Superintendent’s Update – February 27, 2020

As many of you are aware, we are currently examining our four school structure and whether or not there is a better configuration to meet the needs of all students. There are two main factors that are in play, declining enrollment and better use of financial resources. Most importantly is making sure direct services to students do not take one step back, but instead expand to meet the growing demands of the 21st century.

The overall population of school age children has declined significantly over the last 10 years in rural and suburban Massachusetts and Sutton is no exception. Ten years ago, the average class size in grades K-8 were between 135-140 students. Today, those averages run between 100-110. In 2010, each of the four schools had over 400 students; currently, that number is much closer to 300 students. As these smaller classes move through the district, our high school numbers will continue to decline as students can choose between Sutton, BVT and private schools.

There is certainly an economic factor that must be part of this examination. Over the last five years, the town has contributed an additional $400,000 of funding each year while the state, through Chapter 70, has contributed on average $35,000. Although the state has announced a $1.7 billion dollar increase in spending on public education over the next seven years, Sutton’s share will continue to be approximately $35,000 with the lion’s share of this increase going to urban school districts. So overall, revenue has increased on average $435,000 yet the budget increases yearly on average $600,000. Over the last several years, we were very fortunate to have substantial savings in electricity and oil; however, we have reduced these line items in next year’s budget to reflect these savings. Our projected budget gap currently stands at $525,000 for the 2021 school year. I will be working very closely with Jim Smith to reduce this gap and prevent any reductions in direct services to students.

We have a dilemma - declining enrollment, but the need for current staffing levels to keep class sizes appropriate and to offer the necessary high school courses to prepare our students to be highly competitive in their pursuit of a college or university education. On average, 90 percent of Sutton graduates attend college upon graduation.

We currently have a Restructuring Committee made up of a cross-section of stakeholder groups. The group is weighing the pros and cons of a two, three and the current four-school model. There will be no changes next year, but if we make the decision to change the structure, we would use next year to carefully plan for this change. The main focus of changes will be on the administrative structure and will have minimal or no impact on students.

I am sure many of you are thinking, “Why change our current structure? It is working fine.” and you would be correct in your thinking. First, we are down more than 350 students from 10 years ago, long-term economic factors must be considered, but most importantly keeping class size low and providing social/emotional support must be our top priority. My first three years as Superintendent we cut 23 professional positions due to the fallout from the economic collapse beginning in 2008. Currently our budget is stable, we have strong reserves and the economy is doing well. This is the perfect time to be proactive and make structural changes that will allow us to maintain our current level of service. Ten years ago we were on the defensive; we did not take two years to study and strategically make changes, and I am sure mistakes were made.
A Message from Ms. Merriam – SCEL Principal

Dear Sutton Families and Friends,

Each morning I do the morning announcements: Pledge of Allegiance, Bucket Filler Pledge, bucket filler nominations, lunch offering. I add any daily note about the schedule or other bits of info that need to go out and I tell a joke for Funny Fridays. I am lucky to have two first graders join me for this task and I think they enjoy it and really like hearing their voices go out over the speakers. Some mornings I take an extra minute to go over a breathing exercise all together as a reminder of how to be mindful, or as a way to have everyone take a moment and be calm and centered, especially during holidays or after a vacation break.

After this February break, I decided to add another detail to my daily message. I wanted the children to know without a doubt that they were loved. I feel like this message is given in so many ways, and when I speak to outsiders about what we do well here – I always talk about ourselves as caregivers. That this group of teachers, aides, support staff, custodians, lunch ladies, etc., all really care deeply about our students and that is what makes us such a strong community and school. But... I kept thinking about it more and knowing how important it is for children to hear the words, and not just assume they know it. Knowing it and hearing the words – having them said aloud to you – are two very different things. So what I have added to my message each morning is a simple but critical detail: you are loved. The first time I added this part I took a few minutes to explain it. I wanted them to know that I felt I had a message for them and that they weren’t always getting that message. That I always talk about being kind and a good person, but that I wanted them to know that I cared about them and so I was adding in my daily message some reminder of the fact that they are loved. So each day I have said something such as: sending love, loving you, love you today, you are loved, etc.
A Message from Mrs. Harrison – SES Principal

Dear SES Families and Friends,

There are a lot of great things happening at SES! Here are just a few of the exciting events over the last couple of months:

- **Latin America Cultural Night: Diversity Council.** Sponsored by the Diversity Council, this event was very well attended and there was so much to learn throughout the evening about Latin America. Earlier this year, the Diversity Council also held a “Mix it Up” lunch where students randomly sit at different tables to have an opportunity to socialize with students they may not normally sit with.

- **Fifth Grade Chorus & Band Performance.** The fifth grade chorus and band performed to the delight of a very impressed audience.

- **Glow Dance: PTO.** The Glow Dance, sponsored by the PTO, was a huge success and lots of fun!

- **Windows on Wildlife.** Windows on Wildlife visited grades 3 and 4 in February. This is an educational organization dedicated to inspiring people with a love of nature and a desire to protect it. With a focus on raptors, or birds of prey, the students learned about a healthy ecosystem and so much more. A science standard for these grades is “adaptations,” so this program aligns well with our curriculum.

With Love,
Jessica Merriam, SCEL Principal
The fun will continue into March:

- **Read-a-Thon: PTO.** Our PTO has worked very hard to provide a wonderful reading opportunity to our students and families through a Read-a-Thon that is also a fundraiser. We have received many grants from our PTO through their fundraising efforts that have afforded us school resources and much more. “Because family, friends and neighbors understand how important education and reading skills are. When asked, most people will make generous donations to encourage a child to read. Very few fundraising ideas offer such clear benefits to children and the groups they are raising money for.” The Read-a-Thon took off on **Monday, March 2nd.** As always, thank you for your continued support!

- **Stories to Stage: Green Bean.** Stories to Stage is in its fourth year and produced and directed by Kelli Deliso and Joscelyn Young of Green Bean Workshops. Artwork from our students in grades K-5 was selected to be used as an inspiration for our students to write stories that are turned into plays for the Stories to Stage production. The Stories to Stage performances will be held on **Friday, March 27th at 6:00 p.m.** and on **Saturday, March 28th at 5:00 p.m.**

- **Choose to be Nice Program.** Our “Choose to be Nice” positive behavior-program is going very well. The focus on the month of March is friendship. Many students have already been recognized for showing acts of kindness and friendship in many different ways.
More from Mrs. Harrison - MCAS Testing

We will be administering MCAS 2.0 computer-based state testing, for grades 3, 4, and 5. We will be having a Breakfast for Champions for all students on Friday, March 27th to kick off MCAS and to remind the students of having a healthy breakfast on the days of testing and a good night’s sleep.

The dates for the testing are:

Grade 3:
- 4/1/20   ELA
- 4/2/20   ELA
- 4/28/20  MATH
- 4/29/20  MATH

Grade 4:
- 3/30/20  ELA
- 3/31/20  ELA
- 4/30/20  MATH
- 5/1/20   MATH

Grade 5:
- 4/3/20   ELA
- 4/6/20   ELA
- 5/4/20   MATH
- 5/5/20   MATH
- 5/19/20  SCIENCE
- 5/20/20  SCIENCE

Please check out the pictures below. There are still lots of exciting and enriching events to come at SES, so stay tuned!

All the best,
Denise M. Harrison, Principal

SES Students Hard at Work!
Fifth Grade Chorus & Band Concert

More Fun at Sutton Elementary School
Winter DIBELS in Kindergarten

You will be receiving your child’s Winter DIBELS scores. As discussed at Parent Conferences, the purpose of DIBELS is to monitor development in reading, to identify students needing additional help, and to guide instruction. The First Sound Fluency and Letter Naming Fluency tests were given again, and you can compare your child’s fall and winter scores. Two new tests were administered, Phoneme Segmentation Fluency and Nonsense Word Fluency; both are new skills for Kindergarteners, which we have just started instruction on in the classroom.

Here is a list of activities that you can do with your child at home to strengthen their skills in the various areas:

**First Sound Fluency** is a child’s ability to tell the first sound they hear in a word. This skill is all verbal, we do not use any visual aids.

- While driving in the car, tell your child random words and ask “what is the first sound you hear in the word?”
- Play “I Spy” something that starts with the letter ...
- I Spy- orally: Tell your child you are thinking of something in the room that starts with /b/, /c/ etc... continue through the alphabet.
- I Spy- with pictures: Lay out picture cards on the table. Give your child the beginning sound of a word and have them find the picture. Add a “time” component as able. Call it the “Speed Round.”
- Sound Discrimination: Say the following words *pig, dot, dog* and have your child repeat the words. “Which ones start with the same sound?” More word pairs: *jam/ juice/ bug/ rat/cat/ run/ big/ ball/ tan sun/ man/ mouse cat/kiss/ fit hit/ sit/ sand*

**Letter Naming Fluency** is having children name letter as quickly as they can. This is two-fold; they need to know the names of letters first then increase their speed at naming them.

- Have children name letters they see throughout their environment (inside, outside, in a book or magazine).
- Using Flashcards, have children name the letters (upper and lowercase in random order) as fast as they can. Try to beat the clock-set timer for 1 minute.

**Phoneme Segmentation** is a child’s ability to separate the sounds they hear in a word. This does not mean stretching the word out but really saying all the individual sounds they hear in a word. Most children start out just saying the initial sound of a word and gain sounds as they make progress. For example the word trip should be /t/ /r/ /i/ /p/, four individual sounds. This skill is also all verbal.

- Practice saying the sounds in words slowly. Cat = c-a-t
- Play “I Spy.” Saying each part of the word, for example /f/ /or/ /k/.
- Have child jump the number of sounds in words.
- Using egg cups, drop beads, buttons, pasta into the cups, 1 object for each sound.

**Nonsense Word Fluency** is a child’s ability to either say all the sounds they know or read a consonant vowel consonant nonsense word, for example: *weg*. They can say, /w/ /e/ /g/ or read the word in its entirety.

- It is best to start with fluency of letter sounds. Like in letter naming fluency, show your child a letter (lowercase) and ask them to make the sound. Go through various letters as quickly as possible.
- Make consonant and vowel cards and pick 2 consonants and 1 vowel, arrange and read.
First Grade – 100 Days of Fun!

On February 10th, the first grade students celebrated the 100th day of school. One of the many activities students participated in was the 100th day fashion show. Students wore an article of clothing displaying objects totaling 100. In individual classrooms, students participated in learning activities with a focus of 100. We had a great time celebrating!
Second Grade News

Second Graders have been busy this winter! Back in November, the Museum of Science came to second grade. They conducted experiments that helped students to understand better how liquids, solids, and gases change phases and properties when subjected to changes in energy. Using extremely cold liquid nitrogen, students saw balloons shrink, metal melt before their eyes, and a piece of paper set on fire using only water!

In December, the students were “traveling” throughout the world learning about Holiday Traditions. This was done by rotating through the second grade classrooms. Teachers and students alike seemed to enjoy the change of pace that each classroom presented. Along with those travels, the students worked hard on preparing for their Holiday Concert. They did an amazing job!

Second grade also received a nice ‘present’ in the month of December. We are now the proud owners of a cart of 30 Chrome Books. As a team, it was decided that each class will use 6 Chromebooks on a daily basis as each teacher sees fit. If a class set is needed, arrangements are made to accommodate that. The Chromebooks have been loaded with both Storia and First in Math shortcuts. Further, the students are able to create and save their own google documents.
Third Grade Happenings

Third grade has been very busy learning about the Pilgrims while learning to gather facts from informational texts. They used this information to make posters to show what they learned.

In science, we were fortunate enough to have Windows on Wildlife visit the third grade which was a wonderful connection to our life cycle unit.

We continue to ask all third grade families to continue to practice their multiplication facts at home.

Fourth Grade – It’s a Jungle in Here!

Fourth grade has been a jungle! Students have used their archeology skills to excavate artifacts in the same way that real scientists did to provide us with knowledge of the ancient Aztec, Incan, and Mayan civilizations of Central and Southern North America. Our little scientists practiced their patience while trying to reassemble broken clay pots decorated in Mayan style art.

Our students also are becoming familiar with animals from the jungle and other habitats as they learn about all the unique and practical ways in which animals are adapted to get their needs met within their environments. Some students used their knowledge of the groundhogs’ special physical and behavioral adaptations to design a new groundhog home for Punxsutawney Phil after his busy day on February 2nd.

All students have been learning to read and understand historical fiction and nonfiction through the series of “I Survived” books and the “Who Would Win” collection. Next, students will use their research skills to write expository essays on animals of their choosing.

On Valentine’s Day, the fourth grade was fortunate to enjoy a visit from some live raptors who modeled their unique adaptations. This hopefully provides inspiration for an upcoming fourth grade project on newly discovered creatures. (Stay tuned for additional details...)

Math has been a jungle of polygons and triangles as students learn their properties and continue to hone their multiplication and division skills. Soon we will explore symmetry and then it will be on to the deep, dark jungle of fractions! Be brave.
Fifth Grade News

The fifth graders have been very busy! It is hard to believe they are entering our final trimester as Sutton Elementary Schoolers! All classes have been busy working on a variety of math concepts, reading many novels, and working their way through new social studies and science topics.

In math we have worked on adding and subtracting fractions, have learned the U.S. Standard Algorithms for Multiplication and Division (otherwise known as the “old-fashioned method”), and worked on patterning and graphing. We have even introduced some work with exponents! Up next for 5th grade is our study of decimals.

Fifth graders are continuing to read a variety of genres. We love to integrate our novel studies to align with our science and social studies concepts. We have read A Long Walk to Water, which aligned with our Water unit in science. We also use a variety of novels to give deeper insight into our Revolutionary War unit. Our 5th graders are also writing up a storm! We are building up our writing stamina by writing across the curriculum.

Perhaps the most exciting thing about 5th grade right now is the upcoming Invention Convention! Students have submitted their patents, and are in the planning stages right now. Don’t be surprised if you see some of our students on Shark Tank selling their inventions someday!

The rest of the year is going to fly by! ~ The 5th Grade Teachers

Visualization with Comprehension

Submitted by: Jennifer Frederick – Special Education (SCEL)

Reflective Awareness and Visualization involves thinking about the text at hand and replaying the story in the student’s mind. It is necessary to “go deeper.” Discuss vocabulary and use higher-level questioning to develop critical thinking habits.

Strategies you can do at home to support your child:

- Use picture notes (sketch) during or after reading
- **Replay:** It is important to solidify understanding and to help determine if there are any missing parts or confusing “scenes” in the child’s mind. By replaying the story aloud, you are able to identify misconceptions or inaccuracies in your child’s thinking.
- **Retell:** Have your child use the picture in his/her mind (or on paper) to describe the story in words – linking the retell to the picture in his/her mind.

Your child should be able to: (1) establish a coherent mental model; (2) rehearse the retelling of the story with picture notes or what they see in their minds; and (3) retell the story back in a coherent detailed way.
Kindergarten: Our kindergarten friends are learning and performing a host of rhythmic and melodic songs and games. Pitch matching and moving with the beat are constantly developing as well as the ability to play cooperative music games where all have active and often changing roles.

First Grade: During this part of the year, our 1st Graders take great delight learning a repertoire of patriotic songs. So far, they’ve learned “America,” “America the Beautiful,” and are currently working on “This Land is Your Land.” As always, movement, vocabulary, meaning, and history are important parts of this process so that they can sing with understanding. Pitch, rhythm, meter, tonality, form, and teamwork are developed through these, other songs, activities, and music games.

Second Grade: Second graders are learning to read and write rhythms, which include whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes, and quarter rests. We will begin to learn the pitches of the treble staff soon. By spring, we will combine reading simple patterns of notation and rhythm on the staff. Our students are delighted to know and manipulate major and minor tonalities and duple and triple meters. An ongoing “game” is to identify the tonality or meter of songs we learn in class and switch them up. We are currently playing word rhythms and improvising on the xylophones.

Third Grade: Our students are learning to read and perform written music on the recorder. To date, we know 5 notes (G, A, B, C, and D). Students become proficient in reading and playing through home practice (our school’s policy is a minimum is 5 minutes/ day, at least 3 days/week). Home practice is essential to mastering the recorder curriculum. More practice makes reading music and playing the recorder more satisfying and fun. If your student has lost their home recorder or music/folder, please contact me so it can be replaced. Mark your calendars for Thursday morning, May 21, when the Third Grade will present their Memorial Day Concert/Program. Details to follow.

Fourth Grade Chorus: We meet during recess on Wednesdays. The 4th and 5th grade choruses have been invited to sing the National Anthem at a Providence Bruins game on March 8. Tickets can still be purchased on line at WWW.PROVIDENCEBRUINS.COM/SUTTON. We are also preparing a special song to present at the Fourth Grade Memorial Day Program on Thursday morning, May 21. We make sure to reserve some time most rehearsals for favorite music and movement games and activities.

Fifth Grade Chorus: The 4th and 5th grade choruses have been invited to sing the National Anthem at a Providence Bruins game on March 8 (see above). We are currently working on a variety of music for our spring concert as part of the Elementary School’s Celebration of the Arts night, 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 6.
Fourth Grade: Fourth grade music classes are beginning to prepare for the Memorial Day program on **Thursday, May 21st**. They are taking their beautiful voices and working as an ensemble to prepare pieces that will honor all those in the services on this very special day. These students came to fourth grade with five notes under their belt on the recorder and have worked hard so that they now have ten! With these newly acquired skills, they are preparing *America*, which will be memorized for this Memorial Day. In the weeks to come, we will not only learn to play and sing this music well, but also find tips on how to memorize and calm one’s nerves when going in front of a large group of people. These are skills that will be needed for a lifetime. I look forward to seeing everyone at this wonderful day when we honor so many important people in our community.

Fifth Grade: The World Music Drumming is an innovative, cross-cultural curriculum that teaches fifth grade students how to play African music through actual conga drums. Through this experience, students are learning that in Africa music is a community endeavor - unlike many in our country, who place headsets on their ears and listen to music in private. We are amidst this wonderful 6-week cycle.

Fifth Grade Band: The fifth grade bank is preparing for our second concert on **May 6th**. This evening will be a Music and Arts Celebration. We look forward to this moment when they will show off the many artistic talents of our entire 5th grade. The band students have continued their year with focus, confidence, and commitment and of course, courage. We are becoming quite excited for one of the music pieces will have us sounding like the prehistoric time. We look forward to seeing everyone on this evening.
Pictures from the Art Room

Peace Flags for the Glow Dance

First Graders Making Jackson Pollock Paintings
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## Third Grade
- Natalie Malloy
- Kaia Patrick (2)
- Miles Renaud
- Alex McCabe
- Connor Doolin
- Dino Sena
- Austin Lambert (3)
- Avery Fedigan

## Fourth Grade
- Aubrey Konczyn
- Liam Anderson
- Josh Heldenbergh
- Lilah Auciello
- Colten Webb
- Eliana Choma
- Adeline Baumann (2)
- Jacqueline Anderson (2)
- Ivy Lolax (2)
- Thomas Edmunds
- Brody Sobaleski
- Asher Hill (2)
- Delainey Walsh
- Thomas Wahlstrom
- Nick McGonagle (2)
- Joshua McGarry
- Disha Patel (2)
- Anna Rallis (2)
- Abigail LaCoe
- Hudson Fuller
- Haley Teixeira (2)
- Austin DiGellonardo
- Alexi Cao (2)
- Lily Selvitelli (2)
- William Rallis (2)
- Benjamin Barron (2)
- Patrick Kaczorowski
- Jordyn Rivera

## Fifth Grade
- Annabeth Drummond
- Angelleyez Muhammed
- Haleigh Mitchell (2)
- Dylan O’Mara
- Mina Gallo
- Oliver Bush (4)
- Freddie Romano (2)
- Derek Shirman
- Enajah Watts
- Eliot Guerin
- Gus Jacobson
- Eli McNeil
- Elisabeth Fitzpatrick
- Ellie Bringham
- Chase Gara
- Kyla Jacobs
- Collin O’Rourke
- Courtney Clemens (3)
- Austin Lamothe
- Griffin Kiel
- Evan Fisher

## Monthly Winners
- 3 - Lacey Masterson
- 4 - Clara Tuomala
- 5 - Nicholas Manley

## January 2020

## Third Grade
- Kaia Patrick
- Alex McCabe
- Jaxon McDonald
- Teddy Rossov
- Stella MacPherson
- Ashton Osterman

## Fourth Grade
- Brody Sobaleski
- Amelia Klinghard
- Ben Rougemont
- Isabella Gaska (2)
- Ben Pawlak
- Ben Barron
- Anabella Small
- Wyatt Learned
- Silas Gipps
- Tobias Wilk
- Jack Acropolis
- Ian Jakubiak
- Emily Andrade
- Kyle Favela (2)
- Scarlet Gervais
- Taylor Healey
- Gabriella Carvalho
- Dylan O’Mara
- Anthony Branowicki
- Hudson Fuller
- Ashley Whitten (2)
- Aaron Perron (3)
- Cooper Langevin
- Tobias Wilk
- Shawn Parker

## Fifth Grade
- Courtney Clemens (2)
- Violette Lavoie
- Matthew Mulderig
- James Mercure
- Riley Hargrove
- Lyla Carlsen
- Tadele White
- Elizabeth Reid-Eriksen
- Ellie Bringham
- Megan MacDonald
- Zach Pattison
- Oliver Bush
- Austin Lamothe
- Jersey Jeffries

## Monthly Winners
- 3 - Jaxon McDonald
- 4 - Anthony Branowicki
- 5 - Courtney Clemens

## February 2020

## Third Grade
- Maddie Davis
- Austin Lambert
- Mason Kozaczka

## Fourth Grade
- Wyatt Learned (2)
- Allee Couture (3)
- Liam Anderson
- Hailey Black
- Cooper Langevin
- Dylan O’Mara
- Adelynne Lambert (2)
- Clara Tuomala
- Mohammed Alkeqani
- Jacqueline Anderson
- Conor Lynch
- Thomas Edmunds
- Hudson Fuller

## Fifth Grade
- Haley Robbins
- Kyla Jacobs
- Matthew Lambert
- Matthew Mulderig
- Megan MacDonald
- Bryce LaForest
- Courtney Clemens

## Monthly Winners
- 3 - Mason Kozaczka
- 4 - Wyatt Learned
- 5 - Haley Robbins
## Upcoming Events

### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/2/20-3/13/20</td>
<td>Read-a-Thon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8/20</td>
<td>Providence Bruins v. HDD (7:05pm Dunkin Donuts Center)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/9/20</td>
<td>End of Butterbraids Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/10/20</td>
<td>Pasta Making Class – Parents Night Out (6pm Volturno)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18/20</td>
<td>PTO Meeting (1:30pm Elementary Planning Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/18/20</td>
<td>Report Cards Issued</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/18/20-4/8/20</td>
<td>Enrichment, Spring Session 2020 (2:45pm-4pm Gymnasium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18/20</td>
<td>Restructuring Committee Meeting (6pm-7:30pm High School Team Room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/19/20</td>
<td>Half Day (11:30am Dismissal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/20/20</td>
<td>No School – Professional Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/25/20</td>
<td>Enrichment, Spring Session 2020 (2:45pm-4pm Gymnasium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/25/20</td>
<td>Strategic Planning Committee (6pm-8pm High School Team Room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/27/20</td>
<td>Stories to Stage Performance (6pm Auditorium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/28/20</td>
<td>Stories to Stage Performance (5pm Auditorium)</td>
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### April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/1/20</td>
<td>SCEL School Council Meeting (3:30pm-4:30pm SCEL Conference Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/1/20</td>
<td>Elementary School Council Meeting (3:30pm-4:30pm ELEM Conference Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/1/20</td>
<td>Enrichment, Spring Session 2020 (2:45pm-4pm Gymnasium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/1/20</td>
<td>Restructuring Committee Meeting (6pm-7:30pm High School Team Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/1/20-4/15/20</td>
<td>Spiritwear Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/8/20</td>
<td>Coffee with the Superintendent (9am-10am Mr. Friend’s Conference Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/8/20</td>
<td>Enrichment, Spring Session 2020 (2:45pm-4pm Gymnasium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10/20</td>
<td>Half Day (11:30am Dismissal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/14/20</td>
<td>First Grade Museum of Science: Life Cycles Traveling Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/15/20</td>
<td>Strategic Planning Committee (6pm-8pm High School Team Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/15/20</td>
<td>PTO Meeting (7pm Elementary Planning Room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/17/20</td>
<td>Fifth Grade Invention Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/20/20-4/24/20</td>
<td>No School – Spring Break</td>
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</tbody>
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### May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/6/20</td>
<td>Fifth Grade Celebration of the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/21/20</td>
<td>Memorial Day Concert (Third &amp; Fourth Grades)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/25/20</td>
<td>No School – Memorial Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/29/20</td>
<td>Half Day (11:30am Dismissal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/31/20</td>
<td>Sutton Spring 5k</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chain of Lights (December 2019): The PTO once again hosted a trolley stop for Sutton’s Chain of Lights celebration. Held on December 7, 2019, over 1,500 visitors came through the Simonian Center for Early Learning school doors. As usual lots of fun, games, entertainment and raffle prizes and goodies were the highlights of the day.

Auditorium shows included performances by Dance Sensation, Jo Ann Warren Dance Studio, Murphy Academy of Irish Step Dance, Millbury/Sutton Raiders Cheerleaders and a karate demo by Premier Tae Kwon Do. Beyond shows, guests were able to try their luck winning one of over 60 donated raffle prizes. Manned by our fabulous principals, Ms. Merriam and Mrs. Harrison, guests could win anything from handmade blankets to a chrome book or Kindle.

The yearly highlight of the SCEL trolley stop is always the over 50 vendors and crafters selling their amazing handmade items. As usual, there were so many wonderful items to choose from. And our students donated their time to offer free holiday glitter tattoos. This year we were excited to welcome back carolers from the Blackstone Valley Community Chorus and fill the hallways with music once again.

In the art room and gym, we ran the very popular Cake Walk game and our Kidz Zone play area. From the smallest of the preschoolers to even your oldest child, everyone has a blast and went home with lots of goodies! Our cafeteria once again hosted our annual Gingerbread House Spectacular where you could vote on your favorite gingerbread houses that were all made by families, kids, adults, local organizations and businesses. Congratulations to all who submitted! They were all creative and deliciously beautifully.

A heartwarming THANK YOU goes out to all who helped our trolley stop be so successful and go so smoothly. It took many volunteers who donated their time to decorate, staff tables, plus many more who donated cakes, decorations, raffle baskets, and gingerbread houses! Thank you all so much and we look forward to next year! ~ Debbie Huard & Jen Darling
The Glow Around the World Dance was held on Friday, February 7th in the Elementary School gym and cafeteria. New this year, the PTO partnered with the Diversity and Inclusion Council to put on this wonderful event.

The decorations that lined the hallways and gym walls were created by Mrs. Hehir’s art students! Each student decorated a piece of white fabric with neon paint that kept the dance aglow. The students created masterpieces with the theme of peace. In addition, numerous banners lined the gym walls were famous landmarks around the world from Big Ben to the Great Wall of China to Mount Rushmore.

The kids enjoyed an evening of dancing under the black lights adorned with glowing headbands! There was face painting, tattoos, and games! It was a huge success and would not have been possible without the amazing volunteers! Thank you to everyone who lent a hand - it is so appreciated!  ~ Jen Darling

Breakfast with Santa (December 2019): This year’s Breakfast with Santa was a tremendous success! We had over 560 children and adults attend this year’s annual family event, which raised over $3400 for the schools. The cafeteria/gymnasium was transformed into a winter wonderland thanks to the help of PTO members and parent volunteers. Breakfast was served by our own Samantha D'Angelo and her staff, which included tasty apple French toast bake, egg sandwiches, and pancakes with bacon/sausage for the kids. Goretti’s provided us with all of the milk, creamer, and juices we needed. Our very own Ms. Merriam and the 5th grade volunteers helped to greet, seat, and serve hundreds of families. Guests enjoyed beautiful holiday decor, Christmas music, and an enormous array of raffles to peruse while waiting for Mrs. Wildman’s chorus to serenade us. And, of course, Santa Claus was on hand to take pictures with all the good little girls and boys.  ~ Heather Hannon & Jen Nunnemacher

Ornament Day (December 2019): Another fun year of ornament making! We were so excited to see all of the kids making ornaments for the family Christmas tree. Burlap Reindeers, Jingle Bell Wreaths, and Snowman are just a few examples of the winter fun. The Diversity Council provided the day with amazing Poinsettia, Gnome, and Crystal Braille ornaments. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this such a special holiday event!  ~ Mandi-Lee Caporelli
PTO Event Coordinators Needed!

Coordinators needed for the next school year are:
- Kids Night Out Coordinator
- Fun Night Out Coordinator

Any questions, please email: suttonptofriends@gmail.com

Help Needed!

Current PTO Events

Read-a-Thon (ends March 13th): March is National Reading Month. In honor of this event, our students and teachers have been participating in our very first Read-a-Thon. As of March 8, 2020, our readers have logged an eye-popping, extra-amazing 129,000 minutes!

Students are also tracking their reading minutes with paper logs and their minutes will be counted regardless of having their online reading pages activated. The students are hoping to win prizes such as gift cards to Enchanted Passages bookstore or a party for the class for most minutes read!

We are humbled by the extraordinary support from the community. Let’s finish strong!

Enrichment is set to start! The volunteer teachers are preparing for some extra fun:

- March 18
- March 25
- April 1
- April 8
- (April 15, make up day if needed)

Email suttonenrichment@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Registration is OPEN for the Sutton Spring 5K. Early Bird pricing through the end of March.

Sign up today! www.tinyurl.com/sutton5k

The course will take you from the school grounds down Boston Road, part of Eight Lots Road, around Westview & back - making a full 3.1 miles. May 31st.
Latin America Cultural Night (January 2020)

The Diversity Council held its second annual Cultural Night on January 16, 2020. Made possible by a $1,500 grant from the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation, this special night helped our community to understand and appreciate the many Latin American countries and their culture and contributions.

Students and their families traveled through the elementary school filling their passports and experiencing music, crafts, dance, martial arts, games, artifacts, and food that represented many Latin American countries. Hands-on sharing was a theme of the evening. Two local families – from Ecuador and Peru – made displays to share their culture. Tumbao Dance Studio had everyone moving with the Salsa, Jiu Jitsu USA helped students practice the Brazilian martial art, and Worcester musician and teacher Luis Maldanado entertained all with many instruments and rhythms of the region.

The evening also helped to bring together the broader Sutton community. Special thanks to the teachers who introduced the learning in the classroom leading up to the event, and to the over forty Sutton High School Spanish students who volunteered their time that night. Students taught language lessons, played games and made crafts with the students. Guatemalan Worry Dolls and Mexican flags were just two of the crafts that found their way home with students that night. In addition, the delicious buffet of food provided all an opportunity to try new food, desserts, and drinks like chicha morada (a Peruvian drink made from purple corn).
It’s Time for Stories to Stage!

The STORIES TO STAGE program is in full swing and busily preparing for the March 27th & 28th performances. Lines are memorized, wacky characters created, and fun costumes are being put together for this wild theatrical extravaganza. Leopards, aliens, flamingos - even Romeo from Shakespeare - are all part of these hilarious stories.

NEW this year! As students have developed with Green Bean Project over the past few years they are more ready than ever to be part of the creative process. Emma Fiore, 4th grade, tried script writing a scene for the first time in the “The Tacotanic Trilogy.” Edith Tufts and Eliot Guerin, 5th graders, are playing piano to accompany musical numbers in “Night Dance.” A number of young students have volunteered their special skills throughout the performance, including a 3rd grader who will run the lights. And keep an eye out for a Kindergartener who wanted to show off her Irish Step skills as a Nature Sprite!

It is wonderful to see the confidence develop in all the kids as their own hard work and focus pay off.

This fall we were amazed at the quality and imagination of the student artwork submitted for the Stories to Stage Art Contest in October. The selected art pieces served as fabulous inspiration for students to write their creative short stories in November. The K-5 students certainly used their sense of humor this year for story writing! 72 students bravely auditioned in December and have been working hard in rehearsals since January.

The original scripts are written by Green Bean Directors during the rehearsal process with the selected stories as a base. This allows kids a unique opportunity to have creative character input and be part of an active arts process that is shared with the community.

The selected student stories are now transformed into theatrical pieces the kids are exited to share with everyone!

Participation in the program, offered by Green Bean Project, remains free to all students. More than 150 students have been involved in the STORIES TO STAGE program – from the art to the stories to the stage.

Support these creative kids and the Stories to Stage program by attending the show!

- Friday, March 27 @ 6pm
- Saturday, March 28 @ 5pm

Tickets available at www.greenbeankids.org

This program was made possible through the amazing support of the school administrators (Ms. Merriam, Mrs. Harrison & Mr. Friend), the Green Bean Project (non-profit children’s theater organization), many volunteers, Mrs. Hehir, ticket sales, and through generous donations from local sponsors.