Dear South School Community,

Thank you so much for your kindness over Valentine’s Day!!! The kind messages, treats, and volunteers who helped with the classroom celebrations were all greatly appreciated!!! We hope you had a nice break last week, and we thank you for sending your children back to school refreshed and ready to learn!!! You all certainly have once again illustrated the quote of the week for this week:

***Always treat others with kindness and appreciation! (Week two of Please and Thank You Tool)***

***Special Notes***:

***This note came from Ann Thompson, our school Secretary who retired on February 7th after 35 years in the Hingham Public Schools.***

***I would just like to say thank you to each and every parent at South.   Thank you for the many lovely gifts, cards, kind words, and hugs on my retirement.  I will miss seeing you and your children every day, but I am looking forward to spending time with my newest grandson.  Hope to see you when I drop by South for a visit.
Again, thank you for being in my life every day...you will be missed! Ann Thompson***

***Red Sign:*** Thank you for pulling up to the red sign in the front driveway if you are the lead car at morning drop off. This facilities drop off which is especially important as the weather has changed and more students are being dropped off not to mention the complications that snow banks can cause. It also helps alleviate the traffic on Main St.

***Single Line:*** Thank you also for making sure there is a single line in the driveway at all times. This is especially important in case of emergencies and also passage when we have snow piles. You might need to pass the school and come back if there is no room when you arrive…We will take care of your children if they are waiting so no worries! PLEASE DO NOT PARK AND LEAVE YOUR CAR EMPTY IN THIS LINE AT DISMISSAL TIME…thank you!

***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:***

* ***Caroline McCormick (grade 2 teacher) gave birth to her second son, Jack, on Sunday, February 10. Mother and baby are doing fine!***
* ***February 25-March 1 – Reading Incentive Week “Read Across America” We have many events planned as well as visits from authors and our State Senator. We thank Mrs. Swanson, our reading specialist, for many of the plans. Monday: Welcome Back; Guess the Book and Seuss treats at lunch; Tuesday: “One Fish, Two Fish, dress in red and blue; Wednesday, Yertle the Turtle, dress in green; Thursday: Fox in Socks, dress in mismatched socks; Friday: Cat in the Hat Day, dress in Red and White.***
* ***The Dr. Seuss Breakfast will take place on Saturday, March 2 from 9:30-10:30 in the SES café.***
* ***We are also grateful to the PTO Cultural Committee for bringing us “Jessie Chris” who will perform an assembly with an anti-bullying message on Friday March 1.***
* ***Mark your calendars for South School Night at Nona’s. It will take place on Monday, March 18 from 4-8. A huge thank you to Ms. Campbell for arranging it.***
* ***The early release Wednesday for March is Wednesday, March 6, 2019- Early Release for Professional Development. Dismissal is at noon, and lunch is not served.***
* ***Calling all inventors… CAMP INVENTION Returns!!! We are bringing Camp Invention back to Foster School this summer, the week of July 8th through the 12th. From 9:00 AM until 2:30 PM students entering grades two through five will have the opportunity to participate in this national program. Inquiry-based, hands-on activities focus on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). This will be our 7th summer hosting camp at Foster School, and every year it gets better! This summer we will be offering the SUPERCHARGED™ Program – click here for a sneak peek at this year’s program:***[***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoEMaz1g9ZE&disable\_polymer=true***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoEMaz1g9ZE&disable_polymer=true)

***Registration is open! The price for the week is $285. More information & registration can be found on Foster’s Camp Invention Website:***[***http://fosterinvents.weebly.com/***](http://fosterinvents.weebly.com/)

* ***Preschool (@East) Openings for 19-20: If you are interested in the HPS preschool lottery, contact Liz Costanza, our Preschool Coordinator, at*** ***ecostanza@hinghamschools.com******.***
* ***The trainings for interested parents/guardians who want to learn about our wonderful new Social/Emotional Program called Toolbox have been set for Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30 PM and Thursday, March 7 at 10 AM. They will both be at the DLT at the Hingham Middle School.***
* ***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 be 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 4 @ 9:15 in the SES Cafeteria from 9:15-10:15. (Thank you PTO!)***
* ***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***.
* ***Outerwear Recommendations: When the weather is cold, thank you for sending your children to school dressed properly and ready to go out to recess. We go out on any day that is above 25 degrees. Please also note that children will need snow pants and waterproof boots to play on the snow when it arrives this winter. This prevents them from having to sit in class in wet clothes and socks when they come back in. It might also be a good idea to send in a set of dry clothes/socks for the lockers just in case.***

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

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

* *Thank you for welcoming our new Administrative Assistant, Pam Graham, a wonderful SES welcome. Pam will be starting soon so that she can work with Ann for a while before Ann leaves. Thank you for understanding that all is new to her and that since she doesn’t know all of you, she may ask for identification when a child is signed out etc…until she gets to know you.*
* *News about Spanish Class: We have been busy building skills in Spanish through songs, games, stories, and fun. If you want to know more about what we do in class, or support your child in practicing Spanish at home, we have a new resource available for families - an elementary Spanish website providing videos, activities, and games your child can use to practice Spanish at home. This website provides a variety of optional resources and activities for families who wish to support their child in learning Spanish at home. It is not meant to replace regular Spanish classes, but to supplement and reinforce what your child is learning in school. You can access the website at* [*https://hpselementaryspanish.weebly.com/*](https://hpselementaryspanish.weebly.com/)*. For additional information about curriculum and resources, please contact your school’s Spanish teacher or the department director (contact information is available on the “about” page of the website).*
* *We greatly appreciate technology and work to integrate it with our curriculum  as we have many devices students can use, As you know, due to the distraction they can cause, cell phones are not permitted in elementary classrooms. Our handbook states that students who do have them need to have them off and in their backpacks as we understand parents wanting to contact their children after hours. During the school day, we ask that you go through the office to do this, and that students do the same as needed. So that brings us to a new problem we are having…the watches that have texting capabilities are beginning to cause issues. Students should either leave those at home and/or put them in their backpacks during the school day as they have similar capabilities to cell phones. We will follow the same policy as with cell phones and also store these in the office until a parent can retrieve them if they are out of backpacks. Please understand that all of these devices are the responsibility of the owner. Thank you!*
* 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!
* 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.
* 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:***
* ***February 25-March 1 – Reading Incentive Week “Read Across America”***
* ***Wednesday, February 27- Star Lab visits grade one***
* ***Thursday, February 28th – Patrick O’Connrr, our state senator visits grade one as a guest reader***
* ***Friday, March 1- Jessie Chriss, Anti-Bullying Assembly***
* ***Saturday, March 2, – Dr. Seuss Breakfast / Café/ 9:30-10:30***
* ***Wednesday, March 6-* Noon release for Professional Development/ *Lunch is not served***
* ***Wednesday, March 6- Parent/Guardian Toolbox Training @ Hingham Middle School DLT @ 6:30 PM***
* ***Thursday, March 7- Parent/Guardian Toolbox Training @ Hingham Middle School DLT @ 10 AM***
* ***Monday, March 18 – South School Night at Nona’s 4-8 PM***
* ***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***
* ***Monday, April 15- Friday, April 19 – School closed for Spring Recess***
* ***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 Night***
* ***Thursday, May 23 –Grade 4- China Trade Culmination @ 1 PM***
* ***Monday, May 27th – School Closed in recognition of Memorial Day***
* ***Wednesday, June 5-* Noon release for Professional Development/ *Lunch is not served***

**School Council Meetings 18-19:**

* **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***