

SCS News

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Principal's Corner

Here at SCS, we have been working extremely hard to incorporate and follow through on Responsive Classroom strategies that we (adults, school-wide) have been trained on over the past two summers. One particular aspect of Responsive Classroom is Engaging Academics. The basis of Engaging Academics focuses on learning being active, interactive, appropriately challenging, purposeful, connecting with students' interests and strengths, and allowing students some autonomy (choice). As a result, you may have noticed that your child(ren) has more hands-on learning projects to complete. Many of these projects allow students to take control of their learning, share what they learn, and make choices about different portions of the project in an effort to help students take ownership of their learning. Not every assignment will be project-based; however, you will see a significant increase in this type of task. Overall, we have found that these types of assignments help students connect to more real-world aspects and make more connections within the subject area. This type of assignment does come with its own set of challenges, including planning ahead, organization, and keeping track of deadlines. Please know that our teachers are more than happy to meet with and assist our students at any point as they learn and grow. Most of all, we should be extremely proud and excited about all of the wonderful learning our students are partaking in, and the amazing work they are displaying as they "show what they know!"

Mrs. Mathieu



MINDSET MATTERS!

Flexibility and Optimism

* Model flexibility: Communicate that change is an important part of living life. Model this by taking a flexible mentality when things don't go as planned. Don't let frustrating situations get the best of you—make your children aware of your ability to adapt due to a change in plans. Praise your children for their flexibility and adaptability when plans change or success is not met.

* Model optimism. Adopt a "glass half full" mentality in your home. A person with "hope" believes there can be a positive side to most situations.

* Play a game with your kids: For every time something happens that is perceived as "bad," try to find the good in every situation. This game can get a little silly but it gets a message of positivity across. For example, when a glass is accidentally broken, a possible response might be, "Now we have more room on our shelf!"

Ready-to-Use Resources for Mindsets in the Classroom, Prufrock Press Inc. (pg. 68)

Please visit our website for the updated Wellness Policy, adopted by the SAU board in December 2017.

Reminder: Students in grades K-5 must have someone meet them at the bus stop, or they will be returned to school!

****SNOW DAY information on page 5!****

News from Pre-K / K

In January, PreK has been working on counting up to 20, and Kindergarten has been working on addition and subtraction within 10, using stories and manipulatives to act it out. PreK has been working on letters of the alphabet, Kindergarten has been working on reading level B books. Both groups have been learning about penguins, and their "polar opposites"- Arctic animals. Next week, we will be doing a character study of Pete the Cat.

Mrs. Hemon

News from Grades 1 & 2

Holiday break was just what first and second graders needed. They have come back ready to grow and learn! We have been reading, reading, reading and the growth is evident! Recently we read "If All the Animals Came Inside" by Pinder. After reading the story we brainstormed what it would be like if all the animals came inside the school. We then made our own class book titled "If All the Animals Came Inside the School." Students were very excited about this and put a lot of effort into their writing and illustrations. Be on the lookout for a copy of the class book to be coming home. I am sure your student will be excited to read it to you!

In Math, first graders have continued practicing subtracting numbers from 20. We are now learning about counting and number patterns to 120. In second grade we are learning about double digit subtraction with regrouping. I encourage students to keep practicing subtraction facts at home. This will make subtracting larger numbers a lot easier!

In Science, we are finishing up our unit on the states of matter. When we came back from break Mr. Frizzell came in and did a science experiment involving matter. Students were very excited to make Coffee Dough and our classroom smelled pretty good too! Recently, we did an experiment with solutions. Make sure to ask your child all about it!

Mrs. Ricker

News from Grades 3 & 4

The month of January has seen some focused social studies research on Ancient Egypt. Students have started to work on compiling that research into a trifold brochure using Microsoft Publisher during their

Computers time. This is a major endeavor for these students, and they are doing extremely well with it!

We have changed our third Book Report Presentation date. Students will be expected to have their first draft of their written book report done by Wednesday, February 7, and be ready to present their art project on Wednesday, February 21.

Third and Fourth graders have just started a Nutrition Unit in science. This is a program facilitated by the University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension that teaches about healthy eating and food habits. It is a change and is easy for all of us to relate to!

Mrs. Hodge

News from Grade 5

January has been packed with all sorts of deep, heavy learning. Fifth graders have handled all that has been "thrown" at them exceptionally well. Are we masters of everything? Well no, but we are more knowledgeable now than we were before and are stocking up on tools for our toolboxes of knowledge.

Fifth and sixth graders started a mystery novel entitled The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin. They are all intrigued by the story line; however many are being challenged by the rich vocabulary, humor, and worldly references. This novel is a truly enriching experience in both oral reading and building our comprehension. It is wonderful to see students interest piqued by this piece of literature.

We have finished our Social Studies unit on the American Revolution and our Science unit on plants and animal classification/adaptations. So, we are moving on to other topics. We will begin studying the science of genetics and heredity. And, since the Winter Olympics of 2018 is coming up next month, students are doing small research reports on specific sports. We will then learn about the US Constitution after that.

BE EXCITED TO LEARN NEW THINGS AND OPEN YOUR MINDS---OPPORTUNITIES ARE LIMITLESS!

Ms. Wonkka

News from JH Science

This past month has been a hands-on experience for the science students. Grade 8 had an opportunity to create their own fossil. Making the play dough and then applying a shell inside to create a mold and cast was the

objective. Later on the students will engage in removing the shell to see what they created.

The students are now presently learning about the Earth's atmosphere. They have had a chance to create a poster illustrating their understanding of the various layers and characteristics of each one. Well done by all! Now they are being challenged by creating a "game" that will be played by other students. The content of the "game" shows all aspects of what they learned about the atmosphere, including information about the ozone layer, pressure, temperature, water cycle, and wind effects.

Our younger scientists have also had some hands-on experience. They recently finished a lab creating a saturated solution of salt and water. Creating a solution and figuring out its saturation point was their challenge. Working in groups of two or three, the students learned more about the use of the balance scale and other science equipment.

Mr. Kennedy

News from JH ELA & Social Studies

Students in grades five through eight have recently started a new writing assignment in their Language Arts classes. The assignment is an informational/biographical essay, with grades five and six researching and writing about a high-achieving African-American. Grades seven and eight are writing about a U.S. president. All of the essays will require research and writing on their subject's biographical information, significance and contribution to the United States/World, and admirable traits. The students started their researching last week, and the first, rough draft is due February 14, 2018.

The American Revolution and the Ancient Phoenician culture have been the topics of study in our grades six through eight Social Studies classes. Eighth grade students compared views of Loyalists to those of Patriots, making posters with those opposing views. Six and seventh graders have researched and created drawings of Phoenician ships and markets.

Happy New Year!

Mrs. Stebbins



Mrs. Pøttit

Guidance Counselor

Favorite Food: Lobster

Hobby: Working with animals

Favorite Book: The Bible

Dream Vacation: Australia & New Zealand

Favorite Sweet Treat: Cannoli from Mike's Pastry in Boston

One Word that Describes Me: Busy

Messy or Organized? Organized

Pet Peeve: Loud gum chewing

Hidden Talent: drawing

Something on my Bucket List: To visit Alaska

Hometown: Stewartstown

Phobia: Heights, but I love to fly in airplanes!

News from the Resource Room

During January, my Grades 1-4 ELA students have been reviewing all letters, sounds, keywords, digraphs, "tapping" letter sounds to make CVC words, and learning (reviewing) Trick words and Words of the Day in the Foundations Program. They have also been spelling these new words. What a nice job they're doing! Making steady progress every day!

My Grades 5-8 ELA students are reading 2 Chapter books: *The Westing Game* and *The Golden Goblet*, learning new vocabulary, and answering comprehension questions in complete sentences while completing Spelling assignments. Both groups have been assigned an Informational/Biographical essay on a famous living African-American and a US President. They're keeping very busy!

My Grades 6-8 Math students are learning new skills and concepts as well as completing projects such as "Building a Zoo" and "College courses based on their

Careers". I think I'm having as much or more fun than they are!

My Special Education para-professionals and I have been taking a CPI (Nonviolent Crisis Intervention) course for several more afternoons to help us de-escalate and minimize potential harm of disruptive and aggressive behaviors of any possible "troubled" students. Very helpful!

Since Valentine's Day is coming soon, here's a Valentine's Day joke. What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day? Forget-me-nuts!!

Happy Valentine's Day!

Miss Miller

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 decided to use 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 math class students have devoted a lot of time working on their Zoo Projects, students are asked to create a zoo with several different mathematical requirements such as budgets, square footage, and scaled blueprints. Along with our projects, students are working to build their understandings of fractions: finding common denominators, multiplying, and dividing.

In our seventh grade math class students are working with rational numbers. Students have been classifying rational numbers for some time now, but we are transitioning to ordering and solving problems with these numbers. Addition to this, students are working on a college course comparison project.

In our eighth grade math class students have been introduced and working with functions. In upcoming weeks students will be graphing, using tables, mapping and the vertical line test. Along with this, students are working on an ongoing career project that integrates math, social studies, and language arts.

Miss Saari

Title I News from Mrs. Stebbins

January was full of extra practice and review. Most of my groups were honing in on specific skills in order to achieve mastery. The kindergarten students have been working on letter identification, sounds, and short CVC words. Their work has been enriched by RAN (Rapid Automatic Naming) boards, iPad apps, and ABC card games. Grades 1 and 2 have been working with sight word flashcards and practicing quick recognition (with speed drills, verbal usage, and written usage). Similarly, they have been working hard to identify short and long vowel sounds while reading, understanding the stories through dialogue, and constructing complete sentences on a given topic. They have risen to the challenge and are showing improvement in these areas. Grade 4 has been working on informative writing. Not only have they practiced the set up to this style of writing, but they have also worked on sentence variety and word choice. I am seeing a lot of enthusiasm and productivity with this group of students. My 5-8 RtI group has been engaging with novels and creating chapter summaries. The idea behind this activity is to make connections with the text and persuade the other group members to read the novel these chose. Overall, I would like to say that I am proud of all the students I work with and their accomplishments over the past month!

Title I News from Mr. Kennedy

Title I students are using new reading programs to help with their fluency and comprehension. One program entitled "Read Naturally" uses the CD player as a means of students hearing a passage various times to help strengthen both skills of fluency and comprehension. "Visualizing and Verbalizing" is a program incorporating details intertwined in a story and involves the use of a creative mind. Students are asked to produce a picture by drawing details, using the cue cards, from a story read to

them. This will also increase their awareness to details and comprehension of a story. I am also engaging some students with some math stories to increase knowledge of multiplication facts.



If there is a weather situation that deems it necessary to have a snow day (or a delay or early dismissal), Mrs. Mathieu will send out a One-Call, informing you of the plan for the day, whether it be a delay or full-day cancellation.

Calls will be made between 5:30 and 6:30 AM. If you have not heard from the school by 6:30 AM, plan on having school that day.

In the case of a 2-hour delay, school opens at 10:00 AM rather than 8:00 AM, and:

- *Breakfast **is not served** if there is a 2-hour delay.*
- *Pre-Kindergarten students will **not** have school if there is a 2-hour delay.*
- *The bus will pick your child up 2-hours later than normal. So, if (s)he is normally picked up at 6:45, (s)he will be picked up at 8:45.*
- *Please be patient with bus pick-up/drop-off times, as they may be slightly delayed depending on the weather.*

If you have any questions, please call the school. We'd be more than happy to help you!



December Students of the Month

Lily Mills, Carson Cross, Isabelle Langley, Joseph Noyes, Summer Guilmette, Kade Cameron, Nicholas Champagne, Destiny Mills



Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Student of the Month, Honor Roll – 8 AM

FEBRUARY 5, 2018

School Board Meeting – 4:15 PM

FEBRUARY 7, 2018

Early Release- Noon

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Family STEM Night- 5:30-6:30

FEBRUARY 19, 2018

No School- Presidents' Day

FEBRUARY 23, 2018

Quarter 3 Progress Reports
Winter Carnival

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 2, 2018

No School- Winter Break

Swim/Skate Days:

January 5, 12, 26

February 2, 9, 16