



THE BOULEVARD BEAT

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SBS - MARCH 2017 EDITION

THE PRINCIPAL'S PLACE

Dear Parents,

Nothing makes us think of spring quite like a March blizzard! When the calendar turns over to April and the winter weather subsides, discussions about students being placed into classes for the next school year tend to begin. The process that SBS will utilize for placement is designed to gather feedback that will build positive class chemistry, while meeting the needs of all of our students. I'd like to reassure you that I understand the many variables that need to be considered in order to best balance class lists for a coming school year. Learning styles, support programs, class chemistry, student relationships, past experiences, gender balance, class size, just to name a few. The transition from one grade level to the next is a critical component to every child's success. It is the most important puzzle that a principal needs to navigate each year, and I am committed to giving it the utmost thought and consideration.

I imagine that many of you have received a communication at some point in which a teacher shared some information about your child which surprised you. Whether a compliment or concern, an unexpected success or behavior, it illustrates an important point; teachers often observe different performances and behaviors in children when in school environments than parents may experience at home. We're fortunate to have a talented and caring group of educators at SBS who adore your children and work diligently to identify and provide individualized strategies that help them grow socially, emotionally and academically. Our teachers are acutely aware of the students' individual needs, as well as the characteristics of successful class dynamics. They take great pride in the placement input that they provide.

We are also fortunate to have a parent community that is well-connected with their children's needs and learning styles. The parent input that our teachers have gathered throughout this school year is essential when forming class lists. If you are at all concerned that there is something that may not be factored into your child's placement decision, I'd like to encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher to communicate specific information that will be helpful to the process. Please focus on communicating the ways that your child learns best, as well as any personality traits, behaviors and work habits that characterize your child as a learner and community member.

Gathering this information from teachers and parents will help me assemble balanced class lists that consider the key factors. Please know that I am open to discussing any special circumstances or other variables that I haven't captured in this letter. My preference is to have these discussions well before lists are formally released in August, so please be in touch sooner than later if you'd like to talk personally.

Please understand that requests for specific teachers by name will not factor into placement decisions. Our process is designed to gather feedback that will build positive class chemistry while meeting the needs of all of our students. As an evaluator of all of the staff members at SBS, I have formally and informally observed every teacher and I'm very familiar with their

SBS, I have formally and informally observed every teacher and I'm very familiar with their styles and strengths. While I will not guarantee placement in a specifically requested teacher's class, I can assure you that the social, emotional and academic information that you provide will be heavily considered in your child's placement.

Thank you for your invaluable contributions to this process, and to every aspect of your child's education at SBS. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Respectfully,

Robert Gardella

THE NURSE'S NOOK

Please pack a change of clothes!

Mudslide Season is in Full Swing. Let's plan ahead! Please pack a change of clothes in your child's backpack for these days when mud is a constant feature around our play areas. Planning in advance for playground mud encounters will assist your child greatly.



Your assistance is appreciated.

The Pollens are Coming! The Pollens are Coming!

If your child is challenged with spring pollen allergies, please be in touch with their health care provider to review the plan for the next few months. We will encourage children to wash off their faces and hands when coming in from outside. You can help them by administering allergy medications (including antihistamines, eye drops and cough medicines) daily at home.

If your child will require medication at school, such as inhalers or other breathing treatments, please ask their physician to complete this form: "[Authorization for Administration of Medication](#)" which is also available on the district website and in the wall pocket inside the front door of the school. Medication cannot be received or administered by the nurse without it.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Leister

COUNSELING CONNECTION

During February and March, I went into each classroom to discuss recess. I reminded students how to show kindness and empathy toward each other during recess through the concept of being an includer. I connected the theme from the Week of Respect of being an upstander, which was tagged with the phrase, "Sometimes It Only Takes 1" to the proactive concept of being includers.

Recess is a great opportunity for students to practice social skills that build connections through the guiding concept of being includers. Using such terminology creates a cohesive social identity that provides a beginning framework to help students to use critical thinking skills as to what behaviors would fall under the concept of being an includer in complex social situations. For example, if a student asks to join in a game, the students playing can adapt their game to include that student, rather than telling the student to wait until the game is over.

I also introduced how to use our new Buddy Bench, which will be placed on the playground this spring. Students who need assistance to figure out what to do during

playground this spring. Students who need assistance to figure out what to do during recess can sit on the Buddy Bench and either another student will come to help, or an adult will assist. For more information, please see the presentation the students saw, or will see, about strategies for using the [Buddy Bench](http://buddybench.org/). Visit the entire site for more information at <http://buddybench.org/>.

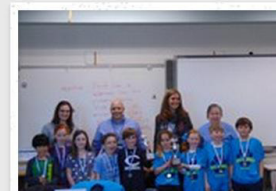
Lastly, I will be starting my spring small groups soon. Topics are specific to the needs of the group, but in general, I will be starting groups focussing on friendships, worry/anxiety, and anger management/emotional regulation. For more information, or if you would like your child to participate in a small group, or for any concerns, please email me at asilverman@chatham-nj.org. I'm happy to help!

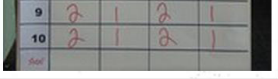
LIBRARY LOWDOWN

Battle of the Books - We recently completed the Grade 3 finals for Battle of the Books. All third graders read a great deal and were exposed to various authors and genres during the program. We had a final competition between the winning teams in each third grade class. Team Tromonda emerged victorious with only one-point giving them the win! It was a very close Battle. Congratulations to Team Tromonda, Madeline Garman, Dylan Jenkins, Alex Rosenberg, Nick Sasaki, and Cameron Shull! They went on to compete against Washington Avenue School in the finals. The final Battle resulted in a tie 27-27. Both teams did a fantastic job, with both answering 9 out of the 10 questions correctly. Thank you to Mr. Gardella and Mrs. Tromonda for attending the finals. Thank you to all those who attended the final Battle. We had a terrific turnout of spectators.



SBS		WAS	
Title	Author	Title	Author
1	2	1	2
2	2	1	2
3	2	1	2
4	2	1	2
5	—	—	—
6	2	1	2
7	2	1	2
8	2	1	2



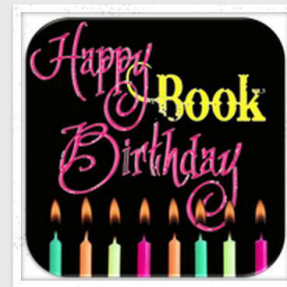


Spring has sprung! It's time to check for any missing SBS Library books and materials. Please check and see if your child has any missing library materials at home. We will be checking the classrooms and library shelves as well. Thanks for your assistance.

35,314 library books and materials have been circulated since September. For the 2015-2016 school year we circulated 55,083 books and materials! That's an average of 5,508.3 books and materials per month! Thank you to our library clerical paraprofessionals, as well as the parent volunteers for all their assistance this year.

BIRTHDAY BOOKS

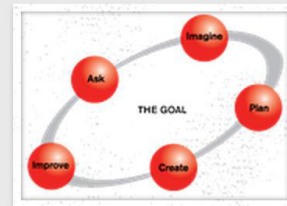
Commemorate your child's birthday or other special occasion with the donation of a book to the SBS Media Center in his/her honor. Donations will be acknowledged in the Boulevard Beat monthly. [Click here for the form.](#)



THE DESIGN DEN

Welcome Families, to the Design Den!!

D&T classes are in need of paper bags for project storage. If you have any extras, please send them in with your child on their Design and Technology day. Thank you for your continued support of the program here at SBS.



Kindergarten students are researching the needs of a BLUEBIRD. They are going to use this information to guide the design of their birdhouses!

Ask your child to share some of the needs of a bluebird.

1st Grade students are beginning to explore agriculture.

Ask your child to identify products in the house that are agricultural products. Help them track how they originated from a farm.

2nd Grade students have researched pollution and its impact on people and the environment.

Ask your child to explain the causes and effects of pollution and ways we can prevent pollution.

3rd Grade students are beginning to investigate the Water Crisis.

Ask your child to discuss how much of the Earth is made up of water and the challenges some communities face with water availability.

Have an Awesome April!

Ms. Stojanov (Ms. S)

PTO POSTS

Happy Spring Everyone!

A great big thank you to Andrea Caserta, Amy Ewing, Pam Polemeni, Erin Creatore, Nancy Tagle, Jen Mathews, Natalia Lacy and Diane Palazzi for putting on a spectacular Special Events Day about the power of water. It was great to see so many members of our SBS community in the school supporting this event as it is always a big volunteer intensive day. The students enjoyed an assembly by Jack Branagan titled, "It's All In a Drop". In addition, each grade participated in different parent led experiments pertaining to science and water. Plus thank you to Mr. D'Aloia for the book selection about water and the water cycle.

As Spring begins, this time of year always causes us to start planning for the following year. SBS Committee Chair sign-ups are now available for the 2017-2018 school year! Now is your chance to throw your name into the ring to lead a committee next year. Whatever your passion is, we have a committee for you to run! Grab a friend (or two) and co-chair. Please click [here](#) to sign up. All position descriptions are listed. Have a question? Email us at sbsptopres@gmail.com, we look forward to hearing from you.

Don't forget that the SBS Golf & Tennis Outing will soon take place on May 1st. You can still purchase tickets to attend the evening dinner & cocktail hour. It is traditionally loads of fun to participate in the silent auctions. This year the event will also have a wine pull and live auction. It's not too late to register to play golf or tennis which includes dinner and cocktails. We currently have 74 golfers, and our goal is to have at least 100 by May 1st. Don't wait - sign up today via the following link! <https://squareup.com/market/sbs-pto/>. Sponsorship, silent auction, and live auction opportunities are currently available.

Please attend our April meeting which will take place on Tuesday, April 25th at 9:15 am in the Gym. Dr. LaSusa will be present to speak in detail about the proposed school budget. It's nice to have a good crowd when Dr. LaSusa commits to speaking at our meetings.

Calling all third graders...keep in mind that SBS's Got Talent, our Third-Grade Talent Show, will be held on May 18th. Start getting your acts/performances together which must be "previewed" by our panel. The preview dates will be May 3rd or 4th after school.

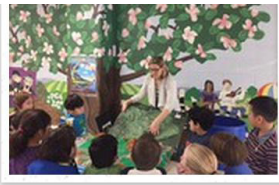
Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- *April 7th - Pizza Parlor Day
- *April 10th - 14th Spring Break
- *April 17th Delayed Opening
- *April 19th Thank you Tea
- *April 21st Walk to School Day & Earth Day
- *April 25th PTO Meeting - Come hear Superintendent of Schools, Dr. LaSusa talk in detail about the proposed budget. This is one PTO Meeting that you will want to join. It is always impressive to hear Dr. LaSusa speak.

Enjoy Spring Break!

SPECIAL EVENTS DAY





[PTO WEBSITE](#)

[SBS WEBSITE](#)

[SBS CALENDAR](#)



SOUTHERN BOULEVARD SCHOOL

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 chatham-nj.org/sbs