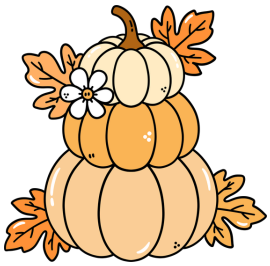
THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

South Woods Middle School Late October Updates



Dear South Woods Families,

As October comes to a close, we are excited to embrace a time of community engagement and enjoyable festivities! With Halloween just around the corner, let's wish for our students to have a fun yet safe weekend. It's also important that they show respect to one another during this festive time. Parents, please encourage your child to behave appropriately throughout the weekend, as they represent both your family and South Woods Middle School. Take care.

Charlie Cardillo

Book your Virtual Parent-Teacher conference!

Teacher Reacher opened **October 21st at 10:00 AM** for *both* conferences. Remember to book your Virtual Parent-Teacher Conference. Conferences will be held November 3rd from 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM and November 12th from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. Once you have booked your conference, a Google Meet link will be automatically added to your scheduled appointment time.

- Here are the account setup instructions.

Spirit Squad Support

The South Woods Spirit Squad encourages our whole community to honor our special occasions next month:

- **Tuesday, November 10th** - Veteran's Day - Honor our veterans by wearing Red, White & Blue and/or clothing that honors any branch of the military.
- **Tuesday, November 24th** - Sports/Jersey Day - dress in honor of your favorite team/athlete/sporting event.

Picture RETAKES

As a reminder, **Friday, November 13th** is Picture Makeup Day. Students will take their pictures during their lunch period. Students do not need to bring anything with them to retake their photo.

Walk-A-Thon

We are excited for our annual Walk-A-Thon on **Friday, October 30th**. This year, the South Woods Peer Leaders & Student Council look forward to supporting the **Ronald McDonald House Foundation** which provides aid to local pediatric patients. Any donation is greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to the South Woods Student Activity Fund.

Halloween Costumes

Students are welcome to wear Halloween costumes to school on **Friday, October 30th**. Monday, November 2nd is the Rain Date. Non-offensive masks, wigs, and hats may be worn provided they go with the student's costume. Teachers may require students to remove any costume piece that is disruptive to learning and the classroom environment. No items are permitted that are in violation of the dress code and/or school Code of Conduct, including but not limited to fake weapons and full-face coverings.

Candy Donation!

Send in your leftover Halloween candy. The South Woods Business Club and the Patriot Club are sponsoring Operation Sweet Tooth which provides treats to **The Inn** and **Long Island Veterans Home**. Drop candy off from **10/28 - 11/4** in the Main Lobby.

6th Grade Assembly

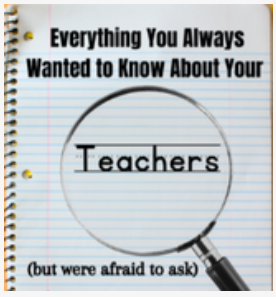
Sixth graders are looking forward to learning about and honoring members of our military services during a Veteran's Day assembly on **Thursday, October 29th**.

8th Grade Trip

The 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip is scheduled for November 4th-6th. An optional parent meeting was held on October 15th. In case you missed the meeting, the **presentation** can be found on our website. Trip details and behavior expectations were discussed with the students during an in-school assembly on **Thursday**, **October 20th**.

7th Grade Trip

Seventh graders are looking forward to their team-building field trip to Urban Air Adventure Park on **Tuesday, November 24th**. Team teachers will provide more details closer to the trip.



Drama Club

Broadway meets Syosset in "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Your Teachers (But Were Afraid to Ask)" a comedy by Jason Pizzarello. Come see the school play on

- **Thursday, November 19th** (for South Woods students only)
- **Friday, November 20th at 7:00 PM**
- **Saturday, November 21st at 12:00 PM**

Tickets will be on sale during student lunch periods starting Monday, November 16th. Syosset students - $5.00 and all others - $10.00.

Tickets will also be available at the door.

Reminders

The **Lost & Found** is growing by leaps and bounds. Please ask your student to check the table in the **North Cafeteria** for any lost clothing, lunch boxes, and water bottles, and the **Main Office** for keys, jewelry, and electronics**.**

Be prepared

Outdoor recess will continue as long as the ground stays dry and the temperature allows. Remember to come prepared with a jacket or sweatshirt and appropriate shoes. We strongly encourage outdoor recess and fresh air. There is no bad weather, only inappropriate clothing!

Need to Call Home?

Students may use telephones located in Guidance and in Room 201 to call home if needed. Students are reminded to leave a message if they can not reach you.

Student ID Badge Reminder:

Our new ScholarChip kiosks are in place. Please review these procedures with your child:

- Students are expected to be wearing their student ID badge around their neck upon arriving at school.
- Students will tap their identification badge at the kiosk upon entering the building.
- If a student does not have their badge, they will get a loaner for the day that must be returned to the front security desk.
- Replacement badges and lanyards are $4 and will be charged through our library system.

Breakfast & Lunch Reminders

Every student is entitled to **one free breakfast** and **one free lunch** each school day. A la carte items, snacks, and second meals are not included.

School will be CLOSED:

November 3rd - Superintendent Conference Day
November 11th - Veterans Day
November 25-27 - Thanksgiving Recess

PTSA Updates

The PTA unit was awarded the New York State PTA Early Bird Membership Award for 2026 for being in good standing and by meeting 50% of membership goals by September 30th. Congratulations on all your hard work!

The South Woods PTSA is an instrumental partner, providing programming that includes author visits, assembly programs, and special events such as Multicultural Week. Please join! **PTSA Membership** is the PTSA's primary fundraiser that supports all of the above events and more. Membership also gives you access to the DirectorySpot app. For more information, see this **form**.

Next PTSA Meeting:

November 9th at 7:45 PM in the South Woods Library.

We look forward to many more exciting events and activities this fall. Please make sure to check the school calendar for special events and school closings in the upcoming months.

Charlie Cardillo
Interim Principal