

SHARK TALES

SOUTHBURY ELEMENTARY

MARCH 2021

[School calendar](#)

Administration Letter

Happy Spring, Sharks!

We are now in the final two months of the school year. It's hard to believe that the time has gone by so fast! All of our Sharks have been so resilient with the numerous changes this school year and it is a direct testament to the amazing families in our community and phenomenal members of our whole staff!

Once again, we would like to thank all of you for continuing to work closely with the school in order to ensure the success of all our children academically, emotionally, and socially. We are a team and together we can make a difference in the lives of our students!

Reminders:

The weather in Illinois in spring can drastically vary from day to day. Please ensure your child is properly dressed to go outside each day for arrival and dismissal.

We'd also like to send out a reminder about student drop off and pick up. Please, please, please do not pass a school bus with the stop sign or stop bar out. This is to ensure safety of all!

Here are some things that are happening in April:

- 4/1-4/5 – Spring Break (No School)
- 4/6 – Teacher Institute Day (No Student Attendance)
- 4/7 – Students Return from Break
- 4/30 – 3.5 Hour Student Attendance-School Improvement Day

Samantha Sinovich
Principal

Jack Olson
Assistant Principal

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

From the Front Office

Hello Southbury Families!!

Kindergarten registration was opened in February. If you know of someone who may still need to register a 2021-22 kindergartener, please have them contact the Registration Office to set up an appointment. (630.608.5090).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Step 1: Complete Forms Online www.sd308.org/KindergartenRegistration

Step 2: Appointment at Central Registration

Scheduled during online registration

1008 Douglas Road, Mason Square Center, Oswego

Registration times:

Call for appointment 630.608.5090

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2021 in order to be eligible to attend Kindergarten. Please pass along this information to any neighbors or friends who do not already have an older sibling here. Registration forms are available on the district website

https://www.sd308.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=913&dataid=66096&FileName=KindergartenRegistration.2021.22_Komitas%20Edits.pdf

Documents to bring to Kindergarten registration are:

- **A Completed Registration Packet and Student Fee**
- **A Legal, Certified Birth Certificate** (issued from the County with raised seal)
- **Driver's License or State ID**
- **3 Proofs of Residency:** acceptable forms of residency are: Closing papers – purchased home is less than 12 months; OR Mortgage Statement or Current Year Tax Bill; OR Current Apartment Lease;

AND

- **Two current utility bills** (landline phone, electric, water, cable, gas – within 60 days of February 2021)

All kindergarten students **MUST RECEIVE A NEW PHYSICAL, BE CURRENT WITH IMMUNIZATIONS AND RECEIVE A NEW DENTAL EXAM.** This information must be completed and documentation be turned in to the school on or before August 2021 in order for your child to begin school in the fall.

****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 moved and/or are no longer on a lease, you will need to contact the front office.****

In a step towards keeping our building safe and secure, we are using the blue bin in the front corridor for forgotten items. This alleviates traffic in and out of the building. We will check the bin periodically throughout the day and place the items on the ledge leading out into the hallway. Please keep in mind that we WILL NOT interrupt the classroom to call students down for forgotten items. Nor can we guarantee they be delivered as we do not always have available staff to deliver items. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Have a fantastic Spring!

Home and School Organization Happenings

Hi Sharks!

Thank you to all of our families for such great yearbook photo submissions this year. Without your help, the yearbook would not have been possible! We are excited to see the printed yearbook next month!

Don't forget that our Southbury Staff Appreciation week will be coming up in May! Be on the lookout during April for information about this important week! Our Shark staff certainly deserves it now more than ever.

If you don't follow us on Facebook, look us up at Southbury Elementary Home and School.

As always, if you have any questions, reach out to us at sbhomenschool@gmail.com!

Sarah Brown and Kristy Stith
HSO Co-Presidents



Kindergarten

We feel so lucky to have these hard working Kindergarteners. We are working hard to get ready for first grade.

Math: We are into our next math unit of Addition. We will be exploring the different tools we can use to solve Addition problems such as: fingers, objects, drawings, and ten-frames.

ELA: We have started our next reading unit and it is all about plants. We are focusing on sequencing events in the story, identifying unknown words, and reviewing verbs and adjectives.

Writing: We are continuing with writing our opinion. We are now adding two reasons to support our opinion. We are trying to spell our high frequency words correctly in our sentences and use appropriate punctuation.

1st Grade

First graders have been working very hard this month! Here is a look ahead at what we will be doing in March:

Reading:

- Exploring our world in space (planets)
- Learning about the sun
- Asking and answering questions about a nonfiction text
- Using text features to understand a nonfiction text

Writing:

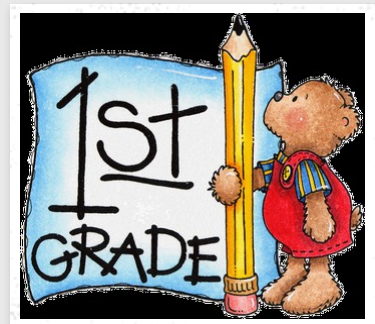
- Informative writing (providing questions and answers about the planets with appropriate punctuation)
- Planning and editing our writing

Math:

- Exploring graphs (tally charts, bar graphs, picture graphs)

Science:

- Spinning Earth (Why does the sky look different at different times?)



2nd Grade

Second Graders are really Blooming this time of year! In ELA we finished studying about volcanoes, earthquakes, sinkholes, flooding and bushfires. When we finished each student created a magazine article on a natural disaster of their choice. These turned out amazing! This month we have started our next Unit in ELA and a new text called, *Pioneers to the West*. We learned how to understand that people's journeys to settle in new places help our country grow. In addition, throughout this text we focused on the importance of well-sequenced events, details, and conclusions.

In math we finished our money unit and began our unit on data analysis. In this unit we completed tally-mark surveys, learned how to make and analyze a picture graph, as well as



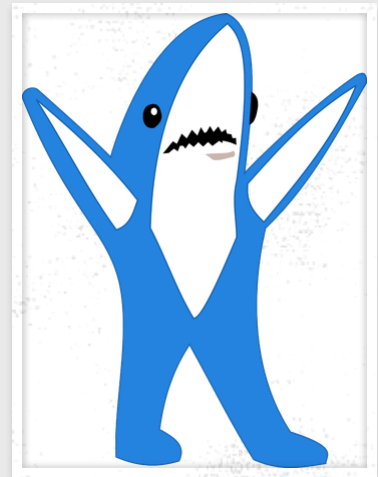
making and analyzing line plots. Second Graders love this unit!

Please continue to have your child study their addition/subtraction math flashcards. Remember to check Google Classroom for any work your child needs to complete.

3rd Grade

Hello 3rd Grade Parents,

We have finished our next ELA unit and were so excited to present our information through our Weather Reports on Tornadoes! The Flipgrids were so creative and fun to watch as they shared their hard work! In addition, the class enjoyed the tall tale of Paul Bunyon and have an understanding of figurative language. Finally, we also read the story *Below Deck: A Titanic Story*. We have also read other passages and learned more about the Titanic.



We have been working on foundational and grammar skills, too. The students are practicing opinion writing and getting a chance for choice writing in their "little" books!

In math, we finished up our unit on fractions. Our students know how to find equivalent fractions and to compare fractions. Currently, we are working on our measurement unit. This involves mass, capacity, and telling time including time intervals.

The 3rd graders have been watching science videos in our unit called, "Weather and Climate." They are investigating where to establish an orangutan reserve.

Overall, keep reading "good fit" books, practicing math facts, and keeping a writer's notebook are great ways to extend learning at home!

Please let us know if you have any questions

Take care!

3rd Grade

4th Grade

Southbury's fourth-grade students have been hard at work in a variety of academic areas during the month of March.

To focus on narrative writing, the students read and listened to a variety of amazing picture books. In these examples, the students heard and saw how authors develop characters and settings, as well as how characters can solve problems. In addition, students learned how to

incorporate dialogue and sensory details into their writing. With the use of dialogue, students practiced how to use quotation marks, punctuation, and paragraph structure in their narrative pieces. Students applied all of these skills, along with the Second Step Problem Solving steps, to generate their own real-world narratives!

As for math, students finished a chapter on fractions, in which they learned how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions, as well as how to solve story problems with mixed numbers. The children then began learning about the relationship between fractions and decimals. As always, the XtraMath program continued to be a tool the children were asked to use daily to practice their basic math facts. Some students were even able to COMPLETE the entire XtraMath program-- wow!

Finally, students enjoyed reading the chapter book *Lunch Money* by Andrew Clements. They connected what they learned about money in that text to the topic of decimals in math. Also in Reading, the students focused on analyzing characters, as well as the author's word choice. As always, using what they learned in Reading was extremely helpful as they crafted their own narrative pieces. Be sure to ask your child to share their writing with you!

5th Grade

Happy Spring everyone! In reading teachers wrapped up unit 3 of our curriculum focusing on space. In writing we enjoyed analyzing and writing various types of poetry. Students stretched their knowledge of figurative language and symbolism to create beautiful poems. Finally in math we began our unit on geometry which focused on classifying polygons.



Stars

Happy Spring STARS families! It is so nice to be able to take the kids out for walks in the nice temperatures. To celebrate the season, STARS classes are learning about growing things, animals and springtime weather.

Spring break will be March 29th through April 6th. The kids will be back in school April 7th. You may have heard that "Phase 3" starts after Spring break. Luckily, nothing will be changing for our STARS kiddos during phase 3. Schedules will remain the same as they are now. Please remember to fill out your child's covid screener before sending them to school each morning.

ESL

ACCESS Testing:

All in-person EL students are required by the state of Illinois take the ACCESS test. The testing window is March 15 - May 15.

Important Reminders:

- **Students are expected to participate in ALL ESL Go Live! sessions unless they are marked absent from school for the day.**
- Videos, slideshows & assignments may be posted in your child's ESL Google Classroom to support student learning. Students need to **complete ALL assignments** within their ESL Google Classroom.

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

Kristen Serio

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GE - Math

Fourth grade mathematicians ended fraction operations at the beginning of March. We then marched forward into data and measurement, while still using our fraction operation skills to analyze line plots of fractional data from real-world situations. Next year all those x's will grow and blossom into statistics standards when students learn to interpret histograms, line graphs, and bar graphs. Conversions, both customary and metric were the focus for most of the month of March. We went to great **lengths** to learn the **weighty volumes** of conversions! ;-)

After practicing all those crazy customary conversions, the metric system was a breath of fresh air as we "stepped" up our game and used the base ten metric conversion stairway of success. The main goal of all conversions this year is to know when to multiply and when to divide using those conversion factors.

Fifth grade mathematicians ended Algebra with inequalities. After mastering Algebraic equations, inequalities seemed a little imbalanced. ;-)

Translating all that language was tricky...taller than 4 ft, at least 5 pages, minimum goal of 28, spending limit of less than 50...

The language of math once again highlighted the difficulties of mastering English. The luck of the Irish was with us though, and we moved on to Geometry for most of the month. Finding the area of 2-dimensional polygons on a coordinate plane kept us using Algebraic formulas

while composing and decomposing shapes such as parallelograms, triangles, and trapezoids. Employing the mind's eye was critical as we visualized where to decompose a shape and then calculate the area of the pieces. These skills will be very important as we move into the third dimension in April!

Speech and Language

Tips for Parents on Building Language and Literacy Skills

We made it to Spring Break! Enjoy your extra time together as a family and remember that any time is a good time to help your child learn language and literacy skills! Current research shows that parents have the power to boost their children's language and literacy development when they:

- Make it easy for their child to start conversations
- Respond with interest to whatever their child tells them, with or without words
- Talk frequently with their child about things of interest to the child
- Have conversations with their child that go back and forth a number of times
- Talk at a level that their child can understand and learn from (not too complex or too simple)
- Expose their child to print in a variety of ways, especially with books

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LRC

Check it Out!

Although getting through this pandemic has been challenging, one good thing that has come from it is the many unique ways to read great books.

At the Southbury LRC we have begun the book checkout process. Getting books into the hands of our eager readers has been quite exciting! We will continue the book checkout process until May 7th. All books that have been checked out will need to be returned to the LRC by May 14th.

The Oswego Public Library System has partnered with District 308 to create a reading website/app called SORA. SORA is available to all of our students. This gives our community of readers another opportunity to have access to some amazing titles. SORA offers ebooks and audiobooks that work on any electronic device. You can personalize SORA's reading settings to adjust font size, font type and lighting to best fit your child's reading needs. Books are checked out for 14 days and are automatically returned. You may renew the book for additional time as long as there are no holds on it. For more information, visit your student's LRC Google Classroom or visit SORA's website at <https://soraapp.com/library/oswegoil> and log on with your school email and password.

Happy reading!

Mrs. Witcpalek and Mrs. Dietz

From the Reading Department

March is National Reading Month!!

Celebrate a love of books and reading by trying out some new books or authors this month! March is also Women's History Month. Check out these great reads all about amazing women in history:

- [Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice](#) by Nikki Grimes
- [Through My Eyes](#) by Ruby Bridges
- [Shark Lady](#) by Ann McGovern
- [Through Georgia's Eyes](#) by Rachel Rodriguez
- [Malala Yousafzai \(A True Book: Biographies\)](#) by Robin S. Doak

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. Landers

Reading Department

Art

Hello Shark Families,

We began this month by exploring art careers. The kids have really enjoyed making artwork based on different art careers like fashion designing, video game designing and floral designing. Grades 3-5 have been working on the "Art Career March madness" game, they have been voting for their favorite art career each week and learning more about the different art careers. The kids are doing an amazing job in our live sessions and also in the artwork they turn-in every week. Keep up the great work, Sharks!!



If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at rkalyanchandramowli@sd308.org.

Music

Our Southbury musicians are rocking and rolling this spring! In February we finished our 2nd Trimester assessment and began new content!

In Kindergarten, we are exploring up/down and high/low. We have lots of fun songs and games to explore these musical opposites!

In 1st grade, we are continuing to work on reading rhythms. We are also learning about the lines and spaces of the music staff. Students are on their way to creating their own songs!

In 2nd and 3rd grade, we are learning about notes on the music staff. Students are introduced to new notes every year, until they can read all of the notes on the lines and spaces of the staff!

In 4th and 5th grade we are playing recorder! (sorry parents) Students are so excited to begin our "Recorder Explorers" curriculum and advance their skills on recorder. Please continue to encourage your students on their musical journey, they are doing a wonderful job!

If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me at mmcwethy@sd308.org.

Physical Education

We have been having a blast in remote PE! It is crazy the amount of resources available virtually this year compared to last. We started our month off with our Kids Heart Challenge and have been talking about the importance of the heart muscle and ways to keep it fit and healthy. We have discussed that there are many layers to becoming healthy and fit and there is no "one size fits all" program for everyone. It is so important to explore all the avenues to a healthy body and figure out what is best for you!

News from Nurse Sara

Here are a few reminders from last month that I wanted to be sure to share again.

Dental examinations are required for Kindergarteners, 2nd graders, and any student transferring from out of state. The deadline for this is 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 via email skarantonis@sd308.org or fax 630.551.9897. The exams can be dated 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. I am still accepting these as well, please send them in.

Hybrid Learners: Please complete the Covid Certification if your child is going to be in attendance. Students without a completed survey will be sent to the health secretary each morning. We are asking for these surveys to be completed prior to student arrival to avoid having multiple students waiting to be screened and delaying their arrival to class.

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!

Sara Karantonis, MSN, RN
Building Nurse

Social Work

Parents, we are here to assist you by...

- Working with you and your child to support good attendance
- Explore ways to help your child succeed socially, emotionally, and behaviorally
- Provide referrals for community resources (i.e. food, clothing, counseling, etc.)
- Help bridge school-home communication
- Answer questions related to the problem solving and special education processes

Students, we are here to help you with...

- Working out friendship problems
- Setting goals
- Working well with others
- Feeling good about yourself
- Adjusting to a new school
- Learning how to make decisions
- Managing your feelings (stress, worry, anger, etc.)
- Dealing with peer pressure and bullying

Additional Services Provided:

- Delivery and Implementation of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives
- Classroom Presentations (Autism Awareness, Safety Awareness, etc.)
- Brief Solution-Focused Counseling
- Parent and Teacher Consultations
- Community Resource
- Social Work Services through a Multi-Tier System of Supports

***Please keep in mind school based social work services typically are provided for those children whose difficulties are affecting their school day and their ability to learn.

***Please note that school social workers do not provide "therapy" or "traditional counseling". I'd be happy to provide referrals for therapy/counseling services for children experiencing grief, family transitions/adjustments or mental health concerns.

Mrs. Epstein
3rd, 4th, 5th Grades

Mrs. Shelby-Yuvan
Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd



Southbury Elementary School

 Facebook

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