



THE SAUGATUCK SPOTLIGHT

SES Principal's Newsletter/December 2024 & January 2025

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. MESSLER

I have had the incredible opportunity to witness several events recently that highlight the connections our SES students are making with each other and the empathy our student leaders are demonstrating.

Last week, our No Place for Hate Student Leaders read aloud the book "Say Something" by Peter Reynolds. These 4th and 5th grade student leaders demonstrated excellent thinking, listening, and speaking skills and communicated empathy, confidence, and leadership as they facilitated a conversation about how we can "say something" to help others and stand up for ourselves during a problem.

Our K-5 Family Groups continued this work last Tuesday, revisiting the story and sharing ways to demonstrate the lessons of "Say Something" across our school. Our Family Groups have become an extra special part of our culture at SES. Seeing the care our older students take in walking our younger learners back to their classes, learning more about each other's interests, and getting to know other adults across our school has made for a truly special event that students and staff look forward to.

Finally, our Student Leadership Council members facilitated Fancy Day last Friday! They also rallied our school to support this year's 'Tis the Season drive and yesterday's PJ Day, celebrating our first Rise & Read of the year and supporting the fight for kids with cancer.

DATES TO NOTE

December 18: Grades 3, 4, and 5 attend SHS' Candlelight Concert

December 20: PJ Day and Early Release @ 1 p.m.

December 23-January 1, 2025: Winter Recess, No School

January 16: SES Open House for LLS redistricted Families, 7 p.m.

January 17: Early Release at 11:30 a.m. for students; Professional Development Afternoon for Staff

January 20: MLK Jr. Day; No School for Students & Staff

January 23: 5th Grade Orchestra and 4th & 5th Grade Chorus Concert for students and staff at 9 a.m.; 7 p.m. for Families



No Place for Hate Leaders
Read Aloud



Family Groups



CELEBRATING TRADITIONS THIS WINTER SEASON

In December and January, there is an opportunity to examine the many family traditions in the SES community and the commonalities and differences they share. The theme of light penetrates through many cultural traditions at this time of year, beginning with Diwali at the end of October, the Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's. We would love to highlight SES families, students, and staff during these special celebrations. If you'd like to contribute, consider sending a short (1-3 minute) video clip, or we can arrange for you to stop by SES to film a brief video with Mr. Lawrence. Please get in touch with Mr. Jame'el Lawrence (jlawrence@westportps.org) if you're interested in participating in this celebration!

REMINDERS

- All students should be in class at 8:30 a.m., as the official school day begins at that time. If you are dropping your child off, please do so well before 8:30 a.m. so that students can walk to their classroom. Students are marked tardy after 8:30 a.m.
- Students should come to school dressed in layers, as temperatures can vary across the school, and they should be dressed accordingly for the weather outside. Once our grounds are covered with snow, students will need snowgear to play in the snow.



Fancy Day! sponsored by
our Student Leadership
Council (SLC)

SLC getting ready to
support the Connecticut
Children's Center



SAUGATUCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL