



THE SAUGATUCK SPOTLIGHT

SES Principal's Newsletter/February 2025

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. MESSLER

February brings extra excitement at SES as our Student Leadership Council launches our annual Souper Bowl Fundraiser in partnership with our SES PTA. Students are encouraged to bring in nonperishable food items and place them in either a Kansas City Chiefs or Philadelphia Eagles bin near the office. Students love seeing the food pile up as they root for their favorite team, and our SLC keeps us all aware of which team is in the lead. It's a fun competition that benefits a local food bank, and the week ends with a special Sports Spirit Day on Friday. It's a win-win all around! SES students know where I'll be placing nonperishable items- GO BIRDS!

Recently, our SES classroom teachers engaged in professional development led by our math coach, Lisa Wolff, which focused on students communicating their mathematical reasoning K-5. It's one thing to get the right answer, but we aspire to grow students who can think critically, explain their thinking using mathematical vocabulary, precise pictures, and numbers, and students who can critique problems locating errors. Our students begin each math class with an open-ended problem called an "Anchor Task." To the right are third-grade students working through a fractions problem, discussing their thinking, and communicating multiple solutions in their work.

DATES TO NOTE

January 27-February 14: NWEA and Aimsweb Benchmark Assessments

February 3: 100th Day of School

February 3-7: SLC's Souper Bowl

February 5: World Read Aloud Day & DEIB PTA's Lunar New Year Event

February 7: SLC's Sports Spirit Day

February 8: PTA's Ice Skating Event @ Longshore

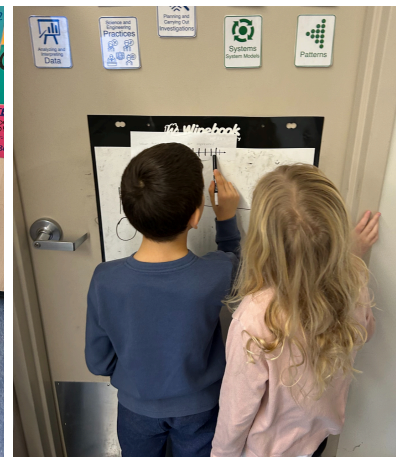
February 12: Mitten Performance for Grade 1 Families @ 9:00 a.m.

February 14: Valentine's Spirit Day

February 17-24: Winter Recess, No School

February 27: General PTA Meeting @ 9:30 a.m.

February 28: Guess my Theme? Spirit Day (more info to come!)





Congratulations to our 5th Grade Orchestra and 4th and 5th Grade Chorus on their winter performance!



VALENTINE'S DAY

On February 14 we will celebrate Valentine's Day. This will be a school spirit day and we encourage all SES staff and students to dress up or wear red and white, hearts, etc. Classroom teachers will communicate any special plans to parents. If students exchange cards, they must bring in a card for every member of the class. No candy should be distributed.

A NOTE FROM OFFICER RACHEL HALL

Our School Resource Officer Rachel Hall takes great care to ensure the safety of our community. She asks all families going north on Riverside Avenue, and planning to drop or pick students up in the car line, to NOT attempt to turn left into the SES parking lot. Doing so cuts off others waiting patiently in the car line and it prevents her from exiting cars from the parking lot onto Riverside. Rather than turning left, proceed past the entrance and join the back of the car line. We appreciate your support here.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In February we celebrate Black History Month as part of our celebration of Heritage Months. 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 reach out to Mr. Jame'el Lawrence (Jlawrence@westportps.org) if you're interested in participating in this month's celebration!

REMINDERS

- Being on time to school is critical to student success. Please ensure that your child arrives at school before 8:30 a.m. Doctor's appointments happen, but we have seen an influx of students arriving just after 8:30 a.m. and these students are marked tardy. Please work with your child to establish a routine that helps get them to school on time.
- Once our grounds are covered with snow, students will need snow gear to play in the snow. We encourage students to wear boots or waterproof shoes at recess to easily traverse the snow and keep their feet dry.
- 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.



Science Coach Kate Romano tests second grade erosion models. Students were tasked with building a model that would keep their houses safe from water erosion.



SAUGATUCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL