

# Side by Side's Monthly News

November 28, 2018

Issue 160

## FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Dear SBS Families,

I hope you all enjoyed a healthy and peaceful Thanksgiving break.

Thank you to those who attended the "Beers for Books" fundraiser on 11/9. Thanks to your contributions, we raised nearly \$3500, which will replenish classroom book collections for all grades at Side by Side.

Thanks to our friends at First County Bank, all Side by Side students were able to start the year prepared for learning. Nearly 120 students received backpacks filled with back to school supplies at the start of the school year. Special thanks to Steve Ferguson, Jennifer DaSilva, Karen Kelly, Patricia Sweeney, the SBS Board of Directors, the Leadership Team, and the employees of First County Bank for this extremely generous donation.

I am excited to report that our technology integration/student/parent engagement initiative for the 2018-2019 school year continues to progress according to plan. We will soon begin setting up two new Chromebook stations for both lower and upper school students. Each of our buildings will have a new storage cart complete with one full class set (24) of Dell Chromebooks. These devices will help support many new interactive learning opportunities for your children.

The SBS Winter concert is Thursday, December 20. Please join us to help celebrate the holiday season and demonstrate your support for Ms. McFadden and all of the chorus and band students who have been working so diligently to prepare for this performance.

Thank you,

Mr. Nittoly

## ANY QUESTIONS?

Main Number .....	857-0306
Fax Number .....	838-2666
Director .....	Matt, x133
Nurse .....	Maria, x118
Social Worker.....	Marlene, x126
Assistant to the Director.....	Lilly, x132
Parent Coordinator.....	Evelyn, x130
Family Resource Center	Beatriz, x146

## SAVE THE DATES:

**Friday, November 30** – End of first marking period

**Friday, November 30** – Picture re-take day

**Friday, November 30** – R.I.S.E. meeting at 2:30 P.M. in the gym

**December 3 through December 7** – Popcorn/lemonade fundraiser

**Thursday, December 6** – 2:00 P.M. early dismissal for parent teacher conferences

**Friday, December 7** – Dress down day for students and staff

**Wednesday, December 12** – Jerry Craft, local author/illustrator visit

**Thursday, December 13** – 2:00 P.M. early dismissal for parent teacher conferences

**Thursday, December 13** – Show Choir choreography rehearsal from 2-3:30 P.M. Please make pick-up arrangements for your student.

**Thursday, December 13 and Friday, December 14**

The Community Health Center Mobile Dentist will be at SBS to provide dental services for those students who have previously registered.

Please call 860-347-6971, ext.3796 for more information or register online at <http://www.sbh1.com>

**Tuesday, December 18** – Show Choir choreography rehearsal from 3:30-5:00 P.M. Please make pick-up arrangements for your student.

**Tuesday, December 18** – Board of Directors meeting at 5:15 P.M.

**Wednesday, December 19** – All bands tech rehearsal from 3:30-5:00 P.M. Please make pick-up arrangements for your student.

**Thursday, December 20 at 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.** – Winter concert

**Friday, December 21** – R.I.S.E. meeting at 2:30 P.M.

**Monday, December 24 through Tuesday, January 1**

Holiday recess. No school for students and staff

## Announcements

- If your child missed school on picture day or if you are not satisfied with your child's portrait, please inform the main office that you would like a **re-take on Friday, November 30** and return the original portrait package to school. You may keep the complimentary class picture.
- In accordance with CT State Department of Health regulations, ALL PK students must receive a flu shot before December 31, 2018 (2 doses at least 28 days apart for those receiving the flu shot for the first time.) Submit a proof of immunization form to the school nurse no later than Wednesday, January 2, 2019.
- 8th grade students will be selling popcorn (\$1) and lemonade (\$.50) from December 3 to December 7 during lunch and recess, to raise money for their trip to Washington, D.C. in May.
- The Horizons Student Enrichment Program, located at New Canaan Country School, is now accepting lottery applications for summer enrollment for children currently in grades K, 2, and 6. Please apply by going online at [www.horizonskids.org](http://www.horizonskids.org). Complete applications online, in either English or Spanish. If you have any difficulty with the online process, please contact Marlene at 203-857-0306, x 126 and we will schedule a time to use a computer here at school. For children in grades other than K, 2, and 6, Horizons offers a waiting list, which is also done online. Enrollment applications enter into a lottery that gives priority to families that meet eligibility requirements of free or reduced price school lunch. Families will receive notification of admission to the program in the spring.

## Classroom News:

**PK 103** (Teachers, Judie and Kim) – Before Thanksgiving, the children each contributed different food items to prepare and share in a Thankful for Friends luncheon. The menu included homemade alphabet soup, fruit salad, corn muffins, apple cider, pumpkin pie, apple pie and trail mix. Thank you to parents for supporting this activity! It's "All about Me" time in PK 103. The children are putting much thought and creativity in their self-portrait collages. The youngest friends in the class are bringing in a few personal items from home that have special meaning to them, such as their first art project, a favorite storybook, a baby toy or a baby picture. During morning meeting, they share what about these items makes them meaningful and then put them on display in our Me Museum. This month, we have also explored four basic shapes: the circle, triangle, square and rectangle. We have noticed how they are alike and different. The children find the square and rectangle can be tricky to tell apart as they have the same number of lines and corners and they both remind them of boxes. We are having fun searching for shapes that are all around us. They have made individual shape collages and will now incorporate all four shapes in creative designs.

**PK 104** (Teachers, Jen and Carmen) – In PK 104, we are right in the middle of our self-study. We have been learning about the five senses and how these help us discover the world around us. We have also been exploring how the different parts of the human body work (heart, lungs, etc.), as well as thinking about ways that we are the same and different. We have also been playing math games with dice to help children begin to identify quantities up to six quickly and easily.

**Kindergarten** (Teachers, Esther) – The kindergarteners are exploring mapping. We read a folktale from Japan called Momotaro, Peach Boy and looked at where Japan is on a map and on the globe. We talked about Japan being an island and then looked for other islands on the map. To help the children get a better understanding of maps we took turns mapping out arrangements of different shaped blocks and asked them to imagine that each block was an island we could see from an airplane. We set up the blocks on the rug, drew the shapes on the smartboard and then moved the shapes into the correct position on the smartboard map. We practiced with lots of different block arrangements. Now the kids are ready to map the classroom. We will use the floor tiles to represent units on our large grid paper.

**1st Grade** – The first graders are learning about fables and folktales. We have listened to many classic fables, such as The Boy Who Cried Wolf, and we are working on written retells of some of our favorites. This week we are enjoying folktales about Anansi the Spider, which originated with the Ashanti people in West Africa.

**2nd Grade** – The second graders are back in action after a lovely Thanksgiving break. We are looking forward to writing our own Greek Myth stories, and learning more about the Greek Gods and Goddesses. In Math, we are focusing on three digit numbers and learning different ways to represent a number. Our field trip to the Aldrich museum is postponed until December 13th. We look forward to sharing our hard work with families during conferences.

**3rd Grade** – The third grade class has been so busy. We have been continuing our study on Japanese Culture. We recently had a chef visit our classroom to teach the students how to make sushi. The students were able to create and taste their own rolls. In math, the students are working hard on place value strategies with addition and subtraction. We are about to finish our investigation of the state identity of Connecticut. The students will be researching an "unsung" hero from Connecticut. We had to postpone our trip to the Aldrich Museum due to weather, but we will be going on Thursday, December 13. Report cards are an important part of parent teacher conferences, scheduled in the coming weeks. Hope to see everyone soon!

**4th Grade** – Greetings from 4<sup>th</sup> grade! We "traveled" around the world visiting the country of Mali in Africa, the Hawaiian Islands, and Russia

to explore other oral traditions from different cultures and communities. This was the last part of our Native American oral traditions investigation. Now, we are moving into Colonial America where we will be studying the different trades and roles people played in order to survive in this time. Mathematicians NEED to practice their basic multiplication facts EVERY NIGHT. Our fourth graders are presenting a Classroom Community Quilt at the RISE meeting on Friday, November 30. Hope to see you there!

**5th Grade** – I hope everyone had a healthy and restful Thanksgiving holiday. Fifth graders worked hard before the break to finish their readers' theatre script based on the novel "Esperanza Rising." Each group did a great job working together and produced excellent results. We have begun learning about the American Revolution and exploring different perspectives along the way. In science, we have embarked on an investigation of Newton's third law of motion and how that comes into play when designing rockets for space travel. We will be launching soon! In math, we have started looking at fractions. We have also recently visited the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum and the Brant Foundation in Greenwich, which have been a great addition to our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) focus that allows the students to view the world through a unique lens. I look forward to seeing everyone for conferences in a couple weeks. Please check back next month for an update.

### Upper School Humanities

**7th grade** students will be concluding a comparison study of the civil war in Sudan. They watched the movie "Lost Boys of Sudan," which provided additional context to understand the conflict that they had explored in both fictional accounts and non-fiction text.

**8th grade** students are completing a study of the Viet Nam war and the complicated history leading up to the war. Students are comparing non-fiction texts and following the historical fiction reference to focus on the experience through a fictional character.

6th grade students are reading the novel The Lightning Thief, which serves as an introduction to the study of Greek mythology. They are learning the many characteristics that comprise mythology by tracing aspects of the story through the narrative arc of "The Hero's Journey."

### Upper School Math News

The **6th grade** class is just finishing a review of percentages. Students learned how to express a fraction as a percent and find a percent of a quantity in real-world contexts. Students learned how to solve various percent problems such as finding the discounted price of an object. Students will now be working with division of whole numbers, division by a fraction and operations on multi-digit decimals.

**7th grade** students have been using a number line to model the addition and subtraction of rational numbers. They use the number line and the Integer Game to demonstrate that a number added to its opposite equals zero. Their findings are formalized as students develop rules for adding and subtracting rational numbers, and they recognize that subtracting a number is the same as adding its' opposite. Real-life situations can be represented by the sums and differences of signed numbers. Next, students will develop the rules for multiplying and dividing positive and negative numbers.

**Eighth graders** are beginning a unit on linear equations. They began by classifying an equation as either linear or non-linear and will next work on determining the number of solutions of a given equation. In addition, students have been working on creating algebraic equations for verbal expressions.

### Upper School Science News

The **sixth graders** are continuing to learn about the particle nature of matter. We are learning about substances and how properties help distinguish one substance from another. The students learned about the emission spectra that is unique to each gas, a property used to identify an unknown gas. They have also learned about the property of hardness when identifying various metals.

The **seventh graders** are learning how to represent chemical reactions with models, word equations and chemical equations. We most recently completed an electrolysis experiment to see if a chemical reaction can occur with just one reactant. Be sure to ask your seventh grader what happened.

The **eight graders** are investigating how volcanoes can occur far from plate boundaries. We modeled the formation of hotspot volcanoes and the movement of plates over hotspots to help students visualize what might be occurring on the larger scale of Earth's tectonic plates.

#### Research and Portfolio

The **sixth graders** have read up to chapter eight in the novel Frightful's Mountain and continue to answer focus questions for each chapter. They are expanding their knowledge by continuing to read articles about DDT, trying to determine whether DDT is more harmful than beneficial. They are finding claims and providing evidence from the articles to support their claims.

The **seventh graders** have read up to chapter nine of the novel Bud, Not Buddy. They have been analyzing a commencement speech by Steve Jobs to determine the rules or advice he is giving to the graduating students. The students are using evidence from the speech to determine Steve Jobs claim or rules.

The **eighth graders** are almost finished reading the Omnivore's Dilemma. They are using evidence from the text to determine claims. They are also determining whether the evidence is backed by sound reasoning, is relevant, and if the evidence is sufficient. They are also determining if there is any irrelevant evidence.

#### Music News

Music students have just begun to study the piano and keyboard in class. They have learned songs such as "Hot Cross Buns" and "Mary Had A Little Lamb" in the lower grades, and "See you again" and "Jingle Bells" in the upper grades. PK students have also started learning about the piano and the Djembe drum, which is a rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum played with bare hands that is originally from West Africa. Band and Chorus students are working hard to prepare for the upcoming concert on December 20th. Thank you for welcoming me (Ms. McFadden) into the Side by Side Community! It has been a great start.

#### Physical Education News

Students have finished fitness testing for a baseline score for this year. Below are our "Top-10" record holders for the push up and PACER running test. These students will receive a Fitness Award at the November R.I.S.E. meeting. Way to go everyone!

Pacer Running Test	Score
Grade 8 Jose Garcia	99
Grade 8 James Saint Jean	85
Grade 7 Danny Wachira	83
Grade 8 Austin Ayala	70
Grade 8 Will Soggi	76
Grade 7 Ander Aguilar	74
Grade 7 Alex Ordonez	70
Grade 6 Sarah Chalarca	67
Grade 5 Matthew Lopez	67
Grade 3 Matthew Little	65
Grade 8 Axel Nava	65
Grade 5 Ericson Joseph	60

Push-ups	Score
Grade 7 Ander Aguilar	75
Grade 4 Alan Ayala	70
Grade 6 Dante Montagnesi	46
Grade 4 Alexandra Anduze	42
Grade 3 Josh Bisagni	40
Grade 4 Timothy Cohen	36
Grade 5 Angelli Oliva-Reyes	35
Grade 8 Will Soggi	35
Grade 5 Aliyah Vargas	32
Grade 3 Matthew Little	31
Grade 3 Ja'sani Banton	30
Grade 5 Esteban Orozco	30
Grade 8 Austin Ayala	30
Grade 8 Bella Cuartas	30
Grade 8 Jose Garcia	30

#### Art News

In **PK** and **kindergarten**, students are learning about the artist Alma Thomas. Students are using a variety of colors to create a radial design, using paint and paper. Students also experimented with line quality by using dash dotted and solid lines. In **first** and **second grade**, students are studying form, which is one of the elements of design. Students are learning about the artist Henri Matisse. Using collage with geometric and organic shapes, the students are creating a three-dimensional sculpture in the shape of a bowl. In **third** and **fourth grade**, students are learning about formal balance and symmetry. They are learning to write their names in cursive to create a symmetrical name bug using colored pencils and fine point markers. In **fifth** and **sixth grade**, students are studying facial measurements as well as pattern and design. Students are drawing a portrait using the concept of facial measurements. Then with a black fine point marker, they are drawing patterns and designs in the shirt and hair of the figure. In **seventh** and **eighth grade**, students are learning about symmetry. Students are creating stamps using points that they have mapped out in math class. Once they have created a stamp, the students will use the printmaking process to design a mandala.