

# South Elementary Family Newsletter

Volume #5 January, 2021



## Monthly Message from the Principal

Dear South Families,

I hope you all enjoyed your holiday and school vacation. My wish is that it was free from the stress of computers and Google anything. Personally, I am looking forward to more normalcy in 2021 and saying good riddance to 2020 and all things Covid-related. I know it hasn't been easy for anyone.

Snow season is upon us. Outside recess will happen as long as the temperature is 22 degrees with wind chill. Please send your child to school with snow boots, cold weather coats and hats, as well as hats and gloves/mittens. Students can play in the snow if they are dressed appropriately.

As the new year begins, people usually talk about goals. The same can be done with the children in school. Many teachers have their students set goals and reflect on what the students do well and what they need to do better. We all have things that are strengths and weaknesses, adults and children. Talking about your own goals and things you may want to improve on with your child is helpful. "Hopes and Dreams" is an activity done in many classes at the beginning of each school year and often again in January. You can do this with your child, too. Maybe inquire about a work habit or Social Emotional skill in a non-judgmental way: How can you make the morning routine run smoother? (go to bed earlier, pack their backpack or set out clothes to wear the night before.) What do you think you could do to help you solve that problem with your friend? (take turns, use your words, tell them how you feel, compromise, etc.). I have included a good resource to refer to when working on reaching our goals, "The Power of Yet" visual, below in Parent Resources.

With holiday family gatherings past us , we are anticipating an increase in calls about close contacts, and quarantines. At the same time, I know it places a burden on families because of childcare and work. With that being said, it is important to consider the factor of spreading Covid-19 or other illnesses when you send your child to school with symptoms and/or having given them Tylenol or other medication. We can't control what you do with your child at home but please understand that the decisions you make may pose a health and safety risk for others in the school community. We ask for your honesty and thoughtfulness during these difficult times. Up until now, our South Elementary School Community has done an outstanding job with following all protocols. Because of this, we have had very few instances of Covid and zero close contacts. Let's continue that trend by working closely together to keep everyone safe and healthy! Please feel free to contact our school nurse, Ms. Bertrand, or me, with any concerns or questions-[susan.bertrand@somersetsschools.org](mailto:susan.bertrand@somersetsschools.org)

Happy New Year, South Families! May you all have a fantastic year ahead in 2021!

Aloha, Steph Brown

508-324-3180

[stephanie.brown@somersetsschools.org](mailto:stephanie.brown@somersetsschools.org)



## Important Dates

Monday, January 4th-8th-Welcome Back.... To Remote Learning! \*Please refer to your child's classroom teacher's Google Classroom for their schedule.

Wednesday, January 13th-NO SCHOOL for Students-Professional Development Day

Monday, January 18th-NO SCHOOL-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

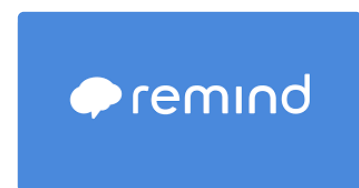
Tuesday, January 19th-PTO Meeting @ 6PM. Click [HERE](#) for the Zoom link.

Friday, January 29th-Report Cards Go Home

## REMIND app

Please click on this link if you would like to be updated through text with information from me.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/16AdsbT9Z9D69twSx\\_HR2Las2wQjKUf86/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16AdsbT9Z9D69twSx_HR2Las2wQjKUf86/view?usp=sharing)





## Technology and Virtual Learning

June Mitchell will continue to have Tech Tuesday for parents to provide tech support. **The Signup for this is on the South website.** Sign up for tech assistance for your child's Chromebook.

June is available by email ([june.mitchell@somersetschools.org](mailto:june.mitchell@somersetschools.org)) and by phone at 508-324-3180.

Chris is available by email ([christopher.green@somersetschools.org](mailto:christopher.green@somersetschools.org)) and by phone at 508-324-3160.



## From Ms. Bertrand, Our School Nurse

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF THEY HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS  
Parents/Guardians should be screening their children for the following symptoms prior to coming to school. If your child has any of the following symptoms, PLEASE do not send your child to school. If you feel that your child needs medication in the morning, this is an indication that your child needs to remain home from school and please communicate this with us. Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter.

- Fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or
- shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle Aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination of other symptoms
- Nasal Congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

**Link:**

[Updated Covid Protocols](#)

If your child is ill, please keep them home and email our school nurse,  
[susan.bertrand@somersetschools.org](mailto:susan.bertrand@somersetschools.org)



## South PTO

PTO Update for January:

Spirit Week! Week of 1/24/21-South Pride Days! Show us some Cricket Spirit!

Cohort A- Tuesday, January, 1/26

Cohort B- Friday, January, 1/29

Full Remote- Send photos to us at [somersetsouthelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:somersetsouthelementarypto@gmail.com) throughout the week.

January PTO Virtual Meeting: Tuesday, January 19th at 6pm. Meeting Invite:

South Elementary PTO is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Monthly South PTO Meeting

Time: January 19, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Third Tue, until May 18, 2021

Feb 16, 2021 06:00 PM

Mar 16, 2021 06:00 PM

Apr 20, 2021 06:00 PM

May 18, 2021 06:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZYkd-6rrTsrHtFhhE\\_lh3FlisB84c8hF\\_aa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGqpzstGdeVsR2CRpwQHYYigKOnztmJcgrd7lBfAPAlbMSX6P\\_FgauZ8SND2](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZYkd-6rrTsrHtFhhE_lh3FlisB84c8hF_aa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGqpzstGdeVsR2CRpwQHYYigKOnztmJcgrd7lBfAPAlbMSX6P_FgauZ8SND2)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82907330145?pwd=eUVVbDBIMUNKcFFROVVYUnN5ZnM5QT09>

Meeting ID: 829 0733 0145

Passcode: crickets

+13017158592,,82907330145#,,,,,0#,,48052631# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,82907330145#,,,,,0#,,48052631# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

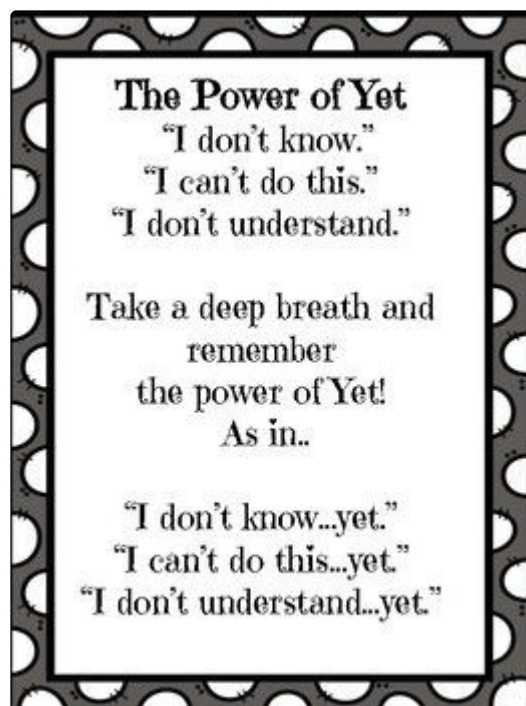
Meeting ID: 829 0733 0145

Passcode: 48052631

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82907330145>

Please follow us on Facebook at South Elementary PTO and reach out to us at

[somersetsouthelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:somersetsouthelementarypto@gmail.com)



## Parent Resources

You can find a list of Read Aloud books for January [HERE](#). Many of these are at the local library.

Click [HERE](#) for a 100's Chart to help count to 100, add, subtract, and notice number patterns.

Click [HERE](#) for an Alphabet Linking Chart to help your child match sounds and letters when writing/reading.

Click [HERE](#) for Multiplication Charts to practice math facts or use for a reference.

**January Lunch Menu:** please click [HERE](#) or try this link:

Or, try to copy and paste this link into a different tab: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-GNBjKIXne145-d9BBgsEB\\_kZRn3Ndgp/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-GNBjKIXne145-d9BBgsEB_kZRn3Ndgp/view?usp=sharing)

School meals (breakfast and lunch) are free for all students (in-school and virtual) up to age 21 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Meals can be picked up between 10 am and 11 am and 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm at North Elementary. Please call 508.324.3172 for details.

If you are picking up meals you can pick up several days' meals at one time. If you aren't able to come yourself you can have someone come in your place to pick up the meals. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

**MA/COVID Travel Information:** If you are planning on a family vacation or a visit out of the state, please review the Massachusetts Travel Order. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>.

**Somerset Public Schools Handbook:** [SPS Health and Safety Handbook](#) includes important information on face masks/covering (no neck gators or masks with vents, unless a doctor's note is sent in), travel restrictions (links in Parent Resources for Massachusetts Travel information), and keeping students home if students or their close contacts have COVID symptoms.

**Somerset Public Schools, Revised Calendar:** please click [HERE](#)

**MA/COVID Travel Information:** If you are planning on a family vacation or a visit out of the state, please review the Massachusetts Travel Order. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>.

## 2nd Grade Remote Class-Mrs. Pimentel

We read [How to Catch an Elf](#) by Adam Wallace & Andy Elkerton. Then they made a plan and created elf traps. They then shared them. Please click the link below to watch Layla Rebello's adorable video about her elf trap.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrSJ9YwU9Hg&feature=youtu.be>





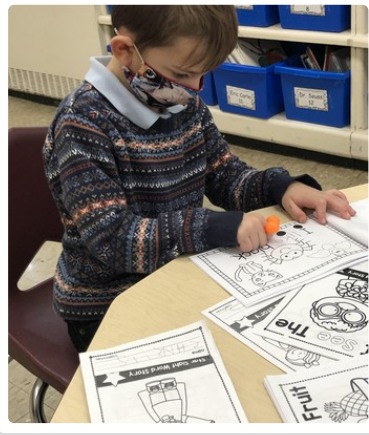
Kindergarten Kids



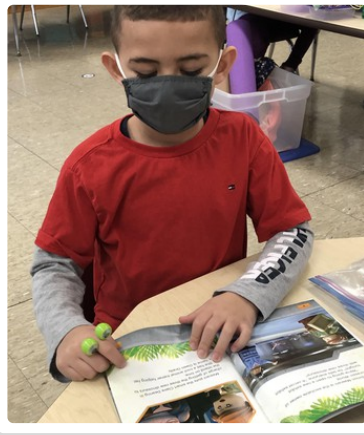
Kindergarten Kids



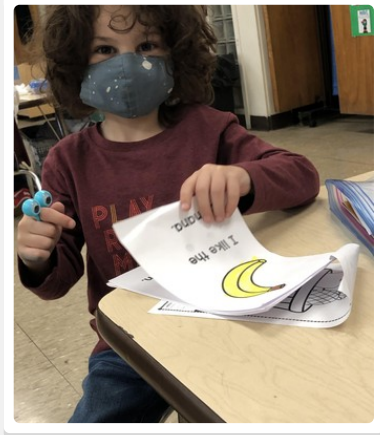
Kindergarten Kids



Kindergarten Kids



Kindergarten Kids



Kindergarten Kids

## KINDERGARTEN

This month we have been building upon our beginning reading skills by separating words into syllables and learning our first vowel sound, /a/. We have been using this vowel to build and read CVC words (consonant-vowel-consonant). We introduce this skill by creating word families where we change the beginning sound of a chunk (like -at) to create new words (cat, hat, mat). In science we have been talking about air temperature and how the sun warms the air and earth. We will begin a new science unit in January about Living Things. We ended December by sharing how our families celebrate different holidays! We hope everyone has a fun and relaxing vacation and we can't wait to continue our growth as readers and writers in the new year!





First Grade Greatness



First Grade Greatness



First Grade Greatness



First Grade Greatness



First Grade Greatness



First Grade Greatness

## GRADE ONE

First grade has worked hard in December! We continued developing our narrative writing skills by using the words first, next, and last to tell a story in order. We also learned using details and descriptive makes our writing more interesting. In math, we finished our first subtraction chapter just in time for winter break- now it's on to our next addition chapter; Addition Strategies. In phonics, we have learned all the digraphs and have just begun learning consonant blends. Science class found us studying shadows and learning about the rotation of the earth, day and night, and seasons. In social studies we talked about winter holiday celebrations, and the difference between 'needs' and 'wants'. We are looking forward to more fun with learning in January!

Grade 2





Super in Second Grade



Super in Second Grade



Super in Second Grade



Super in Second Grade



Super in Second Grade



Super in Second Grade

## GRADE TWO

January Newsletter:

December has just flown by! In ELA, we read the story *The House on Maple Street* where we really looked into the illustrations as a way to tell the story, also focusing on characters and setting. In Math, we wrapped up Numbers to 1,000. When we return, we will begin our chapter on Basic Facts and Relationships. In Science, we have wrapped up our Earth Materials unit by exploring sand, soil, and how the land is changed. We even built some models to culminate our learning! After the holidays, we will begin Physical Science: Matter!





Third Grade Thinkers



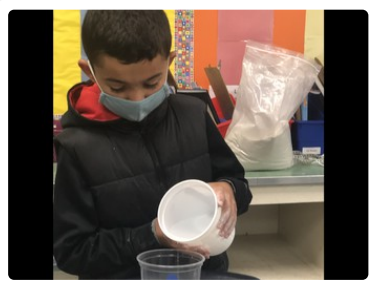
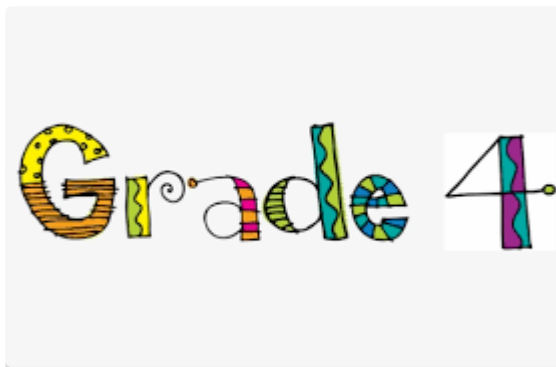
Third Grade Thinkers



Third Grade Thinkers

## GRADE THREE

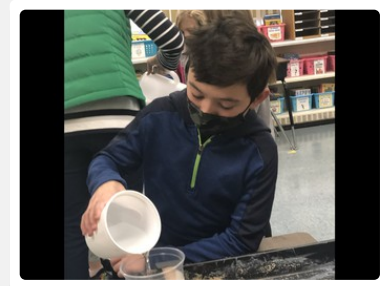
We have embraced winter in 3rd grade! We finished a writing piece about what snowmen do at night. We were able to extend our learning and build snowmen at recess with the new fallen snow! In writing, we are finishing up our narrative unit. We now begin our writing with interesting leads, use dialogue, transition words and wrap our writing up with a strong conclusion. In reading, we are enjoying the chapter book "The Year of Miss Agnes". This story takes place in Alaska in 1950. We were surprised about all the differences in life and school. In math, we completed chapter 3, focusing on multiplication. We completed our investigation of weather and climate in Science. We are excited for all the new learning in 2021!



Fabulous Fourth Grade



Fabulous Fourth Grade



Fabulous Fourth Grade

## GRADE FOUR

Grade 4 enjoyed many investigations of the Earth Materials kit as we eagerly await the arrival of Energy-what a great topic to kick off 2021! We are wrapping up our study of European Explorers and will settle into the Northeast region of the United States after the holiday break. We are very impressed with math fact fluency-the math chapter 3 test brought strong scores all around! Buckle your seatbelt...chapter 4 brings division! We have completed our study of narrative reading and writing and will transition to informational texts as we explore great scientists with Porpoises in Peril, Mary Anning, and the Frog Scientist! We are thrilled to see that 2021 brings rich learning experiences, to grade 4! We wish you all of the best as the new year approaches! Happy Holidays!

# Grade 5



Fantastic Fifth Grade



Fantastic Fifth Grade



Fantastic Fifth Grade

## GRADE FIVE

In fifth grade, we have been working on personal narratives. The students have shared so many great stories! We will now begin to do informational writing. It is a little easier for the students because it is just the facts. In science, the kits have arrived for Mixtures and Solutions. We will be doing this unit until March. The Thirteen Colonies is where we are focusing in History class. They are learning how life was different in the Thirteen Colonies. We have been working on decimals in Math. The students have been adding and subtracting and next we move onto multiplying them. We are all excited for the vacation and look forward to a whole new year!