Dear South School Community,

Everyone returned from the Thanksgiving Recess with big smiles on their faces. Now, we are looking forward to Winterfest/Bookfair, another fantastic South School tradition. It will take place this Saturday, December 1, from 9-12. (This will be a wonderful chance to check the Lost and Found in the cafeteria hallway!) A huge thank you goes out to the PTO and all of the volunteers who are making this happen!!! Hope to see you Saturday between nine and twelve.

Quote of the week: Because I care for myself, I care for others! (empathy tool this week)

Third Grade Pow Wow: The third grade Pow Wow on November 20 was a fantastic display of what the children at this grade level have learned during their study of Native Americans, specifically the Wampanoag Tribe. A huge thank you to the PTO for financial assistance with this event as well as to all of the volunteers and the third grade teaching team and students for making this happen! We also thank the family members who came to see this wonderful event!

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, but left on for reference:

* A huge thank you goes out to all for your flexibility when we had to move arrival to the lower lot due to the fallen tree on 11/16. We are also very grateful to parents and staff who jumped in to help out…many getting drenched in the process. Thank you to Jennie Donegan who brought hot coffee and donuts to warm everyone up!!!
* Last Friday, you all received a letter from the Director of Guidance through my email. It outlined where we are with our Social/Emotional (HTSS) Initiative. It also mentioned that all teachers will fill out a screening for their classes and the opportunity for parents to opt out. Feel free to contact us with any questions.
* Outerwear Drive: We will be running an outerwear drive to benefit the Quincy Family Resource Center and the Lower Cape Outreach Council from November 26th through December 7th. We would greatly appreciate your donations of children’s hats, mittens/gloves, and scarves (new only please) and gently used coats to help keep everyone in our greater community warm this winter!
* 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.
* Hopefully we will never need the following information: Weather Cancellation Note: In the event that school needs to be cancelled due to weather, please tune in to channels : 4,5,7,25 or 56… radio stations: 1030 AM, 680AM, 90.9 FM. You may also sign up for text alerts from channels 4,5,7, and 25. Please do not call the police or fire stations to ask about cancellations as they can be very busy during storms. Thank you!
* Winterfest/ Book Fair: On Saturday, December 1, from 9-12, two other great South School traditions will take place: South School’s Book Fair and the holiday shopping experience for our children known as Winterfest. The PTO does an amazing job organizing these activities annually, and they are both wonderful experiences for our children.
* The Holiday Concert has been scheduled for Monday, December 17 at 9:15-9:45. Fourth and fifth grade strings, band and chorus members perform. Parents/Guardians are welcome.
* Just a reminder that winter is coming and when the snow falls, children need snow boots and waterproof pants to play on the playground. Thank you!
* The Wednesday, December 5, early release day is set aside as a Conference Day for teachers /parents and guardians. Please contact Mrs. Thompson in the school office to schedule a conference if you wish. Please be aware that it is also possible to meet with teachers at any other time, just contact them directly to find a mutually convenient time. Just a reminder that ALL early Releases are at noon with no lunch served this year! Please send in a substantial snack.
* Report Cards: Grade five (on three terms) will come home on December 7 and Grades K-4 (on two terms) will come home on February 1.

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* See bottom of complete Office News to see Dates for Calendar
* Old/Still Relevant News:
* Special Note:

We know that making ends meet can sometimes get difficult for some of the families in our HPS community. Therefore, we want to let you know that there are individuals in each of our schools who are ready to provide information and assistance.  With that in mind, please be aware that access to government programs and other resources that are donated by a very generous Hingham community may be available to help families in times of financial or other need. Some examples of such outreach include the federal free and reduced lunch program and assistance with costs such as with athletic, bus/field trip, school picture, and tuition fees.  As well, because of the generosity and caring of parents and others in our community, we are able to support families during the holiday seasons.

Please don’t hesitate to contact an administrator, the school nurse, or counseling personnel in your child's school if you need any kind of assistance. Please be assured that your request will be managed in a way that respects your rights for confidentiality.

\*\*\*If you need help from MA WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program), the number to call is 1-800-WIC-1007 or you can go to: mass.gov/wic or [www.quincywic.org](http://www.quincywic.org/)

* We need three special favors from all of you!!!! Could you please label your child/children’s belongings with their names if you have not already done so? This would help to reduce the number of things that are currently residing in our “Lost and Found” in the cafeteria hallway. Before you go shopping to replace lost belongings, please check there. We are also asking that any photos that are taken in the building at events not be posted on Social Media for safety reasons. Finally, could you please remind all of your children about appropriate bus behavior? We have been doing this also and the language we are using encompasses being in the seats, sitting down, facing forward with knees/legs in from the aisles. We also emphasize using indoor voices so that the bus drivers can concentrate. This is important for everyone’s safety!!! It will be especially important with winter “roads” looming on the horizon…Thank you for your help. All of the teachers are also reinforcing this in Morning Meeting!!!!
* Report Cards: As you may know, we have been making changes to our Report Cards over the past years to reflect Standards Based Curriculum progress. This year grades K-4 will have two marking period, with grades 3 and 4 receiving a Check-In Progress Report in November and April followed by Report Cards in February and June. Grade 5 will still be on three terms (December, March and June Report Cards).
* 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 into daily 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.
* PLEASE DO NOT MAKE A DOUBLE LINE IN THE FRONT DRIVEWAY, WE NEED TO LEAVE A LANE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES…IF THE DRIVEWAY IS FULL, PASS BY, TURN AROUND AND MAKE YOUR WAY BACK. IT SHOULD BE PASSABLE BY THEN! Thanks!!!
* Please help us move dismissal at Special Dismissal and Liberty Pole Car Loop (only for those turning right in Liberty Pole) along smoothly:
  + Please come in single file at all times. If you cannot pull in, go down the street and turn around for another pass.
  + Please put a sign with your child’s name in the window so we can move the lines along more quickly.
  + It would also be helpful if you stay in your car and let us bring the children to you. Please do not use cell phones in lines!
* MCAS Dates for 2019 have been added to the end of the dates’ section at the bottom of this email.
* Dates to Remember:
* Saturday, December 1- Winterfest @ SES
* Wednesday, December 5- Noon Release for Parent/Teacher Conferences
* Monday, December 17- SES Holiday Concert @ 9:15 AM
* Wednesday, December 5- Noon Release for Parent/Guardian Conferences/ Lunch is not served
* Wednesday, January 9- Noon release for Professional Development/ Lunch is not served
* Wednesday, February 6- Noon Release for Parent/ Guardian Conferences/ Lunch is not served
* Wednesday, March 6- Noon release for Professional Development/ Lunch is not served
* Wednesday, April 3- Noon Release for Parent/ Guardian Conferences/ Lunch is not served
* Wednesday, May 1- Noon release for Professional Development/ Lunch is not served
* Thursday, May 23 –Grade 4- China Trade Culmination @ 1 PM
* Wednesday, June 5- Noon release for Professional Development/ Lunch is not served

School Council Meetings 18-19:

* Wednesday, November 28- 3:15-4:00: School Council Meeting in the Conference Room
* Wednesday, January 23- 3:15-4:00: School Council Meeting in the Conference Room
* Wednesday, February 27- 3:15-4:00: School Council Meeting in the Conference Room
* Wednesday, March 27- 3:15-4:00: 1st School Council Meeting in the Conference Room
* 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***