

# THE BOULEVARD BEAT

— A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SBS - APRIL 2017 EDITION —

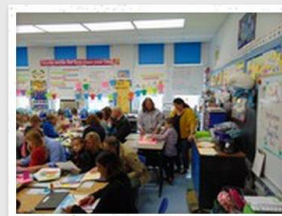
## THE PRINCIPAL'S PLACE

Dear SBS Community,

Last week, we celebrated our students' accomplishments and our parent community by inviting families in to share the students' progress throughout this year, to view our fantastic art show, and to enjoy our third grade spring concert. This has become an event that I look forward to every year. The children are delighted to show you how much they've grown, and the staff members cherish the opportunity to celebrate together. Please enjoy some pictures below!

As we rightfully get swept up in the children's enthusiasm, please know that the spirit of the day is never lost on our staff. We truly do want to thank you, the parent community, for all that you do for your children and our school. Your children come to school every day from loving homes, prepared with everything that they need to flourish within our learning environment. Your consistent displays of volunteerism and generosity enhance our shared mission and visions in countless ways. Please know just how appreciative and grateful that we are to have this partnership with you, and that together we are giving our children an outstanding foundation for continued growth.

I wish you all a wonderful May, and hope to see you on Monday night.



THE ATTENDANCE LINE AND WHY IT IS

## SO IMPORTANT!

### **(973)457-2509 PRESS "1" TO LEAVE A MESSAGE**

The safety and well-being of your children is the responsibility of the school during school hours. Our attendance system is the vehicle by which we verify their safety. If your child is late or absent and we have not received a message from you on our attendance line, we are obligated to contact you to verify their whereabouts. Your diligence in leaving messages on the attendance line prevents us from having to spend time at the beginning of the day, interrupting classes as we attempt to confirm everyone's safety. And, if another child has, indeed, encountered some danger on their way to school, your compliance allows us to spend crucial moments identifying and assisting that student more quickly.



Our automatic messages go out every day at the same time, so please leave your messages early—by 8:45am for morning arrival and by 12:30pm for afternoon kindergarten. This allows us about 20 minutes to listen to all messages and verify all absences.

**Please remember that leaving a voice mail message on the attendance line is the only way to officially report your child absent.**

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ATTENDANCE:**

**1. If I write a note to my child's teacher, do I still have to call the attendance line?**

*Yes. Reporting a child's absence to a teacher is a great idea. However, the attendance line is the only official way to report an absence to the school. Remember, the teachers have up to 25 students in their classes; we cannot expect them to be responsible to pass this information along to the attendance system!*

**2. Can I email the nurse or my child's teacher instead of calling the voicemail number?**

*No. Email is a great way of communicating, but not when it comes to attendance. If the nurse or teacher has a substitute working for them, these messages would never be received. Also, our email boxes are full every day. Having to sift through these messages to pick out attendance information is a more time-consuming job than you would think.*

**3. What if we are taking a trip in a few months? Can I call the attendance line in advance?**

*Yes! You may call the attendance line as soon as you plan your trip. As a courtesy, please also inform your child's teacher if you have plans to be away.*

### **THE NURSE'S NOOK**

*Ticks and Sun Safety are both features of this time of year. As children are headed out for more outdoor play, please take some additional steps to insure their safety.*



Ticks are found in humid, wooded and grassy areas (i.e. Chatham, NJ). The CDC website offers a wealth of information about preventive practices: [https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on\\_people.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on_people.html)

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Here are a few highlights:

- Use repellents. According to the CDC, products with at least 20% DEET are protective for several hours. **Please apply these at home, before sending your child to school.** Reapply before outdoor play and/or outdoor sports after school.
- Check for ticks at least once a day from head to toe.
- Encourage showering after playing outdoors.
- Remind your children to walk in the middle of sidewalks, paths or trails to avoid close exposure to grasses and bushes.

Here at SBS, we are taking additional precautions for your child's safety:

- Our maintenance department will be spraying our grounds with low-impact, non-toxic repellents within the next week, which will decrease the tick population in the area of the school. This application will be done in accordance with our Integrated Pest Management Plan and will not take place while school is in session.
- In addition, our Health Education teachers, Mr. Stevens and Mr. Dalton are reviewing tick bite prevention strategies with your children during health classes.

Sun safety is an increasing concern as spring has arrived. Again, this topic is covered in our health curriculum by our awesome health teachers. You can help us to help your child by doing the following:

- **Apply sunscreen every morning at home before sending your child to school.**

- Send your child with a hat and sunglasses that they can wear while playing outside.

The Enright Foundation offers wonderful resources about sun safety:

<https://www.enrightmelanomafoundation.org/programs-and-services/>

- On a related note: Don't forget a water bottle! As the sun shines and as temperatures rise, so does our need for more water. We have water bottle filling stations throughout the school where your child can replenish their supply.

*Thanks for your partnership in keeping our students safe and healthy as we head outside to enjoy spring time at SBS!*

## COUNSELING CONNECTION

Spring class lessons have begun. For grades K and 1, the topic is listening and how using polite listening skills is an important way to show respect for one another. For grade 2, we focus on wellness, teaching how to increase focus through using yoga moves. This kinesthetic approach integrates the body and mind peacefully, increasing the likelihood of learning the skill of focusing in a natural manner. In grade 3, we focus on how to resolve conflicts, both internally and interpersonally.

Mindfulness is the thread that runs through all lessons in each grade. Throughout all lessons, I teach mindfulness skills of awareness. The students know that when I ring a chime, it is time for them to take a mindful breath, to notice how they feel at the moment, what thoughts they are having, and to take time to center themselves in order to transition to the lesson. Foundational to understanding each other, and increasing

empathy, is awareness of self and having students focus on their breath and noticing feelings and thoughts gives them the skill to pause with awareness before acting without thinking about the consequences. Kindness is also a thread that connects all lessons in all grades. Using the steps of listening, increasing focus skills, and following caring conflict resolution, offers students opportunities to show kindness toward each other.

As always, if you feel your child would benefit from counseling, or if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at [asilverman@chatham-nj.org](mailto:asilverman@chatham-nj.org). I'm happy to help!

## LIBRARY LOWDOWN

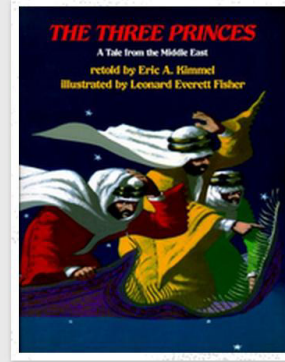
**May is almost here and it's time to check for any missing SBS Library books and materials.** Please take some time to check at home and in the classroom. Thanks so much for your assistance.



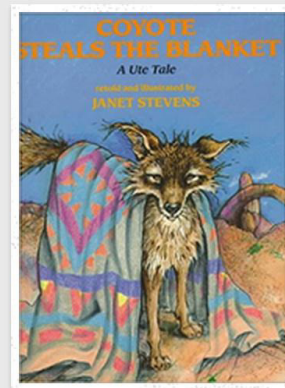
Kindergarten students learned, "DON'T TOUCH THE PASTA POT!!!" Students were exposed to author and illustrator Tomie DePaola's series, *Strega Nona*. In the story, Big Anthony does not heed Strega Nona's (Grandma Witch) warning not to touch her magic pasta pot. Big Anthony defies her and uses the pot to make pasta for the entire town. Not seeing that Strega Nona blew three kisses at the pot to stop it, Big Anthony almost drowns the entire town with pasta. Strega Nona saves the day by returning just in time. Students loved the story and checked out various books in the *Strega Nona* series, as well as other Tomie DePaola books.



1st graders learned about folktales. They heard Eric Kimmel's (SBS visiting author in 2004) retelling of a Middle Eastern folktale whereby a princess sends three princes to find a wondrous object. The one who finds the best object will have her hand in marriage. The three suitors each find a crystal ball, a magic carpet, and an illness-curing orange. Upon finding out the princess is ill, they return to save her using these three objects. Using the crystal ball to view that she was ill, the magic carpet to get to her quickly, and the orange to cure her, students discussed and debated which prince was the most responsible for saving the princess. The students enjoyed the story immensely and it sparked great discussion.



2nd graders learned about onomatopoeia in the library this past week. Coupled with learning about Native American folktales, the students listened to the story, *Coyote Steals the Blanket*, retold by Janet Stevens. In this story, Coyote is pursued by an angered rock after he swipes the rock's blanket. This traditional trickster tale taught the students how the Native American Utes taught their people to not take what does not belong to them, as well as to heed a warning. The rock's onomatopoeia - RUMBLE, RUMBLE, RUMBLE repetitive phrase, along with other onomatopoeia in the story delighted the students. After the story, students brainstormed and recorded a plethora of onomatopoeia words on the board.

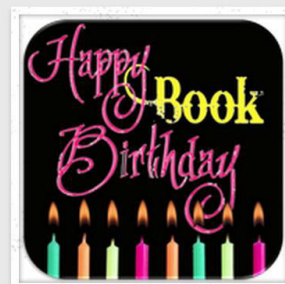


3rd graders started their animal research this past week in the library. With their classroom teachers, students choose an animal that can be found at the Bronx Zoo that they were interested in researching. Using their Chromebooks, students generated 10 questions about the animal. Next they will use non-fiction books, as well as internet resources to answer their questions and find out more about their animals. This research will culminate with a trip to the Bronx Zoo where they can view the animal they studied.



## 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!!

**Kindergarten** students are practicing their log in skills and are challenging themselves by logging in with their own personal account! **Ask your child to share their new username and password.**



**1st Grade** students are creating tower gardens to solve the “space” problem in agriculture. **Ask your child to describe their idea and explain how it solves the problem.**

**2nd Grade** students are creating designs to keep toxic liquids out of the earth and groundwater. **Ask your child to share their ideas with you and explain how it solves the problem.**

**3rd Grade** students are investigating areas around the world that are experiencing a water crisis. **Ask your to child to share their learning on the country they chose to research.**

Have a Marvelous May!

Ms. Stojanov (Ms. S)

## PTO POSTS

Dear SBS Parents,

It is hard to believe that in less than two months we will be on summer vacation. I hope you had a restful Spring Break and are ready to head into the home stretch. This Monday, May 1st, we will be holding our annual fundraiser, The SBS Golf & Tennis Outing at Fairmount Country Club! Ticket sales are closed but feel free to drop by in person during the day to bid on silent auction items. Attached is the program with information on the fantastic auction items that include destinations, tickets, camps and much more! [SBS GOLF E-PROGRAM 042417.pdf](#).

Sign-ups for Committee Chair Positions for the 2017-2018 school year are open until May 5th. We are still in need of the following positions: Vice President, Art Aide Coordinator, Field Day Coordinator, Golf Outing Coordinator, Green Team Coordinator, Holiday Boutique Coordinator, Hospitality Coordinator, Third Grade Memory Book and Third Grade Talent Show Coordinators. Please click [SBS Committee Chair Positions](#) to sign up.

Please mark your calendars for these other upcoming events:

**\*5/1-5/5 Staff Appreciation Week.** We will be treating the SBS teachers and staff all week to say thank you for all they do to educate our children.

**\*5/3-5/4 SBS Got Talent Preview Days.** Our co-chairs will preview the acts our talented third graders will be performing at the Annual Talent Show.

**\*5/5 Pizza Parlor Day.** Second-to-last chance to enjoy pizzeria pizza for lunch!

**\*5/9 PTO Meeting.** Meet us at 9:15 am in the Media Center. Thank you to everyone that came to the April PTO Meeting to hear Dr. LaSusa speak about the proposed budget.

**\*5/18 Third Grade Talent Show.** Come celebrate our enormously talented and brave third graders at our Annual Talent Show at 6:30 pm in the Middle School Auditorium.

An environmentally-friendly thank you goes out to our Earth Day Committee, Jen

Mathews, Natalia Lacy, Nancy Tagle, Andrea Caserta and Laura Wagner. A rainy morning didn't get in the way of Earth Day at SBS! Students participated in a number of educational adventures as they walked to the Great Swamp for an Earth Day lesson, learned about the water cycle, composting and recycling, and attended an assembly by the Franklin Institute. A huge thank you to our Green Team Committee for organizing such a fantastic day and we appreciate so much all the parent volunteers who helped out! This event was no small feat to pull off and is always a favorite!

Jen Donoghue  
2016-2017 PTO President



## FRANKLIN INSTITUTE ASSEMBLY...



## THANK YOU TO OUR PARENT VOLUNTEERS!

[PTO WEBSITE](#)

[SBS WEBSITE](#)

[SBS CALENDAR](#)



# SOUTHERN BOULEVARD SCHOOL

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🌐 [chatham-nj.org/sbs](http://chatham-nj.org/sbs)