

The Boulevard Beat

A Monthly Newsletter from SBS - September 2019 Edition

The Principal's Place

Welcome to the first edition of the 2019-2020 Boulevard Beat. I am happy to report that we are off to a good start! During the first week of school, teachers and students worked together to create a learning community. In every classroom, students shared their ideas for how they should behave at school. Following these discussions, teachers with student input, created charts that note class rules. This chart was signed by everyone in the class and is now displayed to serve as a reminder of their collective understanding of acceptable behavior. Students also learned classroom routines so that their environment is safe and efficient. In my role as principal, I often visit classrooms and I am happy to report that students are demonstrating that they know what is expected and they are capable of doing what is asked. We are now diving into learning new content and each day we are discovering more about our students. Our goal as educators is to find the "sweet spot" i.e., the place where each student is engaged and challenged appropriately. We value your input on this journey and we will do our best for every student here at SBS.

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir

I know that the month of September gets a bad rap because it marks the beginning of the school year. However, even though I'm an educator, September is my favorite month. I love the still warm days and cooler nights and the turning of the leaves from green to gold, brown and orange. I remember my father sharing about "a glorious September day." In my opinion, this past week's weather has been glorious.

I recently read an [article](#) in the Star Ledger that I'd like to share. I realize that we all lead busy lives and I worry that we don't take time for ourselves and our children to simply enjoy being outside. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful area filled with parks and hiking trails. Research supports that nature is good for us. In fact, hiking is found to benefit children's social-emotional wellness. I've included a few links below citing research about the positive effects of being outside. I hope that you will take some time in the weeks to come, to unplug and spend time outside with your children. I know they will enjoy being with you.

[Hike It Baby](#)

[Creativity in the Wild: Improving Creative Reasoning through Immersion in Natural Settings](#)
[Proof That Hiking Makes You Happier And Healthier](#)

Warm regards,
Kathleen O'Connor

Going on a hike before Back to School Night



**Mrs. Conti's AM & PM Kindergartners
are Ready to Get to Work!**



Mrs. Moran's kindergarten students went for a nature walk to look for signs of fall. They were scientists using their senses and taking notes!



The Nurse's Nook

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone has enjoyed their first few weeks here at SBS. I sure have enjoyed reuniting with all of our SBS students and families.

Here are a few reminders from the health office as our new school year gets underway:



Medication at school:

- All medications (both prescription and over-the-counter medications) require the submission of a legal order (from a physician or advance practice nurse) and written permission, signed by a parent. [Here is the District Form](#) for that purpose.
- All medication must be supplied in the original, labeled container.
- For the safety of your child and all others, medication must be delivered to the nurse by an adult. Medication should never be sent to school in a child's backpack.

As the year progresses, if you find that changes in your child's health may warrant the administration of medication during school, please contact me so we can work together to plan for your child's care.

Attendance:

Please enter all absences and late arrivals into the Genesis Parent Portal prior to 9 am (or 12:30 pm for PM Kindergarten). This is the only official way to communicate the whereabouts of your child. (Emails to teachers can be very helpful, but teachers cannot verify student absences in the system.)

If you have any questions, please contact me! kleister@chatham-nj.org

Counseling Connection

Hello Parents,

During the first week of October, Southern Boulevard School students will observe and celebrate the Week of Respect. The Week of Respect is a statewide initiative put in place to recognize the importance of character education in schools. School districts are required to observe the week by providing age-appropriate instruction focusing on preventing Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying. This year SBS's theme will be "*Sometimes it Just Takes 1 - Stand Up!*" The school will be reading the book *One*, by Kathryn Otoshi. *One* does a beautiful job of illustrating the many colors of bullying. Blue is a quiet, passive, calm color who gets bullied by hot headed Red. The other colors are bystanders who do not agree with Red's behavior, but don't dare say anything. Every time Red says something mean and no one speaks up, he grows larger and more intimidating. Luckily, the number One shows the colors how to stand up to Red. All of the colors, including Red, learn that everyone counts. We will enforce the theme of being an upstander, not a bystander throughout the week.

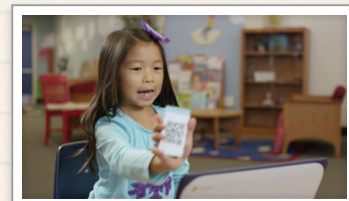
During the week, the students are also shown a PowerPoint presentation that defines bullying. Bullying is a term that can often be confused with a code of conduct breach. The definition of bullying and the District policy can be found on the District website under the heading "Parent Resources". It can also be found on the SBS website under the "Our School" tab. If you ever have questions regarding bullying, please reach out to me.

Kelly Medvin
School Counselor

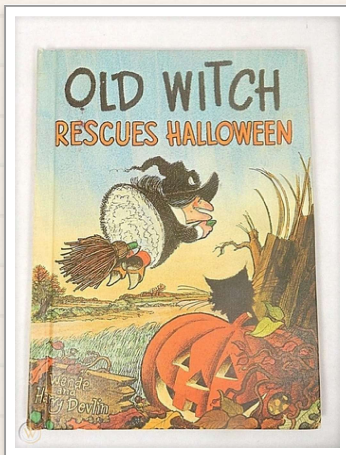
Library Lowdown

WELCOME BACK! The month of September has flown by so quickly! This month our K and 1 classes learned how to sign in to their chromebooks using clever badges. With no typing, the students hold up the badge to the webcam and are logged into their chromebook. They have mastered this task superbly!

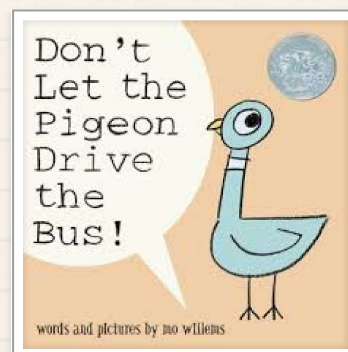
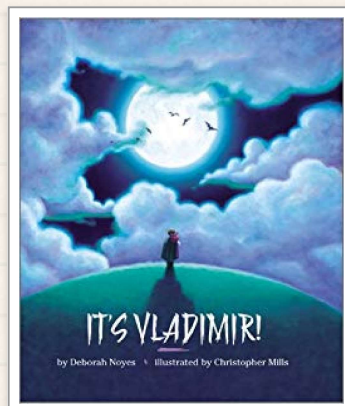
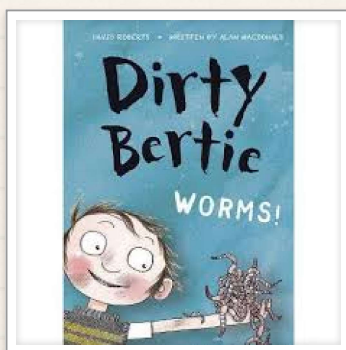
Grades 2 and 3 practiced logging-in and joined a newly created Google Library Classroom. Now students may access library lessons more easily.



This week, Grade 1 learned about safe websites through our digital citizenship lesson. Using a traffic light as a model, they learned there are green (go/safe), yellow (caution/ask an adult), and red (stop/unsafe) websites. They learned that they should not give out personal information when using the internet. Also, that if they encounter a yellow or red website, they need to immediately tell trusted adults such as their parents or teachers. Grade 3 learned about the rings of responsibility (self, friends and family, and community) when using technology. They learned that whether in the off-line world or digital world, they are responsible for their own behavior and that being responsible is crucial to being good members of the community, as well as good digital citizens. K and Grade 2 will participate in digital citizenship lessons in the coming weeks.

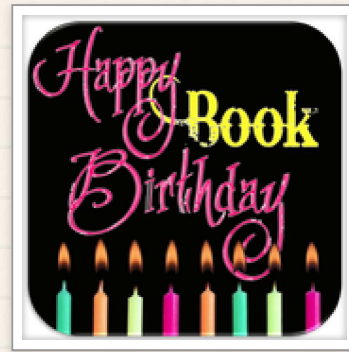


Library Literature- This month, a few of the stories we shared for our lessons across the grade levels are *Old Witch Rescues Halloween*, *Dirty Bertie*, *It's Vladimir!*, *The Halloween Tree*, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, *The Witches' Supermarket*, and *The Pumpkin Patch*.



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 how to use technology devices safely and how to navigate the applications on our Chromebooks.

Ask your child how they use their Clever Badges to log in!

1st Grade - We are learning about King Sniffer and how we can use the engineering design process to help him solve his problem.

Ask your child to explain King Sniffer's problem!

2nd Grade - We are learning about the Bear family and how we can use the engineering design process to help solve their problem!

Ask your child what step of the engineering design process they are on!

3rd Grade - We have started their first design challenge and we are learning to organize our engineering notebooks!

Ask your child what step of the engineering design process they are on and what that looks like in their engineering notebooks!

Have an Outstanding October!

Ms. Stojanov (Ms. S)

MUSIC NOTES

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I'm thrilled to have your children in the music room singing, moving, creating, and listening to music!



Throughout September, all students have been listening to "Summer" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons. We are listening to the musical structure as well as pretending to play our violins. All students will be singing call and response through echo singing, and build confidence in singing through repeated practice. Here are a few highlights per grade. **First grade** students had an opportunity to play hand drums and echo various rhythm patterns. In addition, they are learning to sing "America, the Beautiful". **Second grade** students identified the AB form of a song through singing, movement, and playing bongos. They will soon be singing "You're a Grand Old Flag". **Third graders** sang a five note scale and identified it using numbers and solfege syllables as well as hand signs. They are singing "The Star-Spangled Banner".

From the Art Room...

In art, our 3rd grade students are learning about radial symmetry. We explored good examples of radial symmetry found in nature. Sunflowers were a good choice. And they are "in season" in the late summer/early fall. Don't miss our 3rd graders' beautifully hand painted sunflowers on display in the hallways at SBS.



PTO Posts

Welcome to our SBS Families!

I hope that your school year is off to a wonderful start. The SBS PTO Executive Board, our dedicated committee chairs and I are all ready for a fun and eventful year. It was an exciting summer as we welcomed our new principal, Ms. O'Connor and completed our interior courtyard renovations. I would like to thank all the SBS families who supported this project by buying an engraved brick and attending the Spring Fling. We are thrilled with the addition of these outdoor learning spaces to our school.

Volunteers are the backbone of the PTO and we couldn't do it without you! Many committees were hard at work behind the scenes this summer. Our New Family Welcome committee reached out to the 19 new families that joined SBS, including two families from Germany and Denmark. The After School Enrichment Team put together another phenomenal Fall ASE program. At Back to School Night we saw gorgeous planters and mums that were lovingly planted by our Beautification committee and beautiful new spirit wear options designed by our Spirit Wear Chairs.

In October, the PTO will have its hands full running Mileage Club (each Wednesday), Picture Day (Oct 17th), Harvest Night (Oct 18th) and Box Tops Collection (Oct 21st). We are also excited to share information about our next school assembly on October 11th with Dr. Blake Brandes, a youth motivational speaker. The presentation will include growth mindset and grit

lessons infused with beatboxing, comedic storytelling and age appropriate freestyle rapping. It will be a wonderful way to wrap up the Week of Respect.

To stay up-to-date with what is going on around SBS, please consider attending our monthly PTO meetings. They are typically held on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:15 am in the Library. Our next PTO meeting will be on October 8th. Kristen Crawford, the District's K-12 Science Supervisor will be our guest speaker. You can also visit the PTO website <https://www.chathampto.com> for volunteer opportunities and links to other useful forms and information. Also, don't forget to stay connected on Facebook ([facebook.com/sbspto](https://www.facebook.com/sbspto)).

Lastly, the PTO could not run any of our enriching programs or events without the generosity of our SBS community. Your contributions directly fund our activities and make SBS such a unique and wonderful place to be for your child. I ask you to consider making a donation to our [Fund for SBS](#) to help us carry out our mission to support and enrich the SBS experience. Thank you so much for your support. I look forward to seeing you all at Harvest Night on October 18th!

Susan Ross
SBS PTO President 2019-2020





Mrs. Clifford's
class takes on
the courtyard!



[PTO Website](#)

SBS Website

SBS Calendar



Southern Boulevard School

📍 192 Southern Blvd, Chatham, NJ 📞 (973)457-2509

🌐 chatham-nj.org/sbs

