



# THE SAUGATUCK SPOTLIGHT

*SES Principal's Newsletter/April 2024*

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS. MESSLER

What an exciting week it has been at SES! From a fire alarm during the STC understudy performance this past Tuesday, to a small earthquake today, our students and staff continue to demonstrate teamwork, resiliency, and flexibility!

Yesterday, Saugatuck Theater Club took the stage and performed their rendition of "The Wizard of Oz" for our school community. Seeing our Saugatuck students shine is always a highly anticipated moment for our school community. The effort that the students, staff, and parent volunteers put forth into the show was evident and everyone should be commended for a terrific show!

Break a leg, STC, as you continue to "wow" audiences this weekend.

## DATES TO NOTE

- April 5 & 6: Saugatuck Theater Club's performance of The Wizard of Oz
- April 8: Eclipse Spirit Day: Dress to celebrate the moon & sun!
- April 15-19: Spring Recess/No School
- April 30-May 10: SBA Assessments for Grades 3-5
- May 3: Rise & Read for all grades/Pajama Day!
- May 6-10: Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
- May 6: 5th graders visit BMS
- May 13-17: SLC Walkathon
- May 14-15: NGSS Assessment for Grade 5



## REMINDERS

- All alternative dismissal arrangements must be entered into School Dismissal Manager (SDM) by 1:45pm each day. You can schedule recurring dismissal arrangements in advance through SDM. Do not email dismissal changes to classroom teachers- the office must approve any emergency changes to help keep our dismissal safe and organized. Also, NEVER attempt to remove a child directly from a bus. If there is an emergency, our office staff will assist in retrieving a child from the bus.
- Fidgets, slime, etc., can be great learning tools, but they can also distract students from the task when misused. Classroom teachers will determine if any of these items are necessary as learning tools in the classroom or if they are "toys," and if so, they will communicate with you, and the item will be sent home.
- Students should refrain from bringing Pokemon cards, stickers, etc. to school to trade. Thank you for keeping these at home.

# ECLIPSE ON MONDAY, APRIL 8

As stated in [Dr. Buono's email](#) from April 4th, the Westport elementary schools have thoughtfully revised their plans to view the solar eclipse, given the additional guidance and precautions received from the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Our science coach, Mrs. Romano has been working with all classrooms to educate students and staff about the solar eclipse; including the importance of safe viewing practices. Per Dr. Buono's email, our plan for the solar eclipse on Monday is as follows:

## Solar Eclipse Viewing Plan:

- Students in grades 3-5 will go outside briefly to view the eclipse safely with ISO-certified solar eclipse glasses. Each gr. 3-5 class has been assigned additional adult supervision to help monitor students and reinforce safe viewing practices while outside. Students can take their glasses home at the end of the day.
- Students in grades K-2 will go to the auditorium for a solar eclipse live-stream viewing event. (K-2 students will not go outside to view the solar eclipse.) Gr. K-2 students can take their solar eclipse glasses home on Monday afternoon.
- Recess will be indoors beginning at 2pm on Monday, April 8th.

## Early Dismissal/Excused Absences:

- Parents who wish to view the eclipse with their children off-site can check out students as an excused absence for an authorized educational experience.
- Early dismissals should be entered into SDM by 1:15pm. This will help notify the office staff of students getting picked up early, and it will notify our dismissal staff not to expect the students at their dismissal location at the end of the day.
- Many families have already shared their intent to pick up their children early on Monday, therefore, please expect delays and build in extra time for any early pickups.
- [We are requesting that early pickups occur before 1:45pm.](#)

## End of Day Dismissal:

Students will not wear their solar eclipse glasses at dismissal. The specialized solar filters can only be worn to view the bright sun. When wearing the glasses, students will not be able to see anything other than the sun, and therefore they cannot safely wear the glasses at any other time. Please remind your children that they should not look at the sun on their way home from school.

We are looking forward to an exciting day on Monday!