.com) to reserve your childcare spot.

### GET TEXT MESSAGE reminders about upcoming due dates and events!

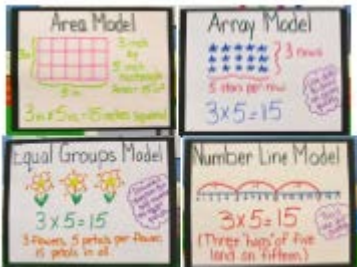
- Send a text message to (331) 215-6780
- Type @southbu
- It's that simple! You will instantly start to receive reminder texts about upcoming events, meetings and due dates.

## Gifted Education

### The Triathlon of Multiplication

#### Stage 1: Swimming a.k.a. Understanding Equal Groups

Students begin by internalizing what multiplication means. They should develop an understanding about the relationship between multiplication and division, and equal groups and equal shares, and the connection with repeated addition and skip counting. Comprehending what the facts mean is like reading for comprehension, not just accuracy and fluency.



#### Stage 2: Cycling a.k.a. "Figure-It-Out" Tricks

Learning some "tricks" to quickly figure out multiplication/division facts and developing their own tricks helps students analyze multiplication patterns, apply partial-product principals, and use "landmark numbers" to quickly use what they know to figure out unknown facts. Using these types of thinking will cause students to realize that they can find the products for multiplication problems that they haven't yet memorized. How empowering that can be!

*The Best of Times* by Greg Tang presents strategies for figuring out multiplication facts. For example, Tang writes,

*Four is very fast to do, when you multiply by 2. Here's a little good advice: Please just always double twice!*

#### Stage 3: Running a.k.a. Automaticity

Before we cross the finish line, memorization is a must. Automaticity is far more efficient, and the speed inherent with automatic fact recall will help them to solve multi-digit multiplication and division problems efficiently. Memorization is about speed, efficiency, and freeing up brain space for other math thinking.

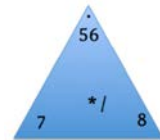
## Tips for Winning the Race

### Tip 1: Computer practice games

Website games, such as Timez Attack, help students learn the multiplication facts. Other good website choices are MobyMax, Math Playground, Math is Fun, and Xtramath.

### Tip 2: Totally "Unsquare" Flashcards

Traditional flashcards that teach multiplication or division facts or "fact triangles" allow students to practice independently or with a partner in a short amount of time. Students play with their fact triangles by covering up one corner and then having a friend figure out the hidden number. This helps them internalize the relationship between multiplication and division. A free printable set of all of the multiplication fact triangles is available online at [http://www.helpingwithmath.com/printables/others/fac0201fact\\_triangle01.htm](http://www.helpingwithmath.com/printables/others/fac0201fact_triangle01.htm) Click on "print fact triangles."



### Tip 3: Play Math Fact Games

Greg Tang of *The Best of Times* didn't just stop with an awesome book. He also developed a fun mental math game that can be played online. Kakooma challenges students to use multiplication to solve a series of puzzles. The rules are easy: just find the one number in the diagram that is the product of two others. Or put a twist on an old game, like hopscotch becomes multiplication practice in order to move, Twister Multiplication, Multiplication Go Fish, or place math facts on any board game and solve the facts as you play the game.

Submitted by GE Math revised from

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/classroom-solutions/2012/01/total-recall-%E2%80%93-helping-our-students-memorize-multiplication-facts>



*I saw you here! I saw you there!  
You were caught reading everywhere!*

*Stella Tarmann and Madi Langenfeld*



## Reading Update

*"Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?"*

*Let's figure it out mathematically!*

*Student A reads 20 minutes five nights of every week;*

*Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!*

*Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week.*

*Student A reads 20 min. x 5 times a week = 100 minutes/week*

*Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes a month*

*Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.*

*Student A reads 400 minutes a month.*

*Student B reads 80 minutes a month.*

*Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year.*

*Student A reads 3,600 minutes in a school year.*

*Student B reads 720 minutes in a school year.*

*Student A practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days a year.*

*Student B gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice.*

*(Source: US Dept. of Education's. America Reads Challenge. (1999)*

*"Start Early, Finish Strong: How to Help Every Child Become a Reader." Washington, D.C.*

*Happy Reading!*

*Reading Specialist: Cheri Davis & Literacy Specialists: Allison Anderson & Stephanie Townsend*

## Social Work

You may have heard your child about The Buddy Bench that has recently been added to our playground, but what does it mean?

The idea is to give kids a place to sit when they are feeling left out or in need of a buddy to play with. It also can be used as a safe place for kids to sit and talk out issues.

Below you will find links to 2 videos; the first is a news report talking about the history of the buddy bench, the second explains to kids how to use the buddy bench.

Please take a moment to watch the videos and see what this is all about!

[Buddy Bench Video #1](#)

[Buddy Bench Video #2](#)

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## Speech & Language News

What is a speech/pathologist's role in schools?

A *speech-language pathologist* (SLP) evaluates and treats children who have difficulty with speech or language. Although people often think of speech and language as the same thing, the terms actually have very different meanings. If your child has trouble with *speech*, he/she struggles with the "how-to" of talking—the coordination of the muscles and movements necessary to produce speech. If your child has trouble with *language*, he/she struggles with understanding what he/she hears or sees. Your child may struggle to find the right words and/or organize those words in a meaningful way to communicate a message or hold a conversation.

In a school setting, SLP's evaluate and treat 4 main areas of speech or language:

### Speech Disorders

*Articulation* - the way we say our speech sounds

### Language Disorders

*Receptive Language* - difficulty understanding language

*Expressive Language* - difficulty using language

*Pragmatic Language* - social communication; the way we speak to each other

### Fluency/Stuttering

The repetition of sounds or syllables during conversation

### Voice:

Problems with the way the voice sounds, such as hoarseness

In order to qualify for services in one of the 4 areas, SLP's have to prove that a child is impacted academically or socially at school.

Debbie Convey, Kelly Okel, Stephanie Tarmann

## Get Connected!

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

[www.sd308.org/southbury](http://www.sd308.org/southbury)

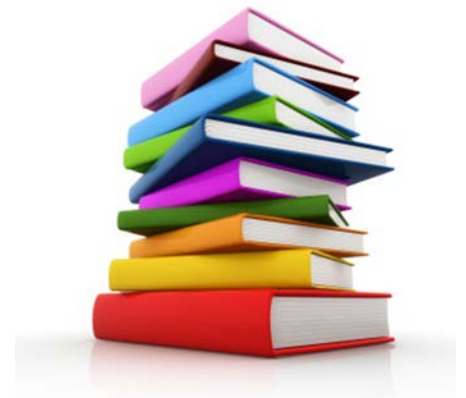
Follow us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Southbury308](http://www.facebook.com/Southbury308)

Follow us on Twitter: @southbury308

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

[www.southburyparents.com](http://www.southburyparents.com)





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## News from Nurse Sara

At the end of September, Dr. Miller came to Southbury for dental exams, cleaning, and sealants and I'm happy to report we had a great turn out! Parents will be receiving a copy of the dental examination form this week for each child that was seen by the dentist. The examination will be entered into each child's electronic health record at school, and fulfills the required dental examination in Illinois for Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. If you would like to have your child seen by the dentist before the end of the school year, Dr. Miller will return to Southbury in March. New consent forms and health histories will be sent out in the beginning of March.



**Exclusion date is October 17, 2016.** This means students who have not had the required health documents submitted will not be able to attend school on/after this date until all requirements have been met, see below:

1. **Kindergarteners** need: a State of Illinois DHS physical (dated 8/19/15-current), up to date immunizations, dental, & vision examination.
2. **Students who have transferred from another school this year** require a copy of up to date immunizations, a State of Illinois DHS physical, dental, & vision examinations.

Health reminders: Students who require medication to be administered during the school day require a School Medication Authorization Form signed by a physician and guardian. Keep in mind students are not allowed to self-administer medications without the proper paperwork. Forms can be found on the school district's website and can be faxed to me once completed to (630) 551-9897. Students who cannot participate in PE/recess need to have a doctor's note outlining dates to be excused and reason.

Clothing-If you have sent in change of clothing to be stored in the nurse's office, feel free to send in warmer clothing to swap out. I will return the summer clothing to your child to take home with them. Thank you for your help in keeping our students healthy! I can be reached by email: [skarantonis@sd308.org](mailto:skarantonis@sd308.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sara Karantonis, MSN, RN Building Nurse

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## LMC (Library Media Center) News

Did you know that October is Kids Love a Mystery Month? It's true and you can celebrate it by checking out this website: <http://www.kidsloveamystery.com/> for great mystery titles.

Southbury LRC is home to over 14,000 books! Parents, please be sure your child returns his/her book each week so a new book can be checked out. We have a variety of genres and would love for your child to have something different to read each week (unless they are entrenched in an amazing chapter book that takes them a while to finish reading, then allow them to finish the book).

Sometimes, students have difficulties choosing a book that is a good fit for their reading ability. One way to help your child find a good fit book is by using the 5 finger rule. This is how the 5 finger rule works: randomly select a page in the book and begin to read. Every time a word is not known, put up a finger. If all five fingers are up before finishing the page, the book is too difficult and a different book should be selected. If 3 or less fingers are up, the book should be ok and not frustrate your reader.

Since technology has become such a heavily relied-upon source for information and communication, classes have been learning about digital citizenship in the LRC. Lessons include discussions and activities designed to teach appropriate, responsible behavior with regard to technology use. These lessons will be taught throughout the year and will build as they get older.

Mark your calendar because just around the corner is our Fall Scholastic Book Fair! The book fair will be open November 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-3:30. We will be closed from 12-1 each day for lunch. Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be opening at 7:45 for Donuts with Dad. If you are interested in volunteering, more information will be coming home for signing up to help out.

Lastly, be watching for a note to come home as we will be hosting our third annual "Decorate a Pumpkin as Your Favorite Story Book Character" contest. The details will be coming home in the next few weeks.

Mrs. Witcpalek and Mrs. Gotchie

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## English As A Second Language Resource (ESL Resource)

All ESL students should have received 2016 ACCESS scores and placement information for this school year. If you have not received them please send me an email and I will get those to you.

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. 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.

If you have any questions or need help with anything please contact me.

Kristen Serio | 630-551-9858 | [kserio@sd308.org](mailto:kserio@sd308.org)

**Read. Write. Think. Grow.**

*Southbury: A Community of Learners.*

# Southbury Halloween Parade & Party Information



October 31, 2016  
1:45 P.M. – Party parent volunteers arrive  
2:00 P.M. – Parade  
2:30 P.M. – Room party starts  
3:25 P.M. – Clean up begins  
3:30 P.M. – Party ends



## Parade Order:

5 Kraus, FDK Wolff, 5 Collins, FDK Gaca, 5 Tweedy, FDK Yabsley, 5 Harris, FDK Dunn, 4 Adams, FDK Langenfeld, 4 Stephens, FDK Weaver, 4 Shammas, FDK Howe, 3 Yarbrough, 3 Morrison, 3 Elliott, 2 Rieser, 2 Daly, 2 Truax, 2 Feliciano, 1 Woodbury, 1 Hettinger, 1 Simmons, STARS Circelli, STARS Wilson, STARS Lorch, STARS Andrade, STARS Covelli

## Costumes:

- 🍎 FDK through Fifth Grades: Students **should not** wear their costumes but should bring them to school in their backpacks. They will have their regularly scheduled lunch/recess periods and will have time after recess and lunch to change into their costumes. Staff will be available to assist and monitor students during this time.
- 🍎 Please **do not** send the following items to school: masks, make-up, colored hairsprays, fake blood, or any kind of weapon (even if it is plastic). Please save these things for Halloween night.



## Parade:

- 🍎 The parade will begin at 2:00.
- 🍎 The children will exit Door #20 (in the back) and make 2 loops around the school. Visitors who would like to watch the parade may stand outside the building. However, please keep all sidewalks clear and stand away from the doors so the children are not overwhelmed. Also, please leave all pets at home on this day.

## Parking:

Parking is limited, so it is best to arrive early. Please be aware that parking is prohibited on Fairfield Lane and is restricted to the north side (house side) of Preston Lane. Please honor the "No Parking" signs on Preston and Fairfield.

- 🍎 Please **do not** park in the fire/bus lanes in front of the school or in the Parent Pick-Up lane at the back of the school.

## No Treats:

No treats (including candy) can be brought to any of the parties. This is a district policy.

Only designated room parents who are working the parties can attend the parties and must check in at the Community Room on party day. You must have a valid I.D. in order to enter the building.

- 🍎 Please enter in the **back** of the school through Doors #18 and #19 (the Community Room).
- 🍎 These restrictions are imposed due to space limitations and minimal parking available.
- 🍎 Please make other arrangements for siblings on these days.

