

The Sousa Notes

Home and School Association Newsletter – December 2017

Notes from Dr. Meoli

It was snowing last Thursday morning when I started my run. I go early, before the sun comes up, so the inch or so that had fallen was untrodden and gave a satisfying, muffled crunch with each stride. As I headed south down the Bay Walk, the lights in and around Manhasset Bay were bright and clear in the cold air and showed random clouds of falling snow on the land and the water.

As I passed the bench that the Sousa class of 2008 had created as their 5th grade art project, it occurred to me that those students would be well into their college careers by now; did any of them run or walk this path, or come back to visit the legacy they had left the community? I headed west passing Sunset Park and the Sousa Band Shell and thought of how crowded it had been only a few months before with concerts and ball games and farmer's markets and fishing. Now, I was alone and all was still except for the slowing flakes and a halyard tapping an unseen pole somewhere in the direction of Inspiration Wharf.



I turned and headed east and, as I approached Shore Road, another runner passed me (not so hard these days...) and left sneaker impressions on the snow as he pulled away and headed up Main Street. The motion startled me and the prints were annoying, stamping out my reverie and ending my solitude.

Suddenly, I was not alone. The footprints of hundreds, thousands, and millions of Port Washington/Cow Bay/Sint Sink residents and visitors appeared before me in the soft white blanket.

I saw the ghosts of students heading to and from Main Street School, younger ones from when it was an elementary school, and older from when, even farther back in time, it was a high school. I saw workers from the now forgotten transfer pier and storage tanks for Lewis Oil going about their work, sand miners loading trolleys where King Kullen fairly recently stood, Maestro Sousa astride Aladdin, heading towards the post office, Dutch traders and English farmers, and families of Matinecocks, all looking up as I passed, squinting into the precipitation and returning to their business. Oblivious of me. Oblivious of the present.

I slowed as I approached Sousa, half expecting to see Jacob Marley's ghost greet me at our newly installed River of Kindness. But the ghosts were gone. There was only silence and—snow.

Holidays are one way that humankind marks time. How blessed we are to share the same few beautiful square miles of Earth with those who came before us and those who will inhabit these shores when we are but

footprints that do not appear in the snow.

So, in the words of my predecessor, Dr. Richard Barry, whether you celebrate Christmas, or Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, or the Winter Solstice may you have time to be with family and friends, and may you have time to reflect on your past, enjoy your present, and think about your future.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you and yours!
Dave Meoli





One School, One Book

The Sousa HSA Literacy Committee ran a One School, One Book initiative this month. A copy of *Those Shoes*, by Maribeth Boelts, was gifted to all Sousa classrooms, and each class read the book at the same time as a community. To help reinforce the book's theme of giving, there was a shoe drive. Fifth grade Sousa Helpers created posters to promote the one-week collection effort. The Sousa community generously donated hundreds of shoes, which the non-profit organization Shoes for All will distribute to those in need across Long Island. Throughout the week students were also asked to catch each other in random acts of kindness. They wrote them down and sent them to the office daily. Every day entries were randomly selected and those students caught being kind won their own copy of *Those Shoes*. The Sousa HSA Literacy Committee would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Meoli, Mrs. Baumann, Mrs. Keen, Mrs. Biblowitz, Mrs. Reese and all the Sousa families that participated for helping us end the year on the right foot!



Journalists for a Day

Mrs. Lucie's class had the privilege of working with Newsday's "Kidsday" editor Pat Muloolly, and learned how to conduct an interview, formulate questions and write short articles. Some students had the opportunity to meet the star of the Nickelodeon show "Nicky, Ricky, Dicky and Dawn", Lizzy Greene, and practice their new interview skills. The interview as well as the entire class' articles will be published in Newsday sometime in March.





Thank You Note from the Fundraising Committee

The Fall Fundraising has come to an end and we are so happy to announce that together we raised almost \$9,800 for our Sousa HSA!

THANK YOU for making this fundraiser such a success. Your generous support will help us continue to finance important programs and enrichments for our Sousa students and families, such as the new playground equipment, Literacy Night, STEAM Night, school wide assemblies, Sousa's RULER initiative, field trips, cultural programs, and so much more. Thank you all again for your continued support of our HSA.



Easy Apple Sauce Muffins

This is the time of the year when it smells particularly good in the cooking lab... Students are enjoying baking fall and winter theme recipe. Here is an easy Applesauce Muffins recipe that you should try during the break:

Ready in 25min / Serves 12

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1/2 cup butter, melted

Directions

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Spray muffin tins with nonstick spray. Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt in a bowl. Mix in beaten eggs, applesauce and melted butter. Evenly scoop mixture into muffin pans. Sprinkle crystal sugar sprinkles on tops of muffins. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes. Test to see if toothpick comes out clean. Enjoy!



January Calendar of Events

- Friday 1/5 - Sousa Spirit Day**
- Saturday 1/13 - Pizza Workshop, 10am, Cafeteria**
- Saturday 1/13 - Toy Swap, 11am, MPR**
- Monday 1/15 - RECESS, Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- Friday 1/19 - HSA Meeting, 8:15am, Conference Room**
- Friday 1/19 - Book Fair Family Night, 6-8:30pm, MPR**
- Friday 1/19 - Winter Apparel Sale, 6-8pm, Sousa Lobby**
- Friday 1/19 - Sousa's Got Talent Show, 7pm, Auditorium**
- Monday 1/22 - Friday, 1/26 - Sousa Book Fair Week**
- Saturday 1/27 - Pizza Workshop & Toy Swap Snow Date**

HOLIDAYS



Dancing Classrooms

The Sousa gym was recently transformed into a glamorous ballroom as the 5th graders donned their best attire and slipped on their dancing shoes. Dancing Classrooms 2017 was in full force. Thanks to grants from the Ed Foundation and HEARTS, and of course with the support of our Sousa HSA, our fifth graders completed a ten-week course where they learned six classic dances – Merengue, Tango, Swing, Rhumba, Waltz & Foxtrot. All the dancers proudly demonstrated what they had learned at the Dancing Classrooms culminating event and impressed their captivated audience. The students exemplified a sense of pride, respect and sheer enjoyment as they whirled around the dance floor. In between dances, students read their own personal stories about their experience with Dancing Classrooms and shared how social dance has affected them and cultivated their essential life skills. The evening ended with a surprise, impromptu audience dance along! Special thanks to Ms. Jessie Slavens, who led the residency.



Wonder

Our fourth and fifth graders walked over to Soundview Cinema to see Wonder, the movie adaptation of the book by R.J. Palacio. Wonder follows a year in the life of Auggie Pullman who was born with a genetic abnormality that makes him look very different from all of the other kids at his new school. We see how Auggie deals with bullying from kids who can't accept his differences, and how ultimately true friendship, understating, compassion, support & loyalty prevail. This movie speaks volumes about being Sousa Strong!



Winter Concert

This year's Winter Concert was filled with holiday cheer as Sousa's 4th & 5th grade students performed for their friends and families. The concert began with the Orchestra and String ensemble led by Ms. Burke, and Mr. Viavatine directed the band as they performed 3 songs. Sousa's esteemed Music teacher, Ms. Berberabe led the students in both grades as they sang a number of seasonal songs and of course, the Sousa Song to close the show. What a wonderful way to celebrate the start of winter!



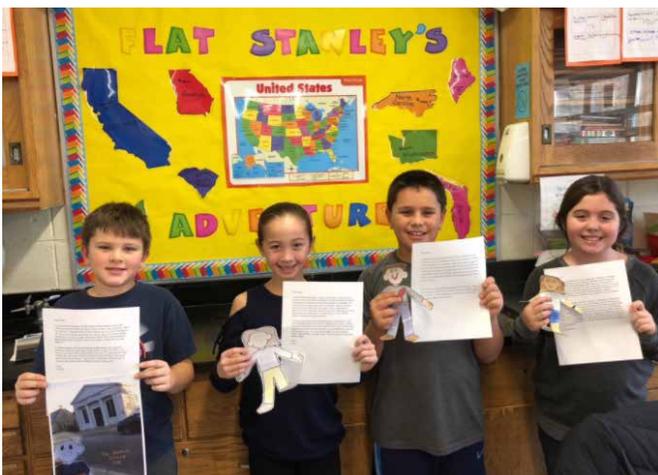
Teachers Update

Kindergarten - The students really had a great time learning about Pilgrims, Native Americans and how we celebrated Thanksgiving past and present. In December the children celebrated and learned about some of the holidays that come in the winter months.



First grade students went to the Nassau County Museum of Art to observe the trees, leaves and the seasonal changes. In December, the students made gingerbread houses in connection with all the gingerbread stories they read in class.

Second graders learned how to add numbers within 1,000 and how to regroup in the ones and tens place. They also learned the steps to problem solving. Students continued to grow as readers by focusing on being “active” readers by stopping and jotting our thinking while we read. They are finding evidence to support their thinking. As readers, they are using clues to help us solve tricky words and are focusing on reading their books with fluency, expression, and meaning. Finally, each class created a food-filled Thanksgiving basket to share with Sousa families.



Third graders focused on North America and the United States in Geography. They read Flat Stanley and learned about all of the places he travels as they sent out Flat Stanley's of their own! The brand-new science standards about forces and interactions will continue to engage the students through experimentation.



Each fourth grade class read the story *Wonder* and we enjoyed the newly release movie version. In science, they have moved to learning about the water cycle and the importance of water conservation in our community. The CAPS program from Nassau County came in for a two-day program on how to deal with bullying. They have been working to improve their touch-typing skills through the use of the Ultra Key program.



The fifth grade was very excited about the Dancing Classrooms Culminating Event. The students have been working hard as they have learned the Waltz, Tango, Swing, Merengue, Rumba, and the Fox Trot. They are learning new concepts, such as adding and subtracting with unlike denominators, as well as multiplying, dividing and simplifying fractions. In Social Studies they started their study of European Explorers and their expeditions to explore new land. The Science unit continues with the engineering process as they read, discuss, and take part in hands on activities. Lastly, the students are continuing to work through the writing process and they are excited to write their memoirs.

ART: Kindergarten just finished glazing their nature plates which can be seen on display in Sousa's lobby.

- First graders just finished making their ceramic animal pots and are in the process of glazing them.
- Second grade students are making observational drawing of animals from photos. This helps students understand the overall shape of the animal they will soon be making with clay.
- Third graders are making beautiful tempera paintings of a place they know well. They are focusing on brush strokes and color mixing.
- Fourth grade students have taken a break from windchime creation to make giant winter concert murals.
- Fifth graders will shortly start the bodies of their puppets and, once the project is announced, start making idea sketches for their fifth-grade project.



Teachers Update

LIBRARY:

- Kindergarten has moved on from Mother Goose nursery rhymes to folktales. We'll visit the classics such as Goldilocks, The Three Little Pigs, and The Billy Goats Gruff before moving on to fairy tales.
- First Grade is exploring different templates of books (ABC, 1-2-3,) and how the author/illustrator purpose affects the story. We will also look at wordless, special graphic designing, and paper engineered books to see how these forms are used to convey a story or information.
- Second Grade is learning about literary genres. We are using picture books to identify various fiction genres.
- Third grade is beginning country research using our subscription database, Worldbook Online and the library's Chromebooks.
- Fourth Grade is exploring Eve Bunting's picture books for older readers which deal with societal issues and events.
- Fifth Grade is creating a "Guess this Book" online game using Caldecott award books, Google slides, and our 3-D printer.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Students began their exciting gymnastics unit the week of Thanksgiving and continued all the way up to the winter break. In the beginning, students focused on their tumbling skills including forward rolls, backward rolls, handstands and cartwheels. They progressed to performing on various different pieces of equipment that include climbing ropes, balance beams, uneven bars, rings, and the vault.



CAPS presentation

For over 35 years CAPS (Child Abuse Prevention Services) has been Long Island's leading Non-Profit Organization dedicated to preventing bullying and child abuse. Director of CAPS Alane Fagin and State Senator Elaine Philips, who love our Sousa Strong Initiative, visited our fourth graders to talk about the importance of the CAPS Steer Clear of Bullies program. Students created calendar pages to enter in the CAPS calendar contest.



Snow Globes

It's that time of year... a chill in the air, mittens & hats are coming out of storage, and everyone is getting ready for the holidays. What a perfect time to make personalized winter snow globes. Each of our fifth graders got bundled up in their coziest winter accessories to take pictures of themselves which were then laminated and placed (along with rocks & winter greenery) as the center of their very own snow globe! What a fun winter project!



An Update from the District About the Bond

In 2015, the community approved a bond issue to fund various much-needed improvements to school buildings and facilities. The district has produced a 5-minute video highlighting the work completed through the bond. The video offers an excellent view of the work through the eyes of students and gives all viewers a glimpse into areas they might not traditionally see. Please click on the following link to view the video:

<https://www.portnet.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=1&ModuleInstanceID=1781&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=23346&PageID=1>



A Thank You Note from the Community Outreach Committee

Fall is a festive season. Halloween, Thanksgiving and many religious holidays take place during this time of year, making it a very busy time for everyone, including the Sousa HSA Outreach Committee. From Treats for Troops to the Winter Coat Drive, and from the Holiday Drive to the Make-A-Child-Smile Toy Drive, the Committee is always amazed by the generosity of the Sousa Community. We are lucky to have so many people donate their time and/or money to help our neighbors in need. Your contributions, no matter how small, bring so much love and warmth to many families, and we sincerely thank you. We wish you a wonderful Holiday Season and a very happy & healthy New Year –

Mat Lanfant and Laurie Bosworth – Sousa HSA Community Outreach





Make-A-Child-Smile Toy Drive

On behalf of Mrs. Reese and the Sousa Community Outreach Committee, thank you to all those who participated in this year's Make-A-Child-Smile Toy Drive. School Resource Officer Detective Anthony Guzzello, known around town as Officer Tony, picked up all the toys and will be distributing them to the children in need throughout our community, just in time for the holidays!



Pizza Workshop and Toy Swap Are Coming to Sousa

Winter is coming and here are two very fun activities for your child(ren) coming up at Sousa in January. Linda from Frank's Pizza will instruct the children in the fun process of making their own pizza and calzone. Each child will leave with their delicious creations to be baked at home. Right after, children can bring their old toys they no longer use and pick out a "new" one to play with! Both events will take place on Saturday 1/13 in the morning – Stay tuned for more info!



Do you have any photos from Sousa class trips or activities?
Show off your child's artwork, accomplishments, prizes won, etc. in The
Sousa Notes.

Please send any photos and articles to
Rod at rodn29@gmail.com
Mat at lanfant@msn.com
or Pam at pamollendorff@yahoo.com



Happy Holidays 



*Happy
New Year*