



November 18, 2011

Happy Friday Joyful Learning/Southbrook Academy Families!

What a beautiful autumn week! We had plenty of sunshine and crisp, cool air. The children enjoyed plenty of time outside and all sorts of seasonal activities!

Our **Joyful Learning** students became artists, chefs, and scientists this week! They painted their own creations using an ear of corn instead of a brush, worked together to make applesauce for their feasts, and learned all about pulleys. The five-day children had a wonderful time making their own pulleys in class, and brainstorming where they are found in everyday life. Our two day children examined the concept of liquids and solids – and how one can change to the other.

Our annual **Friendship Feasts** will be held on Monday and Tuesday of next week. The children always have such a wonderful time enjoying their meal and sharing Thanksgiving activities with their friends, new and old. Thank you to all the families who brought in items to help with the meal preparation. The schedule will be as follows:

Miss Carolyn and Miss Sue 3 day morning.....Monday – 10:00

Miss Christine and Miss Danica 3 day morning.....Monday – 10:00

Miss Jenn and Miss Laurie 3 day morning.....Monday – 10:00

Miss Carolyn and Miss Nancy 2 day morning.....Tuesday – 10:00

Miss Christine and Miss Danica 2 day morning.....Tuesday – 10:00

Miss Carolyn and Miss Nancy 2 day afternoon.....Tuesday – 1:15

Miss Jenn and Miss Laurie 5 day afternoon.....Tuesday – 1:15

The **Southbrook** students enjoyed time with their Book Buddies, studied the values of coins, and continued to get lost in their own fairy tales. We had a wonderful all-school activity today. This morning, “Dreamcatcher,” a historical fiction about family life for a Native American tribe, was read to the children in the cafeterias, and displayed on the wall for them to see the beautiful pictures. This afternoon they worked in mixed-age groups to make their own dreamcatchers. Ask them to tell you all about how they work!

A notice is coming home today for students in **grades three through six**. This is an informational note and sign-up sheet for any student in those grades who would like to participate in any of the After School Clubs that are being offered. Please be sure to make your

selections and return your choices with payment by **Tuesday, November 22nd**. The first club to be offered is cooking and it will begin on **Monday, November 28th**. We will turn them into the best chefs! Because space is limited, we do need to have sign-ups returned as early as possible.

Thank you to all the families who have come to school for **conferences** with their children's teacher(s). The importance of the home and school connection can not be stressed enough. We appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts, ask your questions, and listen to what the teachers have to say. This also shows the children how important their education is, and encourages lifelong learning.

I would like to extend our sincere apologies for a glitch that has appeared in several of the Southbrook **Specialists' Progress Reports**. Thank you to those of you who brought it to our attention. "The IT department" is working on the technological error and as soon as it is repaired we will be issuing new Specialists' Progress Reports. In the mean time, please feel free to contact your child's Specialist teacher if you have any questions or concerns regarding the report. Their email address is their last name @southbrookacademy.org. You can find this information on our website at <http://www.southbrookacademy.org/faculty/index.html>.

The Joyful Learning **Lunch Bunch** sign-up sheets for December became available today in Miss Carolyn's room. We are rotating the location of the sign-up sheets to ensure that families in all classes have equal opportunity to sign up. Because we want to be fair to all children, please be sure to sign up **ONLY** your child. Space is limited due to classroom sizes and we are only able to accommodate eighteen children. Once eighteen children have signed up, a waiting list is started. When a family informs the front office that they will not be attending lunch bunch, we notify the first family on the waiting list. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this process. It is our goal to provide the opportunity for a fun lunch bunch to every child.

Thank you so much to the **Parents' Association** for the fantastic Friendship Feast provided for the Southbrook students this afternoon! WOW! The food was amazing, and the children were so excited! We enjoyed a delicious meal (part of which was made by the students themselves!) and the children loved the Thanksgiving activities at recess. The Parents' Association has also begun a very generous Thanksgiving program for **charitable giving**, donating turkeys and other major items to help provide a meal to several children awaiting placement in foster homes. They have asked each classroom to donate particular items to go along with the meal. Thank you to the Room Parents for your help in coordinating this very generous effort. Please be sure to turn in your donations to the school lobby by **Tuesday, November 22nd**.

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving Break is upon us! The children will have a full day of classes on Monday and Tuesday of next week. School will be closed **Wednesday, November 23rd**, through **Sunday, November 27th**. If you plan on doing some shopping on Black Friday, don't forget to use <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/marketplace/Default.aspx>. You can shop on websites like Best Buy, Barnes and Noble, and (my personal favorite) Target, and earn points for our school. It's merely a matter of getting to these websites through the Box

Tops Marketplace. These points can be redeemed for many wonderful items for the school. Thank you in advance!

The **School Reach test phone call** will be going out tomorrow (**Saturday**) afternoon. If you do not receive a phone call by the end of the day, please email me with your phone numbers so we can be sure to have the most up to date records. As a reminder, the Joyful Learning/Southbrook Academy phone number (508.697.9131) will appear on your caller ID...if you miss the call, please do not call the school - School Reach will leave a voice mail message.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday with your family and friends. Eat plenty of good food, watch plenty of good football, and enjoy a well-deserved pause from the everyday hustle and bustle!

Thank you for all of your support!

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Berry
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