

SCS News

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January 2019

Principal's Corner

I'm not quite sure how it's possible, but somehow, each month is turning out to be busier than the one before! With these crazy schedules and everyone's busy-ness, I want you to know how grateful we are of your support, involvement, and dedication to your child(ren), their academic, social, and emotional success, and our school. With everyone's contributions, all the pieces seem to fall into place nicely. That being said, I hope you all have a wonderful 2019, and you are able to enjoy these moments with your family and other loved ones!

Speaking of crazy schedules, there are a few changes I'd like you to be aware of. Starting on January 25th, PE will be held on Friday only. Because of the weather, all classes will be held inside, including one class that happens to be scheduled during lunch time. This isn't a problem, as we have a schedule that allows all students to be served in a timely manner, eat in classrooms (which always seems to be a fun treat for the students!), and still have their 30-minute lunch break without disrupting the PE schedule. However, we also have 18 students that leave for Swim/Skate on Friday. Many of our students bring meals to heat up or popcorn to pop at lunch time. With all of these puzzle pieces to consider, we are asking two favors that will help with the ease and smoothness of the lunchtime transition during the winter months:

1. If students want popcorn on Friday, please come with it already popped because we will not have enough time to pop the dozen bags AND heat up lunches. **We will not be popping any bags of popcorn at lunch on Friday.** If lunch times were not together, the situation would be different; however, since we have 72 students to serve at the same time, we need to make some adjustments for the time



being—and, in order to ensure everyone is ready to leave for Swim/Skate and participate in PE class, this is something that just needs to happen.

2. If you are able to bring a cold lunch (a sandwich, for example) or get a meal prepared by the kitchen here, it would save time and ensure that all students get ample eating time. Again, this is simply a suggestion, but was mentioned as an option as our team worked to talk about making this period of time as seamless as possible.

We do realize this isn't necessarily ideal, but it is manageable and allows for everyone to be fed, have their break, and still participate in their classes in a timely manner. Hopefully by April vacation things will be back to normal...or, at least, as normal as can be? ☺

Again, as we all work and contribute to the best interest of our students, we thank you for your flexibility, support, and assistance. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give us a call. We are more than happy to talk or meet at any time!

Mrs. Mathieu

December Students of the Month

Brooke Brochu, Robbie Warren, Mylee Patenaude, Malik Ramirez, Janessa Hodge, Saily Placey, Jayden Riendeau, Jackson Hodge



Student Swim & Skate Dates

If you have signed your child up for the swim/skate program through the North Country Rec Center, the dates are as follows:

January 4, 11, 25

February 1, 8, 15



News from Pre-K / K

Pre-K and Kindergarten have spent several weeks reading and investigating books by Jan Brett. We read over 20 of her books, but our favorites included *Mossy*, which we read, then followed along with a video as Jan Brett told us step by step how to draw a turtle. We read *The Mitten* then re-enacted the story with characters from the book. We read *The Umbrella*, then made puppets from illustrations Jan Brett had drawn. In Math, we learned about the attributes of several (2-dimensional) shapes, such as rectangle, square, triangle, circle, hexagon; and solids (3-dimensional), such as cube, sphere, cone, and cylinder. We welcomed both Mrs. Crossley and Mrs. Fellows into our classrooms several times over the past couple of weeks to talk to us about feelings. We are learning to identify our own feelings, as well as look at our classmate's facial expressions to get clues about their feelings.

Mrs. Hemon

News from Grades 1 & 2

First and second graders have been busy learning about motion and energy. We have learned about the forces of energy and have explored various simple machines. We will soon explore magnets!

In Math, first graders have started learning about double digits to 100. We have practiced counting by 2's and 10's. Second grade has begun to explore 3 digit numbers to 1000.

In Language Arts we continue Walk to Read. Some students have moved to different groups and are adjusting well. Students are excited to be reading from their new tub levels. The reading practice each night sure is paying off!

We have had many friends out sick over the past few weeks. I am encouraging students to wash their hands well, cover their coughs, and not to share food or drinks.

Mrs. Ricker



News from Grades 3 & 4

Our class rang in the new year by making a personal resolution for an area of improvement that each person wanted to work on. Students then thought of specific action steps to achieve the goal, and made a beautiful piece of word art using Microsoft Word.

Most students are doing well working towards mastering their multiplication facts. If your child is struggling with this important skill, please be aware that there are many ways to practice. A Midwestern third grade teacher, Mr. Demaio, has made many catchy videos that are posted on You Tube, for example, that can be played in the background and sung along to. Another fun way of practicing involves writing the letters in a thin layer of flour or shaving cream on a table. Even traveling on an errand can turn into practice time when the tables are chanted or problems are asked. We don't devote much class time towards mastering these facts, so it is important that children practice learning them when we are not in class. I encourage you to stop into our

classroom to check out your child's progress on our Math Masters bulletin board!

Mrs. Hodge

News from Grade 5

Since the last newsletter, fifth graders have been hard at work understanding many aspects of multiplying decimals and will soon start dividing them. In ELA, they have started reading an historical fiction novel entitled RIDING FREEDOM which is about an orphan who strikes out on her own. The girl is determined to live the best life she can, given the constraints and expectations of females living in the mid-1800s. Students are learning all sorts of rich vocabulary and historical background knowledge as a result. In addition to reading this novel, students are also writing an opinion essay about a topic of their choice.

Our unit about the American Revolution will soon come to a close. Students will be expected to do a culminating project, of some sort, related to this event in history. We also finished studying stars. Everyone researched a type of star such as a red giant, a white dwarf, a blue giant, a black hole—to name a few—and presented their findings in the form of a PowerPoint. We are now taking a look at more Physical Science topics like matter, mass, density, etc...



Wonkka

News from JH Science

Grade 6 Science students are learning about genetics. They are learning terms such as genotype, phenotype, heterozygous, homozygous, dominant and recessive. To help students understand these concepts, they recently completed a lab using beans to show the percentage of how the offspring is formulated. They are also learning how to create a Punnett square in order to explore various combinations.

Seventh grade students are learning about the oceans and what animals are found in the oceans. Each student is researching their own animal and will do a

presentation of their animal. The students will be engaging in a lab involving the salinity of ocean water.

Grade 8 students are learning about work and simple machines. Pulley, inclined plane, wedge, screw, wheel and axle, and lever are the simple machines vocabulary they are learning. Soon they will be asked to do a project involving these simple machines. Students are also calculating what work is and how it is related to forces in motion.

Mr. Kennedy

News from JH ELA & Social Studies

Happy New Year from the Junior High Students!

Before starting our next novel, students in grades six through eight have been reading nonfiction articles from the Scholastic Scope magazine. The articles of most interest were two that involved disaster or near disaster. "The Race against Death" is an excerpt taken from The Cruellest Mile, a story written by Gay and Laney Salisbury about the diphtheria outbreak of 1925 in Nome, Alaska. A dog team and skilled musher delivered the antitoxin in time to save many lives. The second article, "Out of the Flames", gives a first person account of the Triangle Waist Company fire of 1911. This disaster resulted in many deaths, as young female immigrant workers were trapped in the factory building.

Research projects on Ancient Egypt and Latin America are the topics for grades six and seven Social Studies classes. Seventh grade students are creating a map of Latin American countries. Sixth grade students are researching many topics related to the pharaohs, the pyramids and the Nile River.

Check out this link to the Nile River Cataracts if you haven't experienced it before.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xe2yQEGDcrl>

Students in eighth grade will be starting research on Slavery and The Civil War soon. They created a 13 Colony Quiz game that we will be playing in class soon, to wrap up their 13 Colony research and projects. Have a great month!

Mrs. Stebbins

News from the Media Center

The yearbook committee is hard at work designing our yearbook for this year. Some of the pages they are working on include: Ice Cream Social, Border

Patrol/Red Ribbon Week, Halloween, Christmas concert, just to name a few.

In order to have every student receive a free, colorful yearbook, we need to raise money. In the past we have had a raffle, but with so many fundraisers going on, we are using box top money (which we did last year). Each box top is worth 10¢. In order to receive a check for this year, we need to send in our box tops by March 1st.

We will have a Box Top raffle the week before winter vacation, so save, save, save those box tops. I will be sending home a flyer with more information.

Mrs. Placey

News from JH Math

In our sixth grade class students are continuing their work with dividing with decimals. Students have familiarized themselves with the different rules. They are currently working hard on a party planning project. Students are in charge of organizing a themed party of some sort they are responsible to doing all the calculations to figure the total cost as well as individual cost.

In our seventh grade math class students continue their work with solving equations with integers and decimals. Students have created games to practice this concept more, some of decided to create something similar to bingo while others wanted to make a technology based game.

In our eighth grade class students have been working a lot with percentage: taxes, increase and decrease. These concepts will lead us nicely into our next budgeting project where students will be doing a lot of research and planning a monthly project given a specific career and that income.

Ms. Saari

Title 1 News from Mrs. Stebbins

January has been a busy month for the students here at SCS! Quarter 2 wrapped up in a hurry and new RtI groups were determined with specific focuses. For the students in "Walk to Read", writing has been amped up- higher expectations has kept students on their toes and always looking for ways to improve and become a better writer. Kindergarten students continue practicing letter naming and letter sounds daily. Additionally, they have been practicing letter writing with squishy bags. (Be sure

to check out my section on the school website for more information on these alternative learning tools.) My RtI group has been working in partners to improve their reading fluency and comprehension. They are responsible for reading a timed passages and checking for accuracy along the way. They also have to answer questions about a story or passage to demonstrate an understanding of what they read. Overall, the students have risen to the new challenges and have become more confident. I am very proud of their hard work and look forward to continuing our practice.

Title 1 News from Mr. Kennedy

I have been helping students with their writing assignments in the upper grades. I also continues helping with language arts and math for the older students. I have been assisting the 1st graders with their math concepts. Recently, the students have been learning about skip counting and using tens-frames to break down numbers.



News from the Resource Room

I'm back! I'm glad to be back! In the 4 weeks since my arrival, my students in Grades 1-8 have been busy. My First Graders have reviewed the upper/lower case letters and sounds, and beginning sounds. They are increasing their sight word vocabulary and word families through worksheets, games, books, and hands-on activities. In Math, they have reviewed 1-1 correspondence to 20, counting items and identifying corresponding numbers, writing randomly given numbers to 20, and oral counting. Wow! Very busy!

In Grades 3 and 4, my students in ELA have strengthened their knowledge of Trick Words, Words of the Day, words containing bonus letters at the end (puff, kiss, call), and welded/glued sounds of -all, -am, -an in

words, phrase, and sentences , using flashcard drill, board work, worksheets, and dictations. In Math, they have increased their multiplication facts through 11, and mastered the deficit areas found on the Diagnostic Math Test, such as measurement, chronological order, seasons/days/months of the year. Great job! Keep it up!

In Grade 5, we are reading the chapter book, "Riding Freedom" while working on specific reading skills, writing various types of writing (opinion, narrative, persuasive), and learning/spelling weekly words with various patterns and sounds. What innovative activities they're completing!

In Grades 6-8, my ELA students are busy with weekly Spelling words in various formats, reading Scholastic newspapers and chapter books, and writing/editing various types of writing (opinion, persuasive, narrative) while being pulled out when needed for individualized or small group assistance/instruction. My Math students have been working on various projects along with different skill areas. Again, they get pulled out when needed for individualized or small group assistance/instruction. Nice job! Keep it up!

Wow! What a productive month! Now I'm back in the swing of it again, enjoying my students!

Ms. Miller

News from SAU 7 Office of School

Wellness

When your child is **FRUSTRATED**, empathize and problem solve with these steps:

- 1.) **See it:** "I see you are frustrated. Is the zipper not closing?"
- 2.) **Feel it:** "You look angry. Is that right?"
- 3.) **Pause:** Wait for your child to say his piece.
- 4.) **Consider options:**
 - "Do you need.....
 - A break?
 - To try again?
 - Some help?"

Make sure not to skip the first two steps!

We often try to rescue our kids before the emotions can get processed.

Andrea Nair, M.A., CCC

www.facebook.com/andrea.m.nair

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 4, 2019

School Board Meeting, 4:15 PM

FEBRUARY 5, 2019

2:45 PM- Student of the Month, Honor Roll

FEBRUARY 6, 2019

12:00 Early Dismissal

FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Public Forum @ Colebrook Elementary, 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 18, 2019

No School

Public Forum @ Pittsburg School, 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

5:30 PM Family Night

FEBRUARY 23, 2019

Quarter 3 Progress Reports

FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 1, 2019

No School- Winter Break

