



# The Boulevard Beat

A Monthly Newsletter from SBS - January 2019 Edition

## The Principal's Place

Dear Parents,

A belated Happy New Year to one and all! January has absolutely flown by at SBS. At this point our holiday concerts feel like they were months ago, but I simply had to post some pictures of those memorable moments. As you reflect and enjoy them, think about how much your children have grown between then and now, and brace yourselves because between January and March we typically see them explode with academic growth, maturity, and enthusiasm. I can't wait for you to see their growth when you visit for our Thank You Tea in May!

There's nothing quite like a reset, and we've taken advantage with some exciting happenings at SBS. We've kicked off our third grade Peer Leadership Program, allowing for our third graders to experience all of the benefits of being kind by participating in structured activities with our first graders. This new program is giving our students the gifts of a heightened sense of well-being, increased energy, and wonderful feelings of optimism and self worth. Speaking of kindness, today begins our Great Kindness Challenge in which our school will engage in a challenge to commit 5000 random acts of kindness in 15 days! We will also reach across the globe with a gently used sneaker drive. Collected sneakers will be sent to countries where children are being denied their education because they do not have the required shoes to attend school.

SBS truly is a kind place, where children come to school ready to receive all of these important opportunities and experiences. Thank you, parents, for your support and dedication to this community! Please continue to make time to read our weekly FYI email blasts to stay connected with events, policies and procedures that keep us all safe and running efficiently.

Respectfully Yours,

Robert Gardella



## The Nurse's Nook

### LOVE & MUD

Valentine's Day celebrations are around the corner! Lessons about kindness and character are always a highlight and the children look forward to distributing cards to their classmates. Each year at this time, we begin to repeat this request:



#### **Please do not attach candy or other edible items to Valentine's Day cards!**

Due to district regulations (specifically, 5331A), we are not allowed to send food out of the school with children. As a result **we are unable to distribute cards with food attached**. Your cooperation is very much appreciated!

With winter brings messy weather. Whether it is snow, melting snow or mud, we expect children to find themselves "up close and personal" with these elements. Please dress your child appropriately for outdoor play. **And, please take a few minutes to pack some extra clothes (pants, socks, etc.) in their backpacks.** Preparing ahead will help them and it will also help you to avoid unwanted trips to the school to provide warm, dry clothes!



Thanks for your commitment to the safety and health of everyone!

Karen Leister  
School Nurse

## Counseling Connection

In preparation for the Great Kindness Challenge, which started today, I have been discussing kindness during my classroom lessons. In grades 2 and 3 we have been learning about what it means to "Pay it Forward". Paying it forward is a concept that involves doing something good for someone in response to a good deed done on your behalf or a gift you received. When you pay it forward, however, you don't repay the person who did something nice for you. Instead, you do something nice for



someone else. For example, if someone helps you fix your flat bicycle tire, you might shovel your neighbor's walkway after a snowfall.

One of the most important things that I reminded the students about this concept is that it should be done with a selfless spirit. This means that one person helps another without hoping for repayment or good deeds in return.

For the next three weeks the entire student body will be challenged to carry out random acts of kindness. The students will keep track of these acts in school and we are hopeful that these will spillover into home and the community. I look forward to seeing a lot of kindness, goodwill and a very happy school environment over the next few weeks. We are also planning many events throughout the remainder of the year to keep this theme of kindness going!

Kelly Medvin  
School Counselor

**No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.**  
- Aesop

This just in from Uganda....construction is under way!





Money raised by the *Read to Roof* program at Southern Boulevard School went to support the Sirimula Community Primary School in Uganda, Africa. Through the Heart for People Foundation, SBS has partnered with the Sirimula School to support education throughout the world. Funds raised by Chatham families will pay for the reconstruction of the Sirimula School. Pictured above is the beginning of the construction.

## Library Lowdown

Happy New Year from the SBS Library!

Last month all classes participated in the Hour of Code in the library. Students did an awesome job coding with Mr. D'Aloia in the library.

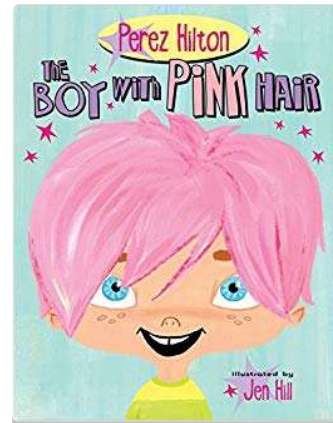
Visit <https://hourofcode.com/us> - "The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts."



**Kindness Matters-** To support our SBS school-wide kindness initiative, in the library students' lessons focused on this topic.

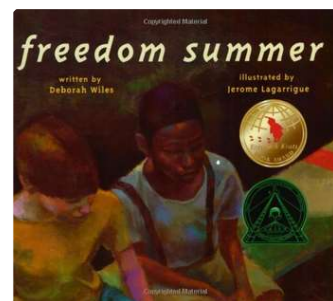
Kindergarten and first grade lessons focused on being different and the importance of being kind throughout the story *The Boy with the Pink Hair*, by Perez Hilton.

"He was born that way - The Boy with Pink Hair. He had a cotton candy colored mop that no one had ever seen before . . . Life is not easy being pink. Adults stare at you, little children giggle behind your back and some kids are just mean. But when you have a best friend who appreciates your uniqueness and parents who are loving and supportive, you can do just about anything."



The second grade lesson focused on the book *Freedom Summer*, by Deborah Wiles.

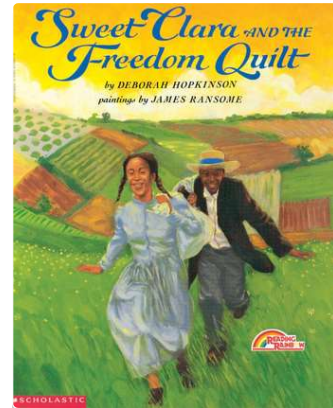
"Joe and John Henry are a lot alike. They both like shooting marbles, they both want to be firemen, and they both love to swim. But there's one important way they're different: Joe is white and John Henry is black, and in the South in 1964, that means John Henry isn't allowed to do everything his best friend is. Then a law is passed that forbids



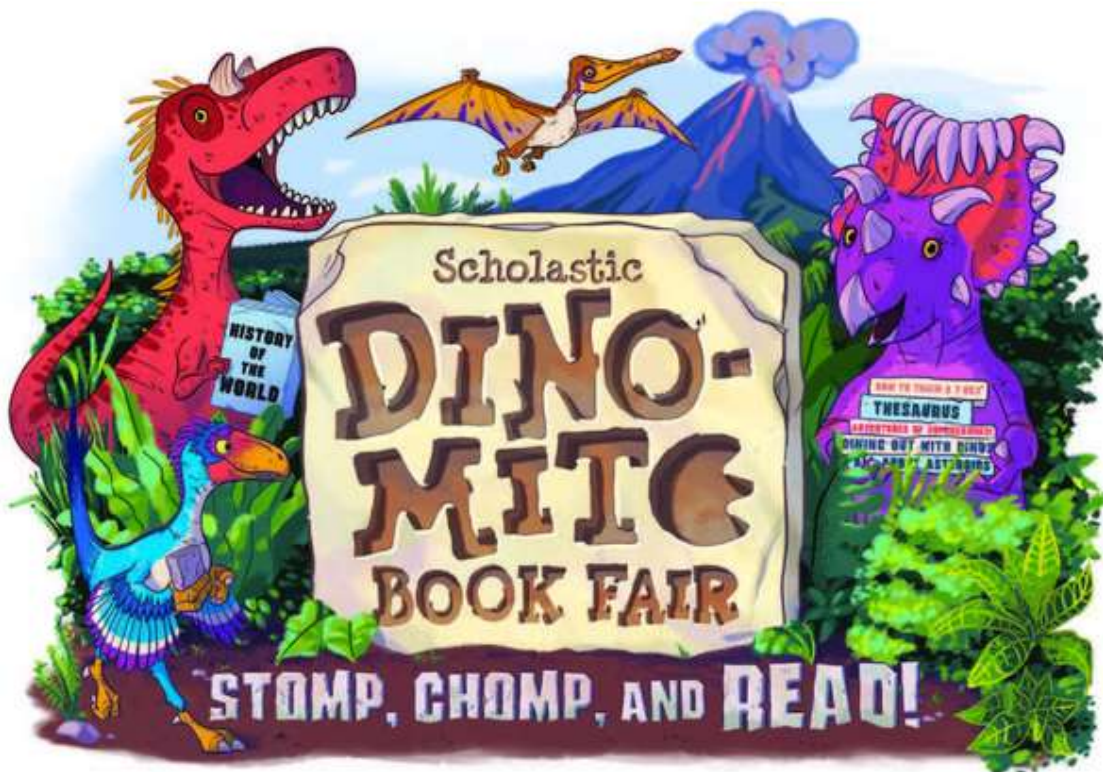
segregation and opens the town pool to everyone. Joe and John Henry are so excited they race each other there...only to discover that it takes more than a new law to change people's hearts."

The third grade lesson focused on the book *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*, by Deborah Hopkinson.

"Clara, a slave and seamstress on Home Plantation, dreams of freedom—not just for herself, but for her family and friends. When she overhears a conversation about the Underground Railroad, she has a flash of inspiration. Using scraps of cloth from her work in the Big House and scraps of information gathered from other slaves, she fashions a map that the master would never even recognize. . . ."

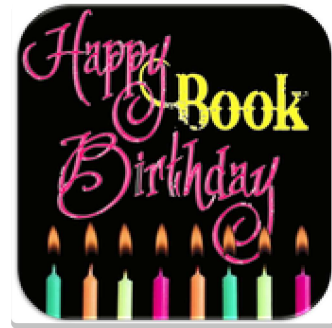


Be sure to visit the SBS Book Fair in the library sponsored by the P.T.O. the week of Feb. 4-7th!



## Birthday Books

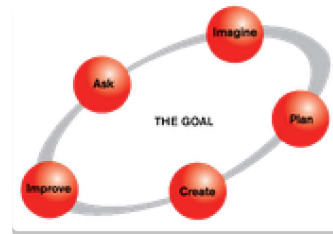
Commemorate your child's birthday or other special occasion with the donation of a book to the SBS Media Center in his/her honor. Donations will be acknowledged in the Boulevard Beat monthly. [Click here for the form.](#)



## The Design Den

Welcome Families, to the Design Den!!

**Kindergarten** - We are learning about animal habitats! *Ask your child about Benny the Polar Bear and his habitat.*



**1st Grade** - Students are starting a new design challenge to help build a bridge as strong as the Brooklyn Bridge. *Ask your child to explain the PROBLEM of the design challenge.*

**2nd Grade** - Students are working investigating the best way to build a house for the 4th piggy. He will need one if he wants to stay safe from the Big Bad Wolf! *Ask your child to explain the PROBLEM of the design challenge.*

**3rd Grade** - Students are creating presentations to share their research with the SBS community. *Ask your child about their research topic and what they will be creating to present their information.*

Have a Fabulous February!!

Ms. Stojanov (Ms. S)

## Music Notes

First grade is learning about placing music notes on the staff, discerning when a melody moves high or low. They will identify line and space notes as well as sing patterns using solfege. In addition, they learned about the great composer Peter Tchaikovsky. Many children were already familiar with Tchaikovsky's music because of his famous Nutcracker Suite. We also listened to the beginning of his Piano Concerto No. 1.



Second grade is learning about time signatures in music. We talked about and tried conducting in patterns of 2 and 3. In addition, they learned about the great composer Ludwig van Beethoven. I gave them music homework which suggested that they listen to Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5" and his "Für Elise" at home. Ask your child about the struggles Beethoven endured as a result of losing his hearing and how he did not give up on his art!

Third grade has been singing a hello song using various languages. They also learned a song called "The Snowman" and they identified the C major scale. In addition, they learned about Johann Sebastian Bach. J. S. Bach composed many works from the Baroque period. The children learned about and listened to the organ and the harpsichord. We talked about the meaning of a "fugue" and a "canon".

Thank you for your support of the music program,  
~Ms. Roskam

## PTO Posts

Dear SBS Parents,

We are off to a great start in 2019! Our programs are once again underway as we move into the new year:

\*Thank you to all those who are helping to make the Great Kindness Challenge such a success at SBS! The PTO is proud to support this year's initiative with an inspiring assembly by "kindness ninja" Brian Williams. The students will participate in many fun and engaging activities to help promote a culture of kindness at SBS. Thank you to the parents who volunteered for the Mix it Up Recess. Thanks also to Pam Ryan, Jenn McNally, Mr. Gardella and Mrs. Medvin for organizing such a meaningful week of events. We will be incorporating the theme of "Think Kindness" throughout the year. Our first initiative is a sneaker drive for children in Africa so please send in gently used sneakers the week of Feb 4-7th.

\*The Winter ASE session is off to a great start. As always, a huge thank you to our dedicated team of volunteers who organize such a fun and diverse schedule of classes for the children to choose from. Thank you Christina Mott, Leigh Russo, Allison Clemens, Kim Visentini and Jinesha Siriwardana for all the work you do 'behind the scenes'!

\*Thank you to Lenore Brady and Erin Burgo and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to organize this year's Holiday Boutique. I hope their loved ones enjoyed receiving their gifts as much as the children loved shopping for them!

\*Thank you to Christina Mott and her team of parents who worked with Ms. S to provide coding instruction to 189 SBS students during "The Hour of Code". Thank you to the parents who volunteered their time to share their experiences in the STEM field during the assembly that week.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for these upcoming, important events:

**\*2/1 Pizza Parlor Day**

**\*2/1-2/8 Love to Read Week**

**\*2/4-2/7 SBS Annual Book Fair with Scholastic**

**\*2/4-2/7 Sneaker Collection in main lobby**

**\*2/8 2nd/3rd Grade Family Feud Night, 6pm check in, 6:30 start at CHS auditorium**

**\*2/12 PTO Meeting: 9:15am, Media Center**

**\*2/14 Last Call for Spring Box-Top Collection**

**\*2/15:Early Dismissal 12:35pm**



**\*2/18:President's Day, No school**

Save the date for the ***1st ever* SBS Spring Fling** to be held at Fish and Game on Thursday May 2nd, 2019. The outing features a live band, food and drink, and a silent auction. To participate or questions contact [jenmcnally1@gmail.com](mailto:jenmcnally1@gmail.com) or [andreacaserta@aol.com](mailto:andreacaserta@aol.com).

As always, thank you for your continued support of the PTO and our school.

Amy Ewing

SBS PTO President 2018-2019


PTO Website


SBS Website

SBS Calendar



## Southern Boulevard School

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

