

The Boulevard Beat

A Monthly Newsletter from SBS - February 2015 Edition

The Principal's Place

Dear Parents,

What a busy winter! It seems that I annually underestimate the pace of this time of year. I've learned that stopping to reflect during the busiest of times helps me to think clearly, and to stay focused on what's most important. As part of my own personal reflection, I often attempt to put myself into your various positions as SBS parents. So far this year, we have had numerous experiences to celebrate together, and I have come to know many parents personally as a result. Sharing philosophies, information and ideas with the PTO committee heads has led to positive understandings and outcomes. As we are now almost six months into this school year, I want to be sure to keep my personal lines of communication open to all SBS parents. Always know that I welcome your input, feedback and contributions to this learning community, and consider each of you to be invaluable resources and contributors to our warm environment and overall success.

I'd like to close by making the school community aware that our third graders will be taking the PARCC assessments during the week of 3/9-3/13. We are approaching the assessments with confidence in our students and instructional practices. We believe that we will continue to experience greatness as long as we continue to put forth our best efforts each day. Please know that scheduling the PARCC assessments required fine detail, and ultimately the entire building will be impacted in some way. I have worked very hard to minimize any interruptions to our K-2 instruction.

As always, feel free to contact me directly with any questions, comments or concerns regarding any SBS happenings. Remember, spring is right around the corner!

Robert Gardella
Principal

The Nurse's Nook

We're sick and tired!

We're sick and tired of winter! We have had enough indoor recess and our occasional "blacktop only recess" is getting old. Our lips are chapped and our skin is dry. Our nurse has ice cold hands! We can't wait for spring!

We're sick and tired of being sick! The traffic through the health office and the attendance messages over the last few weeks would have us believe that influenza-like illness (temperature >100.3 with a sore throat and/or a cough), the "stomach bug" and strep throat are alive and well in our homes and our classrooms.

Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to speed up the arrival of spring. But, fortunately, there are some things we can do to keep ourselves and our classrooms in good health.

- Children who have had fevers (100 degrees or greater) must stay home until they are fever

free (without the use of Tylenol, Advil or other fever reducing medications) for a minimum of 24 hours. (This is district policy!)

- If your child vomits, please keep them home for at least 24 hours after they stop vomiting. And please be sure they are eating and eliminating normally before they return to school.
- Use a thermometer! Determining a child's readiness for school is an art and a science, but for the sake of the community, the science must come first. (Kissing foreheads is art, not science.)
- Not sure about whether your child is sick? If your work situation permits, please delay their arrival at school so you have extra time to assess this at home. (Don't forget to call the attendance line so we know where they are!)
- If you suspect that your child has strep throat, please keep them home and have them tested at a doctor's office or other medical care facility before sending them to school. For the health of the community, this is a better option than sending them to school until you can secure an appointment. Strep throat can be a dangerous infection if left untreated. Please inform the nurse if your child has tested positive for strep throat so the class can be informed.

There are students in our school with chronic health challenges such as asthma or cardiac and neurological conditions that predispose them to become severely sick if exposed to the common illnesses such as influenza and strep throat. We have children who return home everyday to parents and grandparents who are receiving chemotherapy. We have teachers who are pregnant. Many of our children come from families with young infants at home. These are individuals for whom illness could be quite harmful.

Please consider the needs of others before sending a child who may be sick to school.

Thanks for your efforts to keep the school community in good health!

With everyone working together, we won't be sick and tired for long!

Required Exclusion Times for Contagious Illnesses

Counseling Connection

In February, all thoughts turn to hearts and expressions of love and caring for others. To keep SBS' focus of accepting differences relevant to the topic, I find that connecting the expression, "heart-warming" to the skills associated with a caring school climate provides the perfect metaphor to add literary dimension in our learning!

To keep our goal topical, I extend the lesson to connect the phrase with each skill involved in accepting differences respectively, such as listening to each other, asking questions of each other rather than accusing, and working through problems in an effort to understand each other. These steps become known as "heart -warming" behaviors that show that we care for each other, and, in turn, are evidence of being a caring person. Research illustrates that children are more likely to continue to display positive behaviors when they are associated with a desired trait. In some classes, students are writing and illustrating ways they can warm someone's heart, and ways others can warm their hearts, using the conflict resolution vernacular and the associated coping skills to keep these important concepts relevant to the current time. One great book I like to use at this time, is Heartprints, by P.K. Hallinan. The book's message is that each deliberate act of kindness leaves a "heartprint" and asks how many heartprints the reader will leave behind. It notes specific behaviors that cover a wide range of situations and is very accessible for even the most sophisticated reader!

The Design Den

Welcome Families, to the Design Den!

What has been happening in Design and Technology this month?

3rd Grade Students have created water carriers designed to transport water from a water source to a place of residence.

Ask your child why their water carrier is so important to Lou and his family.

2nd Grade Students are challenged to create their own landfill system.

Ask your child what a landfill is and how they plan on creating a successful system.

1st Grade Students are learning about agriculture and biotechnology. They are exploring parts of the plant that we eat.

Ask your what parts of the plant the vegetables on your dinner plate are.

Kindergarten Students are learning about bumblebee habitats.

Ask your child where a bumblebee takes shelter and they are creating shelters for a bumblebee.

Thank you again for your support of Design and Technology!

Ms. Stojanov (Ms. S)

The Library Lowdown

BOOK FAIR- Thank you to all our parent volunteers who assisted with our SBS Library Book Fair. A special thanks to P.T.O. Book Fair Chairpersons, Mrs. Ponsiglione and Mrs. Meyler for helping Mr. D'Aloia with the fair. Thank you to our classroom teachers, Matt Chase and his team, and the entire staff for your help and support. Thank you to our parent community for your purchases. The book fair profits will go directly back to the school/library.



LOVE TO READ-- Thank you to P.T.O.Chairpersons, Mrs. Nacinovich and Mrs. Ruddy for organizing and running the Love to Read reading incentive program. **The SBS students read 93,661 minutes. This equals 1,561 hours! Wow!** The students did a fantastic job!

And the winners are....

Class Winners For the Most Minutes Read By Grade

Kindergarten Piazza AM - 3298 minutes

1ST GRADE DePascale - 6966 minutes

2nd GRADE O'Connor- 6807 minutes

3rd GRADE Noonan - 7813 minutes

Classroom Winners

Piazza AM - Suzanne Horton - 700 minutes

Piazza PM - Luca Russo - 418 minutes

Conti AM - Lunna Mas - 330 minutes

Conti PM - Sarina Sheth - 245 minutes

Soriano - Ethan Lee - 1000 minutes

Killea - Meghan O'Neill - 345 minutes

DePascale- Gloria Jeng - 3545 minutes

Piccola - Reilly Tagle - 1500 minutes

O'Connor - Victoria Garcia DeLeaniz Hernandez - 1716 minutes

Brief - Ezra Tian - 1020 minutes

Derych - Amelie Hettiarachchi - 1045 minutes

Keating - Alessandra Cooney - 711 minutes

Vogel - Steven Simonfay - 1255 minutes

Cave - Thomas Barrett - 1315 minutes

Tremenda - Benjamin Kim - 1042 minutes

Honrada - Benjamin Kim - 1042 minutes
Scrittorale - Manav Joshi - 2196 minutes
Rosenstein - Alexandra Zukowsky - 1390 minutes
Noonan - Sanjana Narasu and Zachary Serban - 1840 minutes
Cicccone - Claire Zhu - 545 minutes
Izsa - Mark Donoghue - 355 minutes

Individual Winners By Grade With Most Minutes Read

K - Suzanne Horton - 700 minutes
1 - Gloria Jeng - 3545 minutes
2 - Victoria Garcia DeLeaniz Hernandez - 1716 minutes
3 - Manav Joshi - 2196 minutes

Birthday Book Donations: Commemorate your child's birthday or other special occasion with the donation of a book to the SBS Media Center in his/her honor. Purchase the book or visit us in the library and we can order one for you. If you would like a suggestion, please stop by the library and we will be happy to help you choose one. We will put a personalized book plate in the book honoring your child. New book donations will be published in the Boulevard Beat. The book will be cherished and your child remembered for many years to come. Thank you for giving the gift of reading! Birthday Book Form: <http://www.chatham-nj.org/page/4866>

Dinnertime Conversations...

Tired of the same old responses when you ask your children how their day went? Check in here for some conversation starters!

Ask your kindergartner:

1. Can you tell me an addition/subtraction story?
2. Can you count to 100 by 10's?
3. What does a sentence begin with? What do you need between words? What does a sentence end with?

Ask Your first grader:

1. What math stations are you doing this week? What is your favorite and why?
2. What does a classroom look like during Writing Workshop?
3. What do good writers do?

Ask your second grader:

1. What are the different steps you take when regrouping for subtraction compared to regrouping for addition?
2. What historical figures have you learned about at school? What contributions did these figures have on America?
3. What features make a non-fiction text different from a fictional story?

Ask you third grader:

1. What is area?
2. Practice elapsed time using your daily schedule.
3. What is a persuasive essay? What is it's purpose?

PTO Posts

PTO Board Positions for 2014-2015: Registration has begun for the Committee Chair positions for the next school year. **Registration will be open until MONDAY, MARCH 2nd.** If you are interested in making a difference at SBS, please sign up to chair one of the committees that add so much to the school programs like Author's Day, Assemblies, Community Service, Field Day, and more. Go to Volunteer Spot to register.

Mark your calendar! March 10th is our next PTO meeting. Dr. LaSusa will be in

available to answer your budget questions. The meeting begins at 9:15 am in the Cafeteria – this is a change from the normal venue due to PARCC testing.

Book Drive: Our Read Across America celebration includes a **used book drive** this year. We are collecting for our partner school, Clinton Elementary a K-5 school in need of books for the library. **During the week of March 2-6, please send your child in with one book they would love to share with another child.** A cart will be outside the library the week of March 2-6 for donated books. Thank you so much for sharing the gift of literacy with our neighbors in need.

Bowling Parties: Our Annual Bowling Parties are taking place on March 23 and 25. **Grades 2/3 bowl on the 23rd and K/1 bowl on the 25th.** There is no charge for the event, and it is a great way for kids to get together outside of school. Check your child's backpack for fliers coming home shortly.

Register to Vote! Please register to vote. **The school budget vote is this April 21st** and registering to vote now is important to ensure your ability to cast your vote. Mail-in applications can be picked up at the next two PTO meetings. **See the *School Budget Report* button below for more important information.**

The **4th Annual PTO Golf Outing will be held on Monday, April 27, 2015 at Fairmount Country Club.** Registration for golf begins at 10:00 am, followed by lunch at 11:00 am and Shotgun Start at 1:00 pm. Not a golfer? Not too worry. The Cocktail Reception and Dinner begins at 5:00 pm. Join us for a fun filled evening which includes a Silent Auction, Live Auction and Tricky Tray.

[School Budget Report](#)


[SBS Website](#)

[SBS Calendar](#)


[PTO Website](#)



Southern Boulevard School

 192 Southern Blvd. Chatham,...

 (973)457-2509

 chatham-nj.org/sbs

