

# Side by Side's Monthly News

March 28, 2018

Issue 156

## FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Dear SBS Families,

Happy spring! It is already that time when we need to begin preparing for the next school year, as the 2018-19 school year will be here before you know it.

- The SBS Board of Directors recently approved the 2018-19 school year calendar. The calendar includes 180 days for students and resembles the prior year's calendar with regard to school vacations and holiday closures.
- FY19 Budget: The SBS Finance Committee, a Board of Directors sub-committee, will begin to forecast revenues and expenses for the next school year and will present the annual school budget to our board at the meeting on May 22.
- Side by Side will administer the SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessments) to all students in Grades 3-8 during the period 4/24 through 5/17. Students in Grades 5 and 8 only will take the Next Generation Science Standards Assessment on 4/19. Families will receive a more detailed letter regarding these assessments next week.
- On Monday, 4/23 we will be planning a "Testing Season Kick-off" celebration for students, to highlight their accomplishments and to prepare for their forthcoming assessments. Stay tuned.

Upper School construction-UPDATE: In addition to our routine planning for a new school year we find ourselves nearing the conclusion of a major building project. I am pleased to report that the William O. Murphy Upper School at Side by Side is on schedule to open in fall 2018. Demolition of the original annex building will begin in late June. The final phase for this project will include site work, such as paving and landscaping the grounds surrounding the new building.

At this time, we are still exploring several options for the most efficient and safe method for drop-off and pick-up of students for the 2018-19 school year and beyond. Although the existing plan, approved for the construction period, has worked to our satisfaction, there are many other factors that must be considered before adopting a permanent plan. We will keep you posted throughout the summer.

We are pleased to announce the 6-8 grade recipients of our academic achievement awards for the second marking period of the school year. Students who receive the award for high honors have earned a minimum of all "A" grades, with the exception of one B in all of their

classes. Students who receive the award for honors may earn any combination of "A" and "B" grades in all of their classes. Finally, students who receive an effort award have received the mark of "C" for consistent in the life skills categories, which include behavior, cooperative learning, participation and work completion.

## Second Marking Period Honor Roll

HIGH HONORS: Ryan Buzzee, Isabella Cuartas, Brian Muralles, William Socci, Samantha Stone, Dinyar Unvala, Laura Weiss

HONORS: Onjolie Bedoja, Eduardo Chavez, Jose Garcia, Isaiah Joseph, Jadania Mann, Jasmine Molleda, Reignn Montagnesi, Alex Ordonez, Zachary Preval, Camilla Sanchez, Miranda Silva-Mezza, Victoria Silva-Mezza, Jennifer Traore

EFFORT: Olivia Allen, Onjolie Bedoja, Ryan Buzzee, Isabella Cuartas, Jose Garcia, Jasmine Molleda, Carla Pol-Ventura, Miranda Silva-Mezza, Victoria Silva-Mezza, William Socci, Samantha Stone, Jennifer Traore, Dinyar Unvala, Delaney Ventura, Laura Weiss

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:

**Friday, March 30** – School closed in observance of Good Friday  
**Monday, April 2 through Friday, April 6** – The artist Jean-Marc Superville Sovak, an exhibitor at the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, will take up residency for the week at SBS.

**Friday, April 6** – Dress down day for students and staff

**Friday, April 6 at 2:00 P.M.** – Annual Side by Side talent show

**Monday, April 9 through Friday, April 13** – Spring recess, no school for students and staff

**Friday, April 20** – Fourth grade trip to Ellis Island

**Saturday, April 21** – Invent and Innovate Conference for Girls  
Scholarships are available on a first come, first serve basis. For additional information and applications, please call Marlene De Bellis

**Tuesday, April 24 at 5:15 P.M.** – Board of Directors meeting

**Friday, April 27** - SBS Annual Gala at Shorehaven Country Club

**Monday, April 30 at 2:30 P.M.** – R.I.S.E. meeting

**Thursday, May 17** – Spring concert at 2:00 and 7:00 P.M.

**Wednesday, May 23 through Friday, May 25** – Eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C.

**Friday, June 1** – tentative date for the field day

**Tuesday, June 5** – tentative date for the Upper School Challenge

**Wednesday, June 13 at 6:00 P.M.** – Eighth grade graduation

**Monday, June 18** – tentative last day of school for students

#### Assessment news:

Every year, Side by Side administers state mandated, standardized assessments that help us monitor your child's progress in the areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. These assessment scores, along with other types of information, help SBS faculty and administrators determine school improvement goals for next year. The CT State Department of Education also uses these results to rate Side by Side with regard to student performance levels. This year, the English Language Arts testing window will be from April 24 through April 26, and the Mathematics testing window will be from May 8 through May 17. We will administer the Science assessment for grades 5 and 8 on April 19. It is crucial, particularly during this testing period, that students get enough rest, eat a nutritious breakfast, and come to school on time. We will be providing more details about a fun kick-off in the upcoming weeks. Thanks for your cooperation in making Side by Side the best charter school in the state!

#### Announcements:

The seventh grade is once again participating in a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) grant with the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art called *Common Ground*. A key feature of this long-term "STEAM" study is the opportunity the students will have to work again with contemporary artist **Jean-Marc Superville Sovak**, <http://www.supervillesovak.com/home.html> during the week of April 2 through April 6. The goal is for them to engage in an art project that is organic to the Side by Side community. The focus will be on changing communities and the way we categorize places as utopias or dystopias. We will invite seventh grade families to a parents' night at the end of April, details to come shortly.

#### Enrollment Lottery

The last open house will be on Wednesday, April 4 at 5:00 P.M. and the lottery will take place on Wed., April 25 at 5:00 P.M. The application deadline is **Friday, April 6 at 4:00 P.M.**

#### Classroom News:

**PK 103 (Teachers, Judie and Kim)** – Hooray! It is spring! It has been a long winter. We hope to see signs of the new season soon. We are currently studying about homes. Using photos from home, the children have been investigating different types of homes people live in. Thank you to all the families that sent in lots of recyclable materials. Now that we have explored and sorted them, the children will reuse these items to create 3D representations of their homes.

**PK 104 (Teachers, Jen and Carmen)** – The PK 104 class just wrapped up our family study. Thank you to all of the families that came in to cook a favorite family recipe. The cookbook is almost finished and should be ready to send home soon. We are going to try to complete the family trees before break next week, so this is your last chance to send in photos. Our next study is about homes. We have been thinking about why people need homes, and wondering if all homes look the same or if they are different. After vacation, we will start creating a 3D map of homes using recycled materials. Please collect and send in things like cereal boxes, egg cartons, paper towel tubes, snack boxes, etc.

**Kindergarten (Teachers, Esther and Nikkia)** – Every year, as part of the bread and bakery study, the kindergarten class visits the LizSue Bagel Bakery on New Canaan Ave. Tommy and Pete, the brothers who own the bakery are the best tour guides. They take us through all the steps in making bagels and the children have the opportunity to ask a variety of good questions like, "What is the most popular bagel?" "How many different kinds of bagels do you have?" "What time do you have to get to work?" "What is the hardest part of your job?" and "Do you have a son?" There is a lot to see at this little bakery and the kids always have a great time. Back in the classroom, we watch videos on the smartboard that show similar kinds of machines and the sequence of steps in making bagels. This week we will recreate the bakery in the block area, conduct a school-wide survey to find out what kind of bagels people like to eat, and write a well-deserved "Thank you" letter to Tommy and Pete. If you visit LizSue Bagels, be sure to tell them that the Side By Side Kindergarten kids say "Hello."

By the way, you may be interested to know that the most popular bagel is the plain bagel. Pete explains, "A lotta people like plain because that way, they know what they're getting, and with cream cheese, it's all good."

**1st Grade** – The First Grade is getting ready to open The Super Sparkle Post Office. We will be delivering mail all around Side by Side from Monday, April 2nd to Friday, April 6th. You can buy stamps for 5 cents in the first grade classroom and mail your letters in the Super Sparkle mailboxes, found in the main building and annex lobbies. Make sure you send a letter to your friends and family because everyone loves to get mail!

the super SPARKLE PostOffice



**2nd Grade** – The second graders are working hard, and counting down their remaining days as second graders. In Math, we are learning multiplication and division and we are identifying the difference between rows and columns! In Literacy, we are learning about the civil war and American leaders such as Abraham Lincoln, and Harriet Tubman. The second graders learned about the Underground Railroad. We are excited to begin our last units of study that focus on immigration and the whaling Industry. We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing April break!

**3rd Grade** – The third graders have been working very hard on their writing. They just finished writing letters to Mary Pope Osborne, the author of the Magic Tree House books, trying to convince her to write a new book about the country they studied. They are using all of the skills we have taught them to make their letter persuasive. The students have also continued their work on fractions. Currently, they are learning about whole number fractions, number lines and equivalent fractions. We are still working on observing the transformation of matter in science.

**4th Grade** – The fourth grade would like to thank everyone who collected donations for our Leukemia/Lymphoma Society fundraiser. All donations are due on Wednesday, March 28. In Literacy, we have been learning about the Patriots and the Loyalists perspectives during the American Revolution. Please ask your child all about it! Mathematicians are busy expressing fractions greater than one in various ways. We will begin our Immigration unit right after our Spring Break. \*Reminder: our trip to Ellis Island is Friday, April 20!\* More information to come.

**5th Grade** – Fifth grade students are multi-tasking! While learning about Jackie Robinson and his amazing legacy, they are also developing their argumentative writing skills and are learning quite a lot about the structure needed in order to convey an idea clearly. Starting next week, they will look at former athletes who also served as role models, and ultimately, paved the way for athletes today. For their final performance task, they will be writing letters to a children's book author trying to convince them to publish a book about the athlete they are researching. The purpose of this assignment is to persuade the authors that children would benefit greatly by learning about this particular athlete. In Math, we have begun to explore the concept of volume! This is very much a hands on unit where students will be building in order to help support their conceptual understanding of volume and its different capacities (excuse the pun.) We are continuing to learn about cultural and political revolutions around the world and the students are beginning individual projects to show what they have learned about the central themes they have noticed along the way.

#### **Upper School Humanities**

The **Sixth grade** is composing poetry so they can present for the first time at Barnes & Noble in May.

**Seventh and eighth grade** students have a particular focus for their poetry. Students are using their background knowledge about historical periods, wars, both recent and long ago, such as the Vietnam war in the 60's and contemporary issues as themes to craft their poetry.

#### **Upper School Math News**

**Eighth grade** students just finished working on slope and equations of line. Students learned that the slope of a line describes the rate of

change of a line. They looked at slope as rise/run and used that to determine the slope equation using two points on the line. Students then generated graphs of linear equations in two variables by completing a table of solutions, then by using information about slope and y-intercept. Students are currently learning to solve systems of linear equations by using substitution and elimination. Students understand that each system has one unique solution, no solution or infinitely many solutions. Our next unit will focus on functions, in particular, how they describe geometric concepts and occurrences in everyday life. **Seventh grade** students are learning to interpret the probability of an event as the proportion of times that the event will occur when a chance experiment is repeated many times. They learn to compute or estimate probabilities using a variety of methods, including collecting data, using tree diagrams, and using simulations. They learn to use probabilities to make decisions and to determine whether or not a given probability model is plausible. In the current **sixth grade** unit, students begin to examine the use of variables as letters that represent numbers. Students explore operations with variables and determine that the arithmetic properties still hold true when working with variables. Students have been using bar models to extend their understanding of operations with variables as well as using them to discover equivalence amongst expressions. In particular, students have extended their knowable of GCF (greatest common factor) and the distributive property to expand, factor and distribute expressions using new notation.

#### **Upper School Science News**

The **sixth graders** are progressing in their study of ecosystems as we take a closer look at invasive species. They have been investigating the effects an invader can have on an ecosystem as they learn that invaders create competition for resources that are necessary for survival. In the weeks that follow, they will use this knowledge to try to solve the trout population mystery.

The **seventh graders** began a new life science unit that addresses the question, "what is going on inside me?" We began this unit by taking a closer look at cells. Students had the opportunity to look at samples of their skin and cheek cells under a microscope. This helped us draw conclusions about the difference between the cells in our bodies and single-celled organisms. Be sure to ask your seventh grader what they learned!

The **eighth graders** are continuing their investigation on traits and heredity. They recently collected some "distasteful" evidence to support the claim that some traits are acquired (learned) while others are inherited. Be sure to ask them about the PTC lab!

#### **Music News**

Preparations continue for the Talent Show, which will be in the "Gymnasium" on Friday, April 6, just before the April vacation. Students of all ages are rehearsing, with many students taking advantage of coaching sessions with members of our very dedicated Talent Show committee. Acts include singing, dancing, musical performance and comedy. We are trying to limit performances so that the length of the program is no longer than an hour, but it is difficult because so many more students want to participate this year. Parents and friends are very welcome to attend.

The Show Choir began choreography rehearsals with our visiting choreographer, Daniella Rousseau. This choreography is more challenging than anything we have tried with the students in the past,

but they are rising to the occasion. Please save the date for our Spring Concert with the Beginning Band, 5th and 6th Grade Band, and 7th and 8th Grade Band on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the Gymnasium.

Rehearsals for students participating in the Westport Community Band's "Play with the Band" concert will begin on Monday, April 16th. The concert date is Friday, May 18th, the night after our spring concert.

### **Art News**

The **PK** and **Kindergarten** students are making their own rainbow pattern paintings. Students learned about different lines of design and made several lines on their paper using black liquid tempera. We then talked about the color wheel and filled it in using a rainbow pattern.

**First and second grade** students are learning about drawing from reference. I read a book about rockets and space shuttles and the students viewed images of shuttles and rockets and are drawing and painting a space themed artwork. In the **third** and **fourth grade** class, students are learning about the contemporary artist Kimmy Cantrell. Students are designing and constructing masks with cardboard, based on Kimmy's clay masks. In **fifth and sixth grade**, students are learning about color. They are working in groups of two to mix a monochromatic scale using liquid tempera, and then produce a landscape artwork that reflects this color palette. The **seventh and eighth grade** students are learning about the artist Jean Michel Basquiat. They are using text, symbols, and simple drawings and "clues" to create an abstract artwork that tells a story, solves a riddle or advocates for a cause.

### **Parent Community Coordinator News**

The PTCO is happy to report that the recent FUN-draiser night at Pump it Up was great fun for the kids and a successful fundraiser too. We raised over \$700 for our field trip scholarship fund but more importantly, families enjoyed spending time together outside of school. The date and location for the spring fair is not final yet but it is not for lack of enthusiasm about the concept. There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities for interested families. We will need help with promoting the fair, set-up, organizing games and food, and of course clean-up. Finally, families will have an opportunity to purchase items featuring student artwork this spring. With the help of our talented art teacher, Ms. Bourgeois, the PTCO will collaborate with Square1Art, a company that reproduces student artwork on a variety of practical gift items for purchase. Great gift ideas for spring occasions. You will receive more information about this project in the coming weeks.