**Dear South School Community,**

Can you believe that term two ended this past Friday, March 15, for grade 5? This means that we are almost two-thirds of the way through the school year! It does ***not*** seem possible!!! Children in grade 5 will bring home their report cards in their backpacks on Friday, March 22. Children in K-4 received report cards on February 1 and will get them again on the last day of school as they are on a half year semester schedule as opposed to a trimester like grade 5.

***Quote of the week: I am strong enough to wait! (Week one of Patience Tool)***

***News for you…Just a reminder that new and still relevant items are bold italics. Old news items will also be bulleted but will not be bolded italics, only left on for reference when you click for entire text.***

* ***We hope to see you at SES Night at Nona’s, the ice cream store downtown. Come and have your favorite staff member serve you your favorite treat! It will take place this Monday, March 18 from 4-8 PM. Couldn’t we all use a little taste of summer at this point??? We are grateful to Nona’s for their generosity and to Ms. Campbell for arranging the evening!***
* ***Pizzapalooza is also coming up at Hingham High School on Wednesday, March 27 from*** *5:30-7:30****!!! This is a fundraiser that benefits the SNAP program.***
* ***On Monday, March 18, we are inviting the students to wear green to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and we thank the PTO Cultural Committee (Alison Chamberlain and Holly Enders) in advance for arranging the visit of the BU Irish Step Dancing Team . We also invite any of our students who do Irish Step to dance that day. Please contact*** Carrie Prindeville at Carriehowlett@yahoo.com ***if your child is interested in dancing that day***.
* ***On Monday, April 8/School Committee Meeting (220 Central St.) @ 7PM, NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) will be presenting our own Dr. Galo with a Leadership Award. She has given 55 years of her life to the Hingham Public Schools. This will be an early item on the agenda. Feel free to attend to honor her!***
* ***Mark your calendars for May 8/ Walk/Bike to School Day, a state-wide initiative***
* ***We are excited to tell you that South School has received an invitation from the state to attend a State Department of Education to attend a ceremony on June 7 which honors the Schools of Recognition in our state!***
* ***April Early Release : is Wednesday, April 3. It will be a noon release and lunch is not served. This day is set aside for Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you would like a conference, please call our front office, and they will schedule one for you (781-741-1540 x 1). Please also be aware that it is possible to schedule a conference on any other day. Please contact your child’s teacher directly to find a mutually convenient time.***
* ***Mr. Smith, the Hingham Middle School Principal will be visiting out PTO Meeting on April 10 At 7 PM.***
* ***On Wednesday, April 10 @ 7 PM, our PTO Meeting will feature a visit from the principal of Hingham Middle School. Derek Smith. We are grateful for his time and extend an invitation to all parents but especially those of fifth graders to come and meet Mr. Smith.***
* ***The kindergarten Wedding of Q and U will take place on Friday, March 22 @ 9:15 AM.***
* ***The traditional Fifth Grade vs. Staff Floor Hockey Game will take place on Wednesday, April 24 @ 5 PM @ the Hingham High School Gym.***
* ***For students who are currently enrolled in K-4 at South this year, we will be sending home a Parent Input Form on Monday, March 11, via the backpacks. We will also post it on the PTO and SES web sites. This form will help us to anticipate our numbers for the 19-20 school year. On this form you may write about the kind of environment that would best suit your child and also inform us of any factors that you want the school to consider when completing the placement process. Thank you in advance for not requesting that your child should be placed with a specific teacher. We are so fortunate to have a very professional teaching staff with excellent credentials, and they all go above and beyond to help students reach their greatest potential. It is important to keep in mind as we go through this process that it is best to prepare the child for the path, rather than the path for the child. We are all (educators and families) not only preparing them for the path, but as best summed up by FDR in this quote: (“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”). We are all helping to build our youth for the future!!! Please let us know any information you want us to consider on this form, and thank you for understanding that we cannot make changes once the class lists get mailed in August.***
* ***Grade 5 parents will receive an input form from Hingham Middle School within the next month.***
* ***The trainings for interested parents/guardians who want to learn about our wonderful new Social/Emotional Program called Toolbox that were originally scheduled for the past week have been postponed. New dates TBA…***

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***See bottom of complete Office News to see Dates for Calendar***

***Old/Still Relevant News:***

* Please Help US!!!! Please let all of your friends and neighbors know that the kindergarten registration period for 2019-2020 is coming soon (details to follow). This is also the period during which children who are in kindergarten elsewhere should be registered for first grade. We would accept registration for new students in all other grades as well. Thank you for helping us to spread the word as knowing our numbers by early May really helps planning class sections for September. Registration forms will were made available at our office and on the website on February 25, 2019. They can be printed and filled out before the visit to the office during which children need a birth certificate and proof of residence to make the registration official. Registration will extend through March and all kindergarten orientation activities will take place between May 1 and 17, 2019 (more information to come). Please be aware that there is a late registration fee applied after March 29, 2019. Thank you for getting forms back to us before then! Please feel free to sign up your pre-schooler for our Thousand Book Club and also to attend the Dr. Seuss Breakfast on Saturday, March 2, 2019 @ 9:30-10:30 in the South School Cafeteria We will also be hosting a Getting to Know You Coffee for incoming kindergarten parents on March 15 (new date) @ 9:15 in the SES Cafeteria from 9:15-10:15. (Thank you PTO!)
* **Get Smart About Art** : Children get to learn about different artists and make special projects. We will display all of the projects on May 1st at our South School Shines Night! We so appreciate the PTO for funding this program and all of the volunteers who make it possible!
* **Social Thinking Lessons** taught by our staff thanks to a prior HEF Grant written by our Speech and Language Therapist, Caitlin McInnes. Some of the topics are: Team Player, Fixed Mindset, Social Gray Area, Smart Guesses, Whole Body Listening, Social Smarts, Social Filter.
* Yoga 4 the Classroom and Calm Classroom: These are both programs that help students (and adults) refresh as they go through their days. Many of our staff members have been trained to use these programs. The adults and the children love them!
* Thank you for understanding that we can no longer accept recycling from citizens in our bin near the bus loop. We used to make money to recycle, we now have to pay. Thank you for respecting that this bin is for SES school recycling only. The Hingham Transfer Station will gladly take your household recycling. (:
* Arrival and dismissal: These can be very busy times in our office, and even more so in the winter. Thank you for understanding that we cannot take dismissal changes after 2:30 PM (except in case of an emergency). Thank you also for never making a double line in the driveway! We need to leave room for emergency vehicles and snowbanks make things even narrower.
* MCAS 2.0: Students in grades three, four, and five will be participating in MCAS 2.0 testing during April and May of 2019. This year, students in grades 3-5 will once again take part in computer-based testing in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. Grade 5 students will also take Science, Technology and Engineering MCAS as well. Our testing schedule is in the dates’ section below.
* We are looking for substitutes of all types: teachers, nurses, paraeducators, bus drivers. If interested, contact us, and we will point you to the right person depending what you want to sub as.
* As a result of the HTSS Task Force which has met for two years to explore how we can further support the Social/Emotional well-being of our students, all of the teaching staff was trained this week in Essential Toolbox. It is a wonderful program that can be easily integrated intodaily instruction. Children will be taught the twelve tools for learning and life: Breathing Tool, Quiet/Safe Place Tool, Listening Tool, Empathy Tool, Personal Space Tool, Using our Words Tool, Garbage Can Tool, Taking Time Tool, Please and Thank You Tool, Apology and Forgiveness Tool, Patience Tool, and Courage Tool. We know that you all already reinforce these life skills at home, but we wanted you to be aware that we will be talking about 2-3 tools a month as a school as the year progresses. We will also integrate this with our “Bee Kinder than Necessary” theme…and you will also see it reflected in Quotes of the Week.
* ***MCAS Dates for 2019 have been added to the end of the dates’ section at the bottom of this email.***
* ***Dates to Remember:***
* ***Monday, March 18 – South School Night at Nona’s 4-8 PM***
* ***Friday, March 22 – Wedding of Q and U in Kindergarten @ 9:15***
* ***Wednesday, March 27 – Pizza Palooza @ HHS 5:30-7:00***
* ***Friday, March 29, 2019 – Deadline for Kindergarten Registration…there will be a late fee applied after this date unless people are moving in to town after that***
* ***Wednesday, April 3- Noon Release for Parent/ Guardian Conferences/ Lunch is not served***
* ***Wednesday, April 10 – Mr. Smith (HMS Principal)@ PTO @ 7PM…all are invited***
* ***Monday, April 15- Friday, April 19 – School closed for Spring Recess***
* ***Wednesday, April 24- Fifth Grade Floor Hockey Game vs. the Staff @ HHS Gym @ 5PM***
* ***Wednesday, May 1-* Noon release for Professional Development/ *Lunch is not served***
* ***Wednesday, May 1- Second Grade Poetry Festival @ 9:15***
* ***Wednesday, May 1 – Spring Book Fair***
* ***Wednesday, May 1- South School Shines/Hobby Night- 4-6:45***
* ***Wednesday, May 1 – 2019 Kindergarten Parent Orientation, 7:00-8:00***
* **Wednesday, May 8- Walk/Bike to School**
* ***Wednesday, May 22 – Booth Day, Grade 5: 9:10-10:10***
* ***Thursday, May 23 –Grade 4- China Trade Culmination @ 1 PM***
* ***Friday, May 24- Fifth Grade Student Orientation @ HMS***
* ***Monday, May 27th – School Closed in recognition of Memorial Day***
* **Thursday, May 30- Support Staff Tea: 9:15-10:00/ café**
* **Friday, May 31 – Field Day/ Johnny the K returns to SES! 2:00 pm show**
* ***Tuesday, June 4 – South School Spring Concert (all chorus, band and strings in grades 3-5) @ HMS Auditorium @ 7 PM***
* ***Wednesday, June 5-* Noon release for Professional Development/ *Lunch is not served***
* ***Wednesday, June 6 – First Grade Musical @ 1:00 PM @ South School Cafe***

**School Council Meetings 18-19:**

* **Wednesday, April 24- 3:15-4:00: 1st School Council Meeting in the Conference Room**
* **Wednesday, May 29- 3:15-4:00: 1st School Council Meeting in the Conference Room**
* ***MCAS DATES 18-19:***
* ***Grade 3 ELA: 4/1; 4/2***
* ***Grade 5 ELA: 4/4; 4/5***
* ***Grade 4 ELA: 4/8; 4/9***
* ***Grade 5 Math: 5/6; 5/7***
* ***Grade 3 Math: 5/8; 5/9***
* ***Grade 4 Math: 5/13; 5/14***
* ***Grade 5 STE: 5/16; 5/17***