***Dear South School Community,***

Thank you for all of your continued support during the first month of school! It is unbelievable that the next newsletter will be sent in a week that has the word ***October*** in it! Time flies when you are having fun!!!

**Remember… new and still relevant items in either the principal’s email and/or the Office Notes section of the weekly “What’s the Buzz ?” (our PTO newsletter), will continue to be in bold font. Old news items that are still relevant will also be bulleted but will not be bolded, but left on for reference.**

* **Quote of the Week: A long, slow, calming breath is the finest gift of nature**
* **We are doing a special “Start with Hello Week” with the other 5 HPS Schools starting Monday, September 23rd. We thought it would be a nice way to continue our welcome back routine. Of course we will keep it simple and elementary appropriate. On the announcements we will refer to “Hi to 5!” each day…This will encourage students to say hi to at least 5 different people each day. Monday, we will have “Welcome Bracelet Day.” Children will decorate a bracelet that is the color of the grade level with their favorite greeting. Wednesday we will encourage them to show their HPS spirit by wearing red and white…and Friday, we will ask grades to wear their rainbow color. Thanks in advance for supporting these activities!!!**
* **Fly South has begun for grades 1-5 and Homework Heroes has begun for grades 3-5. Kindergarten will be invited to join Fly South later in the year. We are grateful to all of the staff members who manage and teach in these extra programs! Please come in to the school to pick up your child at 4 PM when these programs end.**
* **Dr. Austin will be visiting SES on Wednesday morning, September 25th .**
* **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 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 (hence the quote of the week), 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…**
* **Math Olympics began recently! It will continue until December 5th. We thank Mrs. Tower, Mrs. Jacobs, and Ms. Finocchi and all of the many parent volunteers who make this enrichment program possible.**
* **The South School Council will have its first meeting on Wednesday, September 25 at 3:15-4PM.**
* **An email was sent out this week with details about registering for the Spelling Bee which has been set up for November 3. Times vary by grade.**
* **The Back to School Night Flyer was sent home in backpacks in grades K,1,3 last week and is also attached to Friday’s Parent Email. Those three grades will have their night on Wednesday, September 25th. Please note specific times for specific grades on flyer. It is also on the web site. Please plan ahead for parking.**
* **FYI: The staff will park out back on the playground for BTS night on the 25th . If you live close and it is possible to walk, that would help out a great deal! Also, we are fortunate that the Lutheran Church which is diagonally across the street, is so generous in letting us use their parking lot any time. It would be a lovely stroll to school from there. (: You may also be able to find someone to carpool with or a parking buddy who lives close by. Thank you for NOT parking on Loring Hill Rd ever!!!**
* **On Wednesday, October 2, we will have our first noon dismissal. This year ALL early dismissals will be at noon, and lunch will not be served. This particular one is set aside for parent/teacher conferences. If you would like to schedule a conference, please contact Mrs. Graham in the office. If your teacher’s times are all filled up, please contact the teacher directly to find another mutually convenient time to meet.**

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

* **BICYCLES: We had a wonderful Bike Rodeo for the third graders last Friday. We thank Officer John, the many parent volunteers, and the Third Grade Team as well as Mrs. Jacobs for making this happen!!! Many of the children have been taking advantage of the beautiful weather by biking to school. The child does need to have a note to be able to do this as it is a change in dismissal. Please be aware that only children in grades 3-5 are allowed to ride to school without a parent/guardian along as long as they have parent permission. Bike riders who live in Liberty Pole are asked to walk their bikes to the end of the sidewalk by the fire station, and then they can start to ride. All other children are escorted by a teacher down to the sidewalk/crossing guard near the bus loop. If they live on the school side of the street, they can ride after they cross the lower parking lot crosswalk. If they live on the other side, they are crossed by the guard and then they ride either north or south on Main St. depending where they live. This would also be true for walkers. This procedure will also apply on the way to school. Please go over this with your child. Main Street may be one of the prettiest streets in America, but it is also very busy. So, it will take our whole village to keep our children safe. Thank you for your help with this!!! Also, please ask your child not to arrive at the crosswalk before 8:40 when the crossing guard goes on duty and to follow the rules of the road and stay right unless crossing after looking…many children have been spotted riding their bikes in the middle of the road and crossing without looking in Liberty Pole….Thank you for helping ot keep our children safe!**

***Special note to parents of preschoolers: The Hingham Public Schools, in compliance with State and Federal disability law and regulation, is conducting a developmental screening for pre-school children ages 3, 4 and 5 years old on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at East Elementary, 2 Collins Street, Hingham, MA.  The purpose of this screening is to identify those preschool-aged children who may have a disability requiring further evaluation.***

***Screening will be done in speech and language, motor development, and pre-academic skills. At the parent’s request, the nurse can do a vision and/or hearing screening as well.  This is a free and optional screening. If you suspect that your child may have a disability, please call Darcy Woodyatt at 781-741-1570 - prompt 4; then prompt 1, to schedule an appointment.***

* **We thoroughly enjoyed the new students’ lunch for children who have joined us in grades 1-5 this past Wednesday, September 18. We feel like they have been with us forever!**
* **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 2020 will be added to the end of the dates’ section at the bottom or this email as soon as we have them finalized.**

 Thank you for your cooperation. (:

* Lunch: Parents of students who frequently buy the school lunch may want to plan on purchasing it through our Point of Sale System.  Parent Online, provides a safe and secure way for parents to make online payments and view student meal activity. Parents can prepay for lunches by creating an account online at [www.parentonline.net](http://www.parentonline.net), or by sending in cash/check payment to Mrs. Hickey, our Cafeteria Manager.  Students can still pay cash on a daily basis, however, all students purchasing food or drink from the cafeteria must use their PIN regardless of payment method.  Student PIN numbers remain the same each year until the child graduates from high school. It is possible to set up an alert through this online system so that you will be informed when your child’s account is getting low. We thank you in advance for keeping your child’s account current.  If you have any further questions, our Food Services Director, Kim Smyth, is happy to answer them.  Please contact her at, ksmyth@hinghamschools.org.  Please refer to the HPS website for more information regarding school lunches at [www.hinghamschools.org](http://www.hinghamschools.org).  The price of lunch will be $3.00; milk and fruit, are $0.50 each. Water is $0.75.
* On another note, our school day begins at 8:50, and teachers are officially on duty at 8:35 (before that time, they may be in meetings, conferences, or preparing for the day), **so it is very important that children do not arrive before** 8:35 **as there is no supervision available.**
* If you want to receive the “What’s the Buzz?” from our PTO, you need to email Jen Benham, our PTO President, at jenLbenham@gmail.com. She will add you to the email list.
* Each month (except September), typically the first Wednesday of the month (January is the second Wednesday), South School will ALL have noon dismissals. The purpose of early release is to provide time for faculty meetings, training, and parent-teacher conferences (see underlined dates). You can schedule parent conferences with the school secretary (pgraham@hinghamschools.org or you can call the office at 781-741-1540. The following are scheduled noon dismissal days for Parent Conferences: (10/2/19, 12/4/18, 2/5/20, 4/1/20) dismissal is at noon, and no lunch is served. On Professional Development Days (11/6/19, 1/8/20, 5/6/20, 6/3/20), dismissal is also at noon and no lunch is served. Special note about Tuesday, March 3, 2020: this will be a day that the children will not have school due to the Presidential Primary. Staff will report for Professional Development, so there will be no early release day in March, just the full day with no school on March 3, 2020.
* Dismissal is also at noon on 11/27/19 to begin the Thanksgiving Holiday. The last day of school also usually has a noon dismissal time. This, however, does not become official until the Spring after we get through the snow day period.

Important Dates (so far):

Wednesday, September 25- School Council 3:15-4:00 in the SES Conference Room

Wednesday, September 25- Back to School Night for grades K, 1, 3

Wednesday, October 2- Early Release at noon for Parent Conferences

Friday, October 25- SES Harvest Party 5:30 -7PM

Saturday, November 23 – South School Fun Run @ 9 AM (Details to follow)

Saturday, December 7- Winterfest @ SES 9-12