



February 3, 2012

Good Afternoon Joyful Learning/Southbrook Academy Families!

Another exciting week has come to an end! The children have been engaged in a wide variety of learning activities this week, and they continue to amaze me every day!

Many of our **Joyful Learning** students were introduced to Jackson Pollack this week! They loved painting freely with unique objects such as corn husks and pine branches. Some of the three-day students studied shadows by trying to name an object presented in its shadow form on the wall. Other three-day students enjoyed time with their third grade Book Buddies. The five-day students studied shadows and silhouettes; they posted shapes they designed on paper on the wall in direct sunlight and will go back to see what happens underneath as the sun fades the paper around them.

Next week we will be hosting the annual **Valentine's Parties with Dad**. Please be sure to check your child's class newsletter and calendar for the exact date and time. The children have been working hard practicing special performances and creating other surprises! This is sure to be a wonderful night!

The **Southbrook** students participated in an all-school activity this afternoon. In correlation with our focus on biographies this month, they read biographies and made biography banners. These are fun "maps" that the children create using their own drawn interpretations of the book. The first graders have begun their annual number scrolling, and we already have a few champions! The second graders learned about lines of symmetry by looking at objects that surround them on a daily basis, and the third graders are putting their writing skills to the test!

Monday will be the **Hundredth Day** of school for grades K-6! Each classroom has plenty of celebrations in store. As a school, we are looking to collect non-perishable food items to donate to the local food pantry. We are hoping that each class can bring in at least 100 items! We have been in the process this week of getting local media coverage of the event. Rest assured that any children who are on our "No Media" list will not be photographed or videotaped.

Thank you so much to those of you who donated to our **Adopted Soldier**. We are happy to report that he and his company have returned home! We would like to continue the program, however. The donation box will be in 3B for the month of February. The children can bring in

food items (nut-free, non-perishable, etc.), toiletries, etc. We are also looking for a particular soldier to adopt. If you know of anyone serving overseas, please let me know and we will be sure to send the care package to them.

On **Friday, February 17th**, students in grades K-6 will be traveling to the Berklee Performance Center to see a performance about **Nate the Great**, the famous children's story detective. This performance ties in nicely to our mysteries and biographies elements of our schoolwide theme. Students will depart Southbrook at 8:15 and return in time for lunch. A letter and permission form went home with the students this week. Please be sure to return the permission form and payment to your child's classroom teacher.

There is plenty of excitement coming from our **Parents' Association**. Plans for the auction are well underway. It will be held on **Saturday, March 31st**, at LeBaron Country Club. There are so many very generous donations coming in for auction items. We will also be having lunch with the student representatives next Thursday and Friday. Representatives are invited to wear their best "business attire" for their lunch with the Executive Board members. Students will be discussing previous activities and possible plans for February vacation. Thank you so much to those of you who have given your time and energy to help make our school so wonderful!

As always, thank you for your continued support! I hope you have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the football festivities! Go Pats!

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Berry
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