

Shark Tales

Southbury Elementary

February 2023

[School Calendar](#)

Administration Letter

Hello Shark Families!

We hope everyone is staying warm in this frigid weather! On top of the snow, we have had quite a few cold days in a row that has impacted student arrival and dismissal. Please be sure your child is bundled up for the conditions, as we have outdoor dismissal if the windchill is above 10 degrees.

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:

- 3/3 – Teacher Institute Day (No Student Attendance)
- 3/3-3/10 – Book Fair
- 3/9 – HSO Meeting
- 3/10 – Donuts with a Grownup – 7:45-8:45 am
- 3/19 – HSO Bowling with Buddies 2:00 pm
- 3/22- 3/23 – Full Day of School; Parent Teacher Conferences (flex)
- 3/27-3/31 – Spring Break (No School)

- 4/3 – Students Return from Break
- 4/4– Institute Day – NO SCHOOL

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

Samantha Sinovich
Principal

Jill Decker
Assistant Principal

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 2023-24 kindergartener, please have them contact the Registration Office to set up an appointment. (630.636.2404).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

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

Step 2: Appointment at Central Registration

Scheduled during online registration

4175 Route 71, Oswego, IL 60543

Registration times:

Call for appointment 630.636.2404

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2023 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.

<https://www.sd308.org/Page/26707>

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 2023)

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 2023 in order for your child to begin school in the

****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 Shark Families,

HSO is gearing up for a busy Spring! During our next **HSO meeting on March 9th**, Board of Education candidates will share a few minutes of introductions and take questions.

A parent/guardian survey about Fun Run will be shared with families soon!

Be thinking about getting involved in the HSO next year! We will soon put out a call for **leadership opportunities** available!

Yearbook ordering and picture posting is open for a few more weeks - check it off your list now:
<https://www.shop.memorybook.com/.../208741southburyeleme.../>

Our Southbury teachers and staff are AMAZING! You were all so "SWEET" to show your appreciation by helping stocking the break room with snacks and drinks earlier this month! We truly **appreciated your donations!**

The second **Donuts with a Grown-up** event will take place on Friday, March 10th from 7:45-8:45 am in the cafeteria/gynasium. Students in the same family may bring any one Adult Grown-up to enjoy this event! HURRY, sign up ends soon!

Our **Bowling with Buddies** (formerly Mother Son Bowling) event is scheduled for March 19th at Parkside Lanes at 2:00 pm. **Students in the same family may bring one Adult Buddy to bowl with.** Bowling is \$12/person and each person must be counted and paid for on the registration form. Space is limited to 100 people. Shoe rental and lemonade are included in the cost; food is available for purchase. This is not a drop-off event.

We are so excited for our final event of the year, our **Sweetheart Dance** (formerly Daddy Daughter Dance) on Friday, April 14th from 6:30-8:30 pm. This event will be **open to all Southbury students. Students in the same family may bring ONE adult to this event.** The dance will take place in the cafeteria/gymnasium. More details and sign-up coming soon! Space will be limited.

As always, if you have any questions, please let us know!

P.S. Membership Toolkit is your go-to for all things HSO:

<https://southburyparents.membershiptoolkit.com/> And don't forget to join the HSO Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southburyparents>



Kindergarten

From researchers to astronauts, authors and illustrators... the kinders have done it all! This month has been filled with love; love for each other, for animal facts, for space science and children's literature.

ELA: As readers we used non-fiction texts and videos to find answers to our questions about space and explore many fun facts that came up along the way. We compared and contrasted facts about different planets to deepen our understanding. We also did an author study of Eric Carle and read many books written and illustrated by him. We discovered unique techniques used to share stories and pictures of the characters and settings. We used the many repeated lines in the stories to also practice reading fluently.

As writers we practiced using question words and writing questions about things we were wondering about our topics. Informational writing was practiced by stating our topic and writing telling sentences about it. When reading fiction stories we wrote sentences about characters, setting and events.

Math: Calendar and counting routines are being continued. We focused on numbers 11-20 and what they are made up of. Place value foundations were taught and practiced. How many tens and ones make up a number. We organized numbers by bundling a ten, showing numbers in 10 frames as well as base 10 blocks.

Science: We completed our 2nd unit which is about Sunlight. We discovered that darker surfaces absorb and give off more heat. Our upcoming unit focuses on plants.

Social Studies: We learned all about national symbols. We explored different important symbols in our country.

AVID: strategies used to engage students and deepen their understanding were word walls, 2 column notes, retouching notes with adjectives or pictures, vocabulary bookmarks and snowball activity to share ideas.

Tips for at home:

Math around your house. Use a handful of cereal and have your child make a group of 10 and ones to count how many there are. Skip counting patterns (2's, 5's and 10's)

Letters and Sounds: Writing out words with silent 'e' at the end (ride, bike, hope..). Review and master Trimester 1 and 2 HFW.

1st Grade

First graders have been working very hard this past month! Here are some of the amazing things we have been learning about:



Reading:

- Retelling key details of a fiction story using time words
- Comparing and contrasting characters in a fiction story
- Understanding a story's central message

Writing:

- Narrative writing
- Detailed events in order using transition words
- Planning, editing, and writing

Math:

- Place value (hundreds, tens, and ones)
- Ten more and ten less than a given number
- Counting by 5's and 10's

Social Studies:

- People and money (goods and services, different kinds of jobs, and how work has changed over time)

2nd Grade

February has been quite a busy month for 2nd grade. To start off the month, we celebrated being in school 100 days! Our 2nd graders did an amazing job taking the CogAT tests. It was so much fun to celebrate Valentine's Day with some fun activities. The kids loved passing out their valentines and showing off their boxes.

We began unit 3A in ReadyGen. In this unit we have focused on the importance of higher order questions and answers. We learned that some answers to questions can be found "in the book," while some question answers require us to "read between the lines," and finally some question answers can be up to each child's interpretation. We read a book about Theodore Roosevelt. The students learned about many text features while reading this book. We ended the unit with an AVID One-Pager on Theodore Roosevelt incorporating those questioning skills.

In Math, we worked on adding and subtracting three-digit numbers. We had lots of practice with regrouping of ones and tens through our math lessons and games. Our next unit is Money! Please assist your child in identifying the fronts and backs of coins, this can be very confusing to some students. In addition to what each coin is worth.

In Social Studies, we completed Unit 2, "Geography and Me." In this unit, the students researched a new place to live, including landforms, homes, food, clothing, and education for that area. For their inquiry project, the students had to share why they chose this new place to live. For the final inquiry project, the students were able to choose how to share what they learned through creating google slides, Avid one-pagers, little books or a poster. We are so proud of the effort they put forth to research this area.

The Second Grade Team would like to thank you all for your continued support!

3rd Grade

This has been such a great month! We celebrated Valentine's Day and enjoyed the parties that our parents put on, and we wrapped up our second trimester! Take a look at what we've been working on this month and what's ahead:



Math: The students learned about area and perimeter. The kiddos utilized different strategies to find the perimeter and area of different shapes and figures, including tiling figures, using the formula $A = l \times w$, and the Distributive Property. Next, we are going to be learning all about fractions!

Reading: After finishing *Deep Down* and *Other Extreme Places to Live*, students read *The Song of Sky and Sand*. They worked to determine the central message of the story and how to go back to the text to support the central message with key details. Next, the students will read *Living Through a Natural Disaster*. We will use this text to again focus on main idea as well as cause and effect.

Writing: Students wrapped up their compare and contrast PBAs about two extreme places. Up next, as we read about natural disasters, students will learn more about different types of weather to eventually write an informational piece on a weather event. This writing will include facts about what the weather is like, how people can prepare, and why it is important for them to prepare.

Science: We just finished up our *Balancing Forces* unit where students discovered how a floating train works. We have now begun looking at an orangutan population and working as meteorologists to discover what new island would be best fit for the population to live on.

Social Studies: Students worked really hard to create projects that show how the past impacts the present. Our next unit, students will be researching the goods and services of a community.

As always, thank you for your support!

The Third Grade Team

4th Grade

February was certainly a month full of learning as students were engaged in a variety of activities. As we wrapped up our science unit on Earth's features, students participated in a hands-on, in-school field trip that expanded their knowledge even further about fossils, rocks, and Illinois history. Did you know that our state fossil, the Tully Monster, was originally discovered in Oswego? Pretty interesting! Students became young paleontologists and geologists as they collaborated together at a variety of stations.

Recently, students embarked upon an inquiry project in social studies. They were able to select an event in history to research two opposing perspectives. After formulating two questions to investigate, students were able to come up with a solution for each perspective.

Additionally, students continued learning all about fractions. They mastered strategies to add, subtract, and multiply fractions. The fourth graders continued to practice previously learned concepts related to fractions as well. They also applied this knowledge to convert fractions into decimals. After completing this unit, the students were able to see the connections between decimals and fractions, as well as money.

We recently wrapped up our ELA unit about natural disasters. Students even became news reporters to share what they learned about a chosen natural disaster. In addition, the fourth graders began a new unit about money, which was a perfect connection to our new math unit that began by connecting decimals and fractions to money.

Finally, students celebrated their good character with our SharkFest celebration. They enjoyed such activities as board games, cartoons, STEM activities, and arts/crafts. It was a fun way to celebrate! On Friday, February 17th, we also recognized Random Act of Kindness Day by saying or doing something kind for someone else.

5th Grade

Our Southbury 5th graders are ready to start their LAST trimester of elementary school! We are looking forward to having a strong finish to this school year!

In ELA, we have been and will continue to read various texts about space. These texts include Jess and Layla's Astronomical Assignment, Our Mysterious Universe, and A Black Hole is Not a Hole. With these texts, students have worked on identifying main idea/key details, cause/effect, inferencing, and story structure.

For writing, we have continued to work on parts of speech. We have also started the task of writing our very own Science Fiction story. We can't wait to see how these turn out!

In math, students have been working on adding and subtracting fractions. This includes fractions with unlike denominators and mixed numbers. After being assessed on these skills, students will be moving into the next unit where they will learn how to multiply and divide fractions.

We just finished our science unit about The Earth's System and look forward to beginning our second unit in Social Studies.

Thanks to all of the parents who volunteered to help with our Valentine's Day Parties. They were a huge success!



Stars

Hello Wonderful STARS Families,

We had a busy February in the STARS program. Here are some of our highlights...

Mrs. Wilson's class learned about American Heroes in social studies. The students learned about Martin Luther King, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln among others. This gave students a better understanding of why we take days off school this time of year to celebrate these remarkable people. Mrs. Wilson's class also participated in a Valentine's exchange with their pen pals. These pen pals are students in a STARS class at Homestead Elementary School.

Ms. Hockett's class learned all about ice, how ice is formed, what ice can be used for, and they even got the chance to make some paintings with ice. Too cool! They also worked on brushing their teeth, and used tweezers to pull "cavities" from model teeth. Great fine motor skills guys!

Mrs. Kurth's class learned about their body's and teeth for science this month. They did an experiment about the importance of washing hands. First they rubbed dirty hands on bread, and then repeated the process with clean hands. They waited and observed the bread daily to see which slices would grow more mold. So neat!

Mrs. Balcerak's class continued their work on their newsletters. Each month students write and submit articles to the newsletter, which is distributed to staff throughout the building. We all look forward to reading it. Keep up the good work.

ESL

ESL Resource

ACCESS Testing

ACCESS testing is complete! All ESL students in the school were tested over the last month to see how their English proficiency is developing. Parents will receive their child's scores in the fall.

Back to Class

Since testing is complete students have returned to ESL class. Your child's schedule may have changed but your child is still getting the ESL services he/she needs. Please remember to empty your child's ESL folder nightly and sign or initial the communication log.

Please reach out with any questions.

Kristen Serio

kserio@sd308.org

Samantha Koehler

skoehler@sd308.org

GE Math

February was fractions month for fourth grade GE Math! They finished all things adding, subtracting, and multiplying with fractions. I shared with the class that one reason fractions can be challenging is they require thinking about many quantities and relationships within one problem. To help with this challenge, we incorporated visuals with each standard, so our mathematicians understood what the denominator and numerator parts meant each step of the way. We also made sure to "keep track of" the whole. Sometimes it shifted within a problem, which meant the unit size changed, which meant the denominator needed to be renamed. One is not always one. Ask your mathematician to explain. ;) Fractions are always better with a good story. In addition to reading a few books, we also made sure to relate fractions to real life. Wow! Their growth while learning fractions really has been impressive considering what their brains were asked to understand!

The long awaited unit on ratios arrived! And how fitting for a topic all about relationships be studied in February! Ratio language was learned best with a Frayer model. We may have used the phrase "apples to oranges" a few times in our learning. ;) Our think tank groups talked about "this is to that as this is to that" to find equivalent ratios using tables, bar diagrams, and double number lines, so we could see how ratios are similar and different from fractions. Our number sense has really expanded as we played with our numbers and noticed relationships, which is the very essence of ratios and proportions. Often the relationships were rational numbers, like when we made DIY foaming hand soap and the scaled factor was $1\frac{1}{3}$. We continued to discover strategies for scaling up and down as we solved for unit rate, unit price, and unit conversions. The number 1 was the star of our math class! Now the mathematicians can compare prices, analyze a car's gas consumption, and scale a recipe to determine how much food to buy! Graphing ratios provided a visual and made comparing ratios easier. Math is not only fun at school, it's useful every day!

Speech and Language

Hello Shark families!

February was a very busy month for many of us. We hope you all stayed warm and healthy. We continued to work on everyone's IEP goals. February was a great month to stay in and grab a book. Some of the STARS classrooms read several winter-themed books and learned about baking. Our other students continued to work on those IEP goals. Please reach out if you have

any questions. GO Sharks!

From the speech-language pathologists,
Kelly, Deb, and Lauren

LRC

In February, we celebrated Black History Month, Kindness 101 lessons about compassion, empathy, friendship, courage, and honesty, and we are getting ready for our 2nd Annual March Book Madness.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB MEMBERS!



COMING UP: Literati Spring Book Fair, March 6th-10th!

Students can shop during their library time, as we will be open during the school day. Family evening is Thursday 3/9 after school from 4:30-6:00pm upstairs in the LRC! We will also be open during Donuts with a Grown Up on Friday March 10th from 7:45-8:45am. Flyers have gone home with students. Fair details and online shopping here: [Literati Online Book Fair](#).



Monarch and Bluestem Award Nominee Reading Incentive

The challenge ended Mon. February 27th. We will be hosting lunches for those students who read 10 of the books from the Monarch or Bluestem books the 3rd week of March! Students will bring their lunch to the LRC to relax and eat and we'll raffle off some fun prizes! Students who read 20 books are getting a gift certificate to the book fair.

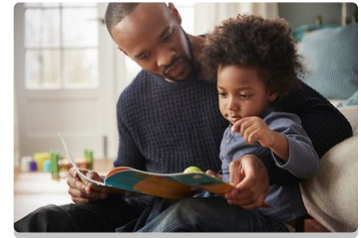
Happy Reading!

Mrs. Rossi and Mrs. Dietz

From the Reading Department

5 Tips to Encourage Reading at Home

Posted by [Mary Beth Long](#)



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, captured the essence and importance of reading with this simple quote. Whether it is learning the art of how to read or reading to learn important information, engaging children to read is key. The fundamental skill of reading can be difficult for some children. Finding ways to make the reading experience enjoyable can influence a child's reading success.

Here are 5 tips to encourage reading at home:

1. **Set Aside a Special Reading Time and Place** – Find a cozy reading nook, comfy couch, or snuggle in bed. Having a special place and time to read makes reading part of family time. Children will come to look forward to this time.
2. **The Power of Picture Books** – The possibilities are endless when a child looks at the illustrations of a wordless book and uses their imagination to create their own story! Just think of the vocabulary and expression children will use as they communicate the adventure. This process also helps young children flex their imaginations and develop oral language skills.
3. **Rhyme Time** – Rhymes help young children notice and hear sounds within words, an essential skill for reading. While driving, grocery shopping or cooking dinner, you and your child can challenge each other to rhyme words. You may be surprised to find how much your child loves challenging you! Nursery rhymes and rhyming books can help young children not only hear the rhyme, but also see patterns in the words.
4. **Host a Reading Party!** – Combine food, fun and reading! Host a party where children read a book and illustrate the story through a creative avenue such as a play, song or drawing. A "Popcorn, Pizza and Poetry Party" or "S'mores and Scary Stories Party" can be a fun opportunity that even the most reluctant reader can't turn down.
5. **Technology, Tweens and Teens** – Having difficulty engaging your tweens and teens in reading? Teens are social beings – using technology to connect with other readers, discussing books through author blogs or joining book clubs may help inspire teenage readers.

Whatever the age of your child, you can instill the love of reading by encouraging reading at home. There's no better time to pick up a book and encourage reading at home than today!

"You're never too old, too wacky or wild to pick up a book and read to a child."

Mary Beth Long is a certified National Board of Professional Standards Teacher in the area of Early Childhood through Middle School Reading/Language Arts. She has experience as a classroom teacher, special education teacher, reading resource teacher, vice principal and currently works as the reading interventionist at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School in Charles County, MD.

<https://blog.ed.gov/2019/03/5-tips-to-encourage-reading-at-home/>

Art

Our Square 1 Art fundraiser order forms will arrive early March. To preview products, click this [link](#). These products make great gifts for any occasion. I know I will be ordering some coasters, a cookie plate, and a travel mug with my kids' artwork on them to give to family as Mother's Day gifts. All orders are due by March 22nd. Funds raised will benefit our young artists by providing them with engaging art materials and projects.



Do you have any extra art or craft materials you'd like to get out of your house? The Southbury art studio would be happy to take them off your hands. We would love tissues, sharpies, glue stick, and pencils. We would also be excited to receive yarn, glitter, buttons, beads, air-dry clay, pipe cleaners, feathers, sequins, fabric, washi-tape, wall-paper samples, magazines, etc. Thank you in advance for your support and contributions!

Sincerely,
[Rachel Ayoung Chee](#)

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 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.

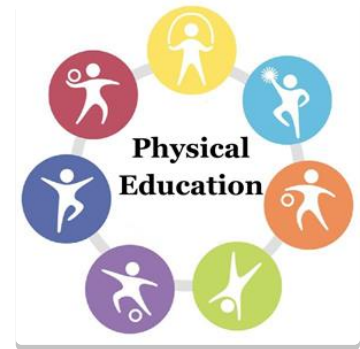
In 4th grade we are starting a unit on recorder. 4th graders will learn how to read sheet music and play the instruments!

5th graders are finishing their recorder unit and are going to start preparing for their evening performance in May. I will be sending out more information soon with details so please look out for any information from me.

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

Physical Education

February was a month full of physical activity and fun for our students. We started off with a series of team fitness games such as relay tick-tac-toe, battle ship, turtle tag and others. These games were designed to get the students moving, working together and having a blast. The students loved these games and it was great to see their teamwork and sportsmanship on display.



As the month progressed, we introduced the jump rope for heart fundraiser. This event is a great way for the students to learn about the importance of heart health, while raising money for a good cause. The students jumped rope, learned new tricks and had a blast all while helping others.

We ended the month by focusing on more heart healthy activities. The students learned about the benefits of exercise and healthy eating, and we encouraged them to take these lessons home with them.

We hope that you are proud of your child's hard work and dedication this month. Our goal is to help each student develop a lifelong love of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

Go Sharks!

Nursing News

COLD WEATHER

The cold weather is here. Please make sure your children come to school dressed for the cold. They are still going outside for recess. If your child gets wet outside, they'll be chilled all day. A change of warm clothes to keep at school is ideal.



LICE FACTS

- Lice are mainly spread by head-to-head contact and are much harder to get than a cold, flu, ear infections, pink eye, strep throat, or impetigo.
- Lice do not spread disease and are not related to hygiene; they are just annoying.
- When off the human body, they cannot survive for more than 24-36 hours.
- Lice do not hop, jump, or fly, so sitting near someone does not increase the risk of getting lice.
- Transmissions in schools are rare. It's more likely spread from family members who share pillows and blankets.
- Spreading lice through hats is rare.
- Maintain confidentiality and respect among students. If the lice becomes a rumor source, remind students that lice has nothing to do with personal hygiene and that if someone has lice, we do all the same things we would do if someone had a cough (maintain a bit more distance, don't share items, etc) but we still regard our peers with dignity.
- The CDC does not recommend sending students home with lice. However, parents should be notified.

DONATIONS

Accidents, spills, dirty and wet outside activities, require a change of clothes. We are still in desperate need of pants of all sizes for our clothes cabinet. Warm up pants seem to fit the largest variety of sizes.

Chapstick would be great for our little ones with chapped lips.

Donna Lichtfuss, RN

Lupita Orozco, Health Office Secretary

Social Work

Attention Families:

The DuPage Children's Museum has a great deal for **ALL (not just Naperville families)** families that qualify. Here are some of the requirements for this amazing deal!

- WIC
- SNAP
- TANF
- EI/IEP/504
- Early/Head Start
- Section 8
- Medicaid/All Kids
- Childcare Subsidy
- Foster Care/Guardianship
- Refugee/ Asylum Status


Click the link below and you can join for only \$25!

<https://dupagechildrens.org/access-membership-step-1/>




Southbury Elementary School

 Facebook

 820 Preston Lane, Oswego, IL, ...

 (630) 551-9800

 sd308.org/southbury