



October 7, 2011

Happy October Joyful Learning/Southbrook Academy Families,

October's first week was a great one for us, and it's nice that the fall weather has finally arrived! Although I must admit I am looking forward to the temperatures predicted for this weekend!

The **Joyful Learning** students have learned all about farm life, made play-dough, and graphed with apples. The five-day students studied math by stamping and decorating their own "cookie jars" in whatever style they chose. They then counted up the number of "cookies" they added to their cookie jar and wrote number sentences to describe them! What a fantastic way to combine math, writing, and artistic expression!

The annual field trips for our **Joyful Learning** students are fast approaching! Details on days, times, and cost have been sent home with the students. Please be sure to turn in your child's permission form and payment as soon as possible.

Our **Southbrook** students are learning and growing in so many ways! The third graders had a wonderful time at Scituate Light House and Maritime Museum! Thank you to all the parent chaperones for joining us! The second graders ended their study of the rainforest by creating volcanoes and making their own dinosaurs to 'live' nearby. On Wednesday, they set the volcanoes off, and the children were so excited if their dinosaur survived! I am so impressed with the fourth grade book report mobiles that are on display – we have some very creative thinkers!

This afternoon we got together in mixed-age groups to read a Cinquain poem and then write our own. The example they read was a beautiful poem entitled "Our School Family". In listening to the students come up with their own poems about Southbrook, I was thrilled to hear all the wonderful things they had to say about the school – their teachers, classes, friends, etc. We then made Southbrook friendship bracelets and shared our Cinquain poems with our friends! We have been videotaping each of the Friday all-school activities, and when all is said and done, we will be on Bridgewater cable access!

Our annual **Book Fair** is in full swing! I'd like to extend a very large "thank you" to Olivia Knight and other members of the Parents' Association for setting the fair up and running it throughout the week. It will be open today as well as all next week. The elementary school students have

set times they will be going with their classes, and the preschool children can go before and after classes, or at any time during the week!

The Parents' Association has also been hard at work preparing for the annual **Halloween Party**. It will be held on **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Francis Farm in Rehoboth**. There are so many exciting family activities planned! It will be a wonderful evening for the Joyful Learning and Southbrook Academy students and their families. Invitations were sent home earlier this week and you can send in your RSVP with the money to your child's teacher. Please RSVP by **Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**.

After the **Joyful Learning Parent Information Night** on September 20<sup>th</sup>, Miss Debbie, our Program Director, mailed home copies of her powerpoint presentation, and attached was a survey about the school. We are asking all families to complete and return this survey by **October 14<sup>th</sup>**. It is our goal to make Joyful Learning the best possible preschool experience for your child, and we would like your input on how we can do that. To date, roughly 20% of the surveys have been returned. If you would like another copy, please feel free to inquire in the main office.

**School Picture Week** is upon us! During the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>, the **Joyful Learning** students will have their class photos taken. Information on specific days and what to wear has been sent home with the students. The **Southbrook** students will have individual and class pictures taken. For the individual picture, students may wear what they choose. However, for the class picture, students are required to wear their uniforms. We tried to schedule the class photos on the days when classes did not have phys. ed., so please be sure the children do not wear their phys. ed. uniforms on class picture day. Valerie Perry will also be available on Family Night to take sibling pictures – you can contact her to set up an appointment. Her contact information was listed on the letter that was sent home.

The annual **Southbrook Academy Family Night** is scheduled for **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**. It is scheduled to run from 6:00-8:00pm, in an open house format. Families can come to the school to see the family poems (due today! 😊) and see what else the children have been working on in connection with our Curriculum Theme. It is an Open House format, so families can come and go as they please within that time frame. As always, we do have to consider the amount of parking and the size of the building.

Speaking of parking, it wouldn't be a Friday email without some sort of reference to our **traffic/parking** situation! Overall, things have been running very smoothly this year! Thank you so much for your help! However, in the last couple of weeks, we have seen some things that are concerning to us. We've had a couple of cars drive in to the parking lot through the exit, going the opposite direction of the one way path. We've also had a couple of cars back out of parking spaces and turn around, driving the wrong direction out of the entrance. Perhaps the most frightening incidents were when we had children crossing the parking lot via the crosswalk (with a staff member) and could not be seen because of cars parked in the crosswalk and along that curb. As cars drive along that corner, they can not see children in the crosswalk if cars are

parked there. I realize that I sound like a broken record but please park in marked spaces at all times and follow the one way traffic pattern. We also ask that you tell anyone else who may be picking up your child (grandparents, nannies, etc.) to do the same – oftentimes it can be confusing for someone who does not normally do the picking up and dropping off. We truly appreciate your cooperation with this – it is our priority to keep all children safe.

The **Southbrook Uniform Swap Shop** has been very successful! It is available every Wednesday afternoon and there are plenty of different items in all different sizes. When bringing in items to swap, please be sure to bring *Southbrook uniform items only*, we have seen quite a few articles of clothing that do not fit the uniform policy (i.e. graphic t-shirts, jeans, etc.) The purpose of the swap shop is to give families the opportunity to trade in outgrown *uniform* items in exchange for newer *uniform* items. Thank you!

I hope you have a wonderful long weekend! School will reopen at the regular time on Tuesday, October 11th.

Sincerely,

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