



SCOTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2023 - 2024
PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER (Biweekly)

September 17, 2023

Dear SES School Family,

It is hard to believe that one month of the school year is almost completed. We have enjoyed getting to know new students and staff. We share one thing in common: *to be our best!* It has been an exciting time getting to know each other and learning our new routines for success.



Our theme to *Create and Innovate* continues to be a focus in all that we do. Students have been enjoying their time in our Imagination Lab during the Maker Space class. Students use the engineering design model of exploring, designing, creating and re-creating. This will be a wonderful introduction for all students as we prepare to participate (kindergarten through 6th grade) in Connecticut's Invention Convention. This is where "Shark Tank" meets Science Fair. Invention Convention will provide all of our student innovators (K-6) the opportunity to think about a problem, develop, and create a product that solve problems in their own lives. Students will be working on their invention mostly during school, throughout the fall and winter. Our students will be guided and encouraged by their educators, in creating a unique product that they can display and present at our very own Invention Convention Fair here at SES in the early months of 2024 (*Stay tuned for more details to come*). This promises to be a fun and hands on experience for our students.

This past Friday, we hosted a very successful school wide event: *Generations of Love*. Students invited their own "special guest(s)" to have lunch with them. This well attended event was a big hit! Thank you to all who made the lunch possible and all families and friends that shared their time with SES. We love opening and welcoming families into our school. It provides a wonderful opportunity for you to see the great things happening within our school community.

We hope you can find a way to be a part of our school community as either a volunteer or a visitor at one of the many events throughout the year. A well-rounded education requires everyone getting involved in student learning. Whether it be volunteering, ensuring your student is well-rested and prepared for school, or consistently reviewing schoolwork on a nightly basis, all efforts will result in heightened student engagement in school.

The fall is a very busy time here at SES. There will be many opportunities for you to be involved with the SES staff, families, and students. Make this year memorable by becoming active in our school's PTO. They need your help and support throughout this academic year. I encourage you to embrace our instructional focus of developing high achieving students in a creative and innovative learning environment. We put all students first and together we can make SES a great place to teach and learn.

We are off to an exciting school year!
Principal Ann Knowles

Dates to Remember:

Monday, September 18th

- *FIELD TRIP Gr. 2 & 3 to Nature Center dress appropriately with sneakers and comfortable clothing*

Saturday, September 23rd

First Day of Autumn



Monday, September 25th

- *Field Trip Preschool – 1st grade to a local Orchard for fall fun!*

Tuesday, September 26th

- *Gr. 4 participates here at SES with Everyone Outside educators*
- *School Readiness Council Meeting 6:30 PM on Zoom with Hampton & Scotland*

Tuesday, October 3rd

- *PTO Meeting Café 3:15 PM*
- *BOE Meeting Library 7 PM*

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, October 6th NO SCHOOL

Professional Learning for staff

Monday, October 9th NO SCHOOL

Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 10th Lutz Children's

Museum here for presentation Gr. 2 & 3

Thursday, October 12th

- *Field Trip Gr. 4 to Auer Farm in Bloomfield*

Thursday, October 19th

- *Field Trip Gr. 5 & 6 to CT Science Center*



Handbook

Our Family Handbook is available on our website. The handbook is a great resource as it has some general information as well as contact numbers for

LUNCH PROGRAM Monthly Lunch menus have been provided. All students are able to receive free breakfast and lunch daily at school.



REMINDER: I am so excited to announce that our school is transitioning to electronic health records. It is the same software that most CT schools use, including Region 11 middle and high schools.

If your child visits the health office and requires treatment or an assessment from the nurse, you will receive an encrypted email detailing the clinical documentation. You will also receive an email with the password that you will use to open any further emails from the health office. Most often these emails go straight to your inbox, but some servers may send it to a junk folder. Please add noreply@hosting.snaphealthcenter.com to your contacts list to ensure that you receive any emails from me sent via the SNAP health center.

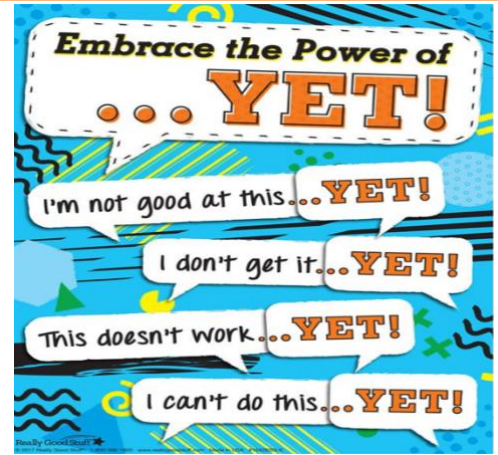
Email will be my primary method of contact, but I will continue to call parents/guardians for any serious concerns that need to be communicated in a timely manner.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the health office or email me at ssr.rock@scotlandes.org.

Be well,
Nurse Sharon

REMINDERS:

- Keep your child home when sick and please call or email (ssr.rock@scotlandes.org) as soon as you know your child will be out. This allows us to know that our students are safe at home with you. This way we don't have to call parents and inquire as to the whereabouts of their child.
- If you are planning on taking a family vacation, send an email to (aknowles@scotlandes.org) or a written note. The office will respond and will be able to document those days.
- If a child is absent, please send in a note immediately upon their return.



PTO

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, October 3rd

at 3:15 PM Café

We have
future events

planned and

we need

your help!



We love our Volunteers!
Please sign up to help
with our school events!



Welcome to the School Counselor's Corner



School Counselor's Corner: A few things that will be happening this year are student council, lunch bunches, peer mediation and more! Class lessons at least once a month to all grade levels.

Every year I like to remind families of SES how I am always here to help them. **Student Council** for Grades 4, 5 & 6 will continue this year. Mrs. Alejandro will be the advisor for this wonderful group. They are the student leaders of SES and we enjoy many activities guided by them throughout the year.

School Counselor Practices: I always teach our children at SES is that we can only control ourselves and the choices we make. One practice I have focused on over the years is changing our negative thoughts into positive ones! We do this by beginning to think about what we think about. Luckily, we can rewire our brains with each thought. A positive, loving thought can create new neural pathways that can be strengthened over time. The process is called neuroplasticity and can happen at any age. WE HAVE A CHOICE! We can always choose a thought response as opposed to a negative reaction. We cannot always choose what happens to us, but we can always choose how to respond. We can respond with patience and love. So today practice with your child turning those, "I can't do this..." into "I can't do this...YET!"



Imagination Lab NOW OPEN to SES students under the guidance of our educator Mrs. Lisa Finley who teaches students in prek – 6th grade in Maker Space classes weekly.