*Dear South School Community,*

*Thank you for another fantastic week last week!!! We hope you are enjoying this wonderful three day weekend with Monday off in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. Hopefully you are staying warm and away from the stormy weather. Thank you for all you do on the home front to make our jobs easier during the week!!!*

**Quote of the week: Let the little things go! (Garbage can Tool, week 2)**

***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 the Cultural Enrichment Committee and all of you as PTO Members for the sponsorship of the wonderful show we had on Friday 1/18 which highlighted Greek Mythology. It was called the Voyage of Odysseus and was VERY interactive for the children. We look forward to many other cultural enrichment programs from now until June.***
* ***Please join SES's very own Cub Scout Pack 4 on January 23rd from 6:30-7:30 at the Hingham Public Library (Whiton Room). Come learn about the fun, friendship, and adventures awaiting your family in Cub Scouts! We will have games and refreshments available for the kids and a presentation for the parents. Event opened to all interested students K-5. Siblings welcomed! Please email Meghan Horrigan (******meghanhorrigan@gmail.com******) with any questions.***
* ***As you know, Ann Thompson, our long time Administrative Assistant, is retiring in early February. We will be honoring her long career in the HPS for the next month and especially the week of February 4th, her last week. We are so grateful for ALL she has done for the HPS and most especially, SES! We will miss her!***
* ***I know you will all give 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.***
* ***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 6 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!***
* ***Thousand Book Club: Please feel free to sign up your future kindergartener for this club in our library…also let friends who may have incoming kindergarten students know about this opportunity and all preschool and kindergarten students are welcome at the Dr. Seuss Breakfast on Saturday, March 3 @ 9:30-10:30.***
* ***Fifth grade parents are invited to a special program put on by the HMS PTO: A Survival Guide to Parenting Teens – Tuesday, January 15 from 7-9pm at HMS***
* ***All parents are invited to a Safety Fourum sponsored by the Hingham Police Department and the PTOs of all six schools. It will be held on Wednesday, January 30th at 7 PM at Hingham Middle School.***
* ***The next early release day is Wednesday February 6th . This early release day is set aside as a Parent/Teacher Conference Day. Please call the office if you would like an appointment for that day. If this is not convenient for you and you would still like a conference, please contact your child’s teacher 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.***
* ***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:***
* 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!
* Just a reminder that winter is here and when the snow falls, children need snow boots and waterproof pants to play on the playground. 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:***
* ***Monday, January 21, No School in honor of MLK Day.***
* ***Friday, January 25- Buzz Assembly to honor Math Olympic Medal winners…wearing grade level rainbow colors***
* ***Wednesday, February 6- Noon Release for Parent/ Guardian Conferences/ Lunch is not served***
* ***Monday, February 18-Friday, February 22, 2019 – School Closed for Winter Recess***
* ***Wednesday, March 6-* Noon release for Professional Development/ *Lunch is not served***
* ***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, 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***