



September 30, 2011

Happy Friday Joyful Learning/Southbrook Academy Families!

We have come to the end of another exciting week here in school! The children continue to amaze me with how kind they are to one another and how excited they are to be here. I am so proud of them! It's so hard to believe that September is over! We've had a wonderful start to the school year.

Happy Birthday Johnny Appleseed! Our three day students had a celebration in honor of the local conservationist. They celebrated the color red, the shape of the circle, and read many stories associated with him. The 2-day students talked about how to care for a fish as a particular pet. Students are also practicing their sign language and working on their fine motor skills with fan water table activities!

Our Lunch Bunch program is off to a fantastic start! You may sign your child up to eat their lunch (brought from home) from 11:30 to 12:30 on the days they attend class. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Lunch Bunch is held in Miss Carolyn and Miss Sue's class. On Tuesdays and Thursdays it is held in Miss Jenn and Miss Laurie's class. Because of student teacher ratios, we have to limit the number of students who can attend. Once the list is filled, you can add your child's name at the bottom to begin a waiting list. If a space opens up, we will notify you and your child will go into Lunch Bunch. Our goal is to keep things fair and give every child the opportunity to attend Lunch Bunch. Therefore, please only sign your child(ren) up and not their friends/classmates. Feel free to call during the day to see if it is possible to put your child's name on the list. Thank you very much for your support!

Our Southbrook students had a terrific opportunity this week. Two students from each class were randomly selected to serve as Student Representatives and meet with members of the Parents' Association. They spoke with their classmates ahead of time, and brought wonderful ideas to these meetings! They talked about what they'd like to see at the Welcome Back Picnics, the Halloween Party, etc. I think my personal favorite was the multiple requests for air conditioning in the building! J They did have some great ideas for activities, food, and music selections at these events. They also had some great ideas about programs they'd like to see at the school, such as recycling and community service. I am so proud of them!

A great example of this is the all-school activity we had this afternoon. Students were placed in mixed-age groups and helped each other write poems about themselves! They started out by

writing descriptive poems using words, and then they drew pictures of themselves using symbols and a pre-arranged key. It was very impressive to see the students helping and encouraging one another. The poems they created were terrific!

Our Uniform Swap shop has begun! Please remember that every Wednesday afternoon the Swap Shop is available! There is a wide variety of sizes of all different uniform pieces.

For the past couple of years we have been participating in the Adopt-a-Soldier program. Each month, one classroom is 'in charge' of a large donation box and students bring in items to send to a soldier serving overseas. A list of approved items can be found at <http://www.adoptaussoldier.org/index.php>. Typically, soldiers request items such as powdered drink mixes (i.e. Crystal Light, Kool-Aid, etc) toiletries, etc. Sending non-perishable food items, while generous, is not always the best idea as they don't typically have the means to prepare them. Last year, we 'adopted' Sgt. Dan Paul, whose cousin, Lindsey Rapoza, teaches fourth grade here at Southbrook. We are happy to report that he is home and we received a beautiful plaque from his company. We will begin accepting donations on Monday in our first grade classroom; they will be 'in charge' of the donation box for the month of October. However, any family can make donations at any time. We have not yet selected a soldier, so if there is anyone you know serving overseas that we could 'adopt' please let me know! If not, we will be happy to donate to a soldier selected by the Adopt a US Soldier organization. At the end of each month, the entire box of donations will be mailed out, so we have until the end of October to decide.

The After School Curriculum Club Program (ASCCP) will begin on **Monday, October 3rd** from 3:00-4:15 with Soccer as the first activity. We are so happy to see so much enthusiasm! We have had many sign ups! This is a program for third through sixth graders and the topics will rotate every two weeks. We will start with Soccer, and then move on to Photography, Art, and finally Science. The topics for winter will be released as we get closer. (I do NOT want to think about winter yet!)

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair is just around the corner! It will run from **October 7th through the 14th**, and all students, both Joyful and Southbrook, will have the opportunity to visit and buy books, games, and toys that are on display. It will also be open on the night of October 13th, which is our annual Family Night for Southbrook. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Olivia Knight and other Parents' Association members for organizing this event! We are so excited about it!

The Southbrook Family Night is scheduled for **Thursday, October 13th at 6:00 pm**. Details will be coming home shortly. The family poems you have been working so hard on will be on display for all to see!

Thank you to all of you who ordered your magazines and cookbooks through the Parents' Association. At first glance, both programs were a huge success! The Parents' Association is working so hard on the Halloween Party, scheduled for **Saturday, October 22nd, from 4-8 pm** at

Francis Farm in Rehobeth. The students had some terrific ideas to go along with the Parents' Association's plans. It is sure to be a fun-filled night!

Thank you to all of the families for your continued support! We have such a wonderful community here!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

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