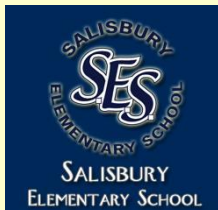


Salisbury Elementary School Parent Newsletter

March 14, 2011

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Upcoming Events

- ❖ 03/11/11 HALF DAY-Professional Development for Teachers
- ❖ 03/16/2011 School Committee Meeting
- ❖ 03/17/11 and 03/18/11 Early Release for Parent Conferences
- ❖ 03/22/11 Grade 4 ELA MCAS
- ❖ 03/23/11 Grade 3 and 5 ELA MCAS
- ❖ 03/24/11 Grade 3 and 5 ELA MCAS
- ❖ 03/28/2011 Grade 4 and 6 ELA MCAS
- ❖ 03/29/2011 Grade 4 and 6 ELA MCAS

We're on the Web!
www.trsd.net/salisbury

Dear Salisbury Community,

Welcome to our second edition of the Salisbury Parent Newsletter. We are amazed that it is already the middle of March! As the school year progresses, we continue to make it a priority to provide children with a safe school environment.

To ensure that students are supervised at all times while in the school building, we respectfully ask that parents refrain from dropping students off before 8:00 AM.

As a friendly reminder, we do offer the Early Bird Program with supervision and structure, prior to the school opening if necessary.

Please note that the ELA MCAS assessments will be beginning this month for grades 3-6. Students perform at their academic best with the proper amount of rest and a nutritious breakfast.

We thank you for your support and the ability to work together, providing a safe and nurturing environment for SES children.

Sincerely,
Mr. Montanari and Ms. Oliver

First and Second Grade Partner with Pettengill House

First and Second grade students from Salisbury Elementary School collected over five hundred food items to donate to the Pettengill House Food Pantry! The students collected the food items as part of a 100s day project. The students graphed their progress as items were brought into school. All of the students worked hard and should be proud of their generous donations



Grade Two News



"I can read in red. I can read in blue. I can read in pickle color too." Dr. Seuss

On Friday, Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Clayton's classrooms shared their recent writing pieces, in an author's celebration. After reading, "Oh the Places You'll go," by Dr. Seuss, Mrs. Marshall's students discussed the moral of the story and then wrote places they'd like to visit and things they'd like to do when they're older. Students came up with ideas from taking hot air balloon rides to becoming K-9 Police Officers! In Mrs. Clayton's class, students shared their Peace poems; poems they'll be entering into the Northern Essex Community College Poetry contest. Students wrote about what peace means to them and what they think peace is; they used descriptive language to help readers visualize.



All second grade students submitted poems for the Northern Essex Community College (NECC), Peace Poetry contest. After discussing as a group, what peace means to them, students used descriptive language in their poems. Afterwards, many added artwork to their pieces. Many SES students may remember that last year 20 students from our school were winners in the poetry contest and had their poems published in the NECC Peace Poetry text.

More Grade Two News!

In celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd, and *Read Across America Week*, second grade classrooms invited family members in to read their favorite Dr. Seuss book, many students also participated in fun, Dr. Seuss activities and completed literacy work surrounding Dr. Seuss and his work. At the end of the week, students got to view a short book-to-movie of one of Dr. Seuss's stories in their pajamas! What a fun way to end an exciting week of learning!



Even More Grade Two News!

As part of the second grade Investigations curriculum, the students have been learning about collecting and representing data. They practiced taking a survey by going with a partner into another classroom (K-6th grade) and asking the question, 'How many teeth have you lost?'. They had to plan out ahead of time what they would need to do. They obtained a class list from the teacher and took turns recording the data on the class list. Then they had to represent the data with a line plot, pictograph, table, or bar graph. They analyzed the data and answered two questions about what they noticed about the data. Then they had to compare the data obtained from the different grades to interpret what it meant. They determined that the number of teeth lost directly related to what grade the children were in. The children did a great job and learned a lot at the same time!



Third Grade News

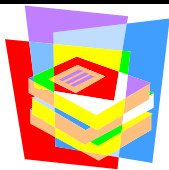
This week, the third grade began a more in depth look at multiplication. They used blocks to form groups or sets to help the students understand the concept behind multiplication. We have also begun daily multiplication fact drills, as it is important for the students to have automaticity with the facts. Families can help with this by making or buying flash multiplication flash cards at Tom's or Walmart and quiz the students as often as possible. They will continue to practice showing their thinking with pictures, words and numbers, often a challenging task, but very necessary to ensure that they show that they understand the concept behind the skill. Though some children were very nervous that they were going to have a difficult time with the 'big word' multiplication, they have been excited to be learning it. Their fears were eased when they were explained that it's simply skip counting (2, 4, 6) or repeated addition (3 X 4 is really just 4 + 4 + 4 or 3 sets of 4) The students will continue this unit, moving into breaking the larger group apart and learning about the concept of division.



Sweet Shop

The Sweet Shop is run by students who meet every Thursday after school for 2 hours. The students break up into 3 groups. Two groups sell treats while the other group bakes the treats that will be sold the following week. Students meet as a whole group and utilize math skills to find the profit and deduct money due to bills that need to be paid. Overall, the program is set up to help students get a feel for what it is like to be a part of a business and to work together to achieve goals of strengthening their math skills.

Parent Workshop April 6, 2011



Make and Take Games and Tools for Early Literacy, Grades Prek-K

Workshop will be held in the library at 3:30.
Childcare will be provided in room B129.

Music News

On March 15th all the advanced band and choir members will be participating in a district music festival day. The elementary school music students will join together with the middle and high school music students at the high school in a day full of activities and workshops promoting music education in our schools.

Fifth Grade Adventures in Mrs. Sayre-Scibona's Class

Since October, Mrs. Sayre-Scibona's fifth grade class has had an email relationship with Mrs. Sayre-Scibona's brother and sister-in-law, Phil and Sarah Sayre, who have been sailing their boat from the Chesapeake Bay area down to the Bahamas. We have been calling it the "Spartina Adventure" because their boat is named Spartina (Latin for marsh grass). Phil and Sarah are both former teachers and have been writing to the class about all aspects of their trip; they have been sending lots of photographs as well. Mrs. Sayre-Scibona turns the email into a Reading and Social Studies activity, so that students read the email and answer questions that she has put together, as well as follow their journey through mapping activities (including finding their longitude and latitude locations). We go to the Smartboard Room and read the email together and look at and discuss the pictures. After finishing these activities, the class brainstorms ideas to include in their email response. They divide up into small groups; each group writes a paragraph and then brings it back to the whole class to revise, edit, and put into the email. We also send pictures that we have taken of our classroom activities. This has been a wonderful experience that has integrated authentic letter writing, non-fiction reading comprehension strategies, mapping activities that tie into the geography part of our Social Studies curriculum, and the opportunity to learn about ways that people live in another part of the world. Phil and Sarah have been volunteering at a school in the Bahamas and brought boxes of books to two schools there. The SES Student Council has been considering getting involved in collecting school supplies so that we can send them down to the school where Phil and Sarah volunteer. We are about to put together a bulletin board of the Spartina Adventure which will include the emails, pictures, and maps of their journey.



More Fifth Grade News

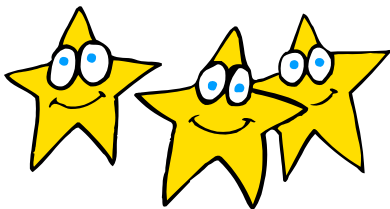
The fifth grade has been busy preparing for the ELA MCAS which is coming up at the end of March. During our intervention block, students have been working in smaller focus groups on the two different aspects of MCAS questions. First, we focused on strategies for reading carefully to answer multiple choice questions. They learned the importance of going back into the text to find their answers. We are now focusing on how to craft an organized, fully explained answer to an open response question. Students have been taught the Better Answer Formula as a way to write a strong, well-organized paragraph. They are being taught how to go back into the passage and find specific details to support their answers. Although this is very good practice for the MCAS, it is also an important strategy to learn to become strong and organized writers. The whole grade has been working very hard on this and is making terrific progress.



Sixth Grade - Evans/Gilbert Pod

“Student of the Week”.

Good attendance
 Superior and consistent effort on all assignments
 Positive attitude
 Proactive learner



Christina Abouzeid has been nominated for the week of February 28th
Jon Fiers has been nominated for the week of March 7th

Did You Know?

Keys to Literacy is professional development company with a focus on adolescent literacy. Their mission is to prepare teachers in grades 4-12 to teach literacy skills through instruction that is embedded in content.

Ms Oliver and Mrs. Croteau will be attending a workshop for Literacy Planning on March 18th.

SES has also signed a one year contract for embedded professional development in Keys to Literacy beginning this spring!

Grade Six News

By Taylor Morin and Skylar Harrington.

Our talent show is scheduled for March 25th from 6:00-8:30 in the S.E.S cafeteria. There will be allot of dancing and singing as well as cheap admission. If you want to see how amazing S.E.S kids are, go to the talent show! There will be three rehearsals a week in the cafeteria until the big day.

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Student Council will hold another theme day on March 18th. Each grade is assigned two colors to wear as follows:

6th - black and white, elegant

5th- white and blue, dreamy

4th- green and yellow, garden sprite

3rd- brown and white, chocolaty

2nd- black, pink and purple, passion

1st- red, orange and yellow, fiery

Kindergarten- all the colors of the ocean

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Congratulations to all 6th grade Mass Book Awards readers, especially to the readers who read all 25 books! They were all awarded certificates at a pizza party held in the cafeteria on March 7th for all the readers who read 5 or more books. Students later voted for their favorite book.

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Sixth graders participated in Northern Essex's peace poetry contest as well as the Will McDonough writing contest sponsored by the Boston Globe. We are hoping for multiple winners in both contests.



Business is Booming with Kids Inc.!

Kids Inc Toy Explosion catalog sales company is busy keeping up with their orders this year! Fourth and fifth grade students in this after school program are training to prepare for future jobs in sales, marketing, and accounting. They meet every Thursday afternoon for two hours to select and price products to sell to their classmates. Hurry Up Hamster, Rainbow Slinky, Flying Umbrellas, and Splat Pig are just some of the exciting new products offered this year! Once the products are agreed on, the employees create catalogs using Microsoft Publisher and distribute the catalogs to every classroom. Promotional displays are created using Print Shop and posted throughout the school. Stop by and view our wonderful products in the display case in the school lobby!



Splat Pig

Orders are placed in the Catalog Sales mailbox and the employees fill each order carefully. They also count the money and send it to their accounting department where another group determined if they have made a profit!

This program is part of a 21st Century Grant which is administered by Carla Collins and taught by Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Sayre- Scibona, and Mrs. Sheats.

PTA Easter News

Easter is late this year, Sunday April 24th, which is the last Sunday of our April vacation.

The PTA will be selling chocolate bunnies again from the New England Chocolate Company. Order forms will be heading home at the end of this month. Bunnies will be available in both milk and dark chocolate. They will be ready for pick up the week before school vacation.

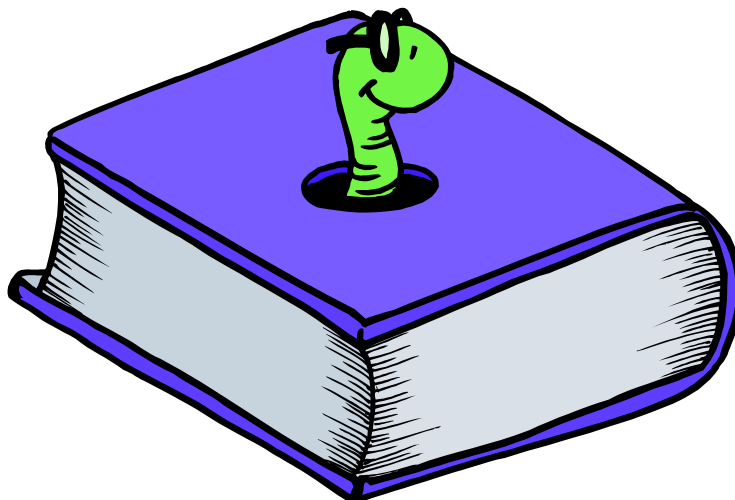


Massachusetts Book Award Program



Voting for the Massachusetts Book Award program is underway statewide. Ambitious readers in Salisbury have turned in their book logs and eagerly await the news to find out which of the 25 books will win. The program, sponsored by Salem State University and hosted in each of the school libraries, begins each summer with the publication of the summer reading list. The twenty-five new books nominated by teachers, librarians, and publishers are all available in the library and displayed prominently. Nominated 4th graders and all students entering 5th and 6th grade are invited to participate. Throughout the year, students track their reading in a log. In late February, logs are due at the school libraries. Students who have read at least five of the 25 books are eligible to vote for their favorite. The school votes are tallied and sent into Salem State University. The book with the most votes will be the Massachusetts Children's Book for 2011.

Sixty students at Salisbury Elementary School celebrated their reading on Monday, March 7th. After students voted, they enjoyed their certificate ceremony. Seven students who read all 25 books received framed certificates and a hard cover blank journal before enjoying some pizza and Jen Alves' specially made book-worm cupcakes. *11 Birthdays*, by Wendy Mass was the Salisbury favorite with 13 votes. 5th graders Hannah Burd, Amana Fernandes, Brittney Nalesnik, and Cassidy Nguyen, and 6th graders Tessa Boyle, Skylar Harrington and Jessica Vedrani read all 25 nominated books.



Destination Imagination

On Saturday, March 19th, Salisbury Elementary will be represented by a team at the Destination Imagination Tournament being held at Triton High School.

Although DI is a worldwide educational program that has been around for many years, this is only SES' second year participating. Teams involved are tested to think on their feet, work together and solve open-ended Challenges that have certain requirements to meet.

The team members this year are Ashleigh Litcofsky, Nathan Nicholson, Patrice Sweeney, Maille Dobson, Ryan Farrell, Nick Perrault and Teddy Hitchcock. Their Challenge's name is *Mythology Mission*. I have seen great growth in them as individuals as well as a team weekly as they work hard towards their solution.

So we invite you to cheer us on as well as the other Triton teams on March 19th. Our performance time is 10:40am in the back of the auditorium but the day begins around 8:30am.

See you there.

Joanne Levesque, Team Manager



School Community

PTA Officers

President: Tamah French, grantandtamah@mac.com

Vice President: Maura Pinilla, mauralena@comcast.net

Treasurer : Joey Heather Capozzi, jhcapozzi@yahoo.com

Secretary : Sandy Sullivan, sandy.casey@lahey.org

School Committee

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Deborah Choate, Vice Chair, dchoate@trsd.net

Suzanne Densmore, Secretary, suzannedensmore@trsd.net

Lane Bourn, lbourn@trsd.net

Linda Litcofsky, llitcofsky@trsd.net

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