



Principally Speaking

March 2016



Yes, it's March Madness time at SMS, even with a hoop game, as the 5th grade challenged your faculty with the staff surviving 62-58!

We kicked off the month with our Ellis Island simulation and conclude the month with our third grade NH Theatre Project showcase.

Amidst the two, there seems to be many functions and activities relative to our school and community.

Our grade one classes visit the Portsmouth Music Hall, Vision Screening, PTO Movie Night, World Math Day, Chorus Concerts, Variety Show Rehearsal, Smarter Balanced Assessment for 4th grade and the Stratham School District Meeting. The SMS District Meeting began at 7:00 on the 4th of March with all warrant articles passing.

We have an SMS teacher in-service on the 17th, and mark that there is no school on Friday, March 18th for the Spring Teacher In-service. This year, our SMS staff will attend training regarding the Responsive Classroom and the competencies. We also hosted the Stratham Town meeting in the school gym on Friday, March 11th which lasted past 11:30 PM!

March 16-17 begins with an attempt to catch those pesky leprechauns, administration for the Smarter Balance Assessment for 4th grade students, and welcome many guests as they arrive as 'mystery readers'.

Finally, as we come to the final week of the month, the annual PTO/ Stratham Rec Road Race and culminating NH Theatre Project viewing for parents.

Throw in a variety of other events such as the World Math Day, PTO with Ben Hillyard, Leprechaun traps and a variety of meetings (School Board, SALT Team, and Gr 5 Committee) and the month certainly doesn't lack for empty dates!

So much for the theory of in like a lamb out like a lion, or vice-versa. We continue to be busy with many happenings at SMS.

Voting Day was set aside for Tuesday, March 8th at the Municipal Building in Stratham. This year, we had one opening on our School Board. Cheryl Eveleigh was voted to the position as a write-in candidate. They'll conduct their business meeting this month on Wed., March 23rd at 6:30 in the library. We are all keeping our fingers crossed in hoping Mother Nature won't surprise us with any more snow days (2). As of this writing, our final day of classes for this year is scheduled for Friday, June 17th. I have always believed that a day missed over the course of the school year isn't truly made up at the end of June.

As one can see, our March Madness isn't about basketball; it's about all of the special happenings at SMS that enhances the learning experiences for each child-socially, emotionally and academically.

I want to say thank you for those that supported the 2016-17 school budget at the Stratham School District Meeting. I gave a brief PowerPoint presentation about the school and will share it on our school's website for your viewing!





Fifth grade student, **Lance Makabali** participated in the Scripps NH State Spelling Bee held in Concord on Saturday,

February 27, 2016. Lance participated in the preliminary round of the written test, a traditional format involving the writing of twenty-five (25) challenging words and definitions. This outstanding fifth grader certainly made all proud in his accomplishment!



Kindergarten Registration 2016-2017

Children must be 5 years of age by September 30, 2016 and a resident of Stratham. Please bring in a copy of your child's birth certificate, immunization record and proof of the child's residency. Our office is open for your convenience from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Our "K" orientation meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5th @ 6:30 PM in the café. (Our tentative 2-day student overview is scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday, June 15 and 16; 9-11 or 12:30-2:30).



Variety Show Update
Our 21st annual SMS Variety Show will occur on 2 evenings: Thursday, April 14th & Friday, April 15th.

Already, there are approximately 150 students ready to showcase their talents dancing, singing, juggling, musically, gymnastically, magically and originally. Kate Bucklin, Sarah Donlon, Jen Hildreth and Melissa Mastin are helping the students practice and supporting our



entertainers until the big show. The shows begin at 6:20 PM nightly.

Preschool Lottery

Applications are currently available for our preschool lottery! We are accepting up to 5-6 typical children to join our AM/PM programs. Our maximum class size is 14 children for each session. The morning class will meet 8:45-11:30; the PM group from 11:45-2:30. Applications are available at the school and all paperwork is due by April 15, 2016.

Stratham Preschool Needs Assessment & Feasibility Study

In March of 2015, at the annual town meeting, Stratham voted to conduct a Preschool Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study to determine whether Stratham's early childhood needs are being met. The study began in December of 2015 and is ongoing until September.

The main questions that the study aims to answer are:

- What are some early childhood and preschool needs for families with young children in the town of Stratham?
- What changes need to be made to meet those needs?
- Are those changes feasible?

In the coming weeks you may be contacted by phone and/or email to answer some questions about your experience and your hopes for Stratham.

Your input is welcome and of tremendous value! Please send any comments or questions you may have to: strathamearlychildhoodstudy@gmail.com An update will be presented to the Stratham School Board on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, and is open to the public. The meeting begins at 6:30 PM.



SMS will welcome an Artist in Residency this month. Grade 3 has the New Hampshire Theatre Project under the direction of its artistic director in Genevieve

Aichele. Genevieve has performed, directed and taught performing arts locally, stateside and across the sea. Her efforts will focus on

storytelling, music and movement with the 3rd grade students as they develop class productions. She began her stay on Monday, March 14th and concludes on Thursday, March 24th.