

Shark Tales – January 2017

Happy New Year 2017, Shark Families!

From the Administration

Welcome back, and we hope that you all had a safe and relaxing holiday break. We are now beginning the second semester of the school year, but we need to take a moment to say a big THANK YOU to many people:

- Thank you to all our families that donated hats, scarves, gloves, and coats! With your help, we were able to collect over 200 items and make a big difference in the lives of many of our Southbury families.
- We would like to so thanks to our HSO and parents who volunteered to make our Winter holiday parties such a success. The children had TONS of fun, and this wouldn't have been possible without all of you. Thank you!

Before the holiday season, we had our second Shark Fest in order to celebrate good choices and behavior with our children...and it was so much fun!! Please be sure to talk with your child(ren) regarding Character Counts!, especially since we will be experiencing a lot of cold weather and will not be able to go outside every day for recess. We appreciate your support!

Here's to a wonderful 2017 – GO SHARKS!!

Lindsay Allen

Principal

Cara Chase

Assistant Principal



Upcoming Events

January 9

Students Return to School

January 9 - 26

Little Caesar's Pizza Sale
(proceeds support One Author-
One School program)

January 11 – February 3

STAR Testing

January 12

HSO Meeting, 6:30pm

January 16

No School, Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day

January 30 – February 3

Staff Appreciation Week

Read. Write. Think. Grow.

Southbury: A Community of Learners.

Teacher & Staff Updates

Kindergarten News

Happy New Year! Our ReadyGen curriculum will focus on the informational texts, *What Will the Weather Be?* and *Weather Words*. While reading, we will be focusing on asking and answering questions while using question words such as who, what, where, and how.

In writing we will be able to share different kinds of information using facts we've learned about the weather.

In math, students will utilize their knowledge of quantity to measure and compare amounts with objects, and describe the difference with words such as greater than, less than, or equal to.

1st Grade News

First Grade came back rested and ready for 2017! Upon returning from break we focused on reviewing procedures and routines. After discussing the meaning of resolutions we all wrote one goal we have for 2017.

This month we will be reading informational stories that will help students understand that the details in a text support the author's main points. Students will practice writing their opinions along with understanding that an opinion has to be supported with one or more reasons. Learning how to use place value will be examined during math. In Social Studies we are starting our next unit "World of Work". Students will make connections between topics covered in reading and social studies. Properties exploration will continue during science using additional materials.

The first graders showed great respect, responsibility and safety in the 2nd Quarter earning them the Characters Counts Cup. The cup will stay in our pod for the quarter. Yay Firsties!



Physical Education Updates

Southbury student athletes will be starting 2017 with a great winter sport! Hockey!! All students will be learning the history, skills and how to play floor hockey. After our hockey unit, Southbury student athletes will start learning about bowling. It is going to be a great month for Southbury PE!!

Music Updates

We have lots of new musical endeavors beginning in January.

2nd and 5th grade will explore different aspects of the instruments of the Orchestra. Our 4th graders are working on note reading by learning how to play the recorder. Kindergarten and 1st grade are starting to explore musical opposites and story telling through music. The 3rd grade will begin working on rehearsals for our 3rd grade musical on March 16th. Please look for an informational letter in the next week. Spring Honor Choir rehearsals start on Jan. 12th.

2nd Grade News

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a restful and fun-filled winter break. We are very excited to get back into the swing of things with these terrific second graders!

As third quarter begins, students will be focusing on reading and writing nonfiction with a focus on biographies. Using Theodore Roosevelt: The Adventurous President as our anchor text, we will focus on the text features and facts included to help students create a question and answer poster about an important person in American history. Students will have the opportunity to choose their selected research subject and will conduct their research in class using books and online sources.

In math, we will be concentrating on three-digit subtraction with and without regrouping. After that, we will be ready to jump into learning about money! We will be taking a break from social studies to transition back to science for a while. In this unit, we will learn about how new plants are formed and what plants need to survive. We will even grow live plants in our own classrooms! 2017 will sure be getting off to an exciting start!

3rd Grade News

Welcome back Third Grade Families! We are so excited to be back in school and are excited to see what 2017 will bring. The kids are smiling, focused, and ready to learn.

In our classrooms, we are continuing to focus on applying multiplication and division strategies. In order to increase fact power, keep practicing those flash cards at home!

Our English Language Arts unit is coming to an end as we are starting to write compare/contrast pieces about two very different communities. The students have been doing an excellent job identifying text features, reading for information, and researching. Until next month—stay warm!



AVID

As we start the second half of the year, it is a great time to help students get reorganized and review some of the skills they already learned.

Get those binders cleaned out and ready to go for the 3rd quarter. Be sure to have a great study space set up at home for your child to complete their work and remind them to write important dates in their planners.

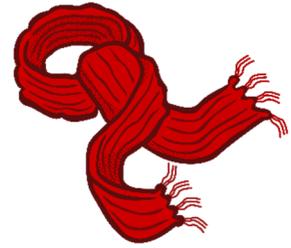
All of these things will help prepare our students for a successful start to 2017!

4th Grade News

Patterns, rules and equations, and the order of operations, that's the math that fourth graders are pondering as they look for structure in their calculations. Also this month, the students are continuing to use multiplication and division strategies to solve story problems.

In January, the children will conclude a reading and writing unit on folktales, myths and tall tales. Students will then begin reading and writing in depth about Native American literature and culture.

In science, fourth graders will work on a unit about the scientific method, and in social studies, the children will begin learning about European exploration of the Americas.



Art Updates

Fine Arts Club begins this month. We will be discussing and exploring the many branches of visual and performing arts. This club will also begin organizing the Fine Arts Night that will take place at Southbury on May 3rd.

To start off third quarter, every Southbury student participated in creating a hand drawing as a "helping hand".

These hands will be sent to Students Rebuild. The Bezos Family Foundation will donate \$1.90 for every hand sent in, to the Save the Children's programs.

This program helps the youth of Nicaragua and Indonesia to achieve their dreams and break the cycle of poverty. All the "helping hands" of our community are welcome!!!

If your family wants to decorate and cut out hands at home to help with this cause, please have your student bring them to Mrs. Ayoung Chee no later than Friday, February 10th.

Learn more about this project at:

<http://studentsrebuild.org/youthupliftchallenge>

Front Office Updates

Welcome back Southbury Sharks!! We hope you had a restful holiday break and are ready to start 2017 fresh and energized!

Mrs. Hathaway and I are busy getting ready for the New Year.

- First day back for the students is Tuesday, January 9, 2017.
- Culvers Night is January 12th, 2017.
- No school on January 16, 2017 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

We are working hard in the office for the upcoming Kindergarten registration. If you have a child entering Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year, you may get a head start on downloading the forms from the District 308 website. Southbury registration is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th. Registration will be held at Oswego EAST High School from 9am until 7pm.

We appreciate all of our parents calling in their children when they are absent or late. It saves an abundance of time. Please continue to call 630-551-9801 if your child will be absent or late. In addition, please remember that this is strictly an attendance line. Please refrain from leaving bus, parent pick up, teacher notes, etc. on this line. Please call the main office, (630) 551-9800 for any of these matters.

Looking forward to a successful 2017!

5th Grade News

Happy New Year!! Welcome back! Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays is behind us, fifth grade is shifting from one busy time to the next. In reading and writing, the fifth graders will continue to focus on the theme of courage, as they read about real-life superheroes.

In math, they are engaged with multiplication and division of decimals, which will help prepare for their upcoming fractions unit. Science has fifth grade exploring landforms.

Finally, in social studies they are linking the eastern and western United States by learning about the first transcontinental railroad and the settlement of the Great Plains.

STARS Updates

Our STARS classrooms recently went on a community outing trip to the Oswego Library. On our library trip we got to listen to some books, complete a craft at the library, sit and look at books within the library, and learn how to check books out.

We are also looking forward to our in-school therapy dog session later this month. More information will be sent home when the date approaches.

The STARS teachers want to remind parents that students need snow pants, boots, hat, and gloves in order to go outside and play for recess when weather permits.



You've been caught reading!

Carter Abruscato

Kayla Spikings

EPEC Updates

Exceptional Parents of Exceptional Children's (EPEC) mission is "to bring together and support families, caregivers, and educators of children with exceptional needs in district 308." EPEC is a parent teacher organization for those children with an IEP or 504 plan in school district 308.

EPEC Transition Planning and Services with Melanie Grant meeting will be held January 11, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m. @ East View Kindergarten Center in the cafeteria. Melanie Grant is an attorney with Equip for Equality. They are an independent whose primary goal is to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities through legal services, public policy, monitoring and training.

Library Media Center Updates

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are already beginning the second half of the school year. As the new calendar year begins, we look forward to several enriched educational experiences in the LRC as research will be happening for several grade levels.

Are you looking for a great list of books to choose from for your student to read? Why not choose books from the Monarch or Bluestem lists? First through fifth grade students can qualify for rewards by reading a specific number of these wonderful books. The Monarch and Bluestem slips need to be turned in to the LRC by Friday, February 10th to qualify for the rewards. Monarch and Bluestem books are available in the Southbury LRC and at the Oswego Public Library as well.

Monarch books for 1st -3rd grade

Read 5 or more = vote for favorite one

Read 10 or more= lunch in the LRC and a token for free scoop of custard from Culver's

Read all 20= \$5.00 gift certificate for Scholastic book fair in March.

For more information go to: <http://www.islma.org/monarch.htm>

Bluestem books for 4th-5th grade

Read 4 or more= vote for favorite one

Read 10 or more= lunch in the LRC and a token for free scoop of custard from Culver's

Read all 20= \$5.00 gift certificate for Scholastic book fair in March

For more information go to: <http://www.islma.org/Bluestem.htm>

Keep Warm and Happy Reading!

Mrs. Witcpalek and Mrs. Gotchie in the LMC!



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 Updates

Figurative Language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Types of figurative language include similes, metaphors, idioms, and clichés. There are many great books that can expose kids to figurative language. Here are a few to try when you are stuck inside on these cold winter days.

- *A Chocolate Moose for Dinner* and *The King Who Rained* by Fred Gwynne both contain clichés and idioms while featuring homophones, too.
- *More Parts* by Tedd Arnold –silly idioms that relate to the body. And if you like *More Parts*, you'll certainly like *Even More Parts* by Tedd Arnold!
- *Crazy like a Fox: A Simile Story* by Loreen Leedy obviously features similes.
- *I Scream, Ice Cream* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal features various types of great figurative language.
- *My Teacher Likes to Say* by Denise Brennan-Nelson is a book full of idioms. It also describes the meanings and the origin of the idioms!
- Of course *Amelia Bedilia* books are full of figurative language especially idioms.

We hope you enjoy reading some of these great books!

Deb Convey, Kelly Okel, Stephanie Tarmann



English As A Second Language (ESL) Resource Updates

ACCESS Testing

ACCESS Testing is beginning on January 10th this year. All EL students will be participating in ACCESS Testing between January 10, 2017 and February 10, 2017.

The ACCESS test will determine your child's English Language proficiency in the four domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The results of the ACCESS test will determine your child's placement within the EL program for the 2017-2018 school year. During this time regular ESL services will not take place.

If you have any questions regarding ACCESS testing please contact me.

Kristen Serio
630-551-9858

kserio@sd308.org

Reading Updates

As we start a new year, turn reading into something special for your family!

Take your children to the library and help them get their very own library card. Buy them books for special occasions and use them instead of cards by writing a special message inside the cover. Then provide a special place for those special books at home. Designate a special cozy place to read together every day and you'll be creating special memories that will last a life time.



Gifted Updates

New Year's Bedtime Resolution!

We hear about reading to our children before bed as part of a nightly routine, but how about "mathing" with your child before bed? Okay, okay, I know there is no such word as "mathing," but what if there were? What if we had fun with math before bed each night? I wonder how children's thinking would change? I wonder if number sense would increase? I wonder how their dreams would change? I wonder if children would wonder more about numbers? ☺

Parents to the rescue! The parent-developed website <http://bedtimemath.org/> is on a mission "to help kids love numbers so they can handle the math in real life." Just five quick minutes of number fun for kids and parents at night might give answers to all my "what if..."wondering questions. It's simple. Just read a cool fun fact, followed by math riddles at different levels so everyone in the family can jump in and have fun. As you discuss the questions, you can learn about "the dessert compartment" in your stomach, or taking a walk with a fish, or the world's largest rubber ducky, or how it's really true that you'll be taller in the morning! (And in case you are really tired at night like most parents, there are answers provided at the bottom of the page. ☺)

Still not convinced this resolution will be easy to keep? You can sign up using @BedtimeMath to have a nightly tweet sent to you. Or, sign up with your email address to have the nightly math sent to your inbox. Bedtime Math also posts YouTube videos, in case you want to watch a funny life story and think about the math together. Whatever method you prefer, the result will be the same...more number talks means more math learning and more success with math in life! Let's make it a New Year's Resolution to "math" to your child at bedtime. ☺ Here's wishing you many good (math) nights this year!

Social Work Updates

Ways to Save Time at Home and in the Classroom

1. Stick to a Routine – Consistency in routines and schedules helps children understand where they should be and what they should be doing. Routines avoid conflicts and help children prepare for activities. For example, if children know the family goes grocery shopping every Saturday morning at 10 a.m., they expect and plan for this activity. Classroom schedules often provide structure, but when children return home they sometimes have more flexible routines. Visual schedules at school and home often help children. Use pictures, drawings, or words to let children know what comes next. Even a simple chalk board or dry erase board can be used at home to let children know their schedule.

2. Plan Ahead – Certain times of the day can be hectic such as getting ready for school or leaving school. Have children get things ready in advance. Set clothes out the night before, get school bags ready, and put homework in backpacks well before children need to line up for the bus. These strategies avoid last minute confusion which can take extra time.

3. Stay Organized – Children frequently spend time looking for lost items. Help them organize their space and make a point of keeping areas organized. Use labels to let children know where their toys, clothes, or desk items belong. Pictures from magazines, drawings, photographs, or words can be attached to bookshelves, placed in drawers, or taped on containers as visual reminders. Define locations with jigs (cut outs indicating the shape of the items), containers, or designated shelf space. Make sure children consistently return items to the correct location so they are able to quickly and easily locate them.

4. Prepare Children in Advance – When children are given specific times or cues to transition, they are less likely to protest or to stall. Natural cues such as when a show ends or created cues like when the timer goes off, let children know it is time to transition. Some children benefit from a timer or clock so they can see the deadline approaching. Consistently enforcing these transitions is essential for teaching children to follow them. Allowing a child to watch an extra five minutes of the next show or telling them you will re-set a clock sends the message that schedules can be negotiated and often wastes time.

5. Work as a Team – Whether setting the table, walking the dog, or cleaning up after recess, working with others is more fun and more productive than working alone. Give children tasks that are part of a group effort such as pouring the drinks, getting Spot's leash, or collecting the balls. Working as a team saves time, teaches responsibility, and helps children learn the importance of working together.

6. Remember to Reinforce – When children are ready on time, have their space organized, follow transition cues, and work with others to accomplish a goal, be sure to recognize their efforts. A simple thank you, pat on the back, or extra story at bedtime can mean a lot to a child. Mention exactly what they did correctly and reinforce them immediately after they completed the task. For example, "Ally, you did a great job helping Todd set the table. Thank you for putting the plates and cups in the right place."

Article from-The Sandbox Learning Company

Happy New Year!

Kristin Epstein & Tanya Gryniak Southbury School Social Workers

Nurse Sara's Updates

Welcome back from winter break! I hope it was a relaxing & restful time for everyone.

Hearing and vision screenings were completed last month. If a student did not pass the first time, the students are going to be re-screened again this month. Parents will receive a letter home only if the student does not pass both screenings.

Please keep in mind that all Kindergarten students are required by the state of Illinois to receive a vision exam by an ophthalmologists. The screenings performed by certified nurses at the school do not fulfill this requirement. Please submit your child's completed vision exam if it has not been completed yet.

5th grade parents should have received the Puberty field trip paperwork before winter break. Please return the completed form with your child as soon as possible.

2nd graders and kindergarteners must have a dental examination per the state of Illinois. Deadline is in May 2017. I will provide my contact information below if your child's office is faxing the completed form to me. The dentist will return to Southbury soon. The dental van examination DOES fulfill the state of Illinois requirement. Please notify me if this is the route you are choosing.

Winter clothing-if your kindergarten has spring clothing in the nurse's office, I wanted to ask for that clothing to be swapped with winter clothing. I will send the spring clothing home this month since t-shirt and shorts/skirts will not be warm enough during these cold months ahead.

Please contact me ASAP if your child has a history of asthma and needs a nebulizer treatment. I have a nebulizer machine in the office, and only need the medication, tubing, mask or mouth piece, & most importantly a completed School Medication Authorization Form.

Injuries- if your child is injured and cannot participate in PE & recess a signed doctor's note must explain the circumstances and length of the exclusion from activities.

Happy January!

Nurse Sara

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Southbury: A Community of Learners.