



# Principally Speaking

## September 2015



'Summer Days just a driftin' away' a line from a musical I heard during August truly segwayed the start of school. It truly was a short recess regardless of my exploits: Short/ Long Sands Beach, Freeport ME, Chestnut Pond, Cooperstown NY, NH Fisher Cats, White Sands NM, Newport RI, Mystic CT, Grey ME, Block Island , Crystal Lake, El Paso TX, and of course, Fenway Park.

Hard to fathom that the 65 or so days of vacation would turn into a blur, much quicker than anyone expected.

As we were prepping for the cherubs to arrive, much thought has gone into our goals, initiatives, schedules and programs for the 2015-2016 sojourn.

One of our exciting changes will be the continuation of our MakersSpace. Mr. Gagnon has transferred to the modular classroom to craft a program where students will be challenged and engaged in tasks throughout the year. We are also excited about our Kindergarten students coming for the full day program an encore performance! All have worked hard to ensure the transition to our full day concept occurs smoothly.

We will continue with our rotating 6-day schedule, too! Once again, this change provides students with regular class time at the beginning of each day and balances out the times students attend the unified art classes throughout the year. It also provides a structure for staff to meet as part of our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) once every six days. Our HEART (Honesty, Energy, Attitude,

Respect, Teamwork)

Principles will guide us with a framework for a positive school climate and culture. The staff is emphasizing the tenets of the "Response Classroom." The emphasis is on building strong classroom communities, cohesive teacher language and logical rules/consequences.

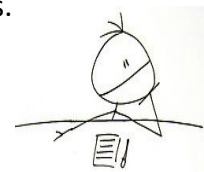
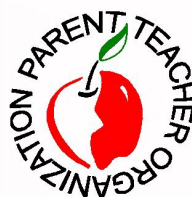
I am still plugging away at my Blog - 'Stories from Stratham'. My aim is to provide the reader with a little bit of the day to day happenings, share some insight into the educational foray, and a little about our staff and students.

We continue to move forward with technology, too. All of our classrooms have interactive white-boards, while Chromebooks and iPads continue to populate the primary rooms.

New staff to SMS includes Katelynn Dow in Art, Sara Donlon in grade 2, Jennifer Hildreth in 4th, Shannon DeLello in 5<sup>th</sup> and Jessica Wentworth our Curriculum Co-ordinator.

It's great to know that our halls and classrooms will be filled with the sounds of laughter and conversation (it was a little too quiet here this summer)!

I appreciate your attention to completing the paperwork we have sent along. There is an awful lot of crucial information that we need, most notably the emergency information. All of the info should be updated for us whenever a change occurs. So let the journey commence. And yes, I am all prepared to sing, once again, one of those 30 Birthday songs.



Our PTO, under the leadership of co-presidents Geri Denton and Andrea Besnon, would like to welcome all to their meetings for the 2015-16 school year. The gatherings beginning at 6:30 in the school library. The September meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, 9/29. Chief Scippa and Mr. Foshier will be the guest speakers, sharing information about the Stratham/SMS Safety and Security for the upcoming school year.



When: Thursday, September 17  
 Time: 8:45-11:30  
 Where: SMS Auditorium  
 What to bring: Smile  
 Info to be sent home with children.



\*A reminder for parents that morning drop off time for students begins at 8:10. Please have students exit the door closest to the curb to ensure your child's safety.

\*We also ask that for parent pick-up at the end of the school day that the adult **remain in the car** so that students are not crossing the road way or leaving the supervised area.



### **Curriculum Night**

Sept 10: Grades P-2

6:30-7:30

Sept 18: Gr 3-5; Encore

Subjects 6:30-7:30

*The evening is set aside to review the grade level curriculum, class routine, Unified arts, homework, and any other pertinent info.*

### **Lunchroom News:**

*Beginning in October, the lunch menu will be available*



*on our school web site:*

[www.sms.sau16.org](http://www.sms.sau16.org)

*We also want to remind all about utilizing the on-line*

[www.mylunchmoney.com](http://www.mylunchmoney.com) *as*

*a choice for payment.*