

The Boulevard Beat

A Monthly Newsletter from SBS - December 2020 Edition

The Principal's Place

Godspeed to Mrs. Kepler!

On Friday, December 11th, Mrs. Margaret (Peggy) Kepler retired from the School District of the Chathams after nine years of service. Mrs. Kepler was an immense help to everyone at SBS. One of Mrs. Kepler's favorite things to do was to welcome new students and their families when they started at SBS. Her reassurance, knowledge and kindness helped ease the transition for all of our new families. While she will certainly be missed, we are happy that she will be able to see her grandchild, Ryan and the new baby boy due in the spring. Mrs. Kepler's son and family reside in Texas and she has not seen them since before the onset of the pandemic. Mrs. Kepler is also an avid golfer and I know she'll take advantage of more free time to improve her game. She also enjoys walking at Jockey Hollow with her dog, Cubby. We're pretty sure she'll remain busy.



As the principal of SBS, I cannot express how helpful Mrs. Kepler was to me. I attribute much of my success to her commitment to our school. Her knowledge of SBS, district policy and procedures as well as SBS families was invaluable. So rather than saying goodbye, I prefer to say, godspeed. We will all miss her but we are happy that she is able to begin a new journey and enjoy the things she loves.

Please welcome Mrs. Leslie Quinn to the SBS office staff. I first met Mrs. Quinn last year when she subbed in our office. Leslie impressed me with her intelligence, initiative and friendly disposition. Some of you will remember that Mrs. Quinn was Mrs. Scrittorale's leave replacement teacher beginning in September. Mrs. Scrittorale returned on December 2nd and spent a week with Mrs. Quinn as they transitioned the class to Mrs. Scrittorale. She then spent the mornings of the following week with Mrs. Kepler and afternoons conferencing with parents and Mrs. Scrittorale. Last week was her first week and despite several hurdles, it was a big success. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Bischoff for everything she has done to help all of us move into this new situation. We are an awesome team!

Finally, it is with gratitude that I serve as the principal of SBS. Thank you all for your ongoing support. We could not do this without you! I am heartened that there are vaccines now available and I hope that we will soon be able to put this struggle behind us.

Enjoy this holiday season with your family and loved ones. Be well and stay safe.

Warm regards,
Kathleen O'Connor

Counseling Connection

Happy Holidays to all the SBS families and staff! Although this year has been very different and we have all had to be flexible and adapt, fortunately, we are an amazing team who has managed to stay positive. Administration, teachers, nurses, custodians, students and parents of SBS have all contributed to making this year the best it could be. Thank you! I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with many of your children through classroom lessons. I enjoyed doing a lesson on gratitude and creating "grateful trees and turkeys" with the students in November! Gratitude and focusing on the positives in our life is extremely important at this time and your children were able to think of so many great things to be thankful for. I have also had the chance to meet with many of your children through groups or individual counseling and it has been a pleasure to see their growth. New groups will start in January and I am looking forward to meeting new students. One of my favorite things to do in the winter is make snowflakes out of paper. You can do this with your child and show them that all snowflakes are different and unique. Similarly, each one of us is unique so we are all one of a kind! You may want to read the book, *Snowflakes Fall*,. Here it is in [read aloud](#) format. Feel free to check out [my website](#) for additional counseling resources. I hope you have a safe and happy holiday season and are able to relax and enjoy each other as a family. I am looking forward to 2021 and continuing to support you! Happy Holidays!



Mrs. DeVergillo
School Counselor

Library Lowdown

In the SBS Library this month the students have enjoyed various holiday stories that connect to our library curriculum such as *The Magic Driedels*, by Eric Kimmel, *Silver Packages*, by Cynthia Rylant, *Apple Tree Christmas*, by Trinka Hakes Nobles etc. In Destiny Discover, I have added a wide variety of topics that include numerous winter holidays, as well as popular topics and authors such as Legos, baking, Mo Willems, Star Wars, Dan Gutman, etc. to make it easier for students to find and select library books.



In December, all K-3 students participated in the Hour of Code during their library classes. The Hour of Code was designed as an introduction to computer science and to show that anybody can learn the basics of coding. It has become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science. Click this [link](#) for

Parents and students--Please see the wonderful online books from the Library of the Chathams. It's free! You just need a library card.

To obtain a public library card, please follow this link.

<https://chathamlibrary.org/get-a-card/>

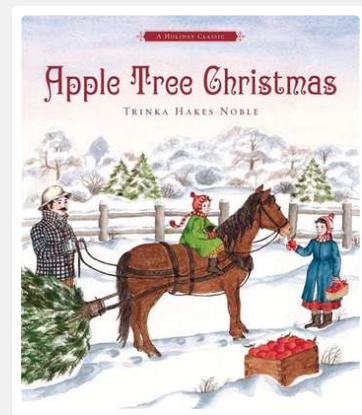
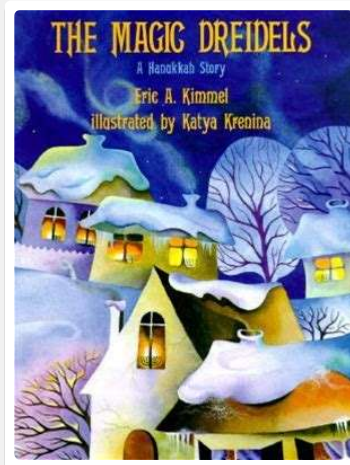
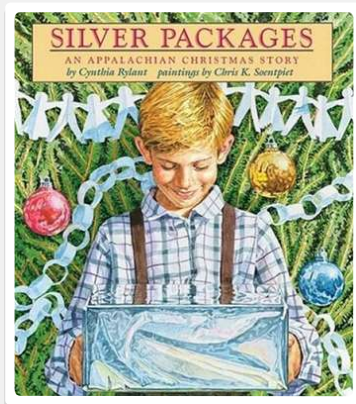
They just added 55 titles this month! They are listed first on the list.

Check out this month's additions to the SDOC/Library shared ebook collection. list:

<https://chathamlibrary.org/sdoc-ebooks/>

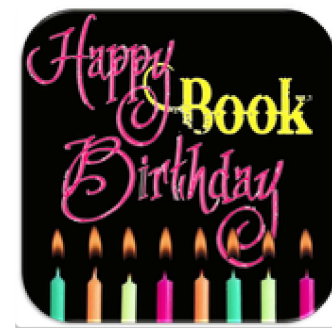
Wishing all of our families a very happy and safe holiday!

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!

Tip of the Month: What do the icons in Google Classroom mean?

Assignment Attachments are meant to be Turned In.

Question Answer the question and Turn In your answer.

Material Resources are there for you to view, edit or print. Nothing needs to be turned in.

I encourage everyone to read the directions on any post, as teachers may ask students to post a response or a video on another school resource, like Flipgrid.

Have a wonderful holiday break!

Ms. Stojanov

MUSIC NOTES

Each month we listen to music by a new composer. So far we have listened to music of Vivaldi, Grieg, Mozart, and Tchaikovsky. The children have been learning about life during the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods. Many children were already familiar with Tchaikovsky's music because of the famous Nutcracker Ballet. I encourage you to continue listening to music by these masters at home.



Vivaldi - The Four Seasons

Grieg - In the Hall of the Mountain King

Mozart - Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Tchaikovsky - Dances such as the Russian Dance, Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, and The Chinese Dance

Enjoy!

~Ms. Roskam

From the Art Room.....

Good afternoon to SBS families! I wanted to share some examples of the beautiful works of art your children have created in art thus far this year. They are amazing me with their abilities, creativity and enthusiasm in class. (Making the best of the situation.) They will be coming home this week with their

pumpkin masterpieces that they worked very hard on. I encouraged them to share them with all of you and perhaps hang them in a special place in your home.

We started the year with first day self portraits, and learning about the elements of art. Our big fall project has been our fabulous moonlit pumpkins, and learning about the artist Vincent Van Gogh. We looked at Van Gogh's painting *Starry Night* for inspiration. First grade drew one great big pumpkin in the moonlight. Second grade drew a family of overlapping pumpkins and third grade drew a "Starry Night in the Pumpkin Patch" landscape. They are all fabulous and unique! The students are encouraged to use their own imaginations and style in their works of art.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday and a very happy and healthy new year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Mahoney



The Phys Ed Corner

Mr. Dalton and Mr. Stevens take gym outside for some fun in the sun...and snow!



PTO Posts

Dear SBS Families,

Happy Holidays! November and December have flown by and we are happy to be nearing the end of 2020. We are so grateful for our SBS Community and we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to you and our PTO volunteers who have made our recent events a success.

In November, Staff Appreciation Chairs Eve Katz, Luz Dunn and Helen Angelis and PTO VP Bridget Shanley made sure the SBS Staff felt some love by coordinating gifts of personalized masks from a small business in Northern NJ and apple tarts from Fleur de Sel in Chatham (see photos). We are so thankful to have our children learning everyday and we have our entire SBS Staff to thank for that!

Also in November, HOPE Week Committee Chairs Ashley Dunn, Cristina Antenen and Diane Palazzi coordinated community service activities and drives for SBS's 7th annual HOPE Week (Helping Others Persevere and Excel). Our students wrote notes to and completed community service projects for the less fortunate, elderly and troops; Kindergartners made care kits for NYC Relief, 1st graders assembled school supplies bags, 2nd graders made patriotic ornaments for US Troops and 3rd graders made winter wreaths for the elderly.

Donations were strong with totals of:

- \$231.86 in coins for Together We're Feeding America
- 132 blankets/towels for St. Huberts Animal Center
- 87 hats/gloves/mittens/scarves for children and adults at Jersey Battered Women's Shelter
- 113 new toys for Toys for Tots
- 50+ lbs of old crayons for National Crayon Recycling Program which will create over 5,200 new crayons

In early December, STEM Committee Chairs Amy Ewing and Akshita Sethia along with SBS's Design and Technology Teacher, Miss S. coordinated activities for our students to explore during Computer Science Week, including two coding platforms and a video on STEM careers.

Spiritwear Chairs Jessica Owens and Tina Romano coordinated a special Holiday Spiritwear sale of giftable items for your loved ones. Orders were distributed today. Thank you for your support! SBS students love to show us their Chatham and SBS spirit (see photos)!

Also helping to share the love and spread holiday cheer were our Class Parents who organized collections, purchased and distributed holiday gifts for our Lead Teachers, Aids, Specials teachers, Office Staff and Custodians before the winter break. We appreciate the efforts of our Class Parents and the generosity of the SBS families which make these gifts possible.

Upcoming events:

- ENROLLMENT FOR VIRTUAL AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT: Week of January 11th
- KINDNESS CHALLENGE WEEK & VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY: Week of January 11th
- PTO ZOOM MEETING: Tuesday, January 12th at 9:15AM

Lastly, we have a large sad looking stack of nearly eighty SBS 2020-21 Kindness Matters car magnets. If you would like to show your support for SBS by making a donation to the [Fund for SBS](#), we will send you one! Your contributions directly fund our activities for both our in-person and virtual students and help us with acts of appreciation for the SBS Staff. SBS PTO is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible and can be matched by your employer. Thank you so much for your support.

We wish you happy holidays and look forward to the new year!

Amy Ewing & Kim Visentini
SBS PTO Co-Presidents 2020-21
sbsptopres@gmail.com





Chatham Spiritwear



[PTO Website](#)

[SBS Website](#)

[SBS Calendar](#)



Southern Boulevard School

📍 192 Southern Blvd, Chatham, NJ

☎ (973)457-2509

🌐 chatham-nj.org/sbs

