

Sowams Pipeline

Principal's Notes

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Thought you would be interested to know...

- Welcome to Miss Jennifer Schultz. She has joined us as our building intern. Miss Schultz will be in all our classrooms as a guest teacher when a teacher is absent. She will also be assigned to the long-term guest teacher spot when Mrs. Gaynor goes on maternity leave. We are lucky to have Jennifer join us. She has been an elementary school teacher in Pennsylvania since 2004.
- Sowams has been awarded \$500 from the USDA Healthier US School Challenge. This award was given to Chartwells and Sowams for providing healthy meals and physical education and nutrition activities to promote healthy lifestyles. An awards ceremony will take place at Sowams at sometime in the future.
- It is important for your child to get to school on time each day. When your child arrives late, he/she may miss instructional time and may disturb classmates when entering the room. School begins each day at 8:15, with our school-wide meeting at 8:10 in the cafeteria.
- Supervision of students begins at 7:55 each morning in the cafeteria. Please do not drop off your children prior to this time.
- With the cold weather now here, please make sure your child is coming to school dressed to go outside for recess. We do have outdoor recess daily unless it is bitterly cold.

January

11th Lunch N Learn Presenter: Cindy Coyne Topic: State Trooper
12th Atwater Donnelly Performance
25th Lunch N Learn Presenter: Heather McNamara Topic: Marketing
26th School Committee Community Forum 7:00pm at Barrington High School
31st Town Meeting Class of the Week: Mrs. Gaynor
31st PTO workshop: "A New Year...A New Home—Organizing for the New Year"

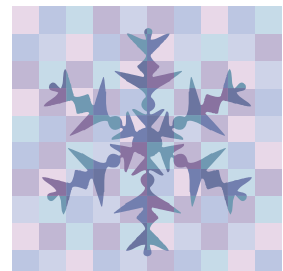
February

3rd: Progress Reports
16th: Hearing Screening
29th: Dental Screening

March

Week of 3/19 Kindergarten Registration

Calendar of Events!



Class Notes

Kindergarten

Nancy Canestrari, Elizabeth Thornton, & Stephanie Bucci



Happy New Year!

The children are enthusiastically settling back into school. Some of our winter themes will include learning about how animals live in the winter, the Arctic and Antarctic and winter fun. These themes will include many stories, projects and activities across the curriculum. We know you'll enjoy hearing your children tell you all about them!

Now that winter is officially here, the children look forward to playing outside in the snow. Please have your child bring boots, snow pants, hats and mittens each day there's snow on the ground.

Progress Reports will be sent home at the beginning of February. We will be busy this month as we assess progress in all academic areas. This is a good time to help children review letter sounds, Kindergarten high-frequency words, counting and math problem solving. The children are certainly growing!

As you can see, 2012 is off to a great start!

First Grade

Adela Felag, Julie Piette, & Christina Squatrito

Happy 2012! The first graders are working so hard at becoming independent learners. They have grown academically and as Sowams Stars! They are building on prior knowledge to learn new skills.

During Writer's workshop we are working on a small moment. We are encouraging students to stretch out an important time in their lives and to write using rich details. In math, we are investigating measurement using both standard and nonstandard tools. Ask your child to show off these measuring skills at home. In reading, we are working on recognizing long vowel patterns, reading fluently and using comprehension strategies to better understand what we are reading. The new science kit will be in full swing soon. We will be investigating weather.

Some parents have expressed an interest in activities they can do at home in addition to the weekly homework. Here are some suggestions:

Read nightly with your child for 20 minutes and ask questions about the story.

Find a quiet place to do homework and read Count by 2's, 5's and 10's from different numbers. For an extra challenge try counting by 3's.

Review homework when your child completes it.

Telling time to the hour and half hour. Have your child create a schedule of nightly chores or routines.

Counting and sorting coins.

Ask your child to summarize or retell a story they have heard or read. This skill seems to prove challenging for many.

Letter writing or journaling is always a great activity to fine tune young writing skills.

By reinforcing these skills and habits both at home and at school will build a foundation for successful learning throughout your child's school career.

Your first grade team, Mrs. Felag, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Piette and Mrs. Squatrito

Class Notes

Grade 2

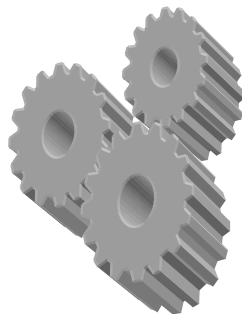
*Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Pereira, &
Mrs. McDonnell*

Happy New Year to all of our families! We hope that your holiday was restful and refreshing.

In language arts, we will be exploring problem/solution writing. The children are learning how to plan out their stories by using a graphic organizer. This is the same graphic organizer they used in their reading just last month. It is nice to see them pull it all together and become the author. They are quite creative!

In science, we are excited to start learning all the six basic simple machines: the lever, pulley, gear, wheel, inclined plane, and screw. Using our Simple Machines Science Kit, the children use diagrams to build and experiment with these machines.

Our mathematicians are working on telling time, counting money and making change from a dollar. They are also working on place value; this is the value of a digit in a two or three digit number.



Grade 3

*Mrs. Meredith, Mrs. Silva, Miss Wilson & Mrs.
Gaynor*

Happy New Year to all of our families! We hope that the year ahead is a productive, happy, and healthy one.

The new year brings lots of new lessons to our classrooms! In Science we will be learning about sound. We'll explore different vibrations and pitches that sound can make using tuning forks and even making our own instruments.

During math, the children will continue working with multiplication/division fact families using equal groups and equal shares. We will also focus on adding and subtracting larger, three digit numbers. Mrs. Garland is joining our classrooms to work with us on problem solving skills and math workshop.

Shortly, we will begin our new Social Studies unit on Rhode Island. The students will study the geography of our state, what our state is famous for (state bird, state flower, state nickname, for example), and famous Rhode Islanders like Roger Williams.





The Facts about Pertussis ("Whooping Cough")

What is pertussis and the symptoms?

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a contagious infection that affects the lungs and breathing passages. The dry cough can last one to six weeks or more and cause coughing fits and trouble breathing. Pertussis usually starts with cold-like symptoms, such as coughing, sneezing, and a runny nose. It's often diagnosed after a cough lasts more than one to two weeks.

The cough is usually not harmful to adults and older children, but can be dangerous for babies. Sometimes children have a hard time catching their breath. It's not unusual for children to spit up, vomit, or be exhausted after coughing. Infants might also have breathing problems or develop serious medical conditions such as pneumonia, seizures, and brain damage.

Pertussis is also known as "whooping cough" because of the "whoop" sound children or other patients sometimes make during coughing.

How do people get pertussis?

A bacteria causes pertussis and it's usually spread by coughing or sneezing when people are in close contact. Infants often get pertussis from older brothers and sisters, parents, or other caregivers who might not even know they have it.

How can pertussis be prevented?

The best way to protect adults, children, and babies from pertussis is to get the recommended vaccine and booster shots, which are safe.

Vaccines are first given at two months of age, then again at four, six, and 15-18 months, and again between four to six years old. A booster shot also is recommended for children by age 11. **In Rhode Island, Grade 7 students are required to get this booster.** Teens and adults who haven't yet received their boosters should get one as soon as possible. When in doubt about whether you're up-to-date on your shots, speak with a doctor to find out what's best for you and your family.

Keep anyone with a cough away from babies and newborns. Also make sure everyone who comes in contact with infants is up-to-date on their shots.

How is pertussis treated?

See a doctor or the school nurse when pertussis symptoms first appear. If you or your child has trouble breathing, seek medical attention right away.

Tell the doctor or school nurse if you or your child has been around others with a cough or cold, or if you've heard about others with pertussis in your community.

Your doctor might prescribe an antibiotic treatment to help speed up recovery and to prevent the disease from spreading to others.

Babies often are hospitalized when treated for pertussis.

At Sowams, we currently have no confirmed cases. We will keep you posted if this should change. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Flores, School Nurse-Teacher, at floresd@bpsmail.org or 247-3180.

Warm Wishes from the PTO

We hope that everyone had a wonderful winter break. The PTO has been very busy planning some exciting upcoming activities! Thanks to the hard work of Susan Kostas Jennifer Clark and Katy Killilea, it looks like our Extended Day program is going to be full of wonderful classes and enrichment opportunities. Keep an eye out for sign up forms coming home soon.

The PTO sponsored play "101 Dalmations" begins rehearsals this week! We are very excited that past-Sowams mom Pamela Morgan is directing the play this year, and our own Darlene DeRosa is the PTO coordinator. Thanks go out to them for the work they've already put in and surely all the hard work to come.

Lisa Griffith of "The Organized Way" has kindly offered to give a free presentation to Sowams parents called "A New Year... A New Home!" Lisa is a professional organizer as well as a Barrington mom who has raised two children and knows first hand how tough keeping everything in order can be. We hope you can attend her presentation and learn some great organizing tips on Tuesday, January 31st at 7 pm in the Sowams cafeteria. Hope to see you there!

The PTO is looking for those interested in learning about how to become more involved in any capacity! There are current openings as well as opportunities for next year. Please consider contacting us to learn more.

Happy New Year,

Alisa Catani acatani@gmail.com
Leanne Berlinsky jandl97@cox.net
Co-Presidents

Physical Education

Ms. Cerio

"Sportsmanship is the winning point in any game."

The following "Rap" song was written by elementary students on the subject of sportsmanship.

Sports, PE and games are totally cool.

Especially when no one breaks a rule.

When they do, a problem is born.

Fights can break out, and friendships are torn.

*This is probably not the best way
to solve a small problem that started that day.*

If you happen to get a little bit mad

You shouldn't make anyone else feel bad.

*Solving a problem nicely when someone is
acting like a fool.*

Can make sports, PE and games totally cool.





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The mission of Sowams School is to provide each individual with a safe, challenging academic environment that develops personal and civic responsibility, and encourages a lifelong of learning through varied teaching and learning experiences to meet the intellectual, creative, social, emotional, and physical needs of a diverse learning community in partnership with family and community.

Visit us on the web at www.SowamsSchool.org!