

The Sousa Notes

Home and School Association Newsletter – March 2018

A Note from Dr. Meoli

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” Tolstoy

March came in like a lion and—went out like a lion! So much for colorful metaphors.... I think we are all happy to see spring arriving along with the tulips and the crocuses on the front lawn!

As I write this, I am actually at the ASCD Conference (what was once called the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) that annually draws upwards of 10,000 educators from pre-K to post graduate level from virtually every country in the world. I am currently attending a workshop with Jay McTighe and Harvey Silver, two well-known writers and presenters in curriculum design and instructional delivery, along with about 200 teachers, principals, and professional development professionals. At my table are two principals from the United Arab Emirates, two from Hawaii, one teacher from India, one from Massachusetts, and one from Illinois. What an opportunity to not only learn from the best thinkers in education, but to share experiences, ideas, problems, and solutions with such a disparate and exciting group of fellow educators—amazing! I look forward to sharing what I have learned here in Boston with the entire Sousa staff as well as with my administrative colleagues.

In addition to these “professional” workshops, there are hundreds of smaller sessions given by practitioners in the field who apply to present almost a year in advance in order to be chosen to share something with which they have some expertise. This year, Mrs. Biblowitz, Dr. Fitoussi, Mrs. Petrides, and I will be sharing a presentation that was accepted by ASCD on “Making Your School Welcoming” for students. We will be sharing all of the things we do at Sousa to invite students to learn and participate in our school and our community. We will be talking about our Sousa Strong program, the RULER initiative, the many arts projects we create annually to give every student a voice that becomes a permanent part of the community, special programs we have come up with over the

years to make specific populations of students more at home (such as the Ambassador Program and Banana Splits), and our frequent whole school assemblies where we come together to celebrate things like Unity Day and Sousa’s Birthday. We will also share some changes we have made to make our school more inclusive such as adding more books about diversity to our school library and questioning some of the ways that we address children and reach out to parents in an effort to be sensitive to the many personal and familial situations that often confront schools today. I am grateful for the great work that the whole Sousa staff does in this arena, and proud to have a Sousa team presenting that good work, and representing Port Washington in such a positive way, at ASCD again this year.

Of course, spring means only one thing around here in Beantown (snow or no snow)--those pesky Red Sox! Part of me looks forward to coming home soon.

Dave Meoli



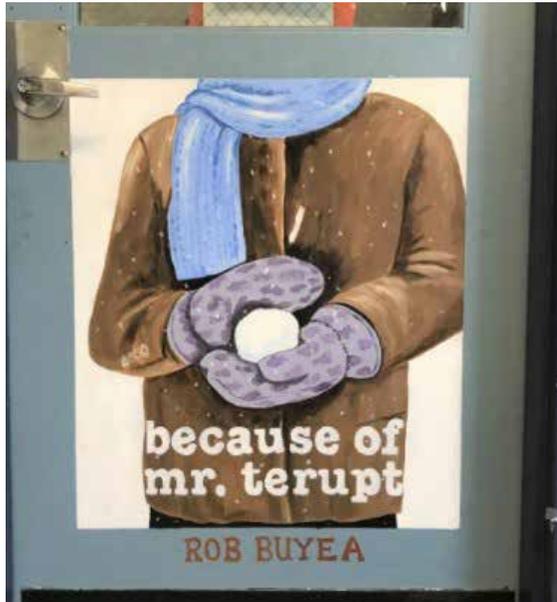
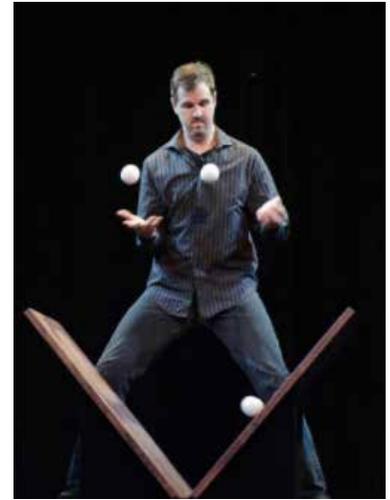
Ajna Dance Ensemble visits Sousa!

As students stepped off the bus on the morning of March 1st, they listened to Indian music playing in the lobby which was decorated with mandalas. Later, students and faculty were treated to a visit by the Ajna Dance Ensemble. They performed two interactive assemblies on both Indian customs and dance including Bollywood and classical. It was truly infectious with the students literally bouncing out of their seats. The dancers discussed the regions the dances came from and their purposes. It was both an educational and physical experience! Best of all, was their message at the end, encouraging all students to learn about their friends' traditions and cultures and the importance of inclusion. A special thank you to Stephanie Yardeni and the Sousa HSA Cultural Arts Committee.



Juggling Math and Science

The third grade took a trip to the Colden Auditorium at Queens College to see "Kinetics", featuring Greg Kennedy, a renowned juggler known for combining art and science through his craft. Using Greg's outstanding juggling performance interspersed with brief video animation lessons, the kids learned about the principles of light, energy and gravity. This was an engaging program that both entertained the students and inspired them to think more about the physical world around them.



New Painted Door at Sousa

Check out Sousa's newest decorated classroom door - Mrs. Miglietta's classroom, painted by the HSA's Beautification Committee. Through the committee's hard work and dedication, our school's hallways are filled with images of popular and engaging children's books. If you'd like to be a part of the Sousa Beautification committee that preps and/or paints these wonderful book covers on our classroom doors, contact Christina Byers, cpbyers@yahoo.com



Yoga at Sousa

Kindergarten and first grade students have been getting their “Om” on! They have been enjoying guided yoga sessions with Sousa’s very own “Yoga Jen”. Each week, they practiced breathing, bending and stretching their bodies and minds in fun and new ways. The school residency concluded with our annual Family Yoga day in March where a record turnout of students and their families came out to participate in group poses, games, balancing, breathing and relaxation exercises. The families loved creating their own individual “family pose” and sharing with the group. Thank you, Jen Schiffer, for bringing peace and tranquility to our school!



Studying Native Americans

Fourth graders created original cultural items of importance to the Native Americans as part of their social studies unit. Ranging from practical items such as bows and arrows and longhouses to items that reflect Native American beliefs such as dream catchers, peace pipes and water drums, the students not only created these artifacts but also researched and wrote essays on the replicas. Next time you are at Sousa, make sure to visit the students’ Native American Museum located in the lobby!



A Successful Blood Drive

Fourth grade students had a chance to participate in The Little Doctors Program from the New York Blood Bank. To prepare for this, they had a lesson from the Blood Bank on donating blood and how it is used. This year, we collected 32 pints of blood, which will help save almost 100 lives. Thank you to all who donated, and special thanks to Girl Scout Troop 436 who put up posters at storefronts throughout Main Street to help promote the drive!



Strike Up the Band & the Chorus!

This year's annual All District Band and Choral concert took place in Schreiber's newly renovated auditorium. Fourth and fifth grade students from all five elementary schools came together for this amazing night of music. After practicing together only a couple of times, the students' performance was reminiscent of listening to a professional concert. It was truly a testament not only to the talent and perseverance of our students but to the dedication of our teachers.



A Night of 1000 Strings

The Tilles Center was alive with the sounds of strings on March 12th. Port Washington string students in grades 5-12 all came together to perform their special pieces conducted by their individual school teachers. The audience was treated to a surprise finale when all of the students (over 350!) came on stage together to perform an original piece written especially for Port. It was an evening to remember! The event was made possible thanks to HEARTS and the Ed Foundation.



Skate with School

This year, Sousa teamed up with Manorhaven school to offer a morning of ice skating at Port Skating Center. Over 75 Sousa students took to the ice for this special event. Whether they were an advanced skater or spent most their time slip sliding across the rink, the kids had a blast with their friends. Thank you to all the parents who organized the event.



Students Swap Books

This year's book exchange was a hit! Students were able to donate books they no longer needed at home and pick out books that they were interested in reading—all for free! What a great way to teach the sustainable idea of re-using! Thank you to the HSA Book Exchange Committee co-chairs Amy Urban and Melanie Magali for organizing the event. Also thanks to all the faculty, students and volunteers for their help. Happy Reading!

Reading Around the World

Fourth and fifth graders are working on units which involve 3-D printing. Fifth grade is again using Caldecott award winning books to create a Google slide guessing game with hints and a 3-D object. With their slides mostly done, they are now exploring Tinkercad (the 3-D software we use), and working on their objects. Fourth grade is involved with a newer library unit. They are working with a partner to read and react to several Eve Bunting stories which deal with important social issues or events. The final project has them select one story, select one of two final focus areas, write their response and create a 3-D object representing their answer.

3rd grade has been using our research databases, Culturegrams and Worldbook online, to conduct research on specific countries. They will share their findings in an oversized postcard format. The classes that can be scheduled will share their work with Salem library students via Skype. Other classes will share within Sousa.



Award-Winning Children's Books

The following books received critical acclaim this year. Enjoy reading them during the break!

The Newbery Medal

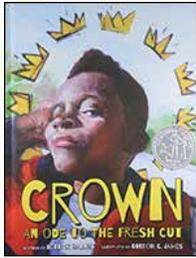
The Newbery Medal is awarded to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

2018 Newbery Medal Winner:

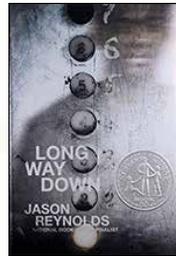


Hello, Universe,
written by Erin Entrada Kelly

2018 Newbery Honor Books:



Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut,
written by Derrick Barnes,
illustrated by Gordon C. James



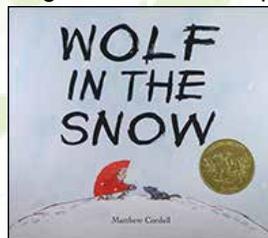
Long Way Down,
written by Jason Reynolds



Piecing Me Together,
written by Renée Watson

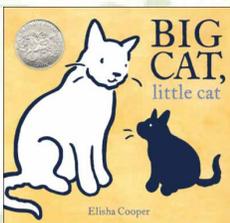
The Caldecott Medal

The Caldecott Medal is awarded annually to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

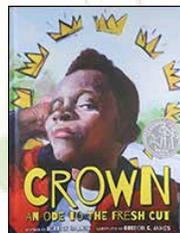


Wolf in the Snow,
illustrated and written by Matthew Cordell

2018 Caldecott Medal Honor Books



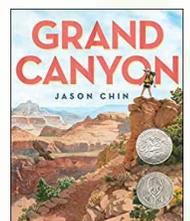
Big Cat, little cat
illustrated and written
by Elisha Cooper



Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut,
written by Derrick Barnes,
illustrated by Gordon C. James



A Different Pond,
illustrated by Thi Bui,
written by Bao Phi



Grand Canyon,
illustrated and written
by Jason Chin

The Pura Belpré Award

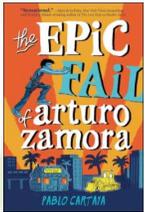
The Pura Belpré Award is presented annually to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

2018 Pura Belpré Author Award Winner:

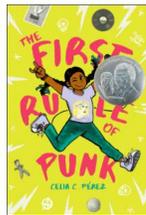


Lucky Broken Girl,
by Ruth Behar

2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Books:



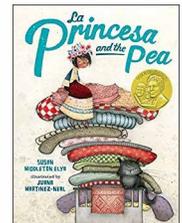
The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora,
by Pablo Cartaya



The First Rule of Punk,
by Celia C. Pérez



Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos,
illustrated by John Parra,
written by Monica Brown

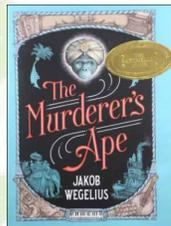


La Princesa and the Pea,
illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal,
written by Susan Middleton Elya

The (Mildred L.) Batchelder Award

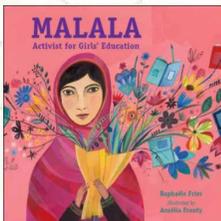
The Batchelder Award is given to the most outstanding children's book originally published in a language other than English in a country other than the United States, and subsequently translated into English for publication in the United States.

2018 Batchelder Award Winner:

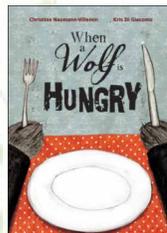


The Murderer's Ape,
written and illustrated by Jakob Wegelius, translated from the Swedish by Peter Graves

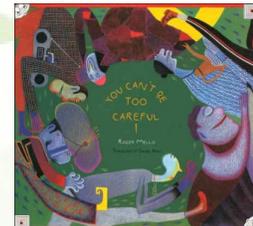
2018 Batchelder Award Winner:



Malala: Activist for Girls' Education,
written by Raphaële Frier,
illustrated by Aurélia Fronty,
and translated from the French by
Julie Cormier



When a Wolf Is Hungry,
written by Christine Naumann-
Villemin, illustrated by Kris Di
Giacomo and translated from the
French by Eerdmans Books for
Young Readers

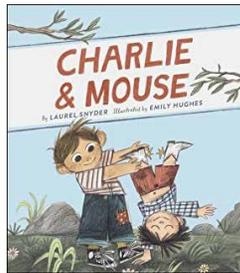


You Can't Be Too Careful!
written and illustrated by Roger Mello,
and translated from the Portuguese by
Daniel Hahn

The (Theodor Seuss) Geisel Award

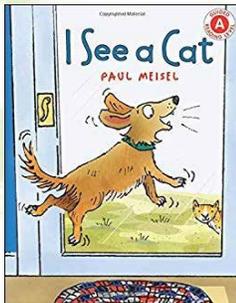
The Geisel Award is given annually to the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished American book for beginning readers published in English in the United States during the preceding year.

2018 Geisel Medal Winner:

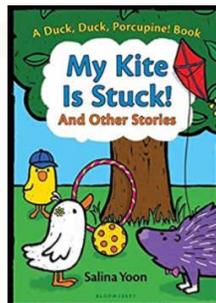


Charlie & Mouse,
written by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Emily Hughes

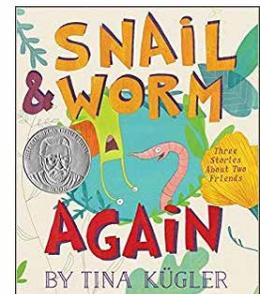
2018 Geisel Honor Books:



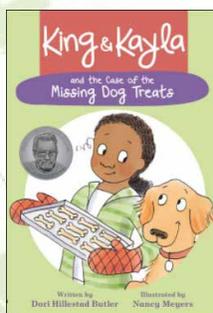
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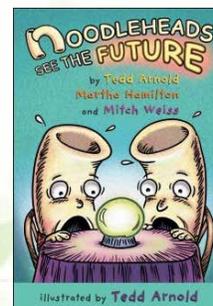
My Kite Is Stuck! And Other Stories,
by Salina Yoon



Snail & Worm Again,
by Tina Kügler



King & Kayla and the Case of the Missing Dog Treats,
written by Dori Hillestad Butler, illustrated by Nancy Meyers



Noodleheads See the Future,
written by Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss, illustrated by Tedd Arnold

**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 or Mat at lanfant@msn.com

Nutrition Week

This year the theme for National Nutrition Week was "Go Further With Food" encouraging kids (and their families) to learn how to get the most out of their relationship with food! Students received a colorful nutrition week flyer which highlighted that they should try new things, include items from all food groups, eat a rainbow and pick a meal to help make each week. At Sousa, the week also included a visit from Steve Panzik of Power Ten Fitness who led mini movement sessions for students. He incorporated exercises from various sports into a routine and kept the children engaged and excited to participate. Special thanks to Power Ten Fitness for donating their time to encourage the importance of exercise to our Sousa students! The students received a BPA-free water bottle at the end of the session and were reminded to drink a sufficient amount of water (6-8 cups) per day. One more note - due to the snow day on 3/21, our Pineapple Salsa sample day has been rescheduled to Wednesday, April 11 for all of the lunch periods.



Social Media Awareness

The Weber HSA organized a conversation focused on Social Media and Our Children. Parents found out about the newest apps Middle School students are using, learned more about what is actually taught about social media in Health class, and discussed topics such as social media etiquette and addiction.

The presentation, which was of interest for many fifth grade parents who are about to hand out a phone to their upcoming sixth grader, featured Guest Speaker and School Resource Police Officer John Groshans who discussed cyber-bullying and how important it is for young students to understand the potentially negative impact and consequences that can arise after posting just one photo, video, text or tweet. An eye opener and a reminder that when it comes to social media, children need support from their parents and need to be educated.



Afternoon Artists

For the second year in a row, students throughout the District are enjoying an afternoon of art with Sousa's own Mr. Moore. Thanks to a grant from HEARTS, fourth and fifth graders are participating in an after-school class of student-driven creative exploration. By working with ceramics, painting, printmaking and mixed media, they are creating individual visual statements that grow out of their experiences, feelings and interests. During this ten-week program, the students are also learning how other great artists have created personal works.



HEARTS Red Party Gala

This Year's annual HEARTS Red Party Gala Fundraiser in February honored several people who have been influential in bringing the arts to the children of Port Washington. Firstly, Allison Freidman and Stacey Medford who are the founders of Curtains Up: The After School Musical Theater Experience, which is a district-wide grant funded by HEARTS since 2014. Hundreds of fourth and fifth-grade students have had the opportunity to perform in a full-scale musical production under the expert guidance of Ms. Friedman and Ms. Medford. Also recognized that evening was Elyse Luray and Erika Cooper who received the Annual Founder's Award for outstanding volunteerism. HEARTS help enrich the arts in Port Washington and its public schools by supporting a variety of programs, such as Curtains Up, Dancing Classrooms, Night of 1000 Strings, Afternoon Art With Mr. Moore and Port Fest. For more information on HEARTS, [email info@heartspw.org](mailto:info@heartspw.org)



HSA Meeting with Guest Speaker, Dr. Mary



Sousa's very own "Dr. Mary" was the guest speaker at our March HSA meeting. Dr. Mary Gmiterek-Apat is a Doctor of Chiropractic, practicing Enzyme nutrition therapy for the past 16 years. Her practice includes focusing on whole food nutrition and brain balanced wellness with conservative chiropractic care. She spoke about the importance of "fueling your brain" and how the right foods can help you stay focused throughout the day. We all learned some tips and tricks to getting more protein in our diets and how that can affect how our bodies work. Dr. Mary shared great recipe ideas, and we all came away with a renewed sense of how to better fuel ourselves and our children to tackle our busy lives - Thank you Dr. Mary!

Vaping & E-Cigarettes

Parents' Council and the Safety & Substance Abuse Task Force Committee invited Amanda Cioffi, a LMSW Education & Training Supervisor from the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, to explain to parents everything about vaping, and all the risks associated with it. Schreiber and Weber Health teachers will be addressing this topic directly with the students. Best advice of the night to Parents - Stay informed on what is out there and what your children can potentially be doing. Special thanks to Ms. Joannon, PWSD Athletic Director, for providing this resourceful presentation.



Upcoming Events

April

3/30-4/6 – Recess, NO SCHOOL

4/11 - Garden Committee Clean Up Day

4/13 - Sousa Spirit Day

4/13 - Ed Foundation Gala

4/17 - Conversations with Dr. Meoli, 8:15am, Multi Purpose Room

4/21 - Sousa Social, 7:30pm, Manhasset Bay Yacht Club

May

5/2 - ACES

5/4 - Sousa Spirit Day

5/4 - HSA Meeting, 8:15am, Multi Purpose Room

5/10 & 5/11 - Mother's / Father's Day Fair

5/14 - Spring Concert, 7:30pm

5/15 – School Budget Vote and Board of Education Election

5/16 - Staff Appreciation Luncheon

5/19 - PortFest

5/23 - Conversations with Dr. Meoli, 8:15am, Multi Purpose Room

5/24 - Family Supernatural STEAMM Night, 6:30 - 9pm

5/25-5/28 - Recess, NO SCHOOL

Sousa Garden Update

Spring is here which means the gardening season is upon us. Over the next two months every grade will be visiting the garden to plant flowers, vegetables and herbs. The children absolutely love to be outside, getting their hands dirty and planting something that will continue to grow throughout the summer. The Garden Committee is always looking for volunteers - no gardening experience necessary. On Wednesday, April 11th, the committee members will meet to clean up and prepare the gardens for the upcoming weeks of planting. If you are interested in helping this spring or maintaining the garden over the summer, please contact Kate Walz at kmwalz@hotmail.com



Spring Clothing Drive

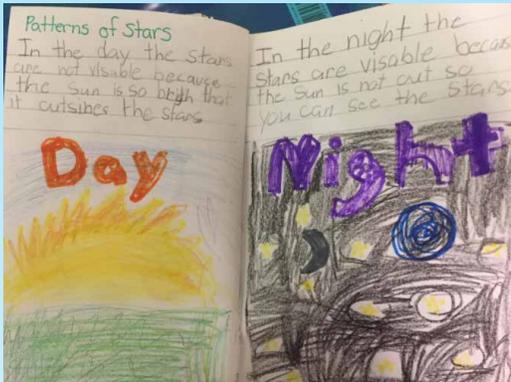
The Sousa HSA Community Outreach Committee and the Parents' Council would like to thank everyone who participated in the annual Port Washington Spring Clothing Drive. We were able to provide our neediest families with summer clothing, school concert outfits, prom dresses, and sports equipment. Thank you for your generosity!



Teachers update

Kindergarten –

The kindergarten classes celebrated their 100th day of school with a lot of fun activities: counting to 100 by ones and tens, working on a 100th day project, wearing 100th day crowns, doing 100th day exercises and reading 100th day books. The Kindergarteners also enjoyed the performance from the Ajna Dance company so much that they couldn't wait to show Mrs. Kosch (their creative dance instructor) the moves they have learned.



First Grade

First grade students are learning about the sun, moon, earth and the stars. They are discussing the patterns they notice. In Math, students started their length unit.

Second Grade

In second grade, students celebrated their Realistic Fiction Writing and are now published authors! Students have moved on to their next unit: Opinion Writing. They will be writing reviews of certain places or happenings by giving them a rating and strong reasons to support their opinion. In Math, they are learning about multiplication and division by using repeated addition and subtraction of equal groups.



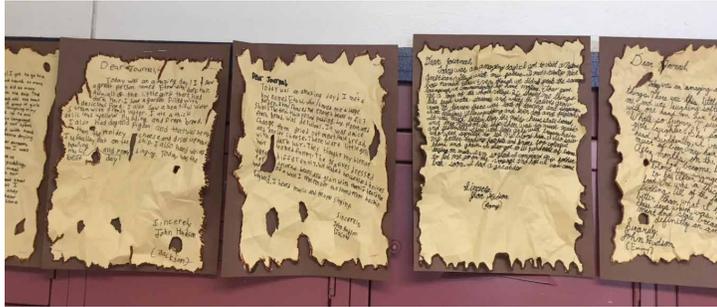
Third Grade

Third graders saw a fabulous show about the science of juggling that connected with their Forces and Motion science unit. Students are busy in the classroom exploring Asia and China, and starting to learn cursive handwriting.



Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, students celebrated the contributions of the African American community to our country by creating a thirteen-foot banner which is hanging outside the cafeteria. They went to see a live performance called The Jackie Robinson Story and each student researched a famous individual in this area. The research involved reading many books and using resources such as encyclopedias and websites. We are finishing up our study of electrical circuits and students have been busy creating series and parallel circuits as well as model heaters and fuses.



Fifth Grade

Fifth grade has started studying the Civil War. We are learning about multiplying and dividing decimals and we are also exploring the metric system and converting unit to unit. In writing, we are continuing to work on our response to various types of questions and practicing how to respond appropriately.

Library

Kindergarten - We have been celebrating award winning books. Soon we will learn about magazines and add them to our selection choices.

1st Grade - We will be learning about the story elements of character, setting, and plot. Fractured fairy tales will give us the opportunity to determine which story element has been changed.

2nd Grade - We will be identifying multicultural trickster and pourquoi folktales. We'll also be looking for cultural hints and evidence of the people telling these stories.

3rd Grade - Once we share our country project research, we will catch up on all the new book award winners.

4th Grade - We have been immersed in our Eve Bunting readings. Soon we will be sharing our thoughts and 3-D creations related to these titles. Look for a library display in the near future.

5th Grade - We also are about ready to create our 3-D objects to go with our Google Slide Caldecott challenge. Finished presentations will be on the library website.



Phys Ed Update

During our Sousa Winter Olympics unit all of the grades competed in 6 different events. The events included bobsled, luge, hockey, biathlon, speed skating and curling. Grades 3-5 were given countries to represent and they brought in interesting facts about their countries along with a drawing of their country's flag. All of our students showed tremendous Olympic spirit during the unit. Highlight video for the unit can be found here: <http://sousape.weebly.com/highlight-videos.html>



Cooking Lab Update

The Cooking lab was busy this past month and there was always a wonderful aroma when passing in front of it! Here are some good recipes:

Recipe #1

Sweet Valentine

Mrs. Keen's class celebrated Valentine's Day by making Cherry Kiss Cookies, which also helped reinforce the fractions unit the children just finished up. The dough was tinted pink by adding chopped maraschino cherries and the juice, and then a chocolate kiss was pressed into the cookies after they came out of the oven. Here is the recipe:

TOTAL TIME

Prep: 20 min. Bake: 10 min./batch + cooling

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons maraschino cherry juice
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 6 drops red food coloring, optional
- 2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup chopped maraschino cherries
- 54 milk chocolate kisses, unwrapped

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, beat butter, confectioners' sugar and salt until blended. Beat in cherry juice, extract and, if desired, food coloring. Gradually beat in flour. Stir in cherries.

Shape dough into 1-in. balls. Place 1 in. apart on greased baking sheets.

Bake 8-10 minutes or until bottoms are light brown. Immediately press a chocolate kiss into center of each cookie (cookie will crack around edges). Cool on pans 2 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool. Yield: 4-1/2 dozen.



Recipe #2

Pretzel time!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups warm water
- 1 1/8 tsp active dry yeast
- 1/2 tsp white sugar
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup bread flour
- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 - 3/4 stick sweet cream unsalted butter
- pretzel salt

BAKING SODA BATH INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups warm water
- 2 tbsp baking soda

DIRECTIONS

In a mixing bowl, sprinkle the yeast on the warm water (water temp 110 – 115 degrees), add 1/2 tsp of sugar, stir to dissolve and let sit for 5-10min. Stir in sugar and allow mixture to get creamy. Add salt and stir to dissolve. Add both types of flour then knead the dough until smooth and elastic. If you're using an electric mixer, use the paddle attachment until the dough comes together, then switch to a dough hook and knead on medium speed for at least 5 minutes. Roll dough into a ball, place in an ungreased bowl covered with plastic wrap and allow to rise for at least half an hour.

After the dough has risen, preheat the oven to 450 degrees and make the baking soda bath by stirring the baking soda into the warm water until dissolved. Grease baking sheets or line baking sheets with parchment paper. Pull off pieces of dough and roll into a thin rope, shape into a pretzel or leave as a pretzel stick, dip the shape into the baking soda bath and place on baking sheet for another rise (15-30min). Bake until golden brown then brush with melted butter and top with salt or cinnamon and sugar.



SOUSA
ELEMENTARY
EST. 1985

THE SOUSA HSA INVITES YOU TO
**SOUSA SOCIAL NIGHT
2018**

JOIN US FOR OUR LARGEST
FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR
TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND STUDENTS.

Waterfront Venue • Open Bar (Beer & Wine)
Dinner • Dancing • Silent Auction • Raffle

SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST AT 7:30 PM
MANHASSET BAY YACHT CLUB

Make sure to log on to our Social Night website:
www.501Auctions.com/sousasocial2018

To purchase your entry tickets & register to bid for
our silent auction (including faculty auction)



SOUSA FAMILY SUPERNATURAL STEAMM NIGHT

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics and Mindfulness)

A **GHOSTBUSTERS** EXPERIENCE

Thursday, May 24th, 6:30 - 9:00pm

Throughout the evening, all **Ghostbusters** (grades K-5) accompanied by their parents will observe and participate in a series of hands-on lab stations prepared with unique science experiments. This will be an opportunity to explore science together with family... and catch a ghost!



Amazing Experiments!!!

- Ectoplasm Slime Lab
- 3-D Ghost Hologram
- Zuul's DNA Extraction
- Ecto 1 Flying Drones
- Sublimation & Polymer Chemistry Lab
- Peter Venkman's Science Show
- The Keymaster's Magnet
- Spengler's Liquid Nitrogen Experiments
- Marshmallow Man's Toothpaste
- And Many More Experiments!



****We need plenty of volunteers****

Want to help? No science background necessary! We need plenty of volunteers to help run the stations that night.

Please fill up the form below and return to school, **Attn: STEAMM NIGHT**
OR contact Laura at lfriedla@nyit.edu or Mat at lanfant@msn.com

PLEASE RETURN BY TUESDAY APRIL 10th



Yes, I want to be a Ghostbusters for the Night!

Full Name: _____

eMail: _____ (PRINT CLEARLY)