September 2015

Dear Families,

I am so excited to welcome each and every family back to Southdown. A special welcome to all of our new kindergarten families. We have been working hard this summer to prepare an outstanding educational experience for your children. I would like to highlight a few key items as the new school year is underway:

- Thank you to Kimberly Steinberg and the PTA for purchasing street signs for our hallways. We have named our hallways Courage Court, Kindness Avenue, Success Street, and Friendship Road. These names were selected by the students last year. All of these street names demonstrate important qualities we want our students to possess.

- Last year a new tradition began with our graduating fourth graders painting rocks which were placed at the front entrance. We are taking it a step further and having our kindergartners paint rocks at the start of the school year to add to the collection. Students will be able to leave their mark on Southdown when they enter and when they graduate. Thank you to the PTA and our teachers for facilitating this process.

- Please join the Southdown community on Friday, September 18th, for our 2nd annual block party. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather in an informal capacity and kick the school year off with some fun for all. A flyer with more information to follow.

- The Southdown staff works to publish a newsletter that will be distributed three times per year. We published our first edition in the spring of last year. We call this newsletter “Southdown Stuff.” You can find classroom, department, and building highlights in this publication. Please be on the lookout for the fall edition in October.

- Grades 3 and 4 Meet the Teacher night will take place on Wednesday, September 30th. Grades K – 2 Meet the Teacher night will take place on Tuesday, October 6th. Both evenings begin at 7:00 PM.

- The first PTA meeting will be Wednesday, September 9th, at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria.

- There are many days off in the first month of school. Please make sure you check the district calendar to plan accordingly.
I am so excited and grateful to continue the Principal and PTA book choice for the 2015 – 2016 school year. The PTA has graciously offered to purchase one book of my choosing for each of our eighteen classes at Southdown three times per year. Our fall book choice is *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, by Judi Barrett. This book describes a place where imaginations can run wild, creativity is encouraged, and a little magic can go a long way…just like here at Southdown Primary School. Our teachers will read this story to their classes within the first few weeks of school. I hope you will take the time to read fun, interesting, informative, and thought provoking books with your children throughout their lives. It’s my hope to instill a love of reading in children in their first school experience.

As always, my door will remain open to you throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. I am proud to serve as principal and will do anything I can to make your child’s experience at Southdown rewarding, enriching, nurturing, and academically stimulating.

Best wishes for an outstanding school year!

Sincerely,

Scott Oshrin