

# The Boulevard Beat

A Monthly Newsletter from SBS - September 2020 Edition

## The Principal's Place

### THE STATE OF SBS

It's hard to believe that September is ending! As I reflect on the past two months, I recall many questions we had regarding the reopening of school. Below is a sample:

- Will children keep their masks on?
- How will we teach with desk barriers in place?
- How will we teach with a mask on all day?
- How will we teach in-class and virtual learners simultaneously?

I am happy to report that students are managing to keep their masks in place. Teachers are finding ways to teach with desk shields and they are able to teach wearing a mask, although I know they are tired from these additional barriers between them and the students. I am especially proud of the answer to teaching in-person students and virtual learners simultaneously because I've observed teachers executing this well. In the short time we've been in school, we've learned how to engage all students.

While many of our initial questions were answered, because we find ourselves in a completely new teaching dynamic, questions continue to surface. We are learning to be flexible and responsive as we continue to innovate and problem solve. We are a dedicated team of educators who are committed to providing captivating content in a safe environment that reflects a positive classroom culture. Students' ideas are valued and they are gaining an understanding that mistakes are part of the learning process.

Overall, I am pleased with the progress we have made and look forward to continuing to educate and inspire your children. At any time, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

### DAILY COVID FORM REMINDER

Please note that we are no longer sending a daily reminder to complete the COVID form. Most of you are doing this everyday as requested. This week we've had about 40 students each day who we've had to monitor. I understand that mornings are extremely busy, especially with young students. May I suggest that those of you who are having issues with this request, set an alarm on your phone to remind you to complete the form by 7:30AM?

### SECURLY HOME APP

Now that students are using computers regularly, the District is providing a service to all PK-12 students called Securly Home. Regardless of which wifi network the Chromebook is connected to, this service will work whether a student is in school or at home. Securly Home enables transparency of internet history between parents, students, and their school. Parents can see alerts of bullying or self-harm in real time if they follow the instructions to install the Securly Home app. Additionally, we enable parents to modify some settings on the devices when they are off-campus such as pausing the internet or blocking certain sites. All parents have been enrolled and will receive a weekly email summary of their child's internet usage. Additional information is available through the Securly Home app. Please refer to [this](#) flyer and informational [video](#) to learn how to install the Securly Home app.

Warm regards,  
Kathleen O'Connor

## MRS. CONTI'S KINDERGARTNERS "HARD AT WORK"



## MRS. MORAN'S PMK TAKING A YOGA BREAK!



## The Nurse's Nook

Welcome all our new SBS families and welcome back to all the students!

**Emergency Contact** - Take a moment to update your child's Emergency contacts in the Parent Portal. We need to have an alternate contact besides the student's primary caregiver in case of a medical or unforeseen emergency.

**Attendance via the Parent Portal** - Please use the Parent Portal to record your child's absences or to report that your child will be learning virtually for the day. This will allow us to mark the day according to their individual needs.

**Please do not leave any messages on the absentee line. This line is not monitored on a daily basis.**

Directions:

- Log into the Parent Portal
- Select the Attendance Tab
- Select Notify the Attendance Office Tab
- Use the drop-down selection to mark your child (Absent, Tardy, Early Dismissal)
- Enter date
- Choose student name
- **State reason for the Absence, Tardiness or Early Dismissal. If your child will be learning virtually, please state that with your comment.**
- Click green submit button to post attendance

If you email your child's teacher, the absence is not reported until you log it into the parent portal.

You can always reach me at [kauer@chatham-nj.org](mailto:kauer@chatham-nj.org) or 973-457-2509 x3.



## 3RD GRADE TEAM SHOWING THEIR SPIRIT!



Hello! My name is Ms. DeVergillo and I am the new school counselor at SBS. I have spent my first few weeks meeting all the students during my introductory classroom lesson. We played a fun game to get to know each other and I read the book, "Right Now, I am Fine". This book encourages students to use breathing techniques, mindfulness activities and to find their "happy place", when they are feeling worried or anxious. Next month, we will be focusing on The Week of Respect and we will have school wide activities and lessons surrounding the aspects of RESPECT. I am looking forward to getting to know the students through classroom lessons, individual and group counseling sessions and through the collaboration of teachers and staff at SBS. We are going to have a great year!

Jamie DeVergillo  
School Counselor

## A NEW LOOK FOR OUR CLASSROOMS



## Library Lowdown

Welcome Back!

Last week the K-3 students started borrowing library books. We have a new program called **Destiny Discover** which allows the students to put library books they would like to check out on hold. These books are then delivered to the students. Destiny Discover also shows the students which books they currently have checked out. The username and password to access



Destiny Discover is the same as what students use to access their chromebooks. K and 1 students' clever badges will not work to access Destiny Discover They will have to log in with their username and password. . Please feel free to visit Destiny Discover.

<https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/51648>

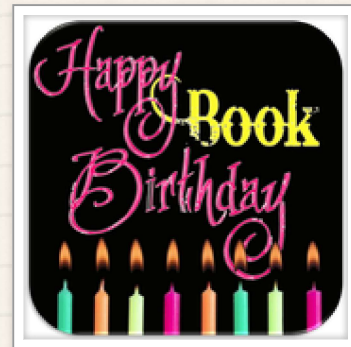
**RETURNING LIBRARY BOOKS.** There will be a **box outside the main entrance** daily where students can drop off their library books. They walk right past it in the morning when they are entering school. Please remind your child to return their library books when they are finished with them and to drop them in the box. Thank you.

The year is off to a great start and I am looking forward to working with your child during my library class visits. Have a great day!

Mr. D'Aloia  
Library Media Specialist

## Birthday Books

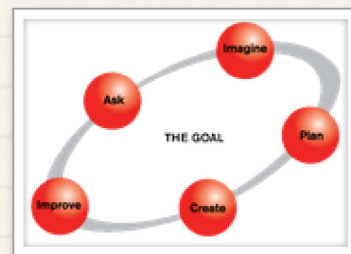
*Commemorate your child's birthday or other special occasion with the donation of a book to the SBS Media Center in his/her honor. Donations will be acknowledged in the Boulevard Beat monthly. [Click here for the form.](#)*



## The Design Den

Hello and welcome to the Design Den!

My name is Ms. Stojanov and I am the Design and Technology teacher here at SBS! This year, the Design Den will focus on small tips and tricks to help students and families with technology!



Tip of the Month: Visit the [SDOC Virtual Learning Family Resources Website](#) to find all the answers to frequently asked questions and tutorials to all of the technology tools and resources used in your child's classroom.

Have an Outstanding October!

Ms. Stojanov

## MUSIC NOTES

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! It's been so nice to see the children and interact with them!



One of the things we are doing this year is a "Composer of the Month". Currently we are listening to Vivaldi's Four Seasons. We talked a little bit about the Baroque period which lasted between 1600-1750. We are excited to focus on a new composer each month!

Your child(ren) learned how to log in to Quaver Music via [quavermusic.com](http://quavermusic.com). Each child has their own Quaver account which was automatically generated through their Chatham Google account. From Quaver Street, students can explore several activities (games, songs, videos, music genres, etc.) within each area: the Quaver Music Shop (including the Studio and the Music Lab), and the Metro.

Email Ms. Roskam [troskam@chatham-nj.org](mailto:troskam@chatham-nj.org) if you have any questions.



## PTO Posts

Dear SBS Families,

Welcome back! It feels so great to have the routine of school and activities again. We are so proud of how hard our administration and community members have worked to adapt to safety protocols enabling that safe return. Amy Ewing and I, together with the SBS PTO Executive Board and our dedicated committee chairs, are here to support our teachers and students through the 2020-21 school year.

Last spring, we had to cancel our in-person Spring Fling fundraiser scheduled for March 20th due to quarantine but still were successful in raising funds to renovate our Library Media Center. We would like to thank all the SBS families who supported this project by generously

donating their ticket cost and purchasing on-line auction items. We hope to complete the renovation next summer provided we are not in another quarantine.

Volunteers are the backbone of the PTO and we couldn't do it without you! Many committees were hard at work this summer. Our New Family Welcome committee reached out to the 65 new families that joined SBS, which was more than double last year's number. The Beautification Committee has our entrance looking ready for fall with fresh plantings in the containers and beds. The PTO provided boxed lunches for the SBS staff on the first day of school and decorated the staff room with notes of thanks and appreciation. Spirit Wear Chairs came up with new products and designs and had a successful sale to kick off the year.

In October, the Working Parents Network Committee will host their first virtual happy hour (Oct. 1st). The PTO will support Picture Day (Oct 8th) and the Week of Respect (Oct. 5th - 9th) with our *Kindness Matters* SBS tee-shirts for new students and a live-stream assembly (Oct. 8th at 2PM) with Dr. Blake Brandes, a youth motivational speaker. The live presentation will include growth mindset and grit lessons infused with beatboxing, comedic storytelling, age appropriate freestyle rapping and even a half-time dance break. Respect-themed Growth Mindset assemblies are to help students support each other and feel excited to learn new things (rather than feeling afraid or discouraged) and to help them thrive in the face of challenges (especially those in COVID times) in their educational and personal lives. 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 joining our monthly PTO Zoom meetings. They are typically held on the second Tuesday of every month and alternate between start times of 9:15AM and 7:30PM. Our next PTO meeting will be on October 13th and Jamie DeVergillo, SBS's new School Counselor 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 by liking our page [Southern Boulevard School PTO](#).

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 for both our in-person and virtual students. We 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!

Amy Ewing & Kim Visentini  
SBS PTO Co-Presidents 2020-21

[PTO Website](#)



[SBS Website](#)

[SBS Calendar](#)



## Southern Boulevard School

📍 192 Southern Blvd, Chatham, NJ 📞 (973)457-2509  
🌐 [chatham-nj.org/sbs](http://chatham-nj.org/sbs)