



The Boulevard Beat

- A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SBS - MARCH 2019 EDITION -

THE PRINCIPAL'S PLACE

Dear Parents,

Needless to say, it's nice to see that spring is breaking through as March comes to a close. 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 details 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, and it's probably the most important puzzle that a principal needs to navigate each year.

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 details 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 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
Principal

THE NURSE'S NOOK

Spring pollens have already arrived! What are you waiting for?

According to www.pollen.com, **elm, maple and juniper are already blooming** and levels of pollen have been in the **medium to high range already!** If your child suffers from spring allergies, perhaps you have noticed that their annual runny noses and coughs have started.



As a member of the Allergy & Asthma Network, I receive their quarterly publication "Allergy & Asthma Today". The latest edition had a great article, written by a board certified allergist/immunologist, that I thought I would share. It's called "How to Treat Spring Allergies". Please take time to read this short article and discuss it with your child's doctor.

Getting ahead of the symptoms with the right strategies will ease your child's discomfort as we move farther into spring. Now, if I could only convince my own daughters to start taking their allergy medications.....

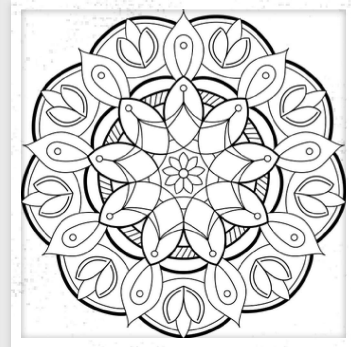
Karen Leister
School Nurse

HOW TO TREAT SPRING ALLERGIES

COUNSELING CONNECTION

Hello Parents,

Spring is the perfect time of year to help students enhance their practice of mindfulness. I will visit each class this month and work with the students on just that.



Mindfulness is the ability to cultivate a present-moment awareness of yourself and the world around you. The purpose of teaching mindfulness to our children is to give them skills to develop an awareness of their inner and outer selves and to recognize their ability to train their attention by using mindfulness tools. During classroom lessons the students will practice mindfulness exercises that demonstrate discipline and self control.

There are several ways we practice mindfulness in the classroom.

- Mindful Listening - Play a chime sound - students listen closely to see how long they can hear it. They stay still and quiet, and see what they can hear in the room around them (clock ticking, breathing, etc.).
- Stretching - Students stand up and do mountain pose, press hands together in front of their heart, bend to touch toes, etc. This is usually held for one minute.
- Mindful breathing - A hoberman sphere is used to help model breathing slowly. When it opens, students breathe in, and when it closes, students breathe out. Students are told to notice how the air feels cool going in through your nose and slightly warmer coming out through your mouth. Practice taking 3 deep breaths.
- Mindful coloring - Students are given a mandala to color however they wish. Music is played and there is no talking allowed.
- 3rd graders - Practice a six minute meditation.

Happy Spring!

Kelly Medvin
School Counselor

LIBRARY LOWDOWN

Wow! I can't believe that March is almost over! WELCOME SPRING!

We had a **FUN**TASTIC Author's Day with author/illustrator BEN CLANTON! Ben spoke to the students about his illustrations and explained his MIXIMALS where he combines various animals into one creature. He shared how he writes his stories and even showed the students a book he made when he was in first grade.



The students and staff had an amazing experience thanks to the parent Author's Day Committee - Pam Ryan, Elissa DiMeo, Cheryl Foertsch, Janine Vecciarelli, and Alexandra Ebrahim. We appreciate their time, hard work, and dedication in making Author's Day successful!

In the afternoon, the button winners assembled in the library for a Q & A session with Ben Clanton. Ben commented on each student's button design. The overall winner for the button contest was 3rd grader Mollie Mathews. The entire school wore the button of her winning design on Author's Day. Congratulations to all the button winners!



AUTHOR'S DAY 2019 BUTTON CONTEST WINNERS

Kindergarten:

Mrs. Conti AM - Cameron Dorflinger

Mrs. Conti PM - Zoe Angelis

Mrs. Piazza AM - Evie Beal

Mrs. Piazza PM - Katie Ryan

Kindergarten Winner - Evie Beal

1st Grade:

Mrs. Ciccone - William Kanjo

Miss Jackameit - Shirley Nie

Miss Killea - Shay Pillai

Miss Militello - Kendall Dwyre

Miss Racine - Lily Putrino

Miss Spinner - Abbie Slattery

1st Grade Winner - William Kanjo

2nd Grade:

Miss Brief - Finley Weaver

Mrs. DePascale - Seton Kelly

Mrs. Keating - Ellen Sutterby

Mrs. Piccola - Gabby Limone

Miss Seiferas - Kallen Peterson

Mr. Vogel - Keela Wang

2nd Grade Winner - Keela Wang

3rd Grade:

Mrs. Derych - Sloane Scrivens

Mrs. Izsa - Rory Presti

Mrs. Noonan - Leyla Morelli

Mrs. Rosenstein - Mollie Mathews

Mrs. Scrittorale - Kelly Nie

Mrs. Tromonda - Lauren Colabraro

3rd Grade Winner - Mollie Mathews

OVERALL WINNER - MOLLIE MATHEWS



SBS BOOK FAIR

Thank you to Mrs. Antenen, Mrs. Hadzima, and Mrs. Ruddy for their hard work, time, and dedication in making the Scholastic Book Fair a tremendous success. From this event, the PTO donated numerous books to the SBS Library. Thank you so much for all the wonderful books. The students and staff will enjoy these books for many years!



DR. SEUSS - READ ACROSS AMERICA

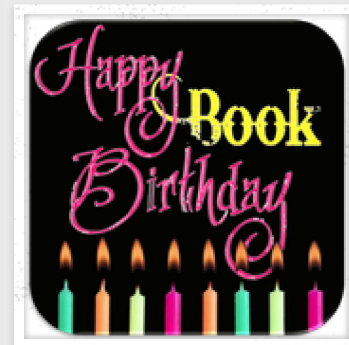
Friday, March 1st we celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday in conjunction with Push-Ups and Pages! The students had a great time! Teachers performed a Reader's Theater skit written by Mr. D'Aloia. They also sang *Dr. Seuss We Love You* and *Happy Birthday* with Mrs. Roskam. The day ended with a school-wide *Drop Everything and Read* in the hallways of SBS! Thanks to all who helped make this day special.

Special thanks to our *CAT IN THE HAT* - Mrs. Keating!



BIRTHDAY BOOKS

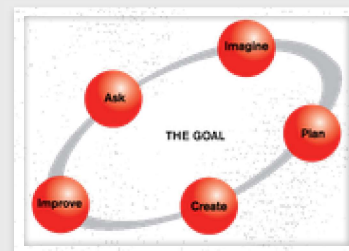
Commemorate your child's birthday or other special occasion with the donation of a book to the SBS Media Center in his/her honor. Donations will be acknowledged in the Boulevard Beat monthly. [Click here for the form.](#)



THE DESIGN DEN

Welcome Families, to the Design Den!!

Kindergarten - We are learning about animal habitats! *Ask your child how they are going to help Benny the Polar Bear!*



1st Grade - Students are creating bridges! *Ask your child to share the PLAN for their bridge!*

2nd Grade - Students are 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 share the PLAN for their house!*

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 an awesome April!!

Ms. Stojanov (Ms. S)

MUSIC NOTES

First Graders are learning to read and write rhythm patterns using quarter notes and paired eighth notes. They are also learning how to place these notes on the music staff. This means they must listen and identify the high and low movement of the melody.

Second Graders are reading and writing notes on the music staff. So far, we are using the notes of the pentatonic scale – Do, Re, Mi, So, and La. The children have been encouraged to play “Hot Cross Buns” on their piano or keyboard at home if they have one.

Third Graders are working on their spring concert music. In addition to learning the correct rhythm and melody, they are also memorizing all of the words! **The Third Grade Concert is Wednesday, April 24th at 9:30am.**

Thank you,
Ms. Roskam

FROM THE ART ROOM...

Don't miss our annual Student Art Exhibit at SBS. It will take place from April 24th through the end of May. It will be up at the same time as the annual Spring Concert at SBS. Grade 3 students will have their Van Gogh influenced Starry Night impasto paintings on display. Grade 2 will have Andy Warhol, influenced Soup Cans on display, and grade 1 will have Monet inspired water lily paintings and Michelangelo inspired frescoes on display.

PTO POSTS

Happy Spring Everyone!

The first SBS Spring Fling will soon take place on Thursday, May 2nd. Come to this fun cocktail night, to mingle with fellow parents, make a new friend, eat, drink, and listen to live music. Invite your friends and neighbors and save with a package of tickets. Participate in the silent auction for one-of-a-kind items and experiences. Tickets can be purchased at

<https://squareup.com/market/sbs-pto/>. To discuss ways to participate or questions, contact jenmcnally1@gmail.com or andreacaserta@aol.com.

Proceeds from the Spring Fling will help to fund this year's PTO gift: a transformation of our school's courtyard into a beautiful, educational outdoor learning space. You have the opportunity to leave your mark on SBS for years to come by purchasing a customized brick that will be incorporated into the design of the courtyard. Purchase a personalized, engraved brick to acknowledge your child/family, honor a beloved teacher, or to convey school spirit or a favorite quote. Bricks can be purchased here <http://www.brickmarkersusa.com/donors/sbs.html>.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- *April 5th - Pizza Parlor Day
- *April 9th - PTO Meeting, Guest Speaker: Dr Mike LaSusa
- *April 22-25 Earth Day Activities
- *April 24th 3rd Grade Spring Concert
- *April 26th Third Grade Talent Show

Special thanks to our Author's Day Committee: Pamela Ryan, Alexandra Ebrahim, Cheryl Foertsch, Janine Vecciarelli and Elissa DiMeo for organizing an amazing day. Ben Clanton was engaging and funny - he captured their attention and their imaginations!

Enjoy Spring Break!

Amy Ewing
PTO President 2018-2019



PTO WEBSITE

SBS WEBSITE

SBS CALENDAR



SOUTHERN BOULEVARD SCHOOL

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🌐 chatham-nj.org/sbs

