

Side by Side's Monthly News

September 28, 2016

Issue 141

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Dear Side by Side Families,

Once again, welcome to school year 2016-17! The fall season is officially here and we are off to a great start.

Thank you to all of our PreK-5th grade families who attended the lower school "Back to School Night" last week. This was one of our highest attended Back to School Nights yet! We look forward to seeing this trend continue with our grade 6-8 families at our Upper School "BTSN" on Thursday, 9/29.

Last Friday's "International Night" again proved to be one of the favorite school events at Side by Side. The diverse assortment of foods and cultures being showcased exemplified what Side by Side is all about. Thank you to all SBS staff and families who were a part of it!

Our All-School RISE meetings will take place in the SBS gymnasium on the last school day of each month. Parents are welcome to join us for All-School Meetings each month. Each meeting is facilitated by our Student School Planning Team (SSPT) and includes a variety of shares, songs, and "energizers" from our student body. This month's meeting will take place at 2:30pm on Friday, 9/30/16.

Student score reports from the Spring 2016 (SBAC) Smarter Balanced Assessments have been sent home to all parents/guardians of students in grades 3-8. Side by Side's overall test results were promising and indicate that our efforts to transition to the Common Core are working. However, these test results also indicate areas in which we need to improve. The Side by Side teaching and administrative staff have already begun to analyze individual student results. Our instructional plans and professional development for the year are based on this data.

Please be reminded:

- No School on Monday, October 3 in observance of Rosh Hashanah
- No School on Wednesday, October 12 in observance of Yom Kippur

I look forward to seeing and getting to know all of you as the year progresses. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time at extension 133 or

mnittoly@sbscharter.org.

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, x111

SAVE THE DATES:

Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 5:15 P.M. Board of Directors' meeting

Roll Call

Public Session

Call to Order

Review of Minutes

New Business - Vote on board position and sub committees

Reports

Directors Update

PTCO Update

Finance Committee

Facilities Committee

Fundraising Committee

Executive Session

Thursday, Sept. 29 – Miss Chocolate sale ends. Please return all sales order forms and total funds collected to Evelyn in the office.

Thursday, Sept. 29 at 6:00 P.M. - Upper school "Back to School Night;" please R.S.V.P. if you require child care for a young family member.

Friday, Sept. 30 - R.I.S.E. meeting at 2:30 P.M. in the gym

Both the Third grade class and the students who participate in the upper school after school program will present a share for those assembled. All are welcome to attend.

Monday, Oct. 3 – Rosh Hashanah - No school for students or staff in observance of the religious holiday.

Friday, Oct. 7 - Picture day

School picture order forms will be sent home with your student on Friday. You may also order your portrait package online at coffeepond.com. Please return your order with payment enclosed to your child's teacher. Students are not required to wear the school uniform on this day.

Wednesday, Oct. 12 - Yom Kippur - no school for students or staff in observance of the religious holiday

Saturday, Oct. 22 – Annual SBS Harvest Fair, 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Tuesday, October 25 at 5:15 P.M. Board of Directors' meeting

Friday, Nov. 4, 2015 Cocktails for a Cause

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2015 – Election day

No school for students, professional development for teachers

Announcements:

First Marking Period

- The first marking period ends Friday, December 2
- Lower School (PK - 5): Report Cards will be distributed during Parent/Teacher Conferences
- CONFERENCE NIGHT is scheduled for Thursday, 12/8

Second Marking Period

- The second marking period ends Thursday, March 3/10
- Lower School (PK - 5): Report Cards will be distributed during Parent/Teacher Conferences
- CONFERENCE NIGHT is scheduled for Thursday, 3/16

Final Marking Period

- The third and final marking period ends on the last day of school—presently scheduled for Friday, June 9. Additional information will be sent home as the last days are confirmed.

All Side by Side community members are invited to attend a free concert presented at Norwalk City Hall's Concert Hall, this Saturday, October 1, at 7:30 p.m. "Threads of Light", is a new arrangement of African-American Spirituals by composer Ellen Dickinson, who will also conduct. It will be presented by two choirs and accompanied by trumpet, bass, hand-bells, and soloists. Also scheduled is the recitation of African-American poetry by guest speakers. In times of tragedy and heartache, this concert of American music—a vital component of the early African-American experience and as such an essential part of the fabric of American experience and culture – will hopefully prove as a counterpoint, or antidote, to recent news. If anyone has any questions about the concert, please contact Mr. Hansen, who is one of the chorus members. Advance tickets can be obtained in the main office or at the door on the night of the performance.

Classroom News:

PK 103 (Teachers, Judie and Kim) - The children and teachers in PK 103 are completely fascinated by the amazing life of monarch butterflies! On September 12th we received live monarch caterpillars from Rose Franklin's Butterfly Farm in Pennsylvania. They have been very hungry caterpillars eating fresh tropical milkweed leaves from our potted plants. They have grown quickly, shedding their skin a few times before making their beautiful green jeweled chrysalises. We currently have 19 chrysalises which we are watching closely for signs of their transformation into butterflies. Our hope is that they'll emerge soon so we can celebrate their release and they can begin their journey to Mexico. If the timing is right, we may be able to release them when we visit Ambler Farm next week!

PK 104 (Teachers, Jen and Carmen) – The PK 104 class is so excited to share the news that seven chrysalises transformed into butterflies this week. The children have had lots of questions about the butterflies, and their migration to Mexico or Florida. We will release our butterflies during a ceremony on October 5th. We have also been spending time talking about ways to be good friends in the classroom and how we can stay safe and make sure that others are safe too. We learned about RISE as well, and how we can show respect, be independent, be fair and have empathy for others.

Kindergarten (Teachers, Esther and Nikkia) – The Kindergartners are learning about the rules and routines in Kindergarten. Our favorite rule is "use an indoor voice!" Today volunteers modeled how to turn the

pages of a book carefully and then how to look at the color dot on the book to know where it goes on the shelf. We are sharing ideas for making strong buildings that don't wobble in the block area. We are architects and engineers! This is Kindergarten.

1st Grade -The First Graders are off to a great start this year. We have been working really hard on our new math curriculum and we've begun a unit of study to discover where our fruits and vegetables come from. Next week we will take a neighborhood walk to find out what kinds of fruits and vegetables are sold at the local supermarket and next month we'll go apple picking at Norton Brothers orchard.

2nd Grade –Second Grade students have been very busy! We have started our first reading unit on Fairytales and Tall Tales. In Math, the students are learning about composing and decomposing numbers using number bonds. Students have also been working on reverse number sentences ($16 = 8 + 8$.) Students have been learning about communities and maps in Social Studies to lead up to the first unit on Oysters. We will be taking our first field trip to Norm Bloom and Son Oyster Company in October, more details to come!

3rd Grade –3rd grade is off to such an amazing start. Not only have we established our classroom rules, we are also becoming practitioners of expectations and routines! As readers, we are building our stamina and developing our fluency. As we continue to strengthen our reading super powers, we will take a close look at how people around the world gain access to reading. Mathematical 3rd graders have really jumped right into developing our conceptual understanding of multiplication and division. Our new Eureka math curriculum is challenging our thinking and requiring us to really think carefully about what we already know as mathematicians. 3rd grade marine biologists have begun our first unit of study: Protecting the Sound, and we enjoyed our first field trip to the Maritime Aquarium. We will use the organisms we observed as anchors to understanding human impact on the Long Island Sound. Please be on the lookout for our class breakdown of field trips this year. In addition to the dates of our learning adventures, the letter breaks down individual student cost. You can choose to submit the entire payment or you can choose to pay in three installments. Thank you to all of the parents who attended Back to School Night. Also, don't forget to sign up for CLASS DOJO if you haven't already!

4th Grade – Hello from 4th grade. The start of our year together has been fantastic! We have practiced routines and expectations for the first two weeks of school and are now off and running with our curriculum. In Literacy, we are studying the Haudenosaunee nation and their oral traditions. In Math, we are working hard on place value. PLEASE practice your child's basic multiplication facts with him/her EACH night. It is very important that 4th graders are fluent in basic multiplication. Our 1st RISE challenge of the year, the Egg Drop, is this Friday.

5th Grade – Fifth Grade has been off to a great start. In the beginning of the year, we focus primarily on building a positive classroom environment to ensure that students are safe and ready to learn. Using R.I.S.E as a springboard for discussion in our first literacy unit has been extremely helpful as we explore the topic of human rights. Within this unit, the children study the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and apply what they have learned to the novel, Esperanza Rising. This is an amazing story of a little girl and her family, migrant workers from Mexico, who ultimately face many challenges along the way. In Math, the students have begun exploring patterns on the place

value chart and are now moving into converting various measurements. We are also exploring the idea of composing and decomposing numbers in many different ways.

6th and 7th Grade Language Arts

Upper school students have been unravelling clues through their readings and classroom discussion to figure out what their beginning topic of study is in Humanities. 6th grade students will be studying myths and ancient Greece, 7th grade students will study the war in the Sudan, and 8th graders will examine the Fall of Saigon, and the Vietnam War.

Upper School Math News

8th grade students just completed a study of exponents and have been using their knowledge to work on problems with scientific notation. Students have examined the importance of scientific notation and how it relates to other subjects, as well as how to do operations in scientific notation.

The **7th grade** class has been exploring the concept of proportional relationship and how it corresponds to the ratios and unit rates that they learned about last year. Students just completed a small group project that looked at proportional relationships through graphs, tables, and equations. Once completed, the projects were put on display and the students went around the room discussing the merits of each other's work.

6th grade has jumped right into working with ratios. Students learned what ratios and equivalent ratios are and enjoyed an in class Skittles activity to illustrate the concepts and further their investigations. Students are currently utilizing tape diagrams to help solve real-world ratio problems. Next, we will be exploring how ratio tables can be used to represent a relationship between two quantities and creating graphs from that data.

Upper School Science News:

Sixth graders are learning about how light travels, as well as how scientists create models to express their understanding of science concepts. We created both physical models and two dimensional models to describe how people see. Most recently, we used light sensors to go on a light hunt and measure the amounts of light in various locations in the annex.

Seventh graders are beginning to learn about chemical reactions, and how those chemical reactions produce new products. We have investigated the properties of several substances, and are learning the difference between properties and non-properties of materials.

Eighth graders are deepening their understanding of the human body. We began by looking at the cells of microscopic organisms and cells from multi celled organism, such as human beings. They developed an understanding of systems by dissecting a simple system, a ball point pen. We concluded that multi celled organisms are made of multiple systems that function together for the working of the whole organism.

Research and Portfolio Seminar:

Sixth grade students are reading Frightful's Mountain which is a book that illustrates some of the harmful consequences to the environment and humans that result from the use of DDT in agriculture.

Seventh grade students are learning about the frontal and limbic lobes of the brain to gain background knowledge for their research projects.

Eighth grade students are reading Omnivores Dilemma, as part of their investigation into the food chain.

Physical Education News

PK - 2

So far the lower school students have been establishing exercise routines and have been focusing their attention on movement concepts such as "personal space" and locomotor movements such as running, skipping, jumping, etc. Students have also been working on basic soccer skills.

Grades 3-5

Students in Grades 3-5 have been training for the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment which includes components such as a mile run, a push-up test, a sit-up test, and a sit and reach. In between testing students have been working on advancing their skills in soccer.

Grades 6-8

Students in the Upper School have also been working on the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment and practicing their soccer skills when they are not being tested.

Music News:

My name is Dr. Peter Hadley and I am very excited to be teaching Music at *Side by Side Charter School*. I am originally from Australia and have taught from elementary to high school levels in both countries including *Weston Intermediate School*, the *Breakthrough Magnet School* in Hartford, and *Thomas Edison Middle School* in Meriden. I have also taught early childhood music at the *Green St. Arts Center* in Middletown, conducted the Wesleyan Wind Ensemble and lectured at university level. I love music and play several instruments including the flute, piano, bass guitar and *didjeridu*. I sing with the *Wilton Singers* and play the *repinique* drum with *Samba New York*. I also compose my own music. I enjoy sharing my love of music with students of all ages and want to ignite a life-long passion of learning and making music.

PK and Kindergarten

Music for the early years is all about having fun, getting rhythm into the body and singing lots of songs. By playing games, dancing, and sampling various percussion instruments, students learn through doing, providing a powerful foundation for their future musical growth.

1st through 3rd Grade

Music class for these grades continues to be very activity based but students are introduced to elements of reading and writing music as well. Instruments, such as the Orff tuned percussion and recorders, are incorporated into musical activities. Singing remains central to the curriculum with the inclusion of longer and more complex songs.

4th and 5th Grade

Music class continues with similar kinds of activities in these grades but importantly, the Band Program starts in the 4th Grade. Students can select a Band Instrument of their choice and receive free group lessons at school. Instruments include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and percussion and can be either rented or purchased for students. The Band is just starting up. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Upper School

For this age group, students can choose to participate in the Grade 5/6 Band or the Grade 7/8 Band, and continue their instrumental instruction. Class music continues to be very practical, using instruments such as guitar and keyboards. Music technology is also introduced as the musical activities become more student-centered and creative. Many students choose to participate in the Show Choir with

repertoire chosen from musicals and pop songs. Commitment contracts have gone out for the Bands and the Show Choir and are now due. Please support your child in getting these signed and returned to Dr. Hadley asap.

Art:

In **PK and Kindergarten** students are continuing to explore color while improving their painting technique. They have experimented with watercolor and tempera paint and are discovering the different qualities, possibilities and product that results from working with these two media.

1st and 2nd grades students just completed their school wide "hand" project which can be viewed on the back stairwell bulletin board. In this project, students traced both hands, drawing lines of design on one and their ideas and interests on the other. We are now moving on to learning all about shapes and forms as the students create paper sculptures using a variety of techniques.

3rd and 4th grade "hand" projects can be viewed on the front stairwell bulletin board. We are now moving on to learning all about formal balance and symmetry. Students are starting a project based on African masks. In **5th and 6th** students are wrapping up their school wide "hand" project which in the future can be viewed on the back stairwell bulletin board of the main building. **7th and 8th** student "hand" projects will be displayed on the annex bulletin board.

Parent Community Coordinator News

Your completed Miss Chocolate order forms and funds collected are due back tomorrow, Thursday, September 29. The sooner we can submit individual sales orders the sooner we can get our items shipped to school. Thanks for your support.

Thank you all for the spirit of cooperation and community that makes International Night such a popular and joyful celebration each year. So many people, including staff, helped with set-up, clean-up, serving and dishwashing last week.

Harvest Fair is another fun filled family event that relies on volunteers. Please be on the lookout for sign-up sheets, and requests for donations for the raffle baskets and baked goods. Our success each year depends on you.

Family Resource Center News:

Free flu shots for the uninsured, eighteen years and over, will be administered at the South Norwalk Community Center on Wednesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 20 from 4-7pm.

Parents as Teachers: Parent Educators Beatriz Abreu and Marlene De Bellis are offering free development information including fun activities and screenings for prenatal to age 5. To sign up, please call Beatriz (x146)

Early Learning Groups (Playgroups) – Early learning groups for parents/caregivers and their babies & toddlers are held at St. Joseph's social hall from 9:00-10:30 am every Wednesday. All caregivers and their toddler children are welcome to attend. The group is run by Beatriz Abreu, certified parent educator and Janice Luciani from Birth to Three. Please call Beatriz (ext. 146) if you have any questions.

ESL classes are every Saturday from 9:15 – 10:30 in the annex. Classes are free. Contact Beatriz Abreu to sign up or come this Saturday to register.

Noticias del Centro de Recursos Familiares:

Padres como Maestros: Las Educadoras de padres Beatriz Abreu y Marlene de Bellis ofrecen información gratuita sobre el desarrollo

incluyendo actividades divertidas y evaluaciones del desarrollo desde prenatal hasta 5 años. Para participar llamar a Beatriz (x 146)
Grupos de Aprendizaje Infantil: Grupos de aprendizaje infantil para padres/representantes sus bebés y niños se llevan a cabo en el salón social de la Iglesia San José, todos los miércoles de 9:00 am a 10:30 am. El grupo lo dirige Beatriz Abreu certificada Educadora de Padres. Todos los niños y sus padres, abuelos o representantes son bienvenidos. Para mayor información comuníquese con Bea a la extensión 146

Lost and Found

A men's black rubber wristwatch was found in the school parking lot. Please stop by the main office to claim your missing item.