

# SHARK TALES

**SOUTHBURY ELEMENTARY**

**APRIL 2023**

[School Calendar](#)

## ADMINISTRATION LETTER

Dear Shark Families,

It's hard to believe that the 2022-23 school year is already coming to an end! We've had an AMAZING school year!

We have one month left, so we want to make sure that we continue to work hard and make good choices right up to the last bell!

What's Going on in the Month of May??

- 1st-5th Staff Appreciation Week
- 2nd 4th Grade Field Trip to Naper Settlement
- 4th HSO Meeting 6-7 pm
- 4th 5th grade Music Performance @ 5:30pm
- 11th Culver's Night
- 12th Kindergarten Field Trip – Blackberry Farm
- 17th AVID Grad Walk
- 22nd HSO's-5th Grade celebration @ Southbury
- 23rd HSO Chalk the Sidewalk for Fifth Grade – starting @ 4:30
- 24th Field Day
- 24th HSO's-5th grade outing @ Bowlero
- 25th Shark Fest
- 26th End of Third Trimester/Last Day of School for Students SIP Day – 12:30 dismissal

Samantha Sinovich  
Principal

Jill Decker

## FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

Spring is a busy time for the Front Office wrapping up our current school year and preparing for the next!

### IMPORTANT 2023-24 SCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION!!

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 2023/24 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. If you are not returning next year, please call the front office 630-551-9800 to let us know!

Parents who have not yet registered incoming kindergarten students may do so at the District Registration office in the District Administration Center. Students must be five years old by September 1, 2023 in order to begin kindergarten in August. Please visit the district website for more details.

We are looking forward to a fun exciting spring!

Mrs. Hathaway and Mrs. Quick

## HOME AND SCHOOL ORGANIZATION HAPPENINGS

Hi Shark Families,

HSO is so excited for Spring and finishing an amazing school year!

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

Thank you to everyone who helped plan our **Sweetheart Dance**, and thank you to everyone who attended this event! It was a wonderful night!

**Staff Appreciation Week** is May 1st - 5th. Our staff and teachers do an amazing job and work really hard for all of our kids. Please see the schedule below for ways to show your appreciation!

- **MONDAY** - VIP DAY: TELL THEM WHAT MAKES THEM A [STAR](#)
- **TUESDAY** - BEHIND THE SCENES: WEAR A FAVORITE COLOR OF A STAFF MEMBER

- **WEDNESDAY** - FAN MAIL: MAKE A CARD FOR A STAFF MEMBER
- **THURSDAY** - SWAG DAY: BRING A HOMEMADE GIFT, SOMETHING FROM THE [FAVORITES LIST](#) OR ANY TOKEN OF APPRECIATION
- **FRIDAY** - STAR TREATMENT: BRING IN A TREAT FOR YOUR FAVORITE STAFF MEMBER

HSO has some fun events planned for our **5th grade students** as they wrap up their time at Southbury!

### **5th Grade Celebration**

Southbury HSO is planning to celebrate 5th grade students with an at school, end of year event on Monday, May 22 at the end of the day!

### **Chalk the Walk**

Come chalk the sidewalks at Southbury for your 5th student(s) on Tuesday, May 23 from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

### **5th Grade Bash @ Bowlero**

*When:*

Wednesday May, 24th from 5:15 pm - 7:30 pm

*Where:*

Bowlero

735 N Center Blvd

Romeoville, IL 60446

*Cost:*

\$26.00 per child

If you would like your 5th grade child(ren) to participate, please sign up and submit your payment via Membership toolkit by Friday, May 12th! Sign up at:

<https://southburyparents.membershiptoolkit.com/packet/5098>

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

Erin Hoover & Abby Fugitt

[sbhomenschool@gmail.com](mailto:sbhomenschool@gmail.com)

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

April learning showers are growing our Kindergarten May flowers!

**ELA/Social Studies:** As readers we have been focusing on realistic fiction and nonfiction texts and learning real facts about Community and Community Helpers. We made connections to our communities to connections between texts. We introduced poetry and read various types. We also started our nonfiction rainforest research unit. We will be learning facts by using text features, maps and diagrams.

As **writers** we shared information about communities by sharing our opinions. For rainforest, we shared facts in many different forms of writing (sentences, lists, riddles, flip books and word webs).

**Math:** Calendar and counting routines are being consistently practiced, along with number patterns, place value and counting patterns. We started and wrapped up our unit on addition and subtraction. We focused on math vocabulary, clues in questions or number sentences that lead us to choosing whether we needed to add or subtract. We also started our measurement unit which focuses on height, length, weight and a little capacity.

**Science:** We started Unit 3 (our last unit), What living things need to survive. Along with plant parts we focused on what plants and living things need to survive. We will be planting our own seeds in the classroom as well so we can observe their growth.

**SEL:** We focused on ways to show kindness at school - sharing, offering a hug, giving a compliment and helping out.

**AVID:** We have practiced using focused bookmarks while small group and independently reading to record some of the vocabulary words we have found.

### Tips for at home:

Look for math around your house. Which item is taller? Which is longer?

HFW - all A and B list words have been introduced, please practice at home!

Thanks for all the continued support at home!

## 1ST GRADE

First graders have been working very hard this month! Here are some of the incredible things we have been working on.

Reading:

- Read One Classroom, Many Cultures
- Compared and contrasted on how we are all different and yet alike
- Read A Picnic in October
- Described characters and events in a story
- Determined the author's message of the story.

Writing:

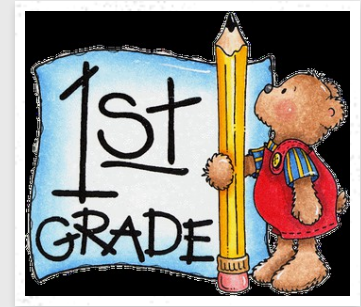
- Opinion writing which included an Opinion Statement, Reason 1 and Reason 2, and a Closing Statement
- Planned and edited our writing

Math:

- Learned how to tell time to the hour and half past the hour
- Compared and contrasted 2 dimensional shapes

Science & Social Studies:

- Spinning Earth (Why does the sky look different at different times?)
- Explored seasons
- Discovered how things and events have changed over time



## 2ND GRADE

Happy Spring!!

The second grade classes have been busy during the month of April! We have been working hard on Social Emotional Learning using problem solving strategies, calming techniques, positive self talk through read alouds and other media.

In ELA, we have worked on Opinion Writing focusing on using reasons and evidence from text to support their opinions. As readers, the students will understand how the story structure and text features help us to understand the texts. We have enjoyed our stories, especially 68 Ways to Save the Planet Before Bedtime.



In Math, we finished our unit on Data Analysis and Time. We will continue to reinforce the previously taught concepts throughout the remainder of the school year. These concepts include; number sense, adding and subtracting multiple digit numbers, problem solving, money, data analysis, graphing, and telling time to the 5 minutes. Our last two units will include measurement and shapes.

In Science, we have completed our final unit, "Properties of Materials." Students have enjoyed exploring ingredients that they used to create their new glue. Which was the final objective of this unit.

In Social Studies, we started our final unit, Unit 3 Learning About Laws. For their Inquiry Project, the students will be creating a new rule for our classroom that benefits the school community.

Thank you for your continued support, we are looking forward to finishing off this amazing school year strong!



## 3RD GRADE

Hello Southbury Families!

April has been another **amazing** month in 3rd grade!

In ELA, we started our final unit on "Becoming an Active Citizen." The students read stories about Rosa Parks and Clara Lemlich. In this unit, our readers are understanding that literary and informational texts can be used to explore similar topics and ideas. We are also working on opinion writing and how important it is to have details with strong reasons and evidence.

Our students learned so much during our measurement unit that included using milliliters, liters, grams, kilograms, and solving problems with time intervals. We are currently working on representing and interpreting data. The students are enjoying working with pictographs/picture graphs, bar graphs, and line plots. Also, they are measuring to halves and fourths of an inch.

We enjoyed our "Weather and Climate" unit in science where the students had to make sense of data to accurately describe the weather of a given location over time. In social studies, we are identifying the needs and wants of a community and how to access the resources available through their inquiry project.

We cannot believe that we are heading into our last month of school! We are enjoying the ABC countdown and are looking forward to other events including meeting our OAOS author, Carolyn Crimi and Field Day!!

**Goooo Sharks!!**

## **4TH GRADE**

The month of April not only brought us April showers, but lots of learning and growing activities in fourth grade. To begin, in math, we continued to focus on measurement. We dove into the metric system, as well as the customary system of measurement. Students practiced measuring length, capacity, and mass. Then, taking what they learned about measurement, students were able to convert units of measurement to apply their knowledge to real-world situations. Later in the month, we began our unit on geometry. We learned how to find the perimeter and area of shapes. Students had fun clarifying, identifying, and measuring angles, as well as identifying various types of triangles and quadrilaterals. So if you notice your child identifying shapes around the house, that is why!

In ELA, we continued our unit on money. Students completed their opinion PBA on an innovation that they felt had the greatest impact on people's daily lives. We researched such inventions as the cell phone, television, car, video games, and many more. It was interesting to see what innovation the students chose as having the greatest impact on our lives!

We brought fourth-grade science to a close with our Conserving Energy unit. We researched and discussed the many nonrenewable and renewable energy sources. Compiling all of our findings through our research about what could lead to a blackout, we came up with a proposal for a fictional town about how to best conserve energy and prevent blackouts in the future. It was a great experience to watch our young engineers work together to solve problems throughout this unit.

In social studies students learned about businesses, and how money plays a role in regards to planning expenses, budgets, profit, etc. This ties perfectly with our recent theme in ELA which focused on money, as well. This background knowledge will lead perfectly into a fun project they will do where they get to create their very own business and advertisement.

As the school year nears its end, we would like to thank you for your continued support at home. We realize as the weather gets nicer, it becomes more and more difficult to get your children to focus on schoolwork. We greatly appreciate all of the help you are providing on the home front. As always, please reach out to us if you have any questions!

## **5TH GRADE**

In ELA we have been working through the first module of our 4th unit in the ReadyGen Curriculum. We read texts about explorers called Triumphs and Troubles and Pedro's Journal.



We had fun exploring different types of poetry and creating a poem slideshow. We are currently working on opinion writing.

In math, the students have been exploring polygons and learning characteristics of triangles and quadrilaterals. We also started our unit on 3 dimensional shapes and measurements. We had lots of hands-on practice of building shapes and measuring with rulers. Students have also been working on finding the volume of different figures and learning how to convert different units of measurement.

In science, we are working our way through our final unit: Patterns of Earth and Sky. Students are investigating an ancient artifact and using clues from the sky to help them find a missing piece of the artifact.

Our students continue to utilize the AVID components of the writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading strategies that we have been using in our classroom each day.

As we wrap up the final weeks of elementary school, students will have fun celebrating by participating in the school wide ABC Countdown.



## STARS

STARS students had a great April! We enjoyed our last visit from the Therapy Dogs! Students worked hard on the IEP goals this month and we will continue to finish the year strong in academic, functional and social skills in our STARS and Gen Ed classrooms.

Mrs. Kurth's class is studying space and doing experiments with light and shadows.

Please continue to send students with coats or jackets; it is a lot colder due to wind on our open-field playground at recess.

ESY registration was due on 4/21/2023, here is the information: [2023 ESY information](#)



Our STARS students really enjoy participating in the ABC countdown for the end of the year, so if you're able, please have your student participate in the daily themes: [2023 ABC countdown](#)

## ESL

### RAZ Plus

If your child has received login information for [RAZ Plus](#) please have them login and listen to books, read and take quizzes at least 2-3 days each week. If your child has not received login information and you would like your child to have access to RAZ Plus please reach out to Mrs. Serio or Miss Koehler. This is a great resource to help maintain your child's reading skills over the summer!

### ESL Folders

Please remember to sign or initial your child's folder daily. Any papers in the 'Left Home' side should be emptied.

Kristen Serio Samantha Koehler

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

## GE MATH

In April 4th grade GE mathematicians extended measurement into the third dimension. We made space in our math minds for learning to calculate the volume of rectangular prisms. We explored multiple methods, including counting cubes, slicing layers, and eventually applying formulas. The numbers were not the tricky part. Conceptualizing, visualizing, and rationalizing were the complex aspects. We take three dimensions for granted in our daily lives, so packing rectangular shapes inside of another space is more challenging than you might think.

Visualizing the difference between 1 cubic cm versus 1 cubic inch versus 1 cubic foot was a mind bender! From 3D we dropped down to the world of 2D polygons. First we applied our knowledge of length and angle measures to name and classify triangles. Once we understood how to view geometric attributes, we applied that knowledge and used flow charts and Venn diagrams as hierarchies to organize triangle relationships, similar to a family tree. Classifying quadrilaterals used the same type of reasoning and methods, but since there are more kinds of quadrilaterals, the names and hierarchies were more complex. But then, family relationships are rather complex. ;)

Fifth grade studied 3D geometry for most of the month. We continued with finding the area of decomposed shapes, only this time the shapes were the surfaces that composed polyhedrons. Students remarked on the large number of vocabulary words related to geometry, such as polygonal! ;) With each solid having a special name and all the attribute words, we were certainly busy learning to speak mathematically. Knowing our nets was crucial to finding the surface area of various prisms and pyramids. Drawing and constructing nets was super fun, since it was so hands on! The last lesson in geometry was learning how to find the volume of rectangular prisms, just like back in fourth grade but with fractional side-lengths.

Sounds simple, but lengths less than one were a game-changer! Instead of assuming each block is one cubic unit, we first considered the side lengths of a single cube with side lengths  $\frac{1}{2}$  unit by  $\frac{1}{2}$  unit by  $\frac{1}{2}$  unit, so the volume of that single block was  $\frac{1}{8}$  cubic unit, not one cubic unit. The last few days of the month mathematicians began the study of statistics. This topic will take us through to the end of the year. Math will end on a “gray” note this year as we learn how playing with data affects the bigger picture a.k.a. the graph.

## SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

As we finish off April we move toward May. Each May the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) recognized Better Hearing and Speech month to bring awareness to the many different forms of communication and the disorders that tend to impact communication partners. Here at Southbury we have three amazing Speech and Language Pathologists that work everyday to help improve communication skills among our students. This year's ASHA theme for Better Hearing and Speech Month is “Building a Strong Foundation.”



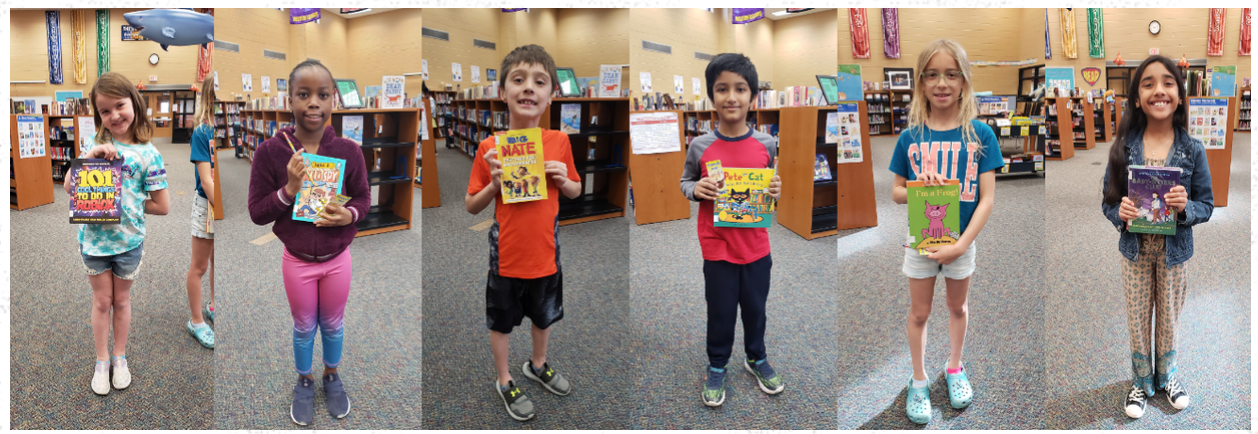
A Speech-Language Pathologist's job is to build communication skills, however, most of the communication skills build upon one another. Children start communicating from the moment they are born. As most parents state, they can tell the difference between their babies' cries. They can understand when the baby is hungry or when they need to be changed. As the infant grows they increase their wants and needs and build upon the understanding that their actions impact how the adults and children around them respond. Many times a child does not naturally move on to the next communication stage and a Speech-Language Pathologist steps in to help out. No matter the age of a child or adult, the Speech Therapist looks at the communication skills that the individual has and builds on them to make them stronger. In some situations, an individual may need additional communication support and that is when either a high tech or a low tech communication device is introduced. This allows individuals to communicate their wants and needs more independently. A wonderful recent example of independent communication with a high tech device is from “The Mandalorian” on Disney+ where Grogu is able to communicate “YES” and “NO” to his caregivers.

Deb Convey, Lauren Paver, Kelly Okel  
Southbury Speech Language Pathologist

## LRC

Book Check Out Ends Friday, May 5th! All books are due back by Friday, May 12th.

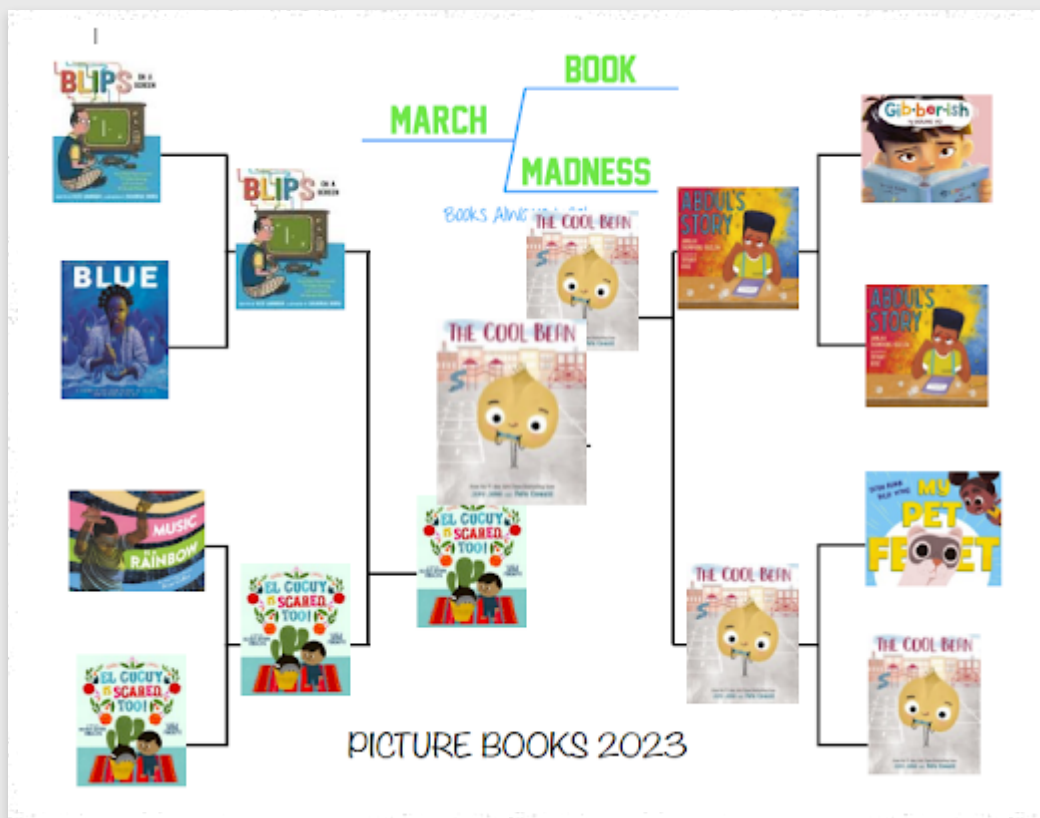
**April Birthday Book Club Members**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Votes are in! Southbury's March Madness Book Tournament **WINNER:**

**The Cool Bean by Jory John**



Oswego Public Library Visit - Oswego Public Library Staff Members visited Southbury on Friday, April 28th to share the new summer reading program "Share your Voice" with the students. Please visit either location this summer for more information!

Happy Reading! Mrs. Rossi and Mrs. Dietz

## FROM THE READING DEPARTMENT

Looking for ideas for rainy days that are educational? Check out this [free resource](#) with printable activities for all subject areas K-5.

Happy Spring!

Mrs. Landers, Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. Valainis

## ART

Our spectacular Spring art projects are in full swing. We are having so much fun exploring new mediums while creating original art.

4th grade artists recently practiced their creative problem solving through the construction of 3D paper sculptures. This activity was challenging but fun. It taught our artists how to adapt and change ideas under a time crunch.



5th graders acted as curators of their very own 3D mini museums! It was so interesting to watch each artist choose a theme and convey that theme through their mini masterpieces.



Thank you so much to families who donated art supplies to our Southbury art studio. Our fundraiser did not make as much as in the past, so I'm trying my best to order the necessities. Every every donation helps and is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Rachel Ayoung Chee](#)

## MUSIC

Our Southbury musicians are rocking and rolling this spring!

In Kindergarten, we are finishing our unit on high and low sounds and starting our "Carnival of the Animals" book. With this book we listen to different songs and learn about an animal and instrument that matches up with the song.

In 1st grade, we are continuing to work on the music staff. Students are learning about line and space notes, as well as creating music with these notes.

In 2nd and 3rd grade, we are learning about notes on the music staff and playing xylophones to practice this skill. 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 grade, students are still playing recorder. Students are doing a great job reading and playing music. Soon, students will write their own pieces of music and perform them!

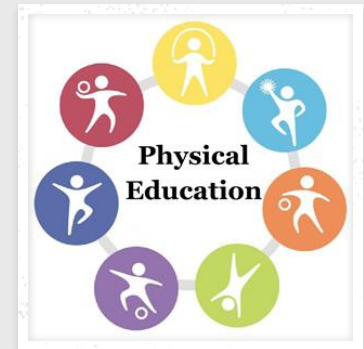
In 5th grade, students are preparing for their performance showcase on Thursday, May 4th at 5:30pm. The 5th graders have been working extremely hard on their projects and we are so excited to share them with an audience!

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

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Dear Southbury Elementary School Families,

We are excited to share with you the fun-filled Physical Education activities that our students learned and played in the month of April.



Our students enjoyed a great game named table ball, where they hit a four square ball back and forth off a table. They also played ground tennis, where the ball stays on the ground, which challenged their hand-eye coordination and agility.

In addition, we brought back some activities that we learned and played earlier in the year, such as line soccer, king of the court basketball, capture the flag football, and floor hockey. These activities not only helped improve our students' physical fitness but also encouraged teamwork and sportsmanship.

We are proud of our students' dedication and enthusiasm in participating in Physical Education classes. They have shown tremendous growth and development throughout the year.

Gooo SHARKS!!!

Sincerely,  
SB PE

## NURSING NEWS

### EYE / HEARING EXAMS

For those who have been referred for vision or hearing examinations, please turn in the doctor's form as soon as possible. [SD308 Health Forms and Documents](#)



### DENTAL EXAMS

Dental exams are required by the state of Illinois for Kindergarten and 2nd grade. These are due by May 15. Please return the exam forms as soon as possible.

Miles of Smiles is **providing preventive dental services at Southbury on May 8, 2023**, to eligible children in all grades. This satisfies the dental requirement mandated by the State of Illinois. If you are interested in this service, please contact the nurse for more information and/or a consent form. [SD308 Health Forms and Documents](#)

### HEALTH PHYSICALS / IMMUNIZATIONS

Health physicals and immunizations are required for Pre K and Kindergarten students. We strongly encourage you to schedule an appointment with your pediatrician as soon as possible as it becomes more difficult as the summer goes on. [SD308 Health Forms and Documents](#)

### ALLERGY, SEIZURE, ASTHMA ACTION PLANS

This is a good time to plan for a summer update of action plans and medicine authorizations. It is very helpful to ask your pediatrician to write a medical authorization even for Tylenol, Advil, cough drops or other over the counter medications. [SD308 Health Forms and Documents](#)

### DONATIONS

There have been many students coming to the nurse requesting a change of clothes. Presently **we do not have any** medium or large pants. I have attached a wish list link at Amazon for the nurse's office. If you'd like to help our office with any of the listed supplies, we would be ever so grateful. [Copy link](#)

Thank you for all of your support.

Donna Lichtfuss, RN

Lupita Orozco, Health Office Secretary

## SOCIAL WORK

April is .....

**Autism Awareness Month**

### WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a complex, developmental disability that causes problems with social skills and communication. Autism can be mild or severe. It is different for every person.

### SOME QUICK FACTS ABOUT AUTISM



- Studies indicate that 1 in 59 children will be diagnosed with Autism.
- Boys are 5 times more likely to be diagnosed than girls.
- There is no known, single cause of Autism
- Autism impacts each person differently. Some people with Autism are nonverbal, while others are highly gifted in areas.
- There is no cure for Autism

### **THE SYMBOL FOR AUTISM AWARENESS IS THE PUZZLE PIECE**

The puzzle piece represents the mystery and complexity of Autism. The different colors (red, yellow, and blue) represent the diversity of the families and people living with Autism.

### **COMMUNICATION TIPS**

When interacting with someone with Autism remember....

- Just because they are not looking at you doesn't mean they are not listening.
- Talk as equals, do not talk down to them.
- If you think a communication error has happened, clarify it, ask questions.
- Be patient

### **AUTISM IN ENTERTAINMENT**

There are many characters on popular shows today that demonstrate Autistic traits and tendencies. Some examples are...

- Sheldon from 'The Big Bang Theory'
- Brick from 'The Middle'
- Julia from Sesame Street

### **FAMOUS PEOPLE WITH AUTISM**

- James Durbin: American Idol contestant
- Dan Akroyd: Actor, best known for his role in Blues Brothers
- Tim Burton: Director of films like: Batman Begins

**RESOURCES:** [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)





# SOUTHBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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