

*the* **Souza**

**Notes**

*At Home*

WE ARE  
SOUSA  
STRONG  
EVERYWHERE!



*the* **Sousa**

**Notes**

*At Home*

A Note from  
**Dr. Meoli**



**A**s I round up my final responsibilities at Sousa this spring I have been amused, and a little amazed, at how “many” of everything I have participated in over my years here. For example, this is probably about my 175th contribution to the *Sousa Notes*. This from someone who has almost nothing to say (NOT).

I have rarely been at a loss for words about some facet of education as I faced each monthly deadline and have covered many topics from homework to Common Core to social/emotional learning to the history of our namesake, John Philip. Occasionally I

will get a call or an email or a comment at a meeting about one of them, and it is always nice to know that someone out there actually reads this stuff. I thank you for considering and sometimes bearing with my observations and opinions and for the feedback you (and your predecessors!) have given me. Writing is one of my favorite things and having someone read and comment on something I have written—heaven! I will miss that.

We all have our mentors in life and work, and I have to close my last piece here with a reflection about one of mine—Eric Moyer. Mr. Moyer was a teacher and, more importantly, the wrestling coach in Massachusetts where I attended high school. I am good at a number of things; wrestling is not one of them. I was on a state championship team, however, and enjoyed three years of practicing with Gary Chase, Eddie Kowalski, and other state champions and of being pushed—physically and mentally—by Coach Moyer. Even though I don’t think I ever won a match, I always felt accepted, valued, and part of the team. That might have taught me more than all my AP classes combined.

*Continued on next page*

## A Note from Dr. Meoli



Even though those practices were over a half century ago, I vividly recall his excitement, his intensity, and his absolute focus on loving every moment of every afternoon. As if it were yesterday, I remember him saying to all of us one day, “I love this job so much I get up and literally run to work every morning.”

I have often thought of those words as I have commuted to Sousa over the past 19 years; many of you know that although I don’t literally run to work, I get in very early and run before starting work. I have felt blessed every day you have allowed me to be your principal. I have felt blessed to be able to work with such talented teachers and staff members, as well as caring and hard working parents. Thank you, Coach,

for—among other things—giving me that vision of what success really means in a job.

I am very proud about many things that we have built together over the past two decades and I hope that I am—as good as Dr. Richard Barry left the school for me when he retired—leaving Sousa Elementary School in better shape than I found it.

I look forward to watching the school continue to grow and thrive under the leadership of Mrs. Sheehan, and I hope that I will love my new role so much that I continue to run to work every morning.

**So, one last time—  
We are Sousa Strong!**

**-Dave Meoli**

**T**his marks the last edition of our esteemed Sousa Notes Editor-in-Chief, Mat Lanfant, and two of our top contributors, Mara Sarchese and Ba-Nhi Sinclair, each of whom has a youngest child graduating from Sousa.

It is hard to underscore the enormity of the contributions that these three individuals have contributed to Sousa over the years. All three were HSA co-presidents, an enormous undertaking unto itself. In addition to editing the Sousa Notes, Mat was a chair of the Science Committee and Dad’s Night Out, and the powerhouse behind the Pride in Port Sousa float. Mara was a chair of the Sousa Social Committee, the Pizza Workshop, 5th Grade Committee and Friends of the Library and Art Room. Ba-Nhi remained involved not only with the Sousa Notes but with the Art and Library Committees, Book Fair, Mother’s/Father’s Day Fair and more, and could always be counted on to lend a hand and show support at every HSA meeting.

With their departures, our Sousa community has big shoes to fill.

**Thank you Mat, Mara and Ba-Nhi for your time, generosity and dedication to Sousa. Weber is lucky to have you.**

**Farewell  
and Good  
Luck!**



# Sousa HSA

**S**ince our last edition of the Sousa Notes, the HSA hosted another successful Book Exchange. Thank you Erin Mastronardi for your hard work and to everyone who donated and volunteered. We also had one last live HSA meeting on the evening of March 3, and one in our new virtual world.

**Our March 3 meeting featured guest speakers Danielle Mattina and Victoria Borsella, district literacy administrators, who presented strategies for establishing a love of reading in elementary-aged students. Although unbeknownst at the time, if you attended that**

**meeting, you were able to get a sneak peek - and undoubtedly a very favorable impression - of Sousa's new assistant principal next year: Mrs. Danielle Mattina! We welcome Mrs. Mattina into our Sousa community.**



**The last HSA meeting of the school year was held (virtually) on June 1st. We were happy to see so many incoming kindergarten parents join us! We were also joined by our District and Board of Education representatives to**

**discuss the upcoming BOE Budget Vote. The HSA Executive Board slate was also voted on and approved for next year.**

## Conversations with Dr. Meoli

**We had a great turnout at our final (but first ever virtual)**

**“Conversations with Dr. Meoli” Q&A on May 7th.**

**Topics addressed included plans for the end of the school year, what online teaching will look like moving forward, and what school will look like in the fall.**

**While we will never be able to truly replace “Conversations with Dr. Meoli,” we look forward to “Conversations with Mrs. Sheehan” beginning in the fall!**

# Food pantry

**I**n another shining example of the generosity of our Sousa community, over Mother's Day weekend Sousa staff helped to restock Our Lady of Fatima and St. Peter's food pantries.

Many thanks to Nurse Judy and paraprofessionals Paula Wersan, Jane Candido, Lorraine Klapper and Heather Hurt.



## Literacy Committee Note

Hello! During this time of virtual everything, we would like to pass along this virtual storybook.

Click below to view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nw5KQMXDiM4>

We would also like to remind you that your children have many options for virtual books from various sites and sources provided by their teachers and we hope that your children are enjoying time to read and write down their experiences during this historical moment in time.

Wishing you safety and health during this challenging time. Have a great summer!

**Jill Lundberg & Dina Maiella-Marro**  
**Sousa HSA Literacy Committee**  
**Co-Chairs**

# Parting words from outgoing HSA Co-President, Jessica Feingold

**A**BOUT THREE YEARS AGO, MY NEIGHBOR, Lindsay Soloff, informed me that her co-chair on the Sousa Apparel Committee was stepping down and that she had volunteered me to take her place. It was perfect, Lindsay said, because it would be easy to access the apparel stored in our neighboring garages, and it was fun to sell apparel at different school events and interact with lots of different people. I'd moved to Port Washington only the year before, and Lindsay was my leading source of advice and information on everything school and town related. Lindsay was a devoted mom of two beautiful girls, a beloved wife and sister, a former teacher herself, a class parent every year at the school, a camp group division leader, a friend to many; totally in the know. So if she said it, who was I to argue? Besides, who on this planet could resist Lindsay's charms, that smile? And so, Lindsay's garage became my garage, and a devoted Sousa volunteer was born. Maybe too devoted, because when I told Lindsay that Mara Sarchese essentially bribed me to be HSA co-president with a mere cup of coffee, Lindsay, without missing a beat, as was her way, informed me I was out of my \*\$%#^@! mind.

Perhaps. But I'm awfully glad that I said yes to Mara. And I am so, terribly, sorry that the person who was my introduction into the world of Sousa volunteerism is not here to see me reach the end of my term as co-president. There are really no words sufficient to express the magnitude of loss to the Soloff family, to the individuals who were lucky enough to be Lindsay's friends, to our community. But I would be remiss not to express my gratitude to Lindsay for being a guide, an inspiration of fortitude and optimism and a friend who welcomed my family as her own.

2020 has not been the year that anyone would have expected or wanted. Our community's loss of Lindsay was followed in quick succession by a global pandemic and the confronting of racism and social justice issues. The entire fabric of our society is being examined and adjusted, and we can only hope for positive change.

Throughout it all, the Sousa community has remained

Sousa Strong. The outpouring of support from families for local food pantries and the online Sousa Social was absolutely phenomenal – but not surprising. I have had the privilege in my role to encounter on a daily basis the devotion and talent of so many Sousa parents who dive headfirst into donating their time and resources to all of the fantastic HSA committees. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteer, who respond to time sensitive requests without making me feel like a bothersome procrastinator and who inspire with their creativity and knowledge. It was especially a pleasure to get to know and work with the executive board and my two co-presidents over the years. Jillian Lundberg, who is a patient, sincere and generous mentor and confidant and Gabrielle Sternberg, whose wisdom, organization, calm, excellent instincts and sense of humor have made working with her an absolute pleasure. I have no doubt Gabrielle, along with Jessica Weaver (welcome!), will lead the HSA with excellence next year.



It goes without saying that you cannot have a strong Home and School Association without the support of the faculty, staff and administrators at the school. At Sousa, the level of openness and collaboration between all of these stakeholders is unparalleled. It has been an honor to be a part of this collaboration, which has underscored the devotion of our teachers to the students and their

commitment to educate and enrich every child. Thank you Dr. Meoli for serving as HSA Second Vice-President all of these years and for your unending support of the HSA, your openness to new ideas and for telling it to me straight and letting me do the same. Mrs. Sheehan, it has been a pleasure getting to know you this year and I know the school is lucky to have you. Many thanks to Liz Molloy, Karen Silver, Maureen McCalley and Dawn Cox for all your help with my endless requests!

If you haven't already, I encourage you to get involved in the HSA in any way you can, big or small. It has been a privilege to advocate for the school and students, to make lasting friendships and to learn about the school and the district. I hope everyone has a great summer and that I can say in real life and not over a screen, see you in September.



# Congratulations, Fifth Graders!

**W**hat a school year it has been for every student, but particularly the students that are moving up and hitting milestones!

Our fifth grade class is no exception as this chapter of elementary school closes. Despite having missed the anticipated fifth grade trip into the city to see Aladdin on Broadway, the end of year party, and many more little perks of being a fifth grader, our school and HSA creatively came up with many ways to celebrate this year's class.

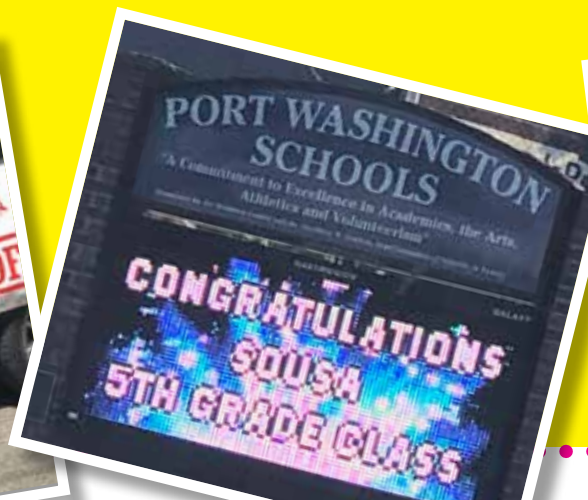
To kick off the festivities, parents were invited to a Virtual Moving Up Ceremony where Pomp and Circumstance was played, and each student's name was read, followed by speeches from Dr. Meoli and Dr. Hynes, with a surprise cameo appearance from James Monroe Iglehart, the original Genie of Aladdin on Broadway. The ceremony

concluded with all of the students' recording of Hall of Fame, coordinated by Ms. Berberabe.

Later that afternoon, a car parade of teachers, assistants, and administrators drove by each fifth grade bus stop, keeping an acceptable social distance of course! That evening, students participated in a virtual graduation party.

As a final send-off, students waved as their teachers personally delivered moving up certificates, along with some other surprises. As you drive around town in June, look for a banner, which was arranged by the Parents' Council and our HSA hanging on the Weber Middle School fence that recognizes our fifth graders!

**Congratulations to this year's class, and we wish them the best of luck as they enter Weber next year!**



# Library Notes from Ms. Moser

Summer  
Reading!

Sousa Families -  
enjoy the summer and  
keep on reading!

Click the link below to  
access all sorts of  
Summer Reading  
Opportunities!

—Ms. Moser

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/19F37P-kytfp0ODzHRHmXsAcDVNtq\\_tbOnLyaAPe732k/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/19F37P-kytfp0ODzHRHmXsAcDVNtq_tbOnLyaAPe732k/edit?usp=sharing)



Library  
Bookmark  
Contest!

**The Library Bookmark Contest went virtual this year!**

Our students were asked to design a bookmark using books, stories, and/or poems as a theme. In years' past, a winner is chosen and all of the bookmarks are displayed at Sousa. However, this year all of our entries were winners and Ms. Moser put together a wonderful slideshow of almost 150 entries!

**Click the link below to view the slideshow!**

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/150KEjMLOlvJms7RrL1vzTFfIG2ZjhGVFn7Trfiy3wWA/present?slide=id.g840d6f20ba\\_2\\_81](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/150KEjMLOlvJms7RrL1vzTFfIG2ZjhGVFn7Trfiy3wWA/present?slide=id.g840d6f20ba_2_81)



# Sousa Social!

**I**t was another amazing Sousa Social event, and at a time when we needed you the most! The Sousa Social, our largest annual fundraiser was planned for April 4th, 2020 at Manhasset Bay Yacht Club but instead we gathered virtually on the weekend of May 2nd.

We wanted to take a minute to thank all of YOU who helped make this “virtual event” a night to remember. This year’s event was very different from years past but the turnout was outstanding and exceeded all expectations - nearly 150 people joined us to celebrate Sousa and to raise important funds through the HSA for our children and our school. We raised over \$23,000 from the online auction, sponsorships and monetary donations.

We could not have had such a successful event without the help of the following people whose time and dedication made the Sousa Social possible:

- Our Sousa HSA Fundraising Committee who pitch in year-round to solicit donations, prepare for the night, and volunteer at the Social. Luckily they had done all of their soliciting before the quarantine!
- Our teacher representatives, Karen Silver and Liz Molloy, who organized the faculty donations.

- Our amazing faculty and staff who donate their time and provide priceless opportunities for our children to enjoy fun experiences with them. The faculty generously offered to honor the winners once school resumes again, giving students yet another reason to look forward to school reopening.

- Our paraprofessionals who donated an incredibly generous silent auction basket for the event night.

- **The over 200 businesses, most of them local, who donated items for auction. Please be sure to shop local once these businesses re-open to show thanks for their generosity and support of Sousa.**

- Our “rock star” Sousa parents for their generous support of the event!

Finally, we would like to thank ALL Sousa families for your tireless support. It is our hope that with your help, we can ensure the future is brighter and even more extraordinary for the students. We are together even when apart and are forever bonded by these unprecedented times. It takes a village to raise a child and the Sousa community proves time and time again that we are in it together and will always and forever be Sousa Strong. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

—Jessica Feingold and Gabrielle Sternberg,  
Sousa HSA Co-Presidents

—Shannon Davis, Amanda Jassin,  
Erin Mastronardi, Mara Sarchese and  
Jen Schiffer, Sousa Social Event Co-Chairs

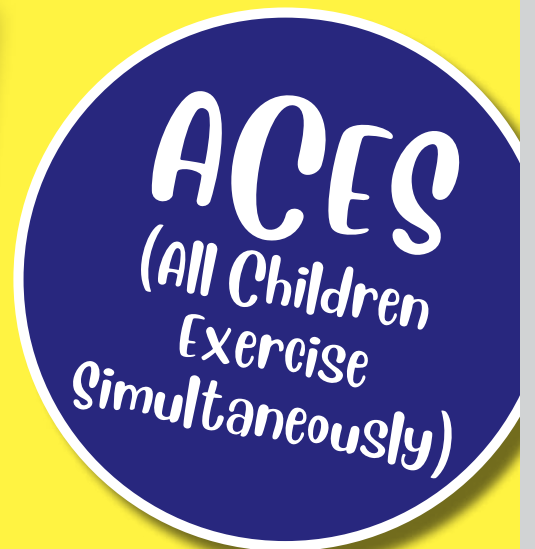


# Notes from P.E.

**Hello Sousa! In Physical Education, our students have been very active participating in a wide variety of activities.**

**In each lesson students have been performing different challenging exercises along with practicing skills such as throwing and catching and juggling. It was a huge highlight to watch our students dance in our first “Virtual ACES” and this week the students have been excited about our “Virtual Field Day.”**

**Thank you for working hard! Stay safe and stay active!**



**Even though our students may not have physically been at Sousa for ACES this year, our amazing gym teachers kept them physically active at home participating in an awesome ACES routine!**

**This years' ACES event took place virtually on Wednesday, May 6th. Mr. Dooley and Mr. Robilotto created a video for everyone to follow along to and then asked for students to send pictures and videos of them performing the dances.**

**The entire family got funky, did the electric slide and the cha-cha, square-danced, and did the Thriller dance!**

**Click below to watch the ACES 2020 highlight video:**

**<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=rycg9e3qJJw>**

# Music Notes

**School was closed, but the music played on!**

**Check out the links below to see all of the innovative ways Mrs. Berberabe devised to showcase student talent during quarantine.**

**And in case you missed it, check out Mr. Viavattine's recruitment video below for 2nd and 3rd graders interested in band, and Mrs. Misanas' video for 2nd graders who may be interested in orchestra next year.**

**Sousa Spirit Virtual Choir:**

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Gntt\\_0SWAwfqC-Li4nhG6M0RRNs3AC95](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Gntt_0SWAwfqC-Li4nhG6M0RRNs3AC95)

**Sousa Spirit Virtual Choir with Bonus Footage for Dr. Meoli:**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1TFtOIW1benrQLsZE7D6zHlrgzDyqdGps>

**5th Grade Graduation Virtual Choir "Hall of Fame" :**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1umbh20qBzIYHdfkwqRypFwWkGQ8wJdtg>

## FLIP GRID PERFORMANCES

**Sousa Mini Recital:**

<https://flipgrid.com/sousaminirecital>

**NYSSMA Solo Showcase:**

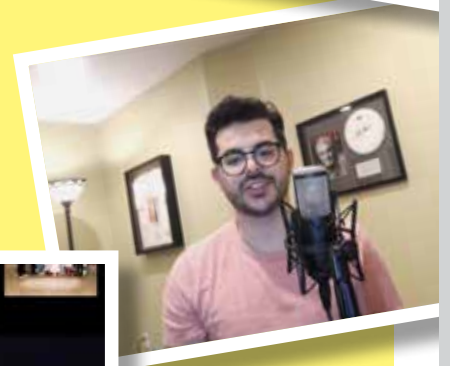
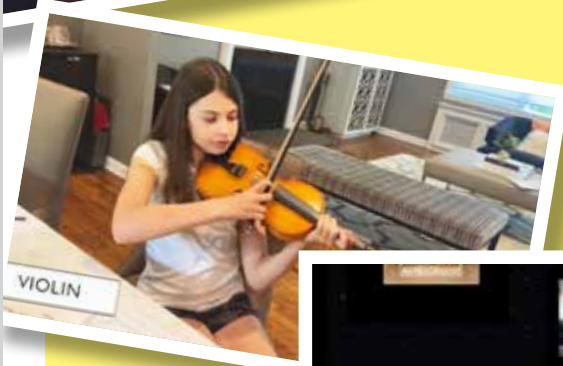
<https://flipgrid.com/sousanyssmasolos>

**Band Instrument Recruitment Video:**

<https://youtu.be/tQ6lL6Lq4B4>

**Orchestra Instrument  
Recruitment Video**

<https://youtu.be/pgzSJoeenIQ>



# Kindergarten

The kindergarten classes have been using new programs to support virtual learning, such as RAZ Kids, Freckle, Boom Cards and others. They have enjoyed spending time with one another learning and sharing during our live virtual meetings.

Our youngest Sousa students are honing their technological skills during these Google Meets using the microphone, pin and grid tools to maximize the Google Meet experience. As first graders, they will be ready to use these formats if necessary in the coming year.



What  
We're  
Learning  
Now!

## First Grade

First graders are practicing all the different reading strategies they learned this year. They are doing a fabulous job.

They are learning to tell time to the hour and half hour.

The first graders started researching an animal that they chose. They are finding out what the animal looks like,

where the animal lives, what the animal eats and

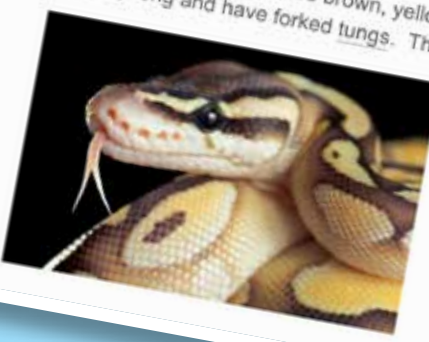
other interesting facts about the animal.

Here are some pictures of their work.

Have a great summer!

What does your animal look like?

Python are many difrint colors. They can be brown, yellow, or black. They have scales. Python are very long and have forked tungs. They also have 2 nostrils, just like us.



Where does your animal live?

Chinstrap Penguins live in Antarctica. Chinstrap penguins live on icebergs.



## Second Grade

As a second grade, we are proud of our students for how well they managed to transition to remote learning! We continued to dive into each of our content areas and the children were also able to publish their third writing piece this year.

Students explored and gathered new information all about a penguin of their choice. As we traveled along the writing process, the students learned new techniques on their Google doc to bold important vocabulary words and utilize all they have learned about the use of text features to create these informational books. We are so happy to celebrate their accomplishments!

### Macaroni Penguins



What  
We're  
Learning  
Now!

## Third Grade

The Sousa third grade has been working hard during our remote learning. We have used many new online programs across the curriculum. We had a "Virtual Wax Museum." During our biography study each student chose a famous person to study. They then researched this person using EPIC! and other online resources. Finally, they created a Flip Grid or a slide show for our "Virtual Wax Museum."

During our study of Brazil each student researched a rainforest animal. After they collected facts they created a picture book on their animal using the program Book Creator. Students were able to insert photos and videos into the books. These books were then shared with their classmates. Students then read each other's books to learn about different rainforest animals.

We miss the third graders dearly so we held a grade level "Virtual Bingo Game" for all four classes. It was great to "see" all their smiling faces. We are Sousa STRONG!

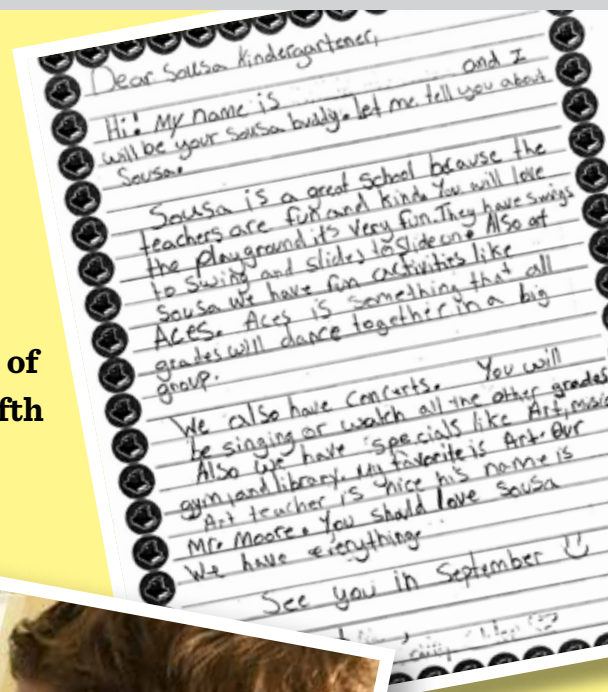
Diet



food/diet - Sloths like to eat fruit and twigs. Sloths will find their food in trees. They get their water from leaves. Sloths are not predators they are prey. When sloths are on the ground is when they are most in danger as sloths move very slow. Sloths are hunted by jaguars, snakes and large birds. Sloths can swipe at these animals with their claws. Sloths are omnivores as they eat leaves and fruit. Sometimes they will eat small lizards and bugs.

# Fourth Grade

The fourth grade has just completed a study of the Road to Revolution. Our students examined the cause and effect relationships between major events that led to the American colonies' eventual break from English rule. In addition, fourth graders learned how to apply various types of figurative language to their own original poetry. As future fifth graders, our kiddos are excited to participate in the Sousa Buddy program. They are currently writing letters to Sousa's incoming Kindergarten class.



What We're Learning Now!

# Fifth Grade

The fifth grade has been finishing up the year and their time at Sousa. They have been meeting with their class and completed the fifth grade math curriculum, read many books, learned about the different forms of governments around the world and learned about ecosystems. The fifth graders created a Primary Source Journal about the Covid-19 experience which included what was happening in their own homes, the community, and some reflective art pieces.

We are glad that The Fifth Grade Moving Up Experience was able to happen, with a fifth grade art project and fifth grade choral piece, followed by a virtual graduation. Teachers were excited to celebrate the students with a car parade and special delivery of their certificates and other surprises from the teachers on the last day of school.



# Notes from Mr. Moore

**W**hen we left Sousa on that Thursday in March, I fully expected to be back in the art room the following Tuesday. There must be 1000 pieces of ceramic waiting to be fired on shelves including some amazing animals in their habitats, and colorful windchimes. There are boxes filled with extraordinary though unfinished masks, and shelves overflowing with exceptional drawings and paintings. There are also paintings lining the halls of Sousa, waiting to be taken down and returned.



I have done my best to put together as many 5th grade puppets as I can, and if yours wasn't with your bag when you came to pick up your child's belongings, it was only because I couldn't discern what head, went with which hands and what body goes with which stand. To that end, I intend on scheduling in the new school year, safety permitting, a couple of after school puppet put together and take-home times, for those students who are interested.

Assuming I am in my real classroom next year, rather than the Google one, we will finish our masks, glaze the extraordinary animals in their habitats and put together our windchimes. We will also fin-

ish our papermaking, and batiks because they will all be beautiful!

I will also get everything home as quickly as possible, because one lesson I have learned this year is how unpredictable our future can be.

Once leaving the real art room for the virtual one, I have regrouped by creating a wide variety of online lessons and projects that students can choose from.

Some of these lessons have also come from my talented art colleagues from the other elementary schools in Port Washington. Sousa students have been assigned the task of choosing a lesson, creating an image, and turning it in through Google Classroom, every two weeks. I, in turn, have created an online slide show/gallery made from every image a student has sent me. Negotiating this digital environment has been... complicated for all of us. For example, just taking an in-focus photo of an artwork and negotiating the process of turning it in to Google Classroom has been a knotty challenge at best.



Below you will find links to several of the ever growing, "Sousa Art at Home" Galleries for your enjoyment. Click on the gallery name to view:

## **SOUSA ART GALLERY 1**

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1w4ybDFghid0HLs6wQ8bUW-TZL3yj0muaYvGaMar7njw/edit?usp=sharing>

## **SOUSA ART GALLERY 2**

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SmfVe3h2po0LlsSeHSMqMSn-0cZtpdcMLnRQ82gVulk/edit?usp=sharing>

## **SOUSA ART GALLERY 3**

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1iSrZyfDY2lx8f2R98TaarkEL-PJLd0sGwvbAmd8Q9YE/edit?usp=sharing>

## **SOUSA ART GALLERY 4**

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/13hBoQEEbbFXiWAdHEIPfLLON5wEU397tqHPFZCPYQdQ/edit?usp=sharing>

## **SOUSA ART GALLERY 5**

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VlvTivQhiHPn0FrhuCSuj3r1Jl0wgebQlnXuTWus\\_5M/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VlvTivQhiHPn0FrhuCSuj3r1Jl0wgebQlnXuTWus_5M/edit?usp=sharing)

# Notes from Mr. Moore

## Fifth Grade Art Project

**Because of the virtual and separated nature of the past four months, it has been exceptionally challenging to create a 5th grade project.**

**After much thought, I have asked our students to photographically document their experience during this complicated time of the Covid 19 quarantine.**

**To be honest, I really didn't know what to expect, though I believed as a theme it was important and powerful. I have to say that your children have created an amazingly thoughtful, evocative, and meaningful artistic statement. Each image stands beautifully well as a singular expression, but when brought together as a whole it conveys so much about this moment, these children's experiences, and this community.**

**This project will be permanently installed on a video monitor on campus. A book that includes each image with a sentence written by each child will be included to provide context and will be placed on a shelf next to the monitor. I've done my best to include one photo from each child, but it is completely possible I have missed someone. I can easily edit and change this video, so please email me if you have any concerns.**

**Click on the link below to see the video:**

### **Port in the Time of Corona**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pP4EFyG9VCjSoLO--RQiSibKXobQvh0h/view?usp=sharing>

**The Port Washington Public Library is very interested in adding our project to their PWPL Covid-19 Public Memory Project. I would like to give them a copy of our movie, all of the photos your children have given me during this process, as well as other documentation.**

**Please keep an eye out in the coming days for a permission slip so that your child's work can be part of this exciting opportunity.**



# RULER Corner

Mrs. B. has been busy making RULER videos, helping families to create their own family charters, and engaging everyone in the Sousa family with mood meter and (coming soon!) meta moment activities.

Continuing RULER exercises help children have continuity between home and school and can be useful with the management of emotions during this challenging time. We know for sure that emotions are running high right now; small things can set both adults and children off more than usual.

Using the mood meter and meta moment skills can really help deescalate a situation and help all parties come to consensus.



## RULER

Building Emotionally Literate Schools

Our teachers have been using social/emotional check-ins to connect with how students are feeling about the end of school.

These check-ins are important as they give students the opportunity to be heard and validated. With so many things happening that are out of their control, it is important for children (and adults!) to remember that they can control how they express and regulate those emotions.

The RULER implementation team is working on some surprises for the summer; we feel these morsels of information will really help support families to make the best out of a challenging situation.

**Having a growth mindset at this time is a good thing to practice as well:**

"I have had wonderful family time"

"We have enjoyed nature much more than ever"

"My child learned to ride a two-wheeler"

"I learned to cook or bake"

**How has your family grown and connected?**

**Until we meet again...be well!**



# WE WILL MISS YOU, DR. MEOLI!

**I**t is hard to believe that in this last Sousa Notes of the 2019-2020 school year, we are also saying goodbye to our principal of 19 years. Dr. Meoli, you have been a fierce supporter of our Sousa community. Your dedication to the children and staff is apparent and has truly made Sousa...Strong.

As our namesake John Philip Sousa once said, "Is it not the business of the conductor to convey to the public in its dramatic form the central idea of the composition? And how can he convey that idea successfully if he does not enter heart and soul into the life of the music?" Dr. Meoli, you have been the conductor here at Sousa. You have advocated for our students and given them opportunities in all subject areas as well as the arts - a deep love and talent of yours. Your focus on social and emotional learning has shaped the students in these last years and will hopefully last them a lifetime.

But it's not only the students you have impacted. Our second grade teachers expressed a sentiment espoused by all: "Dr. Meoli has helped shape us into the teachers we are! He has pushed us, challenged us and supported us in so many ways. He set the tone for our Sousa family and we know it will continue because of the foundation he has set. Dr. M has provided us with so many laughs and memorable moments that we will cherish always!"

We will sorely miss your songs on kindergarten graduation, your speeches, your Halloween costume surprises and of course your fist bumps!!!

Thank you for all that you have done to support the HSA through the years and all that you have done for our Sousa family. You will be missed but we are so happy that you will be staying in our Port community and helping make positive changes in our curriculum.

We look forward to working alongside Mrs. Sheehan and continuing your legacy here at Sousa. So here's a giant fist bump from ALL of us to YOU.

