



SOUTHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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PIONEER NEWS

November 2017

A NOTE FROM RUSSELL JOHNSTON, INTERIM RECEIVER

So many of our Southbridge families have been affected by the devastating impact of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico. Our school community led and participated in a variety of fundraisers and supply drives to contribute to the aid efforts. We also welcome new students and families enrolling as a result of displacement. I am pleased to announce that centralized student registration will begin in our Family Welcome Center in December 2017, providing families with a one-stop location to register students and get information about school and community resources.

Our state assessment results were finalized in October, including the Next-Generation MCAS, which was administered for the first time in grades 3-8 in Spring 2017. In general, the new standards for Meeting Expectations on the next-generation MCAS are more rigorous than the standards for reaching the Proficient level on the legacy MCAS. The new standards will help signal students' readiness for the next grade level and indicate when students might need additional help to succeed. Ultimately, this will give students a better sense of what they need to do to be prepared for college or other post-secondary training. While we still have a great deal of work to do, the MCAS data provide our school and classroom leaders with actionable information to improve instruction for all students.

A special note of gratitude to all our veterans and families of veterans. Best wishes to all our family and community partners for a happy and healthy 2018!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Our **Family Welcome Center** opens December 4th at 25 Cole Avenue! At the Welcome Center, families will enroll new students and receive information about Early Childhood, English Language Learners, Food Services, Homeless Student/Family Supports (McKinney-Vento), School Health Services, Special Education, and Transportation. Please stop by and say hello!
- Reminder that **weather-related school closings** and delayed openings will be posted to our website, southbridgepublicschools.org.
- More than **300 Southbridge families took the Fall 2017 survey** to provide information about our schools. Thank you! We look forward to sharing the results and next steps from all survey participants (families, staff, and students) after we analyze the data in November.

MISSION

*In the Southbridge Public Schools, **ALL** students will experience a world-class education, and will graduate as engaged citizens who demonstrate the essential skills required for success in college and career.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- School Committee meeting—November 14
- Thanksgiving Break (no school)—November 22-24
- Family Welcome Center launch at 25 Cole Avenue—December 4
- Early Release Day—December 8
- December 25-January 1 (no school)—Winter Recess
- Early Release Day—January 12
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no school)—January 15

DID YOU KNOW?

Teachers are recognizing our students for great behaviors in our elementary and middle schools through our Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) programs. So far this year, teachers are actively acknowledging our students' positive choices.

4,000 Pioneer Tickets awarded to SMS students who Live the Pioneer L.I.F.E. (Learner, Integrity, Flexibility, Effort)

19+ lbs of Green Tickets awarded to CSS students who Live the CSS Way

\$50 in Wildcat Cash earns a WSS student who Lives the Wildcat Way lunch with a staff member

Monthly Celebrations at ERS recognize Shining Star Students and perfect attendance

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

- Southbridge students competed for the first time in the Worcester County Mathematics League meet on October 4th at WPI. Congratulations to our **Math Varsity Team** adviser Kevin Sloan and team members: Ben Chieng (Senior, \$1,000 scholarship recipient for team high score); Rebecca Dillon (Junior); Rosalie Groleau (Senior); Brittany Murphy (Senior); Yash Patel (Sophomore); Ben Peters (Junior).
- Southbridge Public Schools celebrates Hispanic heritage year-round, and especially during **National Hispanic Heritage** month from September 15-October 15! Our schools hosted assemblies and events to showcase Puerto Rican and Hispanic culture.

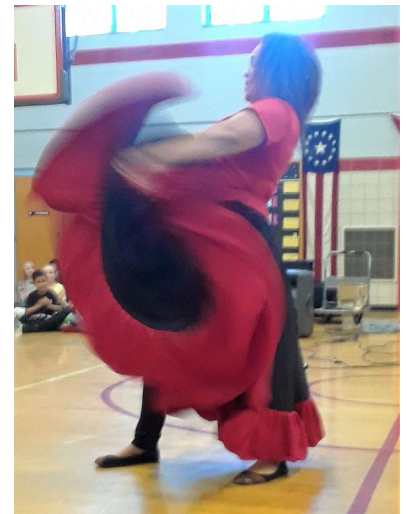


Math Varsity Team members, from left: Kevin Sloan (adviser), Ben Peters, Ben Chieng, Rosalie Groleau (back row), Rebecca Dillon



Original work by WSS art teacher Joe Santos

- West Street School artist and **art teacher Joe Santos** has been selected to show his work in the MAEA Members Exhibit at UMass Amherst this fall. Congratulations, Joe!
- On October 31, ASPIRA and the World Languages Departments of the Middle and High Schools hosted a **Dia de los Muertos Celebration**. Students and staff contributed photos of loved ones who have passed.



Students participate in a bomba performance at CSS