



Southdown Stuff

Edition 1

April 1, 2015



Southdown Primary School • 125 Browns Road • Huntington, NY • 11743 •
(631) 673-2080 • Hours: 9:20 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. • Spring 2015

Message from the Principal

Welcome to the first edition of Southdown Stuff. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep the Southdown community aware of all the wonderful happenings in our school. Our staff has put together highlights from their program and/or grade level. I hope you enjoy reading about our school community.

I have said it on many occasions but I would like to reiterate my appreciation for the parent and community support we receive. The PTA has been so generous with their time and money to support our students. Thank you to Mrs. Rinaldi, Mrs. Murtagh, and the entire executive board for supporting initiatives such as: Community Read-In-Day, Principal and PTA Book Choice, Bingo Night, Book Fair, Field Trips, and so many more.

I ask for your cooperation to not park in the fire lane located in the bus loop while school is in session. This area needs to be accessible to emergency service vehicles at all times. It is especially difficult for us to effectively execute our arrival and dismissal procedures when cars are parked in the bus loop. Cars should be parked in designated spots during school hours. Thank you for your understanding.

As a result of a grant, security cameras were recently installed at Southdown. You may have noticed the sign outside of our building. This added security measure will enhance our current safety procedures and protocols.

Congratulations to Mrs. Graber on the birth of her son, Steven. Our Southdown family is so happy for the Graber family. While we miss her terribly, we have found a talented and caring replacement in Ms. Morace. Please join me in welcoming her to our community.

As always, my door is open. Please reach out if you have any questions. I thank you for your support thus far in my first year as Southdown's principal. I look forward to many more.

Welcome Ms. Morace!



Ms. Nicole Morace is the new music teacher filling in for Mrs. Graber at both Southdown and Washington Primary Schools. Ms. Morace is a graduate of C.W. Post Long Island University and holds a masters degree from CUNY Queens College in music education. She has been teaching music for the past five and a half years in several districts on Long Island including Mineola, Sachem, Garden City and West Islip.

Ms. Morace has always loved working with children. She believes that music is a subject in which every student can succeed. In her career thus far, she has established lasting relationships with the students and families in each of the school districts that she has taught. In Huntington, Ms. Morace is going to be conducting the Spring Chorus Concerts at both Southdown and Washington Schools. She plans to continue teaching Orff instruments, recorder and music literacy with the music classes for the remainder of the school year. Ms. Morace is very excited to be a new addition to the Huntington family and she is looking forward to becoming a part of the school community.



Kindergarten Highlight



The Kindergarten classes celebrated the 100th day of school by;

Family project

Counting by 10's (skip counting)

Read 100th day books; Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100th Day of Kindergarten; 100th Day Worries, One Hundred Hungry Ants

The students and teachers dressed as if we were 100 years old

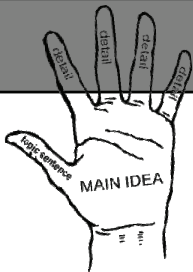
We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by;

Reading his books

Discussed the jobs of an author and illustrator

Rhyming games

Crafts



First Grade Highlights



First Grade Science "MATTERS"

Keeping Fit and Healthy: Students explored voluntary and involuntary muscles, exercises to stay fit and healthy and food that keep you energized.

Organisms: Students identified between living and non-living things. They completed an interactive plant project. Students observed woodland plants - a tree seedling and moss.

Comparing and Using Measurement: Students are measuring using non-standard and standard units of measurement, making indirect comparisons of length, using centimeter cubes and rulers.

Upcoming topics are Matter & Simple Machines!



Second Grade Highlights

The second grade students are learning about our economy. We discovered we can be producers and consumers. We identified wants and needs, and how we can make decisions about spending our income, or saving it for something else later on. Many of the children realized that by doing chores at home, they've already become a part of the economy- both earning income helping out at home, and spending it on things they want to buy.



Third Grade Highlights



Chrome Books

The students are becoming proficient at using their Chrome Books. They are using them for...

- research based projects
- Google presentations
- document writing
- responses to literature

The third grade classrooms are also beginning to integrate Google classroom. It is a virtual environment where students and teachers can interact in an academic forum.

Math

Students have completed the first 3 math modules and currently working with their 4th module. The focus of the current module...

- identifying unit fractions and clarify their relation to the whole
- Represent and compare fractions on number line diagrams
- equivalent fractions
- compare and order fractions and reason about their size

Science

The students have been learning about biomes...

- identifying 6 major land biomes and their specific characteristics
- learning about how plants and animals adapt to their specific biome

Social Studies

- upcoming unit on map and globe skills
- communities throughout the world and civil responsibility

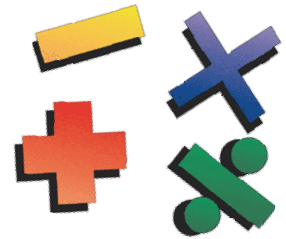
ELA

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of the text.

Fourth Grade Highlights



This has been an exciting month in 4th grade. Each class is reviewing the scientific method to complete and assist with the science projects. We will soon begin our unit on electricity. The students will discover how electricity flows. In Literacy we are discovering how to answer short response questions. We are using an inference to assist us with identifying the claim. We are also decomposing fiction and nonfiction text. In math we have begun our module 5 workbook. This workbook is allowing the students to encompass math common core standards. It has brought great excitement to the classrooms. The students are discovering how to decompose fractions, identify equivalent fractions using division and multiplication. We are looking forward to the spring and all of its excitement.



ENL (English as a New Language)



The state has adopted a new name for our existing English as a Second Language Program and its eligible students. The program is now referred to as English as a New Language (ENL). This program is a vital component for an English Language Learner's academic growth. The ENL proficiency levels have changed to Entering, Emerging, Transitioning, Expanding, and Commanding. The students of this program will be taking the annual state assessment in April to evaluate their growth in English (NYSESLAT). We are committed, as always, to providing our ENL students with the best possible education in a safe and nurturing environment.





Library



Greetings from the Southdown Library! I am thrilled to be part of the warm and caring Southdown staff this year, and would like to thank everybody for the warm welcome. All second, third and fourth grade students are scheduled for library class once a week. Kindergarten and first grade visit every other week. In the event your child forgets to return their book on the assigned day, open book exchange takes place Thursday and Friday, from 9:20-9:35.

My goal is to match students with reading materials that are interesting as well as challenging. We are currently in the process of updating the school collection with informational books that are aligned with the Common Core as well as fiction books that appeal to the children.

In order to help make reading a priority in your home:

Find an author of interest and try to read all of their books

Set aside a time to read together and encourage discussion

Visit the public library and local bookstores

Keep a variety of reading materials in your car or beach bag - children love magazines!

Invest in an E reader such as a Nook, Kindle or iPad

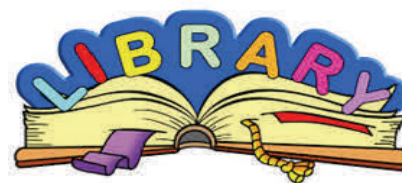
Use "Bookflix" - an online reading program with fiction/nonfiction

paired books - many are available in Spanish

Username: **Southdown** Password: **bookflix**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Keep on reading...



Computer Lab



I love seeing all the smiling and excited faces coming to the library for computer class! Kindergarten and First Graders come every other week on alternating Mondays or Tuesdays. The children have been learning their user names and getting accustomed to the log on procedures. They have been practicing the basic mouse skills and learning the keyboard. It's hard getting those little fingers to click and drag and drop! The boys and girls love practicing their new skills using the Starfall and ABCYa websites!

Second graders have been practicing their literacy and math skills using a variety of websites. Recently they have been using the Type To Learn program to master their keyboarding skills. They have used their new skills to type poems and other pieces of work in Microsoft Word. They are becoming super at word processing!

Third and fourth graders have been very busy each week in computer class. They have done research for science and social studies topics that they have been learning about in their classrooms. They are also writing reports, practicing their keyboarding skills, learning to create presentations as well as brushing up on their math skills! Each week brings new and exciting things to do on the laptops!

You can find many of the websites that we use on my eboard. From the district webpage, www.hufsd.edu go to the

Quick Click Bar, choose "eboards", click on Southdown from the directory and then choose "Mrs. Waller". The children will love showing you what they have been doing!





RTI (Math)



Make Math Fun~Play Games

With so many facts and figures to memorize and apply to math problems, children learn early that math is something that requires work. That doesn't mean that it can't be fun; keep the pleasure in math by playing games with your children. Many games rely on math. With countless websites, computer games and phone apps, parents have endless options, but don't forget about the games you loved as a child. The classics that require using cards and game pieces, calculating along the way, may have the same appeal for your kids as they did for you. One game worth considering is Chutes and Ladders. A 2009 study conducted by Carnegie Mellon and the University of Maryland found that preschoolers who played the game improved math skills significantly compared to those in the study who played a different board game or did non math tasks. Check out Link, Blokus ,Spot It, Uno , Bingo, Trouble, Apple to Apples, or Monopoly. Remember math can be fun.

Let's Count to 100!									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



Speech



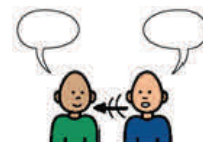
Teachers define words as sight vocabulary (immediate recognition of the printed word), meaning vocabulary (what students understand when reading printed words), listening vocabulary (understanding words heard in spoken language) and academic vocabulary (words that students need to know and understand in order to comprehend concepts being taught in school).

Vocabulary development is critical for developing literacy skills. The National Reading Panel concluded that a reader's vocabulary strongly correlates to his or her understanding of the text.

Learning vocabulary occurs at home and in the school, and in the community. In order for students to develop literacy skills they need a rich vocabulary acquired through direct instruction, exposure to words and social interaction.

Parents can be instrumental in helping extend the learning and use of targeted vocabulary at home. Here are some strategies that can be used at home.

- Place new vocabulary words on the refrigerator. Remind everyone in the home to incorporate this new word into conversations. Make associations with this word. Think of other words that have similar meanings (ex. Synonyms).
- Play games like Scrabble, Boggle, Charades, Scattergories, etc.
- Read to your child each day and encourage your child to read on his/her own. If you are reading to your child talk about the book. Discuss the interesting words used in the book.





Art



"Imagination is more important than knowledge" Albert Einstein

The Art Dept has been very busy here at Southdown! Students in Mrs Morea's 3rd graders are learning all about abstract art and color theory. They mixed paints to create a monochromatic color scheme, which is one color with different tints and shades. They also added a collage element using complementary colors, colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel. Kindergarten is busy learning color mixing. They read Mix it Up! by Herve Tullet, and are busy mixing primary colors to make secondary. Ms. Szabo's first grade is studying Degas and creating a multimedia collage of a dancer. 4th grade recently finished working on zentangles and has begun studying landscapes in the style of Claude Monet and painting in an impressionistic style, using lots of dabs and tints, which is adding white to a color to make it lighter.

Mrs. Plesent's Kindergarteners just finished learning about the artist Claude Monet. They first used watercolors and painted their background using cool colors. They made lily pads using different shades of green. Finally they painted flowers and learned that adding white makes a color lighter.

The first graders are busy with their soft pastel lions. They had fun making the color orange by mixing red and yellow. They also used textured tools while painting to create a bumpy feel. The lion is turning out magnificent and the students are busy gluing down the lions mane.

Second grade students are working on complementary color abstract portraits. They are coming out amazing.

Third grade students just finished a surrealism project and are now working on a multimedia landscape.

Finally Mrs. Plesent's Fourth grade classes are busy making sculptures using celluclay.

We are definitely working hard and learning a lot!

Artfully yours. Mrs. Plesent and Mrs. Morea



Physical Education



If you have visited the gymnasium for any of the various Southdown events, you have probably seen our Wall of Champions and wondered how a child gets to have their 3D action figure on the wall. The Wall actually serves many educational purposes. Two years ago, we began creating the Southdown PE Eboard. The eboard contains pictures, videos, a calendar and other information for students and parents to learn about and practice movement. In an attempt to get 3rd and 4th grade students to visit the site, we post a question of the week related to the unit we are teaching each Monday on the calendar. Students that submit the correct answer online are entered in the weekly drawing. The student that wins can choose to be on The Wall or take something from the treasure chest. The pictures on the wall help to remind students of the cues for skill acquisition. Students get to take their picture home at the end of the year. Over the last three years, we have had over 2100 visits to our site! To access the site, go to www.hufsd.edu. Eboards are viewed under the Quick Click Bar. Hope to see your child on The Wall soon!

Parent Tips:

For Maximum Participation: Please be sure your child is wearing SNEAKERS and comfortable clothing for Physical Education.

Jump Rope for Heart - 2015

A terrific success with over \$4,100 raised so far... American Heart Association donations are still being accepted. Please make all donation checks payable to the "American Heart Association" and turn them in to Ms. Matthews. More information is available on-line at heart.org/jump (Click on "register now"). Thank you for your continued support.



RTI Reading

The Reading Specialists at Southdown Primary believed that the February break was not a time to break from Reading. In fact, Ms. Collura, Mrs. Himmelman, and Mrs. Droskoski challenged their students to read one book or chapter, each day over the vacation. The Reading Teachers were extremely impressed with how many students met the challenge!!! Special prizes were given out to each student. Look for a second Reading Challenge during the April break!

