

Side by Side's Monthly News

October 25, 2017

Issue 151

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Dear SBS Families,

Please be reminded that there is no school for students on Tuesday, November 7. In addition to this being Election Day, it is an opportunity to provide professional development for the staff at Side by Side Charter School. Teachers will be exploring STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics) based pedagogies through teamwork and critical thinking activities.

In recognition of SBS's notable student performance data and the favorable reviews our school received during the charter renewal process, the Side by Side administrative staff was invited to conduct a workshop, on behalf of the State Department of Education's Turnaround Office, highlighting our practices. The NetStat Learning Series is an opportunity for public schools across the state to share best practices. Side by Side will be hosting a workshop to demonstrate our collaborative system for enhancing student performance, which includes teacher data teams, curriculum and instructional strategies and peer-walkthroughs.

The annual SBS Halloween Parade will take place during the R.I.S.E. meeting on Tuesday, 10/31 at 2:30 P.M. In order to minimize the disruptions, we ask that you do not send the children to school dressed in a costume. At approximately 2:15 P.M., students will change into their Halloween costumes. All classes will then report to the gymnasium at 2:30 P.M. for the start of the parade. Parents are encouraged and welcome to join and watch at that time.

Don't forget to RSVP to our fall fundraiser, "Cocktails for a Cause" which will be held at The Station House Restaurant on Friday, 11/3. Invitations with payment and RSVP instructions were emailed to all families.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nittoly

ANY QUESTIONS?

Main Number	857-0306
Fax Number	838-2666
Director	Matt, x133
Nurse	Maria, x118
Social Worker.....	Marlene, x126
Assistant to the Director.....	Lilly, x132
Parent Coordinator.....	Evelyn, x130
Family Resource Center	Beatriz, x146

SAVE THE DATES:

Tuesday, Oct. 31 – Annual SBS Halloween parade at 2:30 P.M. in the gymnasium. Parents are welcome to attend.

Friday, Nov. 3 – Dress down day for students and staff

Friday, Nov. 3, 2017 Cocktails for a Cause

The Board of Directors fall fundraising event will take place at the Station House Bar and Grille, 232 East Avenue in Norwalk from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. Tickets are \$50 per person in advance, \$55 at the door.

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017 – Election day

No school for students, professional development for teachers

Monday, November 13 through Friday, November 17

Scholastic Book Fair in the gymnasium.

Wednesday, November 22-Friday, November 24

School closed for Thanksgiving Recess

Tuesday, November 28 at 5:15 P.M. Board of Directors meeting

Friday, December 1st – End of first marking period

Friday, December 1st – Upper school dance

Thursday, December 7 – 2:00 P.M. early dismissal for conferences, which are scheduled between the hours of 4-7:30 P.M.

Friday, December 8 – Picture re-take day

Announcements:

Gently used uniform attire is available in the vestibule near the lost and found bin. Many sizes available. Feel free to look through and select what your child needs.

The FRC is pleased to announce two new activities for students enrolled in the extended day program. Zumba will be offered on Wednesdays, from November 15 through December 6th. Ms Bourgeois, our own art teacher, will lead an art project on Mondays, with a PK through 1st grade group and a 2nd through 5th grade group on alternating weeks. Please call the main office if you would like to enroll your child in the extended day program in order to participate in these enrichment activities.

Friends of the Norwalk Public Library System are hosting a children's only book sale on Thursday, October 26 from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. in the auditorium at the Belden Avenue main library. The sale will continue at 9 am on Saturday, October 28 through Tuesday, October 31.

Classroom News:

PK 103 (Teachers, Judie and Kim) – This month our class took our first field trip of the year to Ambler Farm. We met many farm animals before taking a bumpy hayride to the pumpkin patch. Hazel and Willow, two Guinea hogs, loved getting belly rubs! Monarch update...We are so happy that we had the opportunity to raise twenty-two monarch butterflies here in our classroom. With the recent warm weather, we decided to release them as they emerged in order to give them a good start on their long journey to Mexico. To ensure monarch butterflies will continue to visit our SBS butterfly garden, we are going to be planting a variety of milkweed seeds, and flowering plants before the first frost.

PK 104 (Teachers, Jen and Carmen) – PK 104 just launched our "self" study. We are learning all about ways that we are the same and different. We learned that we all have different color hair and eyes,

and that our names start with different letters. Next week we will find out how tall we are and how much we all weigh.

Kindergarten (Teachers, Esther and Nikkia) – The Kindergarteners took a walking trip down Hanford Street and across Water Street to Sono Seafood. There they sat on the outdoor patio tables overlooking the water and made observation drawings of the waterfront. There was a lot to observe! There was a seagull eating a fish, marsh grasses, the drawbridge, trains going by, the police boat, a fireboat, and more. With maps in hand, the kids then followed the way to Washington Street in search of a mystery circle that was marked on their maps. Just a few doors in they discovered what the mystery circle was – a fountain.

They had a blast running under the streams of water and all around the fountain! On our neighborhood walks, we have noticed many different shops and businesses. Next, we will begin to look at the different ways people in our school neighborhood work. We will practice interviewing skills and then conduct interviews with some of the shopkeepers to find out about various jobs and the people who do them.

1st Grade – The first grade class is discovering where our fruit and vegetables come from and how they get to us. We went on a walking trip to C-Town to see all the different types of produce they sell and brought some samples for snack. We even found a piece of sugar cane and watched a video about how sugar cane is turned into the sugar we use every day! Next week we are going up to Norton Brothers Farm to pick our apples and learn about how they prepare them for market. It should be lots of fun!

2nd Grade – The school year is flying by! In second grade, one of the many things we are learning about is oysters. We recently took a walking field trip to Norm Bloom & Son in Norwalk. While we were there, we also learned a few facts about lobsters. In math, we are learning how to add hundreds, tens, and ones in the quickest, most effective way to get the answer. We have been busy mathematicians. In literacy, we began our study of ancient Greek civilization, and learned about how the Greek Gods affect our lives today. Did you know that in Sparta, seven-year-old boys were required to join the Army? We are working hard, and continuing to show R.I.S.E. behavior in and outside of the classroom!

3rd Grade – Third grade had a very busy month! We finished our first math unit of multiplication and division and moved on to measurement. The students get to explore time, weight, and capacity through hands-on activities. In literacy, the students are continuing to work on becoming “close readers” by reading texts composed by children from around the world. The students are working in groups to study the six different habitats of the Long Island Sound. They will soon present what they have learned to the rest of the class. In November, we are going on two field trips. We are going to the Connecticut Historical Society on Wednesday, November 8 and the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art on Thursday November 30.

4th Grade – Greetings from 4th grade. Mathematicians have just successfully finished our second module—Metric Measurement Conversions and Problem Solving. We have started our third module—Multi Digit Multiplication and Division. It is crucial that fourth graders know their basic multiplication facts in order to be successful as the math complexity increases. Please be on the lookout for a letter home about our multiplication challenge! Readers are engaged in finding the main idea and supporting details while deepening our knowledge of the Iroquois. Scientists are currently investigating why day and night happen. Fourth grade students are working hard on being R.I.S.E. leaders every day!

5th Grade – Fifth grade has just finished reading the novel, “Esperanza Rising.” The students are now beginning their analytical essays about how the main character, Esperanza, had changed throughout the story. They are working hard and I am excited to see what they can do! We are studying the solar system in Science and learning how astronauts use rockets to explore space. Ask your child about their rocket launch! In Math, we have finished our first module,

and have begun our second, with a focus on the distributive, associative, and commutative properties of mathematics. Please check soon for your child’s permission slip to Old Sturbridge Village. This fascinating trip is the traditional kickoff to our colonization unit in Social Studies.

Language Arts

7th and 8th grade students are having fun writing Haiku poetry. The sixth grade class is discovering poems through spoken word video, listening to a recitation of a published poet’s work.

Upper School Math News

6th grade students have been expanding their understanding of ratios and the value of a ratio as they begin to examine rates, unit rates and rate units. Students solve unit rate problems involving unit pricing, constant speed, and constant rates. They apply their understanding of rates to situations in the real world. Students determine unit prices, use measurement conversions to comparison shop, and find constant speed to help work through different situations to determine outcomes. Students combine their new understanding of rate to interpret and model real-world scenarios with the use of unit rates and conversions. The **7th grade** class has arrived at the final topic of our first module!

For this topic, students apply their experience with proportional relationships to the context of scale drawings. Given a scale drawing, students rely on their background knowledge from working with side lengths and areas of polygons to identify the scale factor as the constant of proportionality, calculate the actual lengths and areas of objects in the drawing, and create their own scale drawings of a two-dimensional view of a room or building. Finally, students must make either an enlarged or a reduced version of an object of their choice, to demonstrate mastery of these skills.

8th grade students have finished their first module on exponents and scientific notation and have begun to explore congruencies. Here, students learn about translations, reflections, and rotations in the plane, and, more importantly, they employ these concepts to define the notion of *congruence*. Translations, reflections, and rotations are examples of *rigid motions*, which are rules of moving points in the plane in such a way that preserves shape, size and angle measurement. Students explore these basic rigid motions using hands-on activities and tools such as an overhead projector transparency.

Upper School Science News:

The **sixth grade** scientists continue to explore the particle nature of matter. We have conducted some cool experiments in order to discover more about the nature of gases and their interactions. We are also demonstrating our scientific understanding with a consensus model. Be sure to ask a sixth grader to explain what they know about indicators and how their classmates used them to identify two unknown liquids that looked similar.

The **seventh graders** are learning about chemical reactions. We have learned about the ways scientists identify substances by determining their properties (density, melting point, color, solubility), and now we are focusing on seeing what happens with substances when they are combined. Ask your seventh grader to explain whether he or she considers the process of burning a chemical reaction. They can tell you all about the burning of magnesium.

The **eighth graders** are continuing to learn about human body systems. We modeled cells with dialysis tubing to see if two types of carbohydrate molecules could pass through the “membrane,” and then we combined yeast, sugar and water to see what happens as a result. These experiences helped the students to answer questions about how our cells get the energy they need to function.

Research and Portfolio Seminar

The **sixth grade** class is tracing an author and speaker’s argument. They are determining the author/speaker’s claim, supporting the claim with evidence from the text/video and deciding

whether the claim is supported by sufficient evidence. They are continuing to read Frightful's Mountain as well.

The **seventh grade** class is reading the commencement address delivered by Steve Jobs at Stanford University. The class is exploring the text to evaluate his word choices and the life lessons he imparts. They will be connecting events in Steve Jobs speech to those in Bud, Not Buddy, which is a novel that students have been reading in class.

The **eighth grade** class took a two-part assessment on analyzing an author and speaker's purpose. They have completed reading about two kinds of food chains, the industrial food chain and the industrial organic food chain.

Physical Education News

PK to 2nd Grade students have been working on throwing, rolling, kicking and special awareness skills by playing games with a "Halloween" theme. During each lesson, students talk about why children should not talk to strangers, that they should stay with the family, and not eat too much candy while trick-or-treating. A little bit of candy is ok, but too much can get you sick.

3rd Grade to 8th Grade students started a soccer unit. Grades 3-5 have been working on dribbling, shooting, and passing skills while upper school students focused more on game specific drills such as a "Give and Go" and crossing the ball. Soon every class will be able to have a full scrimmage, which should be great!

Music News:

PK through 2nd Grade students have been doing vocal explorations to animal sounds and a slide whistle, performing echo songs like "Johnny in the Woodpile," rhythm chants like "Miss White," and movement exercises. They are learning to distinguish their speaking voices from their singing voices, and many are starting to sing on pitch very nicely. The **3rd and 4th graders** have moved onto Recorder Karate, with the majority of 4th graders working on their degrees of Black Belt, having attained their Black Belts last year. They are currently learning the "Wedding March" and I hear from one student, that they intend to play it at a relative's wedding! The Upper School students have been presenting their research on "Songs for Change" to their classmates, with some very thoughtful and insightful responses to the songs surveyed.

The Bands and Show Choir are progressing well. There is already clear improvement with the students who have been showing up for Instrumental lessons. I will be following up with calls to parents of students who have missed lessons to find a mutually convenient time to re-schedule these lessons. It is making such a big difference for the students who are able to come for a lesson outside of class that I would like each student to have the opportunity to develop their performance skills on their chosen instrument. I, personally, started playing flute in the 6th Grade and made most of my progress in the first three years of learning. Middle school is a crucial time for musical development, and I appreciate your support in nurturing your child's musical development. Regular practice at home, 20 minutes per day at least 5 days per week, is vital to make meaningful progress.

Art News

In the **PK and Kindergarten**, students are making leaf rubbings using crayon and then applying watercolor to paint the background. The magic part is when the watercolor pops through the crayon.

In **1st and 2nd grade**, students are learning about line and color. They are discovering how different line types can make us feel calm or active. After drawing different line types, children are using color theory to decide with three colors to use on their emotional art. They are using triadic colors along with their active lines and analogous colors with their calm lines. In **third and fourth grade**, students are learning about Greek and Roman art history. They are making Greek vases using scratch art. Students will design vases, and then transfer designs to special hand-made paper they created themselves.

In **5th and 6th grade**, students are completing their study on line type. Using cardboard, yarn and tinfoil they are creating reliefs. Students colored the background using permanent marker. Next, they will use monochromatic colors to create self-portraits.

In **7th and 8th grade**, students are attempting to draw their names in a manner that creates space. They used lines of design with permanent marker to decorate around it. Next, they will learn about Mexican culture and create sugar skull masks.

Parent Community Coordinator News

The Miss Chocolate delivery arrived on Wednesday. Please be sure to pick up your items before the weekend since we do not have anywhere to store the packages over the weekend. **Thank you to all who supported our fundraiser.**