

# Shark Tales

Southbury Elementary

FEBRUARY 2021

[School calendar](#)

## Administration Letter

Hello Shark Families!

We hope everyone is staying warm in this frigid weather! February has brought on a record amount of snow in quite some time and even resulted in a Remote Learning Day! On top of the snow, we have had quite a few cold days in a row that has impacted student arrival and dismissal. Be sure to make sure your child is bundled up for the conditions, as we have outdoor dismissal if the windchill is above 10 degrees.

Now that we are past the mid-point of February, we have had a chance to begin the Phase 2 Hybrid Plan where students are coming into Southbury 4 days a week and STARS students 5 days a week. It has been so nice to welcome our Sharks back!

Parents-- we need your help completing the parent 5Essentials survey. On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois 5Essentials Survey will be administered online by UChicago Impact at the University of Chicago. The survey gathers data related to five indicators that can predict important student outcomes, including improved attendance and larger test score gains. These five indicators that affect and predict school success are:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environments
- Ambitious Instruction

We need at least 20% of our parent population to take the survey in order for us to receive results. To take the survey please visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/> and select the appropriate survey to begin.

Here are some things that are happening in the month of March:

- 3/1-- Remote Planning Day (No Student Attendance)

- 3/24-3/25 – Full Day of School; Parent Teacher Conferences (flex)
- 3/29-4/5 – Spring Break (No School)
- 4/6 – Teacher Institute Day (No Student Attendance)
- 4/7 – Students Return from Break

We hope everyone has a wonderful March!!! GO SHARKS!

**Samantha Sinovich**

Principal

**Jack Olson**

Assistant Principal

Read. Write. Think. Grow. Southbury: A Community of Learners.

Welcome to  
**Kindergarten!**

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## From the Front Office

Hello Shark Families!

We hope this newsletter finds you all doing well...and keeping warm! ☺

It is very important to review your child's profile on Tyler SIS to ensure that your child's information is correct and updated. Please remember that if you still need to provide us with proofs of residency and/or any other paperwork, your student will not be registered for the 2021/22 school year. Also, if your lease expired during the current school year, you will need to provide us with a copy of a current one. If you have any questions, please contact the front office.

Parents who have incoming kindergartens to register may do so by following the steps on the District Registration website: <https://www.sd308.org/Page/8091>. Students must be five years old by September 1, 2021, in order to begin kindergarten in August. Packets are available on the district website at [www.sd308.org](http://www.sd308.org). When registering, the child's parent or legal guardian must provide the student's original birth certificate, the parent/guardian photo ID, and three proofs of residency from the past 60 days (examples: utility bills, a lease, property tax bill, mortgage statement, deed). Medical requirements for kindergarten, not needed at the time of registration, include; a physical due by the first day of school, a vision screening due by October 15, and a dental exam due by May 15, 2022. Questions can be directed to the schools or the central registration office at 630.608.5090

Finally, although the weather may seem to be getting a little bit kinder to us, please remember to send your child to school with a hat and gloves. Outdoor dismissal lineup is outside until the temperature

drops below 10 degree with the wind-chill to help ensure social distancing when possible.

We are looking forward to a fun exciting spring!

Mrs. Hathaway and Mrs. Quick

## MEMORIES WITH MOM

Calling all Sharks! We want to see what kind of fun you're having with your mom this year! Are you building snowmen? Hiking? Having snowball fights with your mom? Or just hanging out indoors playing games, baking or cooking?

Whatever it may be, we want to see it! Here is your chance to have your memories added to the Southbury 2020-2021 yearbook for everyone to see.

Please download your favorite pictures of you with your mom to the link below no later than March 15, 2021. We hope to be able to add as many photos as possible.

We can't wait to see all your fun memories!

<https://images.memoryebooks.com/415923945>

*(if mom is not available, another parent or legal guardian is encouraged to participate)*



-Say Cheese!

*Any question, please contact us at*  
[sbfromschool@gmail.com](mailto:sbfromschool@gmail.com)

## Home and School Organization Happenings

Happy March Sharks!!!

A few things from the HSO!

Our Southbury Staff voted and the results are in for the Yearbook Cover Contest! We had amazing entries yet again this year and we thank everyone for their submissions! This year the cover will be illustrated by Hadley Stith and the 4 finalists are Alivia Kath, Abigail Hernaez, Kylie Highland, and Brynn Genslinger. Great job to all of these ladies!!!!



We are approaching the final weeks to order a yearbook for the current school year. If you have not ordered, follow these simple steps! You and your little Shark won't want to miss out!

Step 1: Visit <http://www.memorybook.com/online-pay/parent-pay/>

Step 2: Enter our school code 208741 then click "Go to your school account login" Step 3: Click on the link below our school name

Step 4: Register as a "new user"

Step 5: Buy a yearbook for \$20. Please be sure to complete your child's name and teacher information.

The yearbook committee is also working to add some grade level quotes to specific questions throughout the pages of the yearbook this year. You should have received an email from your classroom teachers with links to these google forms where you can take a minute to ask your student a quick question. Please take a moment to fill these in!

Finally, since March is typically our Munchkins with Mom time of year, we are encouraging everyone to participate in making a special Memory with Mom!! See the flyer for details!

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to us at [sbhomenschool@gmail.com](mailto:sbhomenschool@gmail.com)

**Sarah Brown and Kristy Stith**  
HSO Co-Presidents



## Kindergarten

Love is in the air in Kindergarten as we transitioned into phase 2 of Hybrid Learning.

**ELA:** This month we have focused our learning on what an opinion is and writing an opinion sentence using the word "because". We also enjoyed a short Eric Carle author study that got us ready for our next Ready Gen unit. We are continuing to work on reading our High Frequency words and use them in our writing.

**Math:** We finished up our shape unit and have moved on to teen numbers. We focused on that teen numbers are a group of ten and more. We worked on writing teen numbers, building teen numbers. We will be moving on composing and decomposing teen numbers.

**Social/Emotional:** In Kindergarten, we are working on being independent learners. We also talked about how to handle disappointments and always being kind to each other.

## 1st Grade

First graders have been working very hard as we head into the final trimester of school! Here is a look ahead at what we will be doing this upcoming month.

### Reading:

- Learning about the moon and the solar system
- Understand that facts, details and features in informational texts enables them to find answers to questions.
- Asking and answering questions about the planets
- Use details and illustrations to describe key ideas
- Use text features to find information

### Writing:

- Writers will use research to write a question-and-answer informational task.
- Using proper capitalization and punctuation

### Math:

- Adding and Subtracting with tens
- Counting back by 10's

### Social Studies:

- Identify and explain rules inside and outside of school.

### SEL:

- Empathy
- Managing Emotions

## 2nd Grade

Second Grade is SWEET!

As we moved into Phase 2 in the middle of the month, the second graders were excited and anxious to be back in a larger group! The second grade teachers were equally excited to have more students back in the classroom as well! We are overjoyed to see so many happy faces enter our classrooms each morning!

**Math:** This month we finished adding and subtracting three digit numbers. We will continue to touch on this skill throughout the remainder of the school year. Currently, this month we are working on MONEY! Every second grader loves money! We worked on identifying coins, determining their value, and using dollar and cent symbols correctly. We even learned a trick called "Hairy Money" to help us determine the value of each coin!

**ELA/Social Studies:** This month we studied famous African-Americans and the contributions that they contributed to our society. We read the book, Disaster Alert and Danger Earthquake. While reading these texts we focused on asking questions (5 W's and How) about important details in the texts. Our writing this month focused on writing an informative piece where students introduce a topic, using facts and definitions to develop a point, as well as providing a conclusion statement.

## 3rd Grade

Happy Snowy February Families!

The 3rd grade classrooms have so many interesting things that we are learning about and have been adjusting to our new schedules like total rockstars!

In ELA, we have been reading informational stories and focusing on scientific explanations. One text is called *Living Through a Natural Disaster*. We are using reading strategies that include main idea/key details, text features, cause/effect, and important vocabulary. Our social studies is embedded in this unit and the focus is "Becoming an Active Citizen." The students are learning how people have tried to improve their communities over time.

The students continue to be more confident with informational writing while including a clear focus, organization, facts, and definitions. Our "mini-meteorologists" have been working on a weather report about tornadoes! They have been using our anchor texts and doing research to complete this project!

We are deep into our fraction unit! The students have been learning about parts of a whole and set, fractions on number lines, equivalent fractions, and comparing fractions. We are using lots of models and hands-on activities! Our next math unit is measurement. Students will be learning about capacity, mass, and time intervals.

As you can see, it's a "Fabulous" February in 3rd grade!

## 4th Grade

You might say Southbury's fourth graders became experts in natural disasters this month. After weeks of research, drafting and rewriting, the students put the finishing touches on their news reports about blizzards, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. And then just days after submitting those reports, a major snowstorm forced the school district to implement its first ever remote-learning snow day. The children adapted with aplomb.

February also marked the beginning of hybrid learning phase two, which brought more students into the classroom and reduced the number of children in remote learning. In general, students in both the in-person and remote formats seemed to enjoy more balanced teaching time, and they seemed to respond positively to smaller groups and more focused instruction.

In math, students worked on fractions: finding equivalents, mixed and improper, and adding, subtracting and multiplying. The children solved story problems involving fractions and learned about the everyday use of fractions in places such as the family kitchen. Also, the students continued to memorize multiplication facts since that skill is fundamental to math in future grades.

In reading, students began reading narrative fiction and learning about story elements. While in SEL (social and emotional lessons), the children learned strategies for managing strong emotions and solving problems with friends.

## 5th Grade



As the fifth graders returned to Southbury they were overjoyed seeing their friends and teachers in person. The fifth grade teachers were equally excited having students back in their classrooms. Even with all of the changes that occurred, students did not miss a beat and jumped right into learning. In reading we continued with our topic of space exploration by reading texts such as Jess and Layla's Astronomical Assignment and Our Mysterious Universe. In math we continued to work on fractions, one of our biggest units for math. Students learned how to add and subtract mixed numbers as well as how to multiply and divide fractions. Finally, in writing students wrote a science fiction narrative. We used the wonderful texts we worked with in reading to help students write a fantastic story. As always February is an exciting time of year filled with lots of learning! Go Sharks!



## Stars

We're so happy to be able to see our students 5 days per week now, either in-person or virtually! We appreciate your students' flexibility and adaptability to the changes in schedules this year!

Please continue to have your students attend their Specials virtually - in the afternoons for in-person students or in the mornings for virtual students. Students are meant to attend all classes in Phase 2.

Please continue to complete the COVID screening form each day your child attends in-person by 7:45am!

## ESL

### ACCESS Testing Update:

- ISBE has changed the testing window to March 15 - May 25

### Important Reminders:

- Our Phase 2 schedule started on 2/16. *Please double check your child's ESL schedule to make sure they attend at the correct time.*
- **Students must attend all ESL GoLive! sessions.**
- Students need to **complete ALL assignments** within their ESL Google Classroom.
- *Before turning in your assignment*, make sure you complete your work or attach a photo of your completed work.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's ESL teacher.

**Kristen Serio**

[kserio@sd308.org](mailto:kserio@sd308.org)

**Alyssa Ahlstrom**

[aahlstrom@sd308.org](mailto:aahlstrom@sd308.org)

## GE - Math

February was full of fraction fun for fourth graders as they finished addition, subtraction, and multiplication of those non-whole numbers! As the month began, mathematicians continued learning about fractions, one of the most important areas of math to master in elementary grades. Fractions are the foundation for much of middle school math, because fractional understanding leads to proportional reasoning, which is necessary for solving everything from Geometry to Algebra and beyond! By the end of February we had worked with unlike fractions so much we were fluent and flexible, even with those mixed-up mixed numbers. A fantastic revelation came when mathematicians saw how multiplying fractions results in a smaller amount! Wow! We really needed visuals for that! Next up...dabbling in division with fractions! Hmmm...my math intuition is telling me another revelation is upon us!

Fifth graders finally flew into Algebra! Turns out, those variables, expressions, and equations weren't so foreign after all, as we focused on translating Algebra to English and English to Algebra. (Thank goodness we didn't have to translate the Algebra to French! I did try out my British accent when we discussed "factorising" though. Aren't you glad you were not in class for that? ;-)) After solving one-step and two-step equations, we ended the month of February with...functions! Yes, graphing boomeranged and landed right in the middle of Algebra. Functions, those in/out tables from third grade, returned to the stage, but this time variables were on the scene. In fact, they were the primary actors and the lens was focused on looking for patterns, just as it was in third grade, but this time we were writing each function to program the "machine" to always operate correctly. :-)

## Speech and Language

Hello Shark families!

We hope everyone is staying warm during this snowy month! February has been a busy month for many of us. There have been many schedule changes as we begin this new phase of re-opening. We are working hard to make these schedule changes as smooth as possible. We are continuing to work on those individual IEP goals whether your student is virtual or in person! We are looking forward to seeing all our students. Please reach out if you have any questions. We are all in this together! :)

From the speech-language pathologists,

Mrs. Debbie Convey

630-551-9851

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Mrs. Kelly Okel

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Ms. Lauren Paver  
630-551-9872  
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## LRC

Check it Out!

Are you tired of winter? Well, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog's Day this year which means we are in for six more weeks of winter. According to the legend, winter should begin breaking around March 17th this year. So, why not snuggle up with a great book and read?

We are so excited that students are beginning to checkout books from the Southbury LRC! Students in grades 2-5 have been instructed how to place a book on hold using our online catalog system, Destiny Discover. These directions can be found in students' LRC google classrooms as well. We will be working on getting books into the hands of our kindergarten and first grade students next. Thank you for your patience in this new endeavor. We hope you are as excited about this as we are!

Coming up in the month of March, be watching for the results from the Monarch and Bluestem voting. Students have been reading these books throughout the school year. It will be exciting to see the winners since so many of the 2021 nominees were amazing reads!

During the month of February many classes have been digging deep into research. A great resource that our district subscribes to is Encyclopedia Britannica (EB). EB makes researching fun and safe. To access this resource from home go to:

[school.eb.com](http://school.eb.com)

Username and Password: oswego308

Happy reading!  
Mrs. Witcpalek and Mrs. Dietz

## From the Reading Department

Are you looking for a fun way to get your child/ren laughing while learning at the same time? Check out "Online Mad Libs". "Nothing teaches parts of speech with as much laugh-out-loud joy as a good game of Mad Libs. With the Wacky Tales link at [funbrain.com](http://funbrain.com), students can choose from a variety of already selected words or use that list to inspire them to come up with their own descriptions. Their stories are guaranteed to be hilarious, and the activity is ideal for those students who are shy about sharing."

Source: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/25-ways-get-kids-writing/>

Have fun laughing!  
Mrs. Landers and Mrs. Townsend  
Southbury Reading Department

## Art

Hello Shark Families,

February has been a busy and exciting month. We started off the month with a guided "Fun in the snow" drawing. Students are continuing to strengthen their knowledge of the elements of art and created their very own abstract artwork assignment based on different artists like Wassily Kandinsky, Romero Britto, Chris Uphues and Dasic Fernandez. We also learned about great artists like Alma Thomas, Norman Lewis, Horace Pippin and created artwork based on their artistic styles. We have a new "Stars of the Week" topic in our google classroom for each grade level, any artwork turned in before 6pm. on Sunday(assignments are due every Monday morning) will be featured under this topic. The kids have been doing an amazing job and I am always happy to see all the wonderful, creative artwork turned in every week. Keep up the great work, Sharks!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [rkalyanchandramowli@sd308.org](mailto:rkalyanchandramowli@sd308.org).

## Music

February was a busy month as we finished the 2nd Trimester! I'm so proud of all of my Southbury musicians for their hard work on the virtual assessments.

In kindergarten, we finished our unit on "dynamics" this month. Next month, we are going to start a new unit on high and low sounds. I can't wait to have more fun singing and dancing together!

In 1st-3rd grade, students are learning how to put music notes on the music staff. 1st graders are starting with learning the lines and spaces, while 2nd and 3rd graders are learning the names of certain notes. In March, we will continue to read these music notes and start learning how to write them as well.

In 4th and 5th grade we are starting recorders! 4th graders will learn how to play it for the first time, while 5th graders are going to review what we learned last year and keep moving forward. We are doing a level system called "Recorder Explorers" and students can earn badges for their hard work! I know the students are very excited, and I apologize for any loud noises in advance. :)

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please email me at [mmcwethy@sd308.org](mailto:mmcwethy@sd308.org).

## Physical Education

What a wonderful time we have been having in PE! We had a great time studying for our human body test and have learned so much! We have also been doing some fun themed workouts getting that heart rate up!!!

## News from Nurse Sara

Hello Shark Families!

I have a few reminders to share, please read through as they may pertain to your family.

**Dental examinations** are required for Kindergarteners, 2nd graders, and any student transferring from out of state. The deadline for this May 15, 2021. If you have a copy or your child meets the criteria for requiring this examination on file, please provide a copy to the health office. You can send it via email to [skarantonis@sd308.org](mailto:skarantonis@sd308.org) or have it faxed directly to my office at 630.551.9897. The exams can be as far back as 11/15/2019.



If you have a kindergartener or student from out of state, the health office also needs an up to date **vision exam**. See above for my contact information if you or if the eye doctor is able to submit a copy to me.

Hybrid learners: Please remember to complete the Covid Certification if your student is coming to school. Any student who does not have the survey completed will be sent to our health secretary to have the survey completed by her. The surveys only need to be completed on the days your student is in attendance. We are asking for these surveys to be completed prior to your student arriving at school, to avoid having to screen multiple students at school before they are allowed to go to their classroom.

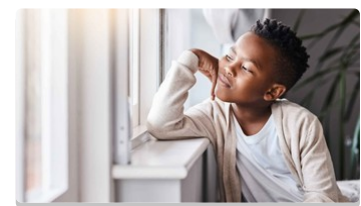
Sick students: if your child is sick, I will follow up to issue a return to school letter. Remote learners will also be followed up with as well, due to some students participating in sports and other activities. If a student is sick or symptomatic & has siblings in the district, those siblings along with the symptomatic student will be issued a return to school letter by the health office. Please let me know if you have any questions, I am happy to answer them.

As always, thank you for your help & cooperation!

Sara Karantonis, MSN, RN  
Building Nurse

## Social Work

Fighting the winter blues can be just as challenging for kids as it is for adults. Less daylight can also mean less time doing the things we enjoy when there's plenty of sunshine.



Try these suggestions if you notice your child could use an extra boost during these cold and sometime gloomy winter months.

**Journal for mental health** – Finding a healthy outlet to express emotions can make a huge impact on the mind and body, one healthy way to achieve this is through journaling. Encouraging your child to clear their mind or express their thoughts through writing can be extremely beneficial for improving both their emotional and mental health.

**Get more vitamin D** – Vitamin D, also known as the sunshine vitamin, is great for more than just building strong bones! This vitamin is a good natural remedy to help boost your mood as well. During the colder months it's not as easy to get the sunlight we need, but you can help your child by seeking foods rich in Vitamin D or taking a supplement, going on outdoor walks in good weather and letting in natural light during the day!



**Is your child getting enough sleep?** - Having a consistent sleep routine on weekdays and the weekend is one of the best ways to make sure your child is getting enough rest all week long. The goal is to have not much and not too little. The recommended amount of sleep can vary per age, but both sleep deprivation and oversleeping can affect physical and mental health.

**Laughter is the best medicine** - As parents keeping up with the many events in our lives and our kid's lives, it's so easy to forget to live in the moment and sometimes just get in a good belly laugh, which can also relieve stress. The same can be true for children. Put on their favorite funny movie or show and laugh away!

**Quality time** - No one knows your child better than you, spend some time doing one of their favorite activities that bring them joy! Some ideas for children can be spending more as a family, reading a good book or doing a favorite activity.

Stay warm!


Kristin Epstein, MSW, LCSW  
Social Worker 3rd-5th Grade  
STARS (Jungels, Wintners, Kurth)

Tanya Gryniak, MSW  
Kindergarten-2nd Grade  
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## Southbury Elementary School

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