

The Sousa Notes

Home and School Association Newsletter – June 2017

Notes from Dr. Meoli

As I write this all of the rites of spring are winding to a close at Sousa—concerts, celebrations, class trips, picnics, moving up, and construction of the 5th grade art project. It is, in the immortal words of a recent president, déjà vu all over again!

As spring turns to summer and thoughts of pools, camps, beaches, and vacations, we can pause to be thankful for all the blessings we have enjoyed during the 2016-17 school year and thank all of the people who have helped to make the Sousa Family so special.

To all of the district adults—teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians, food service personnel, security guards, central office administrators, and Board of Education members—who have nurtured our children and moved them forward academically, socially, physically, and emotionally this year: thank you! Especially this year, as we have brought ourselves together more closely with our Sousa Strong and RULER initiatives, the teamwork and collaboration have been positive, supportive, and wonderful.

To all the Sousa parents who bring an extra dimension of caring to the school day and the school facility—committee members, volunteers for our flowers, gardens, and playground, chaperones, special readers and presenters, and of course, our Home and School Executive Board: thank you! It does take a village to educate a child. Special thanks to our outgoing HSA president, Ba-Nhi Sinclair whose leadership has enriched Sousa so much over the past two years: thank you!

And to the Port Washington community who support our schools, build and maintain one of the most beautiful spots on earth to live and work, and directly support our efforts with donations, grants, special events, and the many wonderful institutions/locations/local experts that we all enjoy—thank you! Special thanks to the Ed. Foundation and HEARTS for their efforts and support on behalf of our children.

I look forward to a little R&R this summer and to a 2017-18 that promises to be better than ever. We will welcome a new Assistant Principal, Dr. Kimberly Licato, and welcome back Marisa Johnson as Sousa increases to 28 class sections next year. We will also, of course, welcome our nearly 100 new kindergarteners who will join us in September and doubtless push us close to or over the 600 student mark next year.

Here's hoping you and your family have a restful, safe, and productive summer. See you in September.

We are Sousa Strong!

Sincerely,
Dave Meoli



Technology - Parents' Guide to Kids and Cell Phones

For many parents who have a fifth grader going to Middle School next September, you are probably thinking about getting him/her a cell phone as a graduation gift. Before you hand over this powerful tool that connects them to the world in an exciting new way, we encourage you to take the time to explore the following cell phone tips this summer to ensure the children use their new device safely, responsibly and respectfully: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/cell-phone-parenting>



Smoothie Anyone?



Ms. Buffolino's class whipped up a handful of ingredients to create some healthy and nutritious smoothies, sure to please even picky appetites! These refreshing, cold smoothies were the perfect pick me up on a hot day! To view the recipe or get more smoothie combinations, please visit: <http://www.rachaelray.com/2014/05/09/super-simple-kid-friendly-smoothies/>

S'mores Cooking Lab

Mrs. Pullicino's class had a fun afternoon making s'mores in waffle cones with all the trimmings. The students also practiced their adjectives as they predicted what the s'mores would taste like before and after they made them with "Delicious Descriptions." They made bookmarks for the summer while waiting for the s'mores to cook. Here's just one of many recipes you can find online for these delicious treats:

<http://www.today.com/recipes/waffle-cone-s-mores-t100812>



Third Grade Harborfest Regatta



This spring, Marian Weisman from the Harborfest Boat Regatta team visited the third grades to teach them how to build a model boat using empty milk and/or juice cartons. Students then decorated their own sail. Congratulations to Sam S. who finished in first place for Sousa!



STEAM Night 2017 – Star Wars Edition

The world of Star Wars came to life for Sousa's third annual STEAM Night. Forty years to the day that the first movie was released (May 25, 1977), our school was filled with a record crowd of students, parents and volunteers – many dressed like they came from a galaxy far far away! Fully sponsored by the HSA, the overall goal of the event is to inspire students, and help them recognize that science is not only fun but also all encompassing. Throughout the evening, students participated in a series of hands-on lab stations prepared with unique science experiments. A special thank you to the tireless Sousa Science Committee, and to all of the parents, teachers and staff who were fully committed to making this night another huge success.



Building Beautification Update

The HSA's Building Beautification Committee members have been busy painting away, working to finish up their doors by the end of the year! This year they completed a Dr. Seuss quote for the computer lab as well as Mo Willem's infamous pigeon on the library door. "Eloise" is moving in outside Dr. Fitoussi's office. Plus, there are many more projects underway. The committee has a number of talented artists, but they also need volunteers to help with sanding, priming and maintaining the doors. If you'd like to join the fun next year, please contact Christina Byers at cpbyers@yahoo.com.



Want Good BBQ Ribs?



Alper's Karmacue is a yearly street fair and BBQ competition that raises money and awareness for The Community Chest of Port Washington. During the event, twelve groups of friends were competing for the coveted title of BBQ Champion of Port Washington! Congratulations to Future Sousa parent Stefan Nicodemou who led the "Nice Rack" team along with our own Sousa Dad Graham Byers. Their team won first place for their ribs! Now you know who to ask for a nice tip on how to make good ribs this summer!

Kindergartener Celebration



Congratulations to all our Kindergarteners for completing their first year at Sousa and performing at the Kindergarten Celebration earlier this month! Thank you to their teachers for preparing them for this special event and for all of their great work this year

Family Literacy Night

This year's Family Literacy Night at Sousa was another success. The children bounced around the stations with their families and got to have special time with each other immersed in literacy activities. The new booths – Fabric of Meaning, Jump Rope Rhymes, ESPN Zone, A 'Close' Look, Author Your Own Story, Spine Poetry, and Giant Scrabble were rockin', as were the old favorites--Opinion Zone, Extra Extra and The Game Zone. The student work around the room was amazing, and provided a beautiful window into the magic that happens in our classrooms every day. The Literacy Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in helping pull the evening together. Special thanks go out to the teachers for their support and for providing the great student work for display. On behalf of the Sousa HSA Literacy Committee, we wish everyone a wonderful summer of fun, sun and reading!



First Graders Visit the Nassau County Museum of Art

First graders recently had the opportunity to visit the Nassau County Museum of Art. They got to see a bird's nest and a vernal pond that had water in it earlier in the spring. They read Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms by Julia Rawlinson, and took time to sketch the landscape they observed on the grounds of the museum.



A Day in the City

The fifth grade celebrated their last year at Sousa with a spectacular "Day in the City" which began with a tour of New York City's Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum and a workshop. The Museum's mission is to honor our heroes, educate the public and inspire our youth. The students then were treated to a Broadway Show, Charlie & the Chocolate Factory at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre. Congratulations to all fifth graders for Moving Up from Sousa!



Standing Together!

Port Washington School District Superintendent Dr. Mooney and the Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) Director came to Sousa to give Anna D. an award for her winning poster, which will be featured in next year's CAPS calendar. Congratulations again to Anna!



Field Day

The rain didn't stop Sousa from getting their spirit on for Field Day. Red, Blue, White & Yellow were all out in full force. Some old favorite relays made their way into the modified gym experience - tug-o-war and scooter relays. The newly instituted beach relay was a hit and is sure to become a tried and true favorite. Thanks to Mr. Dooley and Mr. Robilotto for instilling a sense of team spirit throughout the school despite Mother Nature's plans.



Sousa Garden Update

It has been a busy time in the Sousa Garden. Grades 2-5 helped make the spring planting in the vegetable garden a success! Growing in the garden right now are sugar snap peas, potatoes, lettuces, radishes, carrots, kale, tomatoes, corn, squash, beans, strawberries, raspberries and herbs. Not to mention lots of flowers to help attract pollinators to the garden! On the other side of the traffic circle, the K & 1st grade classes planted lots of flowers to brighten up that garden spot. It really looks great!

Thank you to all the dedicated committee members who helped lead the classes, weed and water the gardens and apply mulch to the garden beds. A special thank you to Garden Committee Chair Kate Walz for all of her hard work and love she puts into the Sousa garden.

The Garden Committee needs your help to keep these gardens looking good over the summer months! No gardening experience necessary. Sign up to take care of the garden for one week during the summer - Responsibilities include watering and light weeding. Please contact Kate at kmwalz@hotmail.com if you are interested.



A Thank You Note from the Outgoing HSA Co-President

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Before the much anticipated summer break arrives, I want to convey some thoughts to you in my last message as the outgoing president.

I'm sure I am not alone in feeling that this year has gone by at lightning speed, a lot of which has to do with how busy our school year has been with various HSA activities, fairs and assemblies. In any given month, there is at least one, if not more, HSA event going on. That being said, it truly is a team effort.

I think Sousa is extremely fortunate that our HSA has the capability, help and enthusiasm to have something once a month for our parents and/or our children. What that really means is that Sousa is extremely fortunate to have such interested, creative, driven parents like you all who care enough to devote their time and energy and resources to organize and execute all of our events. Whether you chair a committee or help with the library bulletin board or apply tattoos at the picnics, each and every level of participation is appreciated and needed.

The other part of the team is the Sousa Faculty who continually support the HSA's efforts and goals. They are the partners and behind the scenes people that allow the HSA's events to shine; without their backing and work, much of what the HSA does would not be possible. Between donating Faculty Auction experiences for our children to partnering with our Literacy and Science Committees to setting up chairs for our HSA meetings, the Sousa Faculty contribute so much more than just teaching our children during school hours and running the school.

So a heartfelt thanks goes out to both parents and faculty who have made all of our events and goals possible this year!

And because of your enduring support of the HSA, the HSA has purchased a new playground structure that will be installed over the summer, has budgeted money to enhance our RULER program by sending additional staff for training this summer, and has supplemented the cost of grants such as Dancing Classrooms and Submerge Storytelling for next year.

As I step down, I'm happy to introduce the new Co-Presidents, Mara Sarchese and Jillian Lundberg, who I know will do an extraordinary job next year!



Thank you and enjoy the summer!

Ba-Nhi

Sousa's Beginners Concert

Earlier in June, students and relatives were fortunate to hear wonderful music after months of hard work from the students. The concert began with the Orchestra performing a number of songs including Rolling Along. They were followed by the Band which played a rousing version of Queen's We Will Rock You and then the Jazz Band featured the James Bond theme. The final act was the third grade chorus, who not only sang, but also showed off their skills on the recorder! And of course, the concert wouldn't be complete without the grand finale - a rousing rendition of the Sousa School Song! Many thanks to Ms. Berberabe, Mrs. Burke and Mr. Chiarello for all of their work preparing the students for the concert.



Ducks Game

Sousa students and their families braved record high temperatures to cheer on the Long Island Ducks at Bethpage Ballpark on Sunday, June 11th. Students who arrived early enjoyed a group picture on the field and an autograph session with the players before the game started. The Ducks had a slow start against the Bridgeport Bluefish, losing 0-1, but then, probably inspired by our loud cheering (and quacking!), staged a comeback to win 8-1!



United Skates of America

Fifth graders went on a field trip to United Skates of America where they learned about S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), discussed some math applications of perimeter and area, and reviewed Newton's Laws of Motion and how they apply to roller skating. It was a big hit as the students then enjoyed free time to roller skate around the rink themselves and experiment with the laws of motion!



Penguins Everywhere!

The whole second grade just finished their penguin unit with their research and work culminating in a presentation for the parents. Working in groups, the children studied about the physical characteristics, habitats, family life, diets and behaviors of Emperor, Chinstrap, Macaroni and Gentoo penguins! Not only was all of that information compiled into a beautifully illustrated and written book to show to parents but detailed and precise watercolor and pastel chalk pictures were created depicting the actual size of the bird, the birds in their habitats and the birds interacting with each other. Fun penguin songs and play rounded out the parents' penguin immersion.



Sousa HSA Celebrates Another Great Year at the End of the Year Picnic

As is always the tradition, our Sousa families came out to celebrate the end of another great year at the annual End of Year Sousa Family Picnic. The playground was bustling with family and friends. Linda Quinn entertained the crowds and many of our children had fun on the blacktop playing basketball and four square. Picnic blankets filled the fields and pizza and special treats were a-plenty. This is always such a special night when the Sousa community can gather and enjoy each other's company one last time before summer. **We are Sousa Strong!**



Art Show

This year's art show was an outpouring of color with the lobby, hallways and multi-purpose room filled with bright and imaginative creations. The event showcased the creativity of Sousa's students in a number of mediums including batik, drawing, ceramics, painted plaster gauze, collage, puppetry and even paper making. Parents were delighted to see how their children expressed themselves artistically and appreciated the hard work necessary for their individual visions to become a reality.

As always, the highlight of the evening was the exhibition of the fifth grade project. This year our fifth graders designed shapes that were then laser cut from quarter inch aluminum. They then painted both sides with personal imagery. The pieces will be put together to form a sculpture that will be featured outside on the school grounds.

Thank you to Mr. Moore for designing projects that promote creativity and to the Friends of the Art Room committee for helping put the show together.



Presidents Celebration

Students in Mrs. Wright's fourth grade class combined their research, writing and public speaking skills to present the life of a chosen president and his influence and significance in our history to parents. After hours of research, the children wrote speeches and dressed up as the president or as the president's wife to tell the parents about the president's important contributions to our country. John Adams, William Howard Taft, Eleanor Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, George W. Bush and Michelle Obama, to name a few, visited the classroom over two days. The amount of knowledge about each president that was culled into a fabulous speech, the level of elocution and the design and layout of posters with meaningful pictures of the presidents were extraordinary! Despite doing this presidents project for many years, Mrs. Wright says she is still learning new facts about the presidents every year from her students! Congratulations to all the presidents on doing a spectacular job!



Join The Fun!

Summer is here and the Float Committee is recruiting Dads, Moms and students to help construct the Sousa float. The Pride in Port parade will take place on Saturday, September 16th – Save the date! There is still time to submit ideas for this year's float design. The contest winner will be announced in September. This is a great opportunity to build something with your kids. If you want to join the team or are just curious about it, send an email to Mat at Lanfant@msn.com The construction schedule will be sent to all volunteers who sign up, but there is absolutely no time commitment required. Just show up when you can!



Have a safe and fun summer!

