



The Sousa Notes



Home and School Association Newsletter – Jan/Feb 2018

A Note from Dr. Meoli

With six more weeks of winter, and not a single good reason left for eating buffalo chicken wings, one might despair.

But there is reason to hope! After scoring Dancing Classrooms gold for the third year in a row, we are busy writing a new grant to HEARTS and the Ed Foundation to continue this rich, district-wide 5th grade learning opportunity in September. In fact, many staff members are writing grants to those two organizations to create and sustain programs as disparate as Coding Clubs and ENL Evening Family Nights. Movement and Dance workshops have started up in kindergarten and first grade classrooms and Yoga Jen is starting Friday sessions for second graders. We are gearing up for several assemblies (including the Anja Dance Company, courtesy of our Cultural Arts Committee and a touring production of The Little Mermaid by Schreiber High School students), our annual book exchange, Nutrition Week, and Parent/Teacher Conferences. Our School Charter is fully rolled out (see article below), and our new logo is highly visible throughout the school—We Are Sousa Strong!

Of course, Valentine's Day and Presidents Week Recess are reasons to celebrate too! Stay warm and before we know it—the crocuses will be breaking ground in the front courtyard!

Sincerely,
Dave Meoli



Calendar of Events

- 2/19 - 2/23 – Presidents Week – No School
- 2/27 - Board of Ed Meeting, 8pm, Schreiber Library
- 3/2 - Spirit Day
- 3/6 - 3/8 - Book Exchange, Sousa Lobby
- 3/7 - HSA Meeting, 9:15am, Multi-Purpose Room
- 3/9 - Parent-Teacher Conference Day - No School
- 3/10 - Family Yoga, 10:15am, Sousa Gym
- 3/13 - Board of Ed Meeting, 8pm, Schreiber Library
- 3/15* - Blood Drive, 2-8pm, Multi-Purpose Room (*change of date)
- 3/15 - Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 3/16 - Parent-Teacher Conference Day - No School
- 3/19 - Parents' Council Meeting, 7pm, Schreiber Cafeteria
- 3/19 - 3/23 - Nutrition Week
- 3/19 - 3/23 - Spring Clothing Drive

First Sousa School Charter Is Revealed

On Friday, January 12 every student and staff at Sousa came to the gym for the debut of the first Sousa School Charter. Created by the Sousa RULER Committee, it summarizes how everyone wants to treat others and be treated every day at school. In September, every classroom teacher has students collaborate to agree on a Classroom Charter that sets the stage for how students want to feel in class every day; this new School charter covers all of the school areas outside the classroom including the special areas, common areas (such as the lunch room and playground), and even the buses!

The presentation was given by Dr. Meoli, Dr. Licato, special area teachers Mr. Robilotto and Mr. Moore, teacher assistants Ms. Candido and Ms. Zaveri, and guidance counselor Ms. Biblowitz who brought an umbrella to remind the students that the new School Charter "covers" all areas but the individual classrooms!

All of these charters are part of Sousa's RULER initiative, a social/emotional program which highlights the Recognition, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, and Regulating of emotions which helps lead to both improved student behavior and academic achievement. It has been made possible through generous donations by the Sousa HSA and the Ed Foundation.



Behind the Scenes - the Making of the School Charter

To create the very first Sousa School Charter, the members of the Sousa RULER committee compiled four or five adjectives from each of the 28 Classroom Charters students and teachers had created at the beginning of the school year describing how they would like to feel while at school each day. The varied answers were all logged into a free online computer program that put their words into the S shape they chose which is called a word cloud. The more often a word was cited, the larger it appears in the graphic. For this School Charter - the most prominent words were Respected, Included, Appreciated, Proud and Excited. If you would like to make a word cloud at home, go to www.wordle.net/create



Turquoise Means Gold!

Sousa had home field advantage during this year's Winter Colors of the Rainbow Team Match & Festival. This event was a culmination of the Dancing Classrooms program that fifth graders participated in this fall. For this regional completion, the Sousa Gym was magically transformed into a Hollywood Ballroom in which seven school teams danced the Salsa, Merengue, Swing, Tango and Rhumba for the ultimate title. Our own Sousa Turquoise team took the gold medal for the third year in a row. Congratulations to our fifth-grade team and a special thanks to Mrs. Cangialosi for helping the students prepare for the competition. The program was made possible through a grant from HEARTS, the Ed Foundation and the Sousa HSA.



Trompe-l'Oeil Exhibit

This winter all fifth graders will visit the Nassau County Museum of Art in Roslyn to see the Fool the Eye exhibition. The exhibition is filled with optical illusions and artistic sleight of hand. Part of the exhibition involved students figuring out how to separate what was real from what was really just a clever ruse. They also examined the art carefully to draw conclusions based on what they saw from different points of view. During the trip teachers and students asked themselves questions such as "Was it a flat painting? What was the importance of the shadowing? Is it a flat painting or a sculpture? And how does a Walmart receipt fit in this exhibit?" The Sousa visitors pondered, debated, and questioned the art all morning. If you would like to visit the exhibition, make sure to go before it closes on March 4th.



Math Olympiad



Thursday afternoons add up to fun for Sousa students who stay late to participate in Math Olympiad with Mrs. Zeh. Math Olympiad features math problems that students compete to solve. The goal is to foster mathematical creativity and encourage enthusiasm for the subject. All fourth and fifth graders who signed up are part of the program that Mrs. Zeh teaches thanks to funding provided by the Port Washington school district this year. It's a great activity that the students enjoy 'exponentially'!

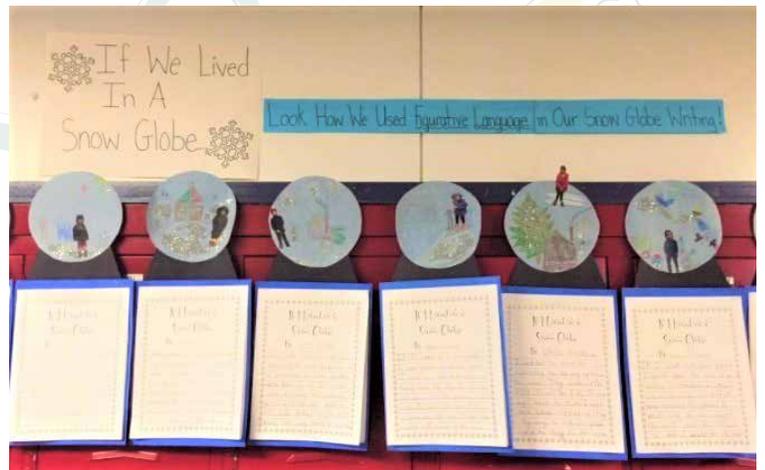
Teachers' Updates

Kindergarteners took their first trip to the Science Museum of Long Island where they learned all about magnets using different materials and experimenting with different tools.



First grade published their personal narratives in January, and read their stories to other Sousa students. Mr. and Mrs. Kosch started their Creative Dance program.

In **second grade**, students learned about figurative language (similes, metaphors, and alliteration) to create winter stories about living in a snow globe. In Social Studies, students are learning the characteristics of each of the three communities: rural, urban, and suburban and comparing their similarities and differences.

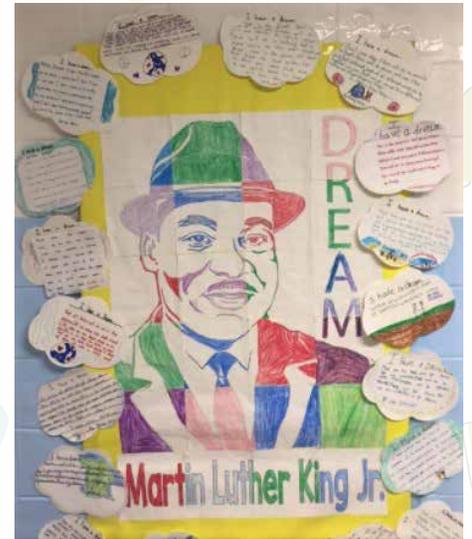


Teachers' Updates



Sousa **third grade** has taken the leap into multiplication. Students are learning how numbers are multiplied using equal groups along with practicing their multiplication facts. Their Social Studies curriculum has brought them home to the United States of America. Students completed a research project that focused on the individual states.

Fourth graders started their study of energy in science focusing on electrical energy. Each class created a mural of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and studied his important work. Each student has been working to complete a pourquoi tale.



In **fifth grade**, students finished studying the European Explorers, and are learning about the Columbian Exchange and how it affects the world we live in today. The students have been working really hard on editing and revising their memoirs and went to the Nassau County Museum of Art to see their new exhibit, Fool the Eye.



Art Update

Kindergarten is working on glazing cups and saucers, and making frames for batiks.

First Graders are preparing to make pictures with paper pulp.

Second graders are up to their elbows in making clay animal sculptures.

Third grade students are just beginning to learn how to make 3D sculptural masks.

Fourth graders are close to finishing the marathon process of making ceramic wind chimes.

Fifth grade children made posters with their teams for gym, and are now sketching ideas for their fifth-grade project.



Phys Ed Update

After Gymnastics, students moved onto the basketball unit in which K-4 are working on basic basketball skills, while fifth grade students are participating in the Sport Education model. You can view the highlight video of the gymnastics unit on:

<http://sousape.weebly.com/highlight-videos.html>



Library Update

In celebration of Martin Luther King Day and No Name Calling Week, Ms. Moser and Ms. Biblowitz worked together with each class to reinforce the importance of treating everyone with kindness and respect. The children were reminded to be Upstanders and to always live the Sousa Strong Motto of being Kind, Confident & Compassionate. Each day during the morning announcements Ms. Biblowitz shared an inspirational quote of the day - these are words we should all live by!

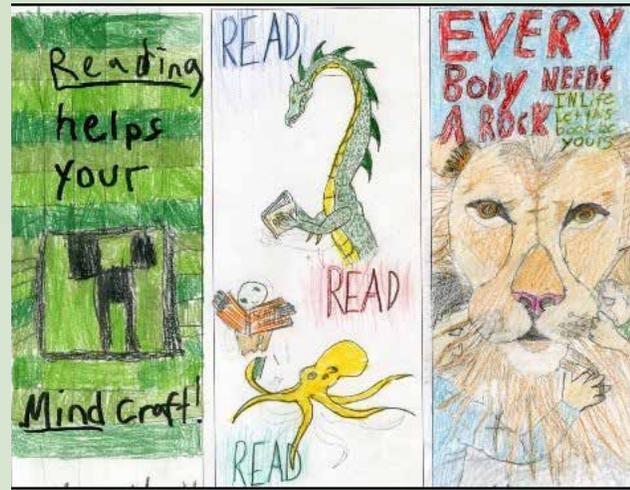
It was a 4-day week. the quotes were as follows:

1. "A warm smile is the universal language of kindness"
2. "Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you."
3. "A true friend is someone who is there for you when he'd rather be anywhere else."
4. "A true friend encourages us, comforts us, supports us like a big easy chair, offering us a safe refuge from the world."



Book Mark Contest

This year, Ms. Moser and the HSA's Friends of the Library committee received over 150 entries from all grades in the Annual Bookmark Contest. Choosing the winners is the hardest part of Ms. Moser's job as they are all winners in her eyes. All bookmark entries are on display in the library so that the entire school can enjoy the creativity of our young readers. The three bookmarks that will be printed for distribution are from Nate (K-1), Palmer (2-3) and Max (4-5). Congratulations to them and to all of our participants! Keep on Reading!



Winter Solstice

On December 21st, the third grade celebrated the Winter Solstice kicking off a pajama and book drive for the Pajama Program. In the spirit of giving, community service and mindful living, the third grader collected new pajamas and books to help local children in need to have warmer, more restful nights. The Pajama Program believes that by offering the magical gifts of pajamas and books, we can bring a caring bedtime ritual into the lives of children. Changing out of their clothes and into warm, cozy pajamas lets children shed the stresses of their day, trading them for feelings of warmth and hope. In total, the students collected and donated 75 pairs of new pajamas and about 50 books. Petti Cellura, a chapter president from the organization, came to Sousa to personally pick up the goods. She shared with the children how impactful their donations will be to the children that will be receiving them and expressed deep gratitude for their work. Thank you all for your support in this initiative. We are Sousa Strong!



Sousa's Got Talent!

Sousa is filled with talent! During this year's Talent Show, over 50 kids in grades 2-5 performed for a standing room only crowd of family and friends. The audience was entertained by comedians, dancers, singers, gymnasts and martial artists. It is always heartwarming to see the level of support the kids give each other, both from those performing and from those who come out to watch siblings and friends. Special thanks to our event co-chairs, Erica Fazzari, Pam Sorin and Sarah Cirker for running this great event over the years.



Sousa's Got Talent!



Curtains Up: Musical Theater Workshop



This fall's Curtains Up: Musical Theater Workshop featured more than fifty 4th and 5th grade students from all five Port Washington elementary schools performing popular songs from musicals across the decades. Selections included "There's No Business Like Show Business" (Annie Get Your Gun), "It's a Hard Knock Life" (Annie), "If You Would Only Listen" (School of Rock), "Ease On Down The Road" (The Wiz), and "Footloose" (Footloose), among others. The event also featured a special performance by Curtains Up program alumni and former Sousa student Carly Gold, who just finished the national tour of the musical Fun Home and sang "Ring of Keys" for all in attendance. Special thanks to Program Coordinator Emily Baxter, Director Lauren Blank, and Musical Director Jake Glickman for their dedicated work on this program which was made possible by HEARTS.

Dance Program

Sousa Kindergarten and first grade students are getting a treat each week – having the opportunity to participate in a special dance and movement class with Michael and Rachael Kosch who have been offering dance workshops in Port Washington for over 20 years. Michael is a pianist and composer and Rachael is a former Martha Graham dancer who began working here when the Port Schools had a K-12 dance program with the Graham School and ABT. Rachael has an extensive repertoire of elementary workshop offerings from working closely with our classroom teachers; she infuses her creative movement classes with elements of yoga, mindfulness, and themes from each grade level's curriculum. We are thrilled to have both back at Sousa!



All-County Music Festival

This January six Sousa students were selected to perform in the annual Nassau County Music Educators Association Division I (Grade 5). The All-County musicians were chosen based upon their solo performances at the New York State Schools Music Association (NYSSMA) Solo and Ensemble festival held this past spring. As participants, these students performed major masterworks under the baton of master conductors and music educators. Congratulations to Julia A. who played in the band, Austin L. who played in the Orchestra and Braden B., Sadie F., Alice M. and Kimberly Y. who performed with the Chorus.



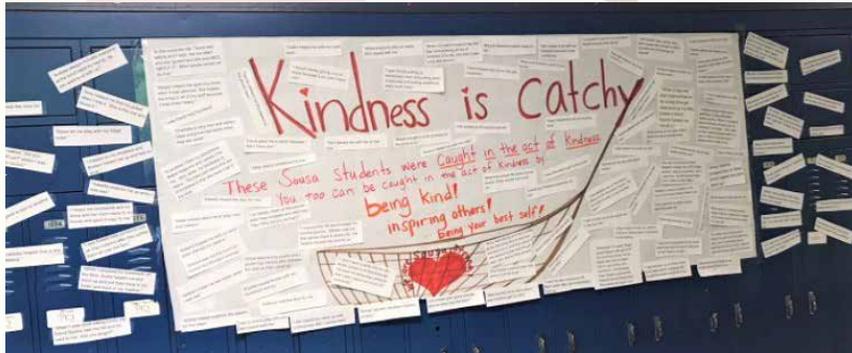
A Pizza AND A Toy Please!

The Sousa Cafeteria was filled to capacity at our annual Family Pizza Workshop this past month. Expertly led by Linda from Frank's pizza, our little chefs were shown the secrets to making the perfect personal pizza and calzone. Thank you to Virginia Zirpolo and Maria Cichon for organizing the event and a very special thanks to the entire Cichon family for their help over the years on this delicious event. After assembling their tasty treats, children had the possibility to get a "new" toy. Lead by Sima Vasa and Melissa Steeves, the Green Committee organized their annual Toy Swap where Sousa kids could donate a toy that they no longer play with and, in turn, choose a toy from those donated to take home. This green initiative encourages us all to reduce our own personal waste by recycling and reusing toys within our community. Toys that were not "swapped" were donated to local organizations in Port Washington. Go Green!



Kindness Is Catchy

During the Those Shoes Book Give-away, the HSA Literacy Committee asked Sousa students to "catch each other in the act of kindness". The responses were amazing and the acts of kindness were so inspirational that we posted them on a billboard in the main hallway to share and spread the Sousa Acts of Kindness. We are Sousa Strong – and Kind!



Fifth Graders Bring their A-Game

For the past six weeks, Sousa fifth graders have been participating in a special basketball unit in Physical Education class. At the start of the unit, they were divided into teams and given specific jobs to help promote and support their team as they competed to earn points not just on the court but in other ways as well. In addition to playing basketball, each team created a poster, a news article and a team cheer. For more info, on the basketball unit, please visit: <http://sousape.weebly.com/sport-ed.html>



Dr. Licato Explains Main Principles of Education in Finland during HSA Meeting

This past HSA meeting included an informative and inspiring presentation with our own Assistant Principal, Dr. Kimberly Licato. Parents were treated to a presentation of her time spent near Helsinki, Finland studying their educational system. She talked about how their schools are set up, their learning practices, their philosophy regarding safety, learning, playing and the whole child's emotional, social and academic well-being. Dr. Licato is hoping to implement with our kids some of the educational concepts learned while living and studying there. She left us with a beautiful message, spoken often from one of the principal's in Finland, "As long as we have children, we have hope."



Book Fair

As Dr. Seuss wrote, "You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book!" Sousa students had a blast finding books during their library classes at the annual Scholastic Book Fair held this past month. The Book Fair was a huge success largely thanks to our Book Fair committee chairs (Halona Gropper Jaffe, Felicia Miller, Lisa Penha and Candance Sciortino) and all the volunteers and parents who helped daily. Happy Reading!



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, articles to your class liaisons or directly to:

Rod at rodn29@gmail.com

Pam at pamollendorff@yahoo.com

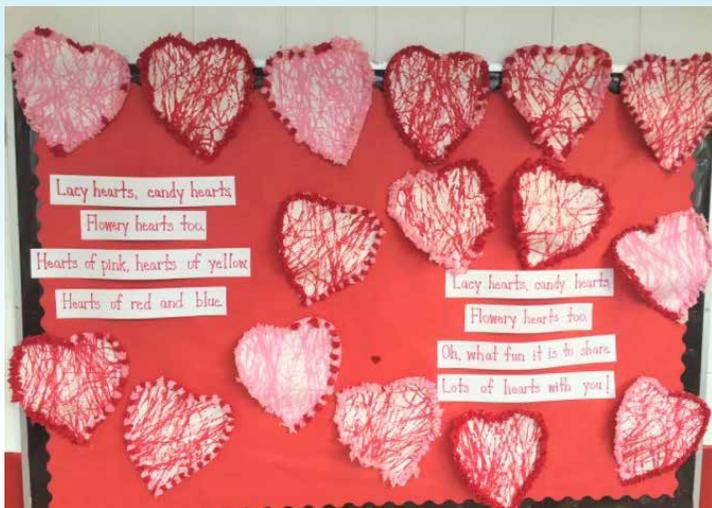
or Mat at lanfant@msn.com

Sousa "Steps it Up"

Be sure to ask your kids "What's new at Sousa?", and when you are in the building for teacher conferences, come and see for yourselves. Our front and back staircases have gotten a makeover! The front staircase directs all who visit Sousa to the library with a stairway of books. The back staircase is where our students can learn and/or brush up on their multiplication tables. Special thanks to Stephanie Yardeni for the designs and to the Meyer Family at Chief Graphix for producing these wonderful graphics!



Happy Valentine's Day!





SAVE THE DATE

SOUSA SOCIAL NIGHT

Come out and support Sousa at the school's largest fundraiser of the year

DINNER • DANCING • AUCTION

APRIL 21, 2018