Sutton is a Loving Community

Many who are reading this article may have never met me, or know very little about who I am or what I believe. I thought I would share with you an email I sent to the entire staff last spring following a family vacation as a way for you to get to know me a little better. My entire professional life has been devoted to working with children and I believe this email captures who I am as an educator, parent and grandparent. It also sheds light on my faith in the Sutton Public Schools.

Good morning, all:

Poppa Ted and Gee Gee are coming off our most enjoyable April vacation in a very long time. We spent the week in Williamsburg, Virginia with the love of our life, Declan, our grandson. The joy that one person can bring to your life is unmeasurable, but I can report that my heart has grown like the Grinch’s. I wish I had the patience like I have now with my own children, but that is not humanly possible with three children as so many of you know full well. My wife and I must have read his fifteen books fifty times over the course of a week and each time was just as enjoyable as the last, cocktails were in the mix. We had three incredible days at Busch Gardens and Declan’s favorite ride was the bumper cars. We had 7 days, 24/7 with our precious little guy and I did not want it to end. Declan is so smart, loving and always in a good mood. Being Poppa Ted is the best role I have in life.

This was the most time I have spent consecutively with Declan since his autism diagnosis. As a grandparent you want your grandchild’s life to be perfect with as few bumps and bruises as possible, but I know now that there are challenges ahead. As a Superintendent and life-long educator, I know the key ingredient for making all children’s lives better, love, love every student as if they were Mr. Friend’s Declan. Every adult in Sutton Public Schools, commit yourself to opening your heart just a little more for every student you encounter. I tell my son every time I see him that I wish Declan could come to school in Sutton as I feel he would be surrounded by the love and nurturing he and all his classmates deserve. I now worry about how he will be treated by his peers as he weaves his way through school without the protection of his parents and grandparents. If he was in Sutton, my worries would diminish as you have created such a warm and caring culture for all students, especially our most special students.

We have forty-three days of school remaining, please make sure you challenge your students academically each day, but more importantly please make sure you do it with all the love you can possibly muster.

You have the most important jobs in the world, creating a world you would like your grandchildren to inherit.

Ted Friend, Superintendent
From Ms. Merriam

Play is the foundation of all good learning! This is as true for babies as it is for our students here in the Simonian Center. The play will look different and increase in complexity as children age- but play is the best skill builder for children. This is true for social emotional learning as well as academics such as math and literacy. If we want to encourage strong learning habits (asking questions, exploring alternate routes, trying multiple examples) then all we need to do is play with our children. I do not mean turn on the electronics- I mean pull out the play-doh, blocks, cards, and paint. Grab a recipe and mix it all up, pull out the train set, put on your helmet and ride. Please, be able to make a mess and get stains on your shirt or paint on your hands! These activities encourage your child to explore, to problem solve, to understand the world around them. Build a domino line, play checkers, remember to Go Fish! Buy your child (and yourself) a box of toothpicks and mini-marshmallows and see what gets created! Listen to the questions and thoughts raised; then challenge yourselves to do it again and again- then do it differently. If you think these types of activities are wasting time or not important skills such as literacy or mathematics, then you are not hearing your child count how many blocks tall the tower is, or seeing them use simple mechanics for cause and effect. Sorting, balancing, rhyming, counting, labeling, collaboration, communication, critical thinking- I could go on! Playing and playing games also helps children learn what healthy competition is and how to learn through mistakes. These experiences (losing and dealing with minor frustrations) should be a part of playing games. Children need to learn how to feel uncomfortable at times, and how to work through those feelings so they can become stronger healthier human beings. If we don’t help our children learn how to deal with disappointments in safe, small doses then they have a much more difficult time dealing with real life situations in life and within the classroom.

You might be saying to yourself that no-one has time to plan this or add it to a busy life. Play can be added to your daily routines, and deserves to have some family time carved out and dedicated to it. Children should also have a mix of play activates- it shouldn’t all be directed or planned by you. Dump a box of Lincoln Logs out on the floor, hand your child all the coins from your purse/pocket and see how tall a tower they can build. Play hide and seek, count the squares in the kitchen, sing songs, rhyme, find the figures in the clouds. Play is the stuff of life- not the things we plug in or that runs on batteries. Help your child interact with the world and the people around them, this is the natural way to learn.

Be well,

Ms. Merriam
Dear SES Families and Friends,

Our biggest fundraiser, the Magazine Drive, was a huge success. Thank you for your support. We also receive incredible support from our PTO as they fund many of our resources and initiatives. They have approved many grants for Sutton Elementary including the purchase of chapter books for all grades, Chromebooks, Buddy Benches, and so much more. They also recently granted us money to bring in an inspirational speaker, Kevin "Mr. Peace" Szawala, who has been traveling to schools spreading his passionate message about peace, love, equality and tolerance to hundreds of thousands of people of all ages. He has created four different assembly programs, each focusing on a different topic: bullying, diversity, leadership and making positive life choices. Our students and staff thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Peace and his amazing presentation.

A reading standard for our fourth grade students is to be able to identify characteristics of different genres and utilize this knowledge to select literature for independent reading. To assist students in learning about the genres, our fourth graders walked to our town library. The librarians reviewed many genres of books with our students and showed them where they could be found in the library. Our students were able to put their knowledge into practice by taking out library books to bring home. We encourage all students to read a variety of genres over the course of the year. This field trip is a wonderful kick-off to reading for our students. In September, many of our students were presented with certificates from our town library after participating in their summer reading program.

Our positive behavior program, “Choose to be Nice”, continues to be very well received by staff and students. This program is a social movement dedicated to encouraging and inspiring kindness wherever and whenever possible. We’re improving the way people interact with one another by reminding them that they have a choice about how to “be” in the world. We also have a Junior Officer of the week nominated by our School Resource Officer, Michael McGee, teachers and/or staff. These students are presented with an official police hat and badge that they wear for a week. The following students were nominated as junior officers for being kind and helping other students, being a role model, and/or showing respect in all they do.

**Junior Officers of the Week**

Levi Welk  
William Rallis  
Kaleigh Hunting  
Ella Amodio
We are fortunate to have Green Bean Workshops back to SES and SCEL providing us with different opportunities for our students in performance and dance. We will again be using the art work of some of our students as a prompt for writing a story as seen in the picture above. This will all culminate in “Stories to Stage” performances involving students in kindergarten through grade five.

All the best,

Denise M. Harrison, Principal
Kindergarten News

The kindergarten students are doing a great job learning their daily routines and have begun to settle into their classrooms.

We are learning:
* number recognition and formation
* equivalent sets
* lowercase letters, sounds, and letter formation
* rhyming
* about apple life cycles
* high-frequency words and color words

Self-help skills are also a very important part of a kindergartener’s day. It is very helpful if children know if they are buying lunch, milk or are all set each morning. Please have this conversation each morning so your child knows his/her plan.

Please help you child learn his/her lunch number.

Now that Fall is upon us we will be wearing jackets. Please help your child learn to zip or button his/her jacket and turn it right side out. Come winter we will be putting on full snow gear for outdoor fun.

Healthy snack is an important part of our day. Here are some healthy snack ideas: cheese stick, veggie sticks, hummus, fresh fruit, yogurt, applesauce, granola bars.
Grade 1 Happenings

It has been a busy, but productive transition to first grade. Our first graders have adjusted well to their new routines. We have met some new friends and teachers and are settling in nicely. Our RTI (Response to Intervention) groups are up and running which provide the students opportunities to work in small groups, to target specific skills for practice, as well as to enrich and extend their learning. The first graders are excited for Halloween and look forward to wearing their costumes to share with their friends on Halloween day. They will also get to cheer on the Kindergartners in their annual school parade. In early October, first graders had a school assembly and a visit from Mr. Peace (www.mrpeace.org), who talked with our students about Respect, Diversity, and Kindness! A lot of fun was had by all! Toward the end of November, be on the lookout for further information regarding our first grade Thanksgiving feast!

Grade 2: Lost Blue Shoe – poem by Evan Warren

Little Boy Blue
Lost his shoe.
He yelled for his daughter
To run in the water.
She found his shoe
When the water was blue.
She ran to the shore,
It was not lost anymore.
Grade 3: From our Third Grade Classes

Our third graders had a visit from JC, a service dog, and his owner. They learned a lot about the role of a service dog. They also read a story about a family who trained a service dog so this visit ties well to the curriculum.

Third grade has been busy this trimester. We began our fall social studies unit by learning some map skills and studying the New England states. This led into our first home-based project on Massachusetts due Monday, November 19th. We are so excited to see these presentations.

In science we have been learning about weather. Students are using technology to research types of weather. In conjunction with computer class with Mrs. Toomey they will be creating a slide presentation with their information and images. The third grade will read two “I Survived Books” to tie into this unit.

In math, we are moving into graphing after reviewing multi-digit addition and subtraction. Please continue to practice this at home.

A Couple of Reminders for Students and Parents

- If the wind chill is above 20° we do go outside so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately.
- Students have been reminded there is no trading of any kind allowed in school (toys, cards etc.)
- We do have snack daily. Please make sure to provide your child with one.

Keep an eye out for State Fair information. This will be coming home in the beginning of March.
Grade 4: From our Fourth Grade Classes

In Mrs. St. Pierre's class, we Mighty Moose are learning lots of new vocabulary words while enjoying the antics of a clever dog, a scheming cat, and a mysterious rabbit as we read the novel *Bunnicula* by Deborah and James Howe. We are practicing identifying the elements of plot while we read the book. We are also learning how to write a strong paragraph while using vivid verbs. Every evening we are practicing our math facts and each day we use those facts to decide if numbers are prime or composite. We also know our way around a map. We are wrapping up our study of the seven continents and five oceans and soon we will be learning about volcanoes and our planet's layers. We are busy, but happy moose who have earned a few extra minutes of recess on two occasions by quickly learning and using the rules that govern our herd!

STEM

Ms. Loftus’s class participated in a STEM activity last week. Groups of children were given 20 Pieces of spaghetti, 1 yard of string, 1 yard of tape, and a large marshmallow. The activity was to build the tallest tower of spaghetti that would support the marshmallow on top. Children had to brainstorm, plan, build, and look for changes to make their tower better. It was a lot of fun!

Mrs. Raffa’s been reading several Greek Myths. Currently we are comparing and contrasting two myths we read, The Tangled Web and The Story of Medusa and Athena. To start our brainstorming we filled in a Venn diagram chart listing likes and differences. Then we took these ideas and wrote a two paragraph summary comparing and contrasting the two myths. We will also edit and revise our summaries. For our final product we will type them on the computer.

Continued...
Book Challenge and Book Tasting – Mrs. Horan’s students

First of all, the purpose of the book challenge activity is to build kids confidence in reading and to teach about the different genres of reading and writing, which is a fourth grade standard, and part of the state curriculum. (RL4.10 reading, literature, and RI4.10 reading informational texts)

Second, our students are being challenged to read forty books this year. This may sound like a lot of books, but when we break it down across many months, it is not as much of a mountain as it seems. All types of reading count in the challenge, including listening to audio books, reading with a parent, having a parent read to a student, as well as the traditional student reading on their own, and all of those methods are available to all fourth grade students. All kinds of reading count!

Third, I promise you all, you are not alone in this! ALL the reading we do in school counts towards the challenge as well. Last year, between mentor sentence books, read-aloud books, and books we read together in class for science and social studies topics, or books read in ELA/reading, more than half the books on the tower were read/heard/discussed here together at school.

As we move through the books we read this year, we will talk about setting smaller goals first, and seeing how accomplishing that first small goal gives us the boost we need to continue on to the next goal. We stress that it is not a race between students, it’s to see what is offered out there in the world of reading, and because we don’t specify what specific books have to be read, but just which genres to investigate, everyone can find things that interest them while seeing that there are so many different kinds of books available to choose from.

Lastly, we make things fun! Mrs. Whittier and I work together on this project and we do occasional surprise check-ins to give kids positive feedback and little prizes to keep kids motivated and engaged.
Grade 5: Fifth Grade Happenings

The 5th graders are working hard on being the role models of Sutton Elementary School before moving on to middle school! We are busy participating in a variety of projects and activities. We are finishing up our unit on finding the volume of rectangular prisms and beginning our study of fractions. We will be working on comparing fractions, making equivalent fractions, and the addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers. We will address multiplying and dividing fractions later in the year. Our students are learning that knowing their multiplication and division facts are very important in all aspects of math. Keep practicing those facts!

The 5th graders helped the teachers to “investigate” a mysterious “Crime Scene” that was left in the science room. The “detectives” used their inferencing skills to make sense of the clues left behind. They then wrote narrative stories describing how they solved the crime. Officer McGee has a good group of Junior Detectives here in 5th grade!

Fifth graders completed STEM activities on Halloween. These problem-solving activities included creating Pumpkin Catapults, Spider Web bridges, and Candy Towers. We are wrapping up the “Earth’s Place in Space” unit and are heading into learning about the colonies. Students will research how and why the colonies were established, will research a founder of a colony and will create a 3-dimensional model of a colony.

Flashlight Friday

In Mrs. Perry’s fifth grade class they have “Flashlight Friday” on Friday afternoons where they turn off the lights and pull the shades and have an extended silent reading time.
Tips for Reading Success
Julia Tringuk-Title 1 Reading Teacher (SCEL)

Here is an interesting article I came across from: Lindamond-Bell Learning Processes

The Imagery-Language Connection for Vocabulary Skills
By: Erin Bell, Director of Communication, Lindamond-Bell Learning Processes

To thrive in today's English Language Arts classroom, students need rapid recall of words they know and the ability to capture, learn and remember new terms.

Today’s standards-based English Language Arts curricula have put a new spotlight on reading comprehension and vocabulary. To function in the classroom and do well on assessments, students are expected to have strong “everyday” language skills in addition to acquiring academic words—this is key for college and career readiness. At the same time, US schools are educating increasing numbers of students with diverse needs, including English Language learners. Explicit teaching of vocabulary has become a critical part of preparing students for the 21st century.

Now, more than ever, educators are challenged to teach for understanding of new terms, rather than using memorization techniques of the past. To do well, students will need to be fluent with sophisticated words like commit or traverse as well as a subject matter term like photosynthesis. While states and districts may outline clear vocabulary goals for their students by grade level, the method for teaching vocabulary skills is not always clear, even for students receiving intervention.

Teaching methods do typically fall into one of the following categories: 1) close reading/text analysis, 2) students demonstrate understanding through using words in context, and, 3) practice. However, high expectations and the opportunity to practice are not always enough. Students who have weak vocabulary skills will struggle with typical classroom practice. What’s more, teachers may find these activities do little to actually improve outcomes for their most challenged students.

It is not surprising, then, that students who struggle most with vocabulary are placed in Tier 3 intervention or are referred for special education services. It can often be difficult for schools to discern if a student is struggling because of a learning difficulty or due to an isolated vocabulary weakness.

Continued...
A Missing Connection

To thrive in today’s English Language Arts classroom, students need rapid recall of words they know and the ability to capture, learn and remember new terms. Activities like close reading and practice are, in fact, after-the-fact techniques that aim to draw student attention to unfamiliar vocabulary but may not address why a student could not understand a new word in the first place.

Clinical research over the last thirty years indicates there is a separate comprehension weakness that is rarely identified. This weakness often undermines the reading process. It is a weakness, based in the sensory system, in creating an imaged gestalt or “whole.”

Students with weak vocabulary may have difficulty creating mental images for language. This weakness causes individuals to get only “parts” of information they read or hear, but not the whole.

Teachers can develop their students’ vocabulary and comprehension by using language that connects to imagery. Teachers can use language that stimulates imagery when lessons include new, essential vocabulary. For example, during a lesson on photosynthesis, asking questions like, “What are you picturing for what the sunlight is doing?” and, “What do you see happening?” During practice time, teachers can use language that prompts students to draw on images. Instead of, “Do you remember the steps of photosynthesis?” teachers can ask, “What are you picturing for photosynthesis?” and “What do you see happening next?”

Teachers can make a difference for students by changing their ability to process new words. Instructors can use this technique to scaffold skills as part of a Tier 2 program, as part of a Tier 3 intervention, or, starting in primary Tier 1 classrooms—giving students a solid foundation for years to come.

For more information on our workshops, visit www.lindamodbell.com

Learn more about Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes research.

Dear Simonian Center Families,

Is your child having difficulty learning sight words?

Sight words (words that do not follow regular spelling patterns) make up approximately 50-75% of children’s texts. Being able to read and spell these types of words quickly, not only increases their skills, but also builds self-confidence and an enjoyment of reading and writing.

Here is a fun and easy method to help your child with these challenging words. It’s a FREE online website which students love!

www.vocabularyspellingcity.com. There are 9 free games to play!

If you choose to have a premium membership ($34.95 for the year), then your child will have access to over 30 different games and activities (but this is NOT necessary for sufficient practice). There is also a phone App as well (may have fees).

Here’s how to play for FREE:

Step 1: Go to www.vocabularyspellingcity.com

Step 2: Once on the page, you will type your child’s targeted words (4 words at a time) into the spelling list on the TOP LEFT.

Step 3: Then scroll to the bottom of the page under TOOLS and click Games.

Step 4: Choose the FREE games (choice of 9) and play!

**The game Audio-Match-Up requires at least 8 words, but you could add words from previous weeks if your child would like to try it.

I recommend registering for the trial membership (still free), just to check out all the available games (including practice in phonics, vocabulary, spelling, and writing). Enjoy this method of sight word practice!

Happy Learning!

From Technology: Volunteers Needed!

Mrs. Toomey is looking for parent volunteers to help out with Early Learning Center computer classes on Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 am. Come and see what our youngest students are learning in their computer classes. As all SCEL and Elem. grade levels now have Google Suite accounts, you may even pick up some new ideas yourself!

Mrs. Toomey would also like to thank some of our fabulous fourth graders for donating their recess time to assist the first graders as they learn to log in and navigate Google Classroom and a variety of apps. What a great community we have here!

Interested in volunteering? Contact Mrs. Toomeys@suttonschools.net
Holiday Social Skills

The holiday season is upon us and with it comes lots of gatherings with close family and friends, as well with less familiar folks we see only occasionally. Now is the perfect time to brush up with your children on some of the social communication skills needed to make these times memorable and fun, rather than uncomfortable and awkward. Take a little time to prepare with these questions that will help to make your holiday celebrations run smoothly and won’t make you want to hide away until the New Year!

1. Aunt Susie bought you a toy that is way too babyish for you. What would you say to her? How can you solve the problem?
2. Your brother keeps interrupting you when you’re trying to tell Grandpa about the Chain of Lights. What should you do?
3. Great Uncle Chester keeps asking you the same question over and over because he’s losing his memory. What would you do?
4. Nana made you some special Christmas cookies, but they are very dry and don’t taste good. What should you do?
5. Your cousin Abby acts a little wild and wants to hug you and sit really close all the time, which you don’t like. What can you say to her?
6. Your friend’s brother Ben comes to a party at your house and he is really afraid of your dog, even though you know he only jumps on people because he is excited. What could you do? What you could you say to Ben?
7. There is only one roll left in the bread basket at Thanksgiving dinner. You and your cousin, James, both want it. What could you do?
8. You are feeling shy and don’t want to meet or talk to Mr. Sutton, Dad’s best friend from 7th grade, when you meet him at the football game. Dad asks you to please look at Mr. Sutton and tell him your name. Why does Dad think this is important?
9. There are so many people at your house on New Year’s Eve. It’s noisy and you are feeling overwhelmed and just want everyone to leave. What can you do?
10. When you are opening your presents at a family party, you get done with one, then move right onto the next. Mom is looking a bit upset with you. Why? What should you do?
11. You got a new video game and now all your cousins want to play it and won’t even give you a chance. What can you do?

Jennifer Haroian, MS CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist PreK-2
Children’s Programs

Registration for winter programs begins November 26 at 10 AM. Only where specifically noted do programs require registration, otherwise programs are drop in. In the case of inclement weather, the library’s children’s and teen programs will be cancelled if the Sutton schools are closed.

Letters to Santa
Friday, Nov. 30 - Monday, Dec. 17
Write a letter to Santa and place it in our special Santa Mailbox! Mail your letters by Monday, Dec. 17 so that we can get them to the North Pole in time!

Chain of Lights
Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10-3pm
We’ll be celebrating Chain of Lights with the whole town! The Girl Scouts will be providing free crafts and treats from 10 am—noon in the children’s area. Stop by and write a letter to Santa and check out our holiday items!

Crafternoon
Thursday, Dec. 27 from 1-5pm
All ages
Drop in anytime between 1-5 pm and make a special craft with us – no registration required!

Valentines for Vets
Monday, January 28 – Friday, February 8
Stop by the library to make Valentine’s Day cards to send to local veterans. Drop-in program; no registration required.

STORYTIMES

Baby Storytime
Tuesdays at 10:30 AM
Dec. 4 – Feb. 26
Ages 6-24 months
Songs, rhymes, and stories all geared towards little ones.

Wednesday Storytimes
Wednesdays at 10:30 AM
Dec. 5 - Feb. 27
Ages 1-5
Stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft
Please note that Wednesday and Thursday Storytimes follow the same format.

Thursday Storytimes
Thursday at 10:30 AM
Dec. 6 - Feb. 28
Ages 1-5
Stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft
Please note that Wednesday and Thursday Storytimes follow the same format.

Storytime at the Bank!
Ages 1-5
Join Ms. Shannon at the new UniBank (next to Market 32 and Five Guys) for stories and a craft! UniBank’s storytime will take place two Mondays every month at 10:30 AM in the branch Community Room.
Upcoming dates: Dec. 10, 17, Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 11, & 25

Painting Partners!
Saturday, January 12 at 11 AM
Registration Required
Ages 6 & up
This is a painting workshop for an adult & child together! Each participant can create their own work of art side by side.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover
Stuffed Animal Storytime on Saturday, February 16 at 10:30 AM
Bring a cuddly friend to the library for a stuffed animal sleepover! We will have a special storytime with the stuffed animals on Saturday at 10:30 AM, but you do not need to attend storytime to participate in the program. For those not attending the Stuffed Animal Storytime, drop off your stuffed animal anytime between 10 AM and 6 PM on Friday, February 15 and then come back on Tuesday, February 19 to find out what happened over the weekend during the sleepover. This program is open to children of all ages; no registration required.
Guest Performers

Kidding Around Yoga with Nichole!
Registration required
Ages 4-7
Thursday, Dec. 27 at 5:30 PM
Kidding Around Yoga is a unique children's yoga organization with a line of original songs, games and stories that are used in their child geared yoga classes. These programs provide a sense of calm, balance, and power for every child that rolls out a mat.
This program is funded by a grant from The Osterman Family Foundation.

Music and Movement Program with Deb Hudgins!
Jingle Bell Jump: Monday, Dec. 3 at 10:30 AM
Winter Wonderland: Monday, Jan. 14 at 10:30 AM
Valentines Fun: Monday, Feb. 11 at 10:30 AM
Ages 1-5
Come sing and dance along with Deb Hudgins as she shares stories and songs that will get your body moving and your mind growing!
These programs are funded by a grant from The Osterman Family Foundation.

Other Events:
Free Movie Friday

Norm of the North (2016, Lion’s Gate Films): Friday, Dec. 21 at 2 PM
This movie is rated PG and has a running time of 86 minutes.

Teen Titans Go! To The Movies (2018, Warner Bros.): Friday, Jan. 18 at 2 PM
This movie is rated PG and has a running time of 90 minutes.

Babe (1995, Universal Pictures): Friday, Feb 15 at 2 PM
This movie is rated G and has a running time of 92 minutes.

All ages
Come watch a fun family movie at the library! Popcorn will be provided courtesy of the Friends of the Sutton Public Library.

Lego Club Meetings
Thursday, Dec. 6 at 4 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 4 PM
Thursday, Jan. 10 at 4 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 4 PM
Thursday, Feb. 7 at 4 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 4 PM
Ages 5 and up
Join us for some building fun! We'll provide the Legos; you provide the creativity.

You & Me Book Club
Thursday, Feb. 14 at 3:30 PM
Stuart Little By E.B. White

Wednesday, April 17 at 3:30 PM
Payback on Popular Lane by Margaret Mincks
This is a book group for young readers (ages 6-11) and their caregivers. Read/listen to the selected title together (we have multiple copies at the desk). You will have about two months to read it. Then get together with us at the library for an activity/craft/event that goes along with the book!

Teen and Tween Programs

Geek Club
The Geek Club is a self-service book club! Stop by each month and pick up a copy of the most recent selection. When you finish, leave a comment, make a meme, or post a quote from the book online at: https://suttongeekclub.wordpress.com/ (see Library website Teen Page for link). Unplugged? That’s, cool too. We have a comment board in the library where you can post-it your opinions!

Teen Advisory Group Meeting
Ages 12-18
Thursday, Dec. 6 at 3 PM
Thursday, Jan. 17 at 3 PM
Thursday, Feb. 7 at 3 PM
Share your ideas for upcoming programs/performances and additions to the collection. New members to the Teen Advisory Group are always welcome!
Tinker Tuesday
Ages 10 and up
Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 4 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 4 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 4 PM

It’s time to tinker! Join us for a wires, batteries and mad creations!
*These programs are funded by a donation from The Osterman Family Foundation.*

Teen Bath Bombs and Bubble Bath
Ages 12 and up
Wednesday, December 12 at 3:30 PM

Hey guys! Is the cold weather drying out your skin? Do you need a last minute gift making idea? Join as we learn how to make bath bombs and bubble bath! This make and take program is free, but space is limited, so please register ahead of time.
*This program is funded by a grant from The Osterman Family Foundation.*

Marvel-ous Holiday Events
Registration is required
Ages 10 and up.

Are you a big Marvel Fan? We are too! So this winter we will be hosting three special Marvel themed events to get us through the cold and dreary weather. Space is limited, so make sure to save your spot!

**Marvel Hanging Ornaments - Saturday, Dec. 15 at 11 AM**
A morning of crafting seasonal fun! Join us for creating Marvel themed hanging ornaments.

**Marvel Perler Bead Creations - Saturday, Jan 26 at 11 AM**
Let us help you get all decked out for the next Marvel movie premiere. Create your own Marvel themed Perler creations and then turn those into wearable accessories!

**Marvel Trivia Night - Tuesday, Feb. 19 from 6-8 PM**
Come test your knowledge of the Marvel multiverse at our Marvelous Trivia Night! We will provide the snacks and the prize, but this free event is sure to fill up fast, so register today!
Kindergarten: Our Kindergarten friends are currently learning to identify and demonstrate the beat in music and speech, finding their singing voices, playing cooperative singing games and working on our holiday show. Please mark Friday morning, December 14th on your calendars to come to the school and be delighted by their show! Exact times and details will follow.

1st Grade: First graders are reviewing concepts learned in Kindergarten. We are singing and playing a variety of individual and cooperative music games, learning about tonality (Major and minor), and preparing for our holiday show. Throughout the year we will be developing our pitch and rhythm accuracy, identifying form, and grow as team players through a variety of activities, games, and songs. Cooperative music games encourage independence in singing, rhythm, and cooperative play, laying the groundwork for ensemble singing/playing. Our holiday program will be on Friday morning, December 14.

2nd Grade: We are currently hard at work creating our holiday show which will be held on Friday afternoon, December 14th. Please mark your calendars, come and enjoy their music.

3rd Grade: The recorders are IN!!! This is such an exciting time of year for our third graders. Learning to play the recorder is the first instrumental ensemble experience for our students. And there is so much more to it than meets the eye! In these first lessons, students are learning about body positions, recorder positions, hand and finger positions, breath control, articulation, and starting and stopping together. And every student does this at the exact same time as everyone else! That’s A LOT of coordinating! Students are reading rhythm patterns and staff notation. Our first note is “C” this year, followed by “A”. We are beginning our two-year recorder curriculum using a new approach that introduces the staff gradually and allows the students to do more improvisation and composition. Please be sure your third grader brings their music folder and handouts on music day. The handouts are homework and music that we play and invent with in class. The “Recorder Express” books are in, but tend to be overwhelming at this point. So, I am holding them while we develop our basic skills. I anticipate sending them home by Christmas.

Please note that students are expected to practice their recorder & music at home for at least 5 minutes, 3 days each week in order to make permanent the music reading and recorder technique taught in class. More is always better and students who practice more progress faster, more confidently, and find a lot of enjoyment in playing. We have found that this minimal investment of time at home makes a profound difference in retention from week to week, while building confidence and enjoyment. We will present a Memorial Day program in May and showcase their recorder expertise!
**4th Grade Chorus:** We are off to a very enthusiastic start with 48 students signed up! We meet at recess on Wednesdays all year long. Our fall events include singing the National Anthem at a Worcester Railers game on Sunday, November 18th, and delighting the diners at our very own Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning December 8th. Hockey ticket orders are due by Wednesday 11/7. Additional forms can be printed from the school web-site and are also available through Ms. Wildman. Information for the Breakfast with Santa will be sent through the PTO.

**5th Grade Chorus:** Our Fifth grade chorus is off to a solid and very happy start. Chorus in fifth grade is an elective course, and as such, is a graded academic subject. We meet on Tuesdays and/or Fridays at recess. This year we have a wonderful group of sixteen dedicated singers. We are learning some very basic music theory, and preparing to sing the National Anthem at the Worcester Railers game on November 18th. Our winter concert will be on the evening of Wednesday, January 16th. Please come and enjoy an evening of music making by both the fifth grade chorus and band!

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**Music Notes w/Mrs. Dame**

**4th Grade:** Our children spent third grade learning a tremendous amount of musical knowledge on their recorders (please read grade 3 notes in this chalk talk). It is now time to work on making the fingers move and the reading of the staff act with greater fluency. To also use our air in a manner that produces a warm tone and even be able to write music with a greater precision and understanding. We spent September and now part of October, in class, working through the smart board and a Recorder Workbook that has 30 questions. These questions have the students play just one note or many. They also wrote answers in regards to the staff, rhythms and even rests and then placed this information on the staff themselves. Each time a student answered a question correctly in the book, they received a star on the front cover. When we finish the 30th question, the magical moment will come…….they will color in the treble clef that is on the last page! Crayons bring joy at any age! This time is extremely important for all students involved. It insures that all students are completely comfortable with last year’s skills, and a bit more, before we head into 6 new notes and deeper rhythm patterns for grade 4.

**Important information at Grade 4 continues:**

All students will receive a music folder from me. I truly need all students to place their Recorder Express book in this folder and bring it to school every week on their music day. We will be ready to go deeper into this book and often write the answers to the music right on these pages. This allows the students to go home and be able to practice with comfort and success rather than frustration from not remembering how it was done in class. Furthermore, anytime I hand out additional recorder or vocal music, we place all this material into the folder for their use for here at school and/or at home.

Lastly, fourth grade is the first time I meet many of these students. I want to compliment this entire grade. They are happy, focused, and eager to learn. They have a smile on their faces for every class. This makes me happy to enter every day knowing that I am going to see these kids for the first period of my day. Thank you to all for sending your children in ready to learn and experience new things.
5th Grade: For many years I have asked fifth grade students the question – Why Are We Here? The answers have been quite amazing. Here is a compilation of these answers and truly our plans for Grade 5.

Grade 5: Why Are We Here? (Music and More)

We are here to:

Learn about music and become educated. To become inspired and learn about new things. To develop the right side of our brains. To learn more about history, math, composers and performers. This might become a talent or career. You may become a musician and make $. To learn about instruments, notes, the staff and how to sing well. We will become skilled in music. We will learn about the elements of life. It will help us graduate high school and maybe get a college scholarship. It will get us ready for 6th grade.

While we are all learning we will:

Make new friends, work together and get along. TEAMWORK! Cooperate, share, and Choose to be Nice. We will sometimes need to make compromises and we will always be polite to one another. We will learn as a team. We will all participate! We will learn to communicate our thoughts and do our best every day. We will follow directions, raise our hands and respect one another. We will set goals and then practice. We will need courage and confidence. We will need to use strategies for success and ask questions when needed. We will follow the Golden Rule. We will be helpful with one another, be role models to our school and simply be happy with each other. We will have fun while we learn!

I am pleased to say that these kids have taken these comments to heart and have worked very hard to follow through on these goals and desires every music class. I am very proud of their effort and work ethic since the beginning of school. I see the progress of becoming independent musicians truly in the works. Kudos to all of grade 5!

5th Grade Band:

We are off to a wonderful start! The Sutton instrumental program begins in grade 5 and offers a variety of instruments in the wind ensemble experience. These range from the woodwind family – saxophone, clarinet and flute to the brass family – trumpet and trombone and finally, to our percussion family – xylophones and non-pitched instruments. Our children have started playing their instruments this year with true enthusiasm and the love of learning can be seen at each lesson. I can tell already that this will be an awesome year.

I invite everyone to please mark your calendars! Our first 5th grade band/chorus concert will be on January 16th (snow day on the 17th) at 7:00pm. This is a wonderful evening where all these students have an opportunity to perform for our community and show off all the hard work they have done in these first months. I will send more information home to parents’ in the near future in regards to concert dress and additional information for the evening.

Warmest regards,
Suzanne Dame
dames@suttonschools.net
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Upcoming Events

November

11/05/18 - 11/16/18 Spiritwear Fundraiser
11/08/18 - Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. for Parent/Teacher Conferences
11/12/18 - Veterans’ Day - School
11/13/18 - Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. for Parent/Teacher Conferences
11/14/18 PTO Meeting - 7:00pm Elementary Library
11/18/18 Worcester Railers vs. Orlando @ DCU 3:05pm
   PTO and Chorus
11/21/18 - Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. for Thanksgiving Break
11/22 and 11/23/18 - No School for Thanksgiving Break

December

12/01/18 Chain of Lights (10:00am-4:00pm)
12/08/18 Breakfast with Santa (8:00am-11:00am)
12/08/18 Ornament Day (8:30am-12:00pm)
12/21/18 - Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. for Holiday Break
12/24-12/31 - Holiday Break

January

01/01/19 - No school - New Year’s Day
01/16/19 - 02/06/19 Enrichment - Session II (Wed’s 2:45pm-4:00pm) Makeup:
2/13
Box Tops

We had a very successful box top competition this fall. The classroom winner for the SCEL was Ms. Kolofsky with 1,725 box tops. The classroom winner for the Elementary School was Ms. Fitzgerald with 1,089 box tops. Both classrooms will enjoy a celebratory ice cream party.

Our total fall submission this year was over 10,000 box tops! That’s 3,000 more than last fall. That is great news!! A big thank you to our contributors and volunteers who helped count. We will have another spring competition in 2019 so stay tuned for more information! Continue to cut those box tops!

Kids Night Out

It was great to see so many friends and families at our Kid Nights Out celebration!!! This event was a great success!! I enjoyed seeing the students in their costumes and how excited they were about all the fun activities at our school! We had an amazing juggling performance by the talented Jason Tardy, creative face painting and balloon creations, and the Hay Rides that were generously donated by Whittier Farms. The craft tables were packed and gym was overflowing with kids playing games and dancing to the DJ who kept everyone moving! Congratulations to all the winners of the raffles and guesstimations. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped out! The coordinators, parents and students. We could not have made this event happen without you!! Looking forward to next year's Kids Night Out celebration!!

Thank you,
Cheryle Sullivan

KidStuff Coupon Book Fundraiser

The KidStuff Coupon Book Fundraiser returned this year after a few years off. Thank you to all of you who bought a KidStuff Coupon Book. We exceeded our goal and made about $3600 in profit! New this time around - access to their New KidStuff App with each coupon book that was sold. Also new this year was the Tees and Hoodies Program! We had 30 students sell enough to earn a free tee shirt, long sleeve shirt or hoodie with the school logo!
Congratulations!

Jennifer Darling
On Friday, September 7, 2018 the Simonian Center hosted its annual Kindergarten Ice Cream Social! Members of Mrs. Kerrissey, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Muscatell, and Mrs. Robert’s classes were invited to attend this beginning-of-the-school-year event to introduce classmates and parents to each other. More than half of the kindergarten students were in attendance. All guests were able to create and enjoy ice cream sundaes with all the fixings! We hope your little ones enjoyed the ice cream sundaes and had the chance to meet new friends!

Thank you,
Jen Nunnemacher
Friends PTO of Sutton Elementary & Simonian Center for Early Learning

Enrichment Session 1

Briefly, for anyone who doesn’t know, Enrichment is a PTO fundraiser, in which a variety of classes are offered after school for students in grades K-5 to participate and expand their learning experiences beyond the classroom. To maximize the amount of money the PTO earns from enrichment, we encourage parents, older students, aunts, uncles and grandparents to volunteer to share their talents and skills with the students by teaching classes. This way, we do not have to pay outside vendors, which causes us to have to increase the cost of participation in the program. If your children enjoy participating in the enrichment classes, I encourage you to volunteer to either teach or assist. It is a wonderful way to see your children interacting with their peers in an environment other than a classroom and to share a passion of yours with a small group of students.

Enrichment Session I was an overwhelming success with 14 classes and record enrollment of 175 kids. The elementary students in grades 3-5 enjoyed Molecular Biology, where they learned about molecules and even extracted DNA from strawberries, Escape the Room where they had to solve puzzles and unlock clues, Harry Potter where they were sorted into the four houses and made magic potions, Computer Hardware, where they learned about computers and did a little coding and Let’s Dance where they worked on choreography to different songs. We were so happy to have a couple new classes for the K-2 students. Mini Ninja Warriors, was popular and the kids enjoyed challenging themselves to try new obstacles, the Fun with Legos class and several arts and crafting classes challenged them to try new ways to use different medium, like yarn, paper and baking supplies. Of course, we also had several teachers who we cannot thank enough for always teaching classes such as Violin and Fairy Tale Fun.

This program would not be successful without volunteers to teach the classes, so we would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to our volunteer teachers. And of course, we cannot forget to thank all our volunteers who assisted in the classes to help maintain order and supervise the students. It may not seem like much work, but just by being there you are an important part of the program. It takes so many volunteers for this program to be a success and we appreciate every one of you.

We would like to thank Mrs. Harrison and Ms. Merriam for their tremendous time and unending support of this program.

We are always looking for new class ideas and more volunteers. The second session of enrichment will be taking place in January, so if you or someone you know would like to teach a class, please email suttonenrichment@gmail.com Do it now, while you are thinking of it.

Thanks for all of your support!
-The Enrichment Committee - Nicole, Erin and Dana
PTO Update

We have had a very busy and wonderful start to the 2018-2019 school year! With the efforts of many amazing volunteers and your fundraising support since the beginning of the year, we have already raised $11,000 and have issued grants back to our schools for $8,000! These grants have included:

- Continuing the Fluoride program throughout the school
- Recess toys for SCEL
- 1,2, 3 Magic books with video & worksheets for Pre-K to 2nd grade
- Take home back packs for Title 1 students in K-2nd graders
- Decorations and paint in the SCEL lobby
- Chairs for SCEL classrooms
- Online subscriptions for VocabularySpellingCity.com for 4th grade
- Online subscriptions for SpellingCity.com for 5th grade
- Choose to Be Nice prizes for the positive behavior program in elementary
- 5th grade audible books
- Online literacy and behavior management tools for 5th grade
- Diversity assembly with Mr. Peace for all grades
- Covers, headphones & microphones for Amazon Fire tablets and IPad retina display tablets to work with green screen in computer lab
- 4 new Walkie Talkies for ELEM
- 2 new FM systems in classrooms for hearing impaired students

In this submission of Chalk Talk, our PTO coordinators have included a summary of the most recent events. These include: the Kindergarten Ice Cream Social, Box Tops, KidStuff Coupon Book, Enrichment, Mixed Bags, Kids Night Out, Fun Night Out and Trunk or Treat. These events would not be successful if it weren't for all the planning and preparation. Every amount raised goes back to our children in the form of learning or supplies that did not otherwise make it into the school's budget. Thank you to all that have assisted in making these events a success and beneficial for our children!

We look forward to the remaining year and exciting things to come. A few future dates to mark your calendars are:

- Spirit wear Fundraiser runs from 11/05/18 – 11/16/18
- Worcester Railers game at the DCU Center is on 11/18/18
- Chain of Lights is on 12/01/18
- Breakfast with Santa & Ornament Day is on 12/08/18
- Enrichment Session II, on Wed’s, runs from 01/16/19-02/06/19
- Box Tops for the spring collection runs from 01/22/19-02/08/19
- Glow Dance is on 02/08/19
- Butter Braids Fundraiser starts 02/25/19 and goes through 03/11/19

Our next PTO meetings will be held on Wednesday’s for the following dates and times:

- 11/14/18 @ 7:00pm in the Elementary Library
- 01/23/19 @ 7:00pm in the Elementary Library
- 02/20/19 @ 1:30pm in the Elementary Planning Room
- 03/20/19 @ 7:00pm in the Elementary Library
- 04/10/19 @ 1:30pm in the Elementary Planning Room
- 05/15/19 @ 7:00pm in the Elementary Library

We are always looking for people to get involved, so please don’t hesitate to come share your thoughts and suggestions to make the PTO events and fundraising an even better experience for our school and families.

If you would like to inquire about becoming a PTO member or have any question, please email the board at suttonptofriends@gmail or go to our school’s website to see our PTO calendar of events, meeting dates and times and ways to volunteer.

Thank you again,
Friends – The PTO of Sutton Elementary School & Simonian Center for Early Learning