

# South Elementary Family Newsletter

VOLUME #3, NOVEMBER, 2020



## MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear South Families,

I can't believe we are starting a new month already .....this weekend brings us snow, a full moon, Halloween, and Daylight Saving Time ending and also leads us right into Election Day and Veterans Day. If you have served or are currently serving our country, thank you for that service!

October flew by with all students settling into classroom and school routines. It has been fantastic seeing all the children, whether it be on the screen in Google Meets or in person in the classrooms. Our teachers and staff have been working hard to create safe and engaging learning environments and the students have been doing a wonderful job of helping in this area, too, by wearing their masks, washing their hands, and keeping 6 feet apart. This is a group effort and we all have to work together to keep everyone as safe and healthy as we can. On that note, your communication regarding illness, travel, symptoms, etc... has been very helpful. Please continue to communicate with us regarding any of those topics and/or any questions.

Academically, classes are starting to complete beginning of the year assessments in math, writing, and reading. This will give everyone a baseline to measure growth and progress at other intervals during the year. At this time, you may want to check your child's Google

Classroom for any missing assignments from their Learning At-Home Days. In the Technology section below, there is some information about Google Classroom-getting the app for your phone, settings, getting emails about missing work, etc. Once you log into your child's Google Classroom with their information, it will show you the assignments and what is not completed. Students have a week before those assignments are due (from their last day of in-school to their next day of in-school). **PLEASE NOTE: If your child is not completing any work on their at-home days, they will be marked absent.** If you have any questions about student work or need help, please contact your child's teacher directly.

As always, thank you for your continued support and partnership. It is greatly appreciated. Happy Thanksgiving to all of our South Families! I am thankful to be working with all of you and grateful to have your children as part of this wonderful school. Enjoy the candy and extra hour of sleep this weekend!

Aloha, Steph Brown

508-324-3180

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



## IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, November 3rd-NO SCHOOL for Students-Professional Development Day/Election Day

Friday, November 6th-School Pictures for Cohort B

Tuesday, November 10th-School Pictures for Cohort A

Wednesday, November 11th-NO SCHOOL-Veterans' Day-***Veterans, Thank you for your service!***

Tuesday, November 17th-PTO Meeting @ 6PM. Click [HERE](#) for the Zoom link.

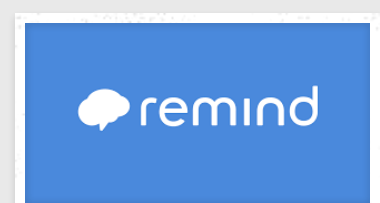
Wednesday, November 25th-11:30AM Early Release

Thursday, November 26th-Friday, November 27th-NO SCHOOL-Happy Thanksgiving!

## 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

**Google Classroom:** It may be helpful to download the GOOGLE Classroom App on your cell phone. Please click [HERE](#) for instructions. As a guardian, you can receive email summaries showing your student's progress in classroom:

- Missing work—Work that's late at the time the email was sent
- Upcoming work—Work that's due today and tomorrow (for daily emails) or work that's due in the upcoming week (for weekly emails)
- Class activity—Announcements, assignments, and questions recently posted by teachers
- See more details here <https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6388136>

The good news is that many of the technology issues have been resolved from the beginning of remote learning and things are running more smoothly now. Click [HERE](#) for some trouble shooting suggestions for Google Meet.

- Please remind your child about the importance of being careful with their chromebooks, if screens are broken, there is a repair fee of \$45. Please make check out to Somerset Public Schools.
- Some students are experiencing hardware issues such as "Camera not found" or missing keys on the keyboard. For these particular issues, we can offer a replacement Chromebook. Please email Ms. Mitchell or Mr. Green (emails below) if you would like to be placed on a waitlist.
- If you have other specific questions and are unable to resolve a technology issue with your child's Chromebook, please contact our Elementary Technology Specialists via email. If you are asked to come to school to exchange your Chromebook for a different one, please bring your other one with you.

Chris Green: [chris.green@somersetschools.org](mailto:chris.green@somersetschools.org)

June Mitchell: [june.mitchell@somersetschools.org](mailto:june.mitchell@somersetschools.org)

Thank you for your continued patience!



## ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Both arrival and dismissal are going very well. \*\*\*\*Please note If your child is changing their usual transportation, send a note or call the school. We can not rely on the student's telling us; that is neither reliable nor safe. Please be mindful of the following things to help make this process even better:

1. Please do not get out of your car during arrival or dismissal unless it is absolutely necessary. If your **child is in a booster or car seat that takes a lot of time to buckle**, please **pull up to a parking space** by the library. This will help with traffic backing up on the street.

2. Please be **considerate** and pull up your cars as quickly as possible.

### 3. Arrival

Starts at 8:40AM.

School begins at 9AM.

### 4. Dismissal

Parent Pick-up now starts at 3:15PM and is moving very quickly. Please keep this in mind when picking up your child. All students should be picked up by 3:30PM.



## FROM MS. BERTRAND, OUR SCHOOL NURSE

### Medication In School

Parents/Guardians,

Please make sure you bring in your child's medication orders and medication directly to the School Nurse. We are especially waiting for a few life-saving Epi-Pens. Please click on the link below for Medication/Parental Consent Forms that must accompany the medication

Thank you. Stay well!

Ms. Bertrand

Link: [Medical Forms](#)

All students should be coming to school with a face mask unless they have a doctor's note. For the Somerset Public Schools Face Coverings Protocol. Click [HERE](#).

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 November:

Meadow Farms Online Fundraiser: Ends November 9th! All orders will be delivered in time for December's holidays. Items can be shipped directly to home or the school. FULL REMOTE students, please see the school office to get the catalog and flyer on how to place your online orders.

Crazy Socks Spirit Day! Week of 11/15!!!

Cohort A- Tuesday, November 17

Cohort B- Friday, November 20

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

November PTO Virtual Meeting: Tuesday, November 17 at 6pm. Meeting Invite:  
South Elementary PTO is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Monthly South PTO Meeting

Time: Nov 17, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Third Tue, until May 18, 2021, 7 occurrence(s)

Nov 17, 2020 06:00 PM

Dec 15, 2020 06:00 PM

Jan 19, 2021 06:00 PM

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 insert the following iCalendar (.ics) file to your calendar system:



Monthly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZYkd-6rrTsrHtFhhE\\_lh3FlisB84c8hF\\_aa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGqpszstGdeVsR2CRpwQHYigKOnztmJcgrd7lBfAPAlbMSX6P\\_FgauZ8SND2](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZYkd-6rrTsrHtFhhE_lh3FlisB84c8hF_aa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGqpszstGdeVsR2CRpwQHYigKOnztmJcgrd7lBfAPAlbMSX6P_FgauZ8SND2)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 829 0733 0145

Passcode: crickets

One tap mobile

+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/kZ2AkDUB6>

Please follow us on Facebook at South Elementary PTO and reach out to us at [somersetsouthelementarypto@gmail.com](mailto:somersetsouthelementarypto@gmail.com)



## PARENT RESOURCES

<https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6118412?hl=en>

**November 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/1RxN-wv80xsLlGaGOqmoCh3ba2GzvqKed/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.

To create an account for the cafeteria, please go to MySchoolBucks. That link is [HERE](#).

**Thanksgiving Books:** please click [HERE](#) to get a list of 30 great Thanksgiving titles to read with your elementary age child.

**Math Games for K-2:** please click [HERE](#) to learn about 5 fun math games you can play at home

**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](#)

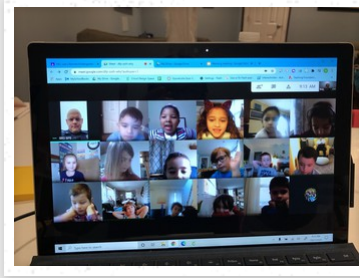
**MA/COVID Travel Information:** If you are planning on a family vacation or a visit out of the state, please review the Massachusetts Travel Order. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order>.

## MRS. PIMENTEL'S REMOTE GRADE 2 CLASS

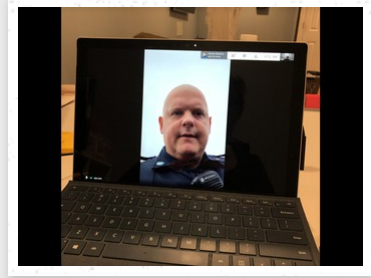
This week, the Somerset Remote Second-Graders went "Batty" with a nonfiction mini-unit all about those flying mammals...the bat. They concluded their learning with a Batty Facts Game Show. Students researched these amazing creatures through texts, videos, and even a virtual visit to the bat-cams at the Bat World Sanctuary in Texas. They used their bat-drawn true and false signs to answer Bat Fact Questions in the hopes of becoming a Bat Master! Finally, the students became judges in the Bat Pageant. With more than 1,300 species of bats, the competition was fierce. In the end, it was narrowed down to five contestants in the category of Most Unusual Appearance and five contestants in the Cutest Bat category. Take a look at our winners!!!



**SPECIAL  
APPEARANCE  
BY OFFICER  
HAGUE**



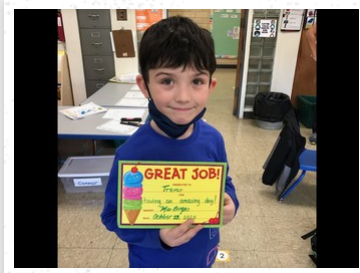
**MRS. LEE'S  
REMOTE  
KINDERGARTE  
N CLASS**



**SCHOOL  
RESOURCE  
OFFICER-  
OFFICER  
HAGUE**



**KINDERGARTE  
N KIDS**



**KINDERGARTE  
N KIDS**



**KINDERGARTE  
N KIDS**

## KINDERGARTEN

### October

Kindergarten has been very busy this month learning letters, sounds, and sight words. We are building our knowledge of these concepts to help us be stronger readers and writers. Students have been learning how to read books by looking at the pictures to read the story and by pointing to words in leveled sight word texts. Our focus has also been on identifying the title, characters, settings, and events from a story. Students have also begun sounding out words to



create "Kid Writing." They begin by drawing a story from their life and then they write the letters for the sounds that they hear in each word of the sentence. In science we have been learning about the daytime and nighttime sky as well as different ways to describe the weather. In math we have begun our chapter on identifying counting, and writing the numbers 0-5. We will be sending home a fun family project next week to get ready for Thanksgiving, be on the lookout for it!!

# Grade 1



## FIRST GRADE GREATNESS

Freeze dance Friday!



## FIRST GRADE GREATNESS

ELA class outside!



## FIRST GRADE GREATNESS

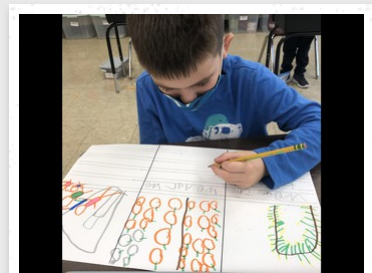
Setting up foam mats for a phonics activity!



## FIRST GRADE GREATNESS



## FIRST GRADE GREATNESS



## FIRST GRADE GREATNESS

First graders have started reading non fiction this month, with a Halloween week focus on bats! Look for some bat-fact writing to come home soon! In math, we finished up our first addition chapter, and have begun learning subtraction. Science has kept us busy with work on the sun and moon, day and night, and seasons. We have enjoyed moments of down time too, running around outside and taking advantage of the last weeks of beautiful weather!

## Grade 2



**SUPER IN  
SECOND  
GRADE**



**SUPER IN  
SECOND  
GRADE**



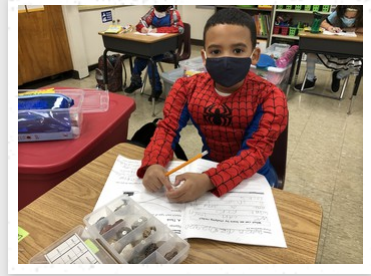
**SUPER IN  
SECOND  
GRADE**



## SUPER SECOND GRADE



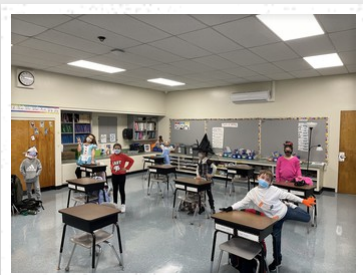
## SUPER SECOND GRADE



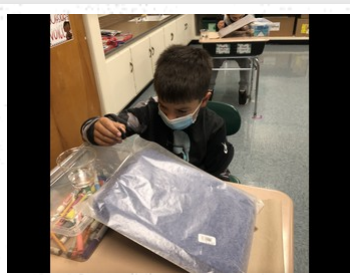
## SUPER SECOND GRADE

# GRADE TWO

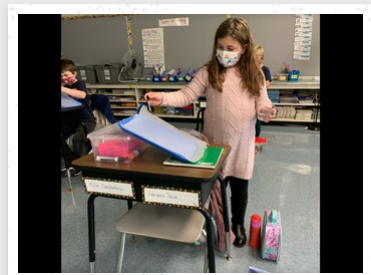
Our SEL focus has been building our "Calming Corner" together! Each week we are adding yoga poses, breathing techniques, and growth mindset posters. In ELA, we have finished our second story, Snowshoe Hare's Winter Home, with it's focus on using the illustrations to help tell a story. We have continued our narrative writing with strong character and setting descriptions and sequenced events. Word work has focused on the CVCe long vowel pattern. In math, we have learned to show numbers in a variety of ways including quick pictures, digits, tens/ones, expanded form, and number words. In social studies, we are learning the difference between a globe and a map, cardinal directions on a compass rose, and map keys and symbols. Science will be a focused study of planet Earth and Earth materials! We even squeezed in a small Character Day/October celebration!!



## THIRD GRADE THINKERS



## THIRD GRADE THINKERS



## THIRD GRADE THINKERS



## GRADE THREE

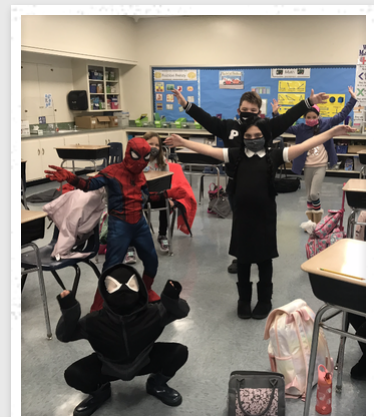
The Third Grade has been busy scientists! We are continuing our investigation of water and climate. We have conquered multi-digit addition and subtraction and next, we will be focused on graphs! We have completed two narratives and will be choosing one to publish and share with our peers. We finished a Grade 3 favorite "The Case of the Gasping Garbage" where we used the power of observation to solve mysteries with the two main characters, Drake and Nell. Our detective skills have helped us find evidence in the text to support our thinking. In social studies, we are finishing up our unit in Massachusetts and will be learning about Native American tribes located in Massachusetts next. We are excited to "fall" into a new month of learning!!



**FABULOUS  
FOURTH  
GRADE**



**FABULOUS  
FOURTH  
GRADE**



**FABULOUS  
FOURTH  
GRADE**

## GRADE FOUR

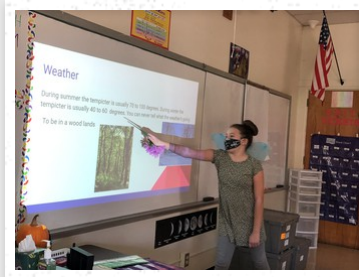
This month in Fourth grade has been a blast!! The Fourth grade team has focused on comparing numbers and multiplication all the way through the hundred thousands place value. In ELA, we've done lots of reading and writing narratives, read tall tales, and focused on building stamina in reading. In Science, we've learned about map features, earth's layers, and even collected our own Earth samples with science kits! We're looking forward to increasing

our stamina next month and improving all our skills to be better readers, writers, and mathematicians!!

# Grade 5



**FANTASTIC  
FIFTH GRADE**



**FANTASTIC  
FIFTH GRADE**



**FANTASTIC  
FIFTH GRADE**

## GRADE FIVE

The month of October has brought a lot of learning for our South 5th graders! In Science, we have learned about shadows and how they are made, what causes day and night, the phases of the moon, and stars. As a grade level, we finished to book *The Night of the Spadefoot Toad*, and we were able to have a virtual meet with the author, himself, Bill Harley. The kids were so amazed that they were able to actually meet, and speak with, the actual author of the book we just read!

Social Studies is bringing us through the settlement of Jamestown and the effect it had on the Native Americans who already lived there.

Finally, in Math, we have finished chapter 1, and are moving right into chapter 2, which is Division.

The kids have been working so hard, and we couldn't be more proud of them!