Principal's Message

It is such an honor to work with the amazing students, families, and staff that make up the Sisters Elementary community!

I appreciate the input that I have received from many of you via the Coffee with the Principal, SPTC meetings, Back to School Night and Latino Family Nights about your priorities for your students. As a district and school we are continually evaluating our systems and procedures in the hopes of improvement. Also, we are using this input in conjunction with other focus groups and the work on the district Strategic Plan as we plan for the Student Investment Act (SIA) funds that will be provided to Sisters next year.

Our school attendance has continued to rise and we now have 354 students here at SES. As we begin to plan for next year, we will need to have four kindergarten and four first grade classrooms. As you know, space is at a premium here in our building and we are close to outgrowing our school. In order to expand our elementary classrooms to meet our increased enrollment, we have begun the process of collaborating with our amazing SPRD preschool to figure out a new space for them in 2020-2021. We value our partnership with them and have loved having their students in our space. We are in the process of planning how we can best continue the partnership to support the transition from preschool into kindergarten in future years.

This is the month of Kiss-o-grams! Based on input from parents last year, we are working hard as a staff to convey the message to our students that the name is associated with the name of a candy (Hershey Kisses). At the elementary school level we focus on friendship and being kind to all. It is not appropriate for students to talk about kissing or girlfriend/boyfriend designations. Please help us communicate this to your students. This is a fun SES tradition that raises funds for the 4th grade overnight field trip and we want to continue- thank you for supporting our fourth graders!

February is also the month when we start our grade level musical performances. We are excited to offer each student the opportunity to perform in a musical with their grade level. We hope that you will bring your student and join us for these wonderful opportunities.

You will be receiving your student’s report card today (February 3rd); if you have any questions about your student’s progress, please contact the classroom teacher. Our report card gives you information about your student’s progress towards mastery of a particular content standard based on the instruction that your student has received during the first semester. Many of our standards are complex so there are parts of them that will not be taught until later in the school year. We don’t expect mastery of the entire standard until the end of the school year. As I mentioned last
month, I would encourage you to focus on celebrating a 3, as that is the goal for each student. I would also encourage you to focus on the behavior grades section as that is a critically important piece to your student’s future success. Our character is the most important part of our identity. This month we celebrate friendship and kindness and I want to celebrate each one of you! Thank you for your support. Together we can accomplish great things for our kids.

My door is always open!
Joan Warburg

**SES February Calendar**

**Tuesday, Feb. 11:** SPTC General Mtg. in SES Loft @ 6:30-8:30 pm  
**Thursday, Feb. 13:** Coffee with the Principal @ 8:30-9:30 am  
**Thursday, Feb. 13:** 3rd Grade musical “Compose Yourself” @5:00 pm in the SES Commons  
**Friday, Feb. 14:** Valentines Parties  
**Monday, Feb. 17:** Presidents Day, No School  
**Monday, Feb. 24 - Friday, Feb. 28:** Screen Free Week  
**Friday, Feb. 28:** Family HooDoo Night @ 4:00-9:00 pm  
**Monday, March 2 - Friday, March 6:** Dr. Seuss Week  
**Thursday, March 5:** Pajama Day  
**Thursday, March 5:** Kindergarten musical “Pajama Party” @ 2 pm in the SES Gym  
**Thursday, March 5:** Celebration of Reading (all day)  
**Friday, March 6:** Teacher In-Service, No School.  
**Monday, March 9:** PB & J Drive begins

**Safety Reminders**

It is our primary concern that our students are safe at school. The parking lot can be a very dangerous place unless every one of us in our community is observing our protocols. It only takes a split second for a student in an unexpected place to be hit by a car. Please remember to only drop off your student in the drop off lane when you are next to the curb. There are NO drop offs in the middle of the parking lot. Parents can also park and walk your students through the parking lot using the crosswalk.

**Reminders From the Front Office**

- Please remember that non-educational items are not allowed at school. These items include such things as Pokemon cards and playground equipment. Only learning tools should come to school.  
- Please remember to sign in when entering the building in the morning and while school is in session.  
- If your student needs a bus pass, please contact the office via note, sent to school with your student, or phone call (before 2 pm), indicating the bus route and the stop location.
• Student absences: Our automated calling system will continue to call parents if their child has an unexcused absence. This is to increase student safety and to notify parents if their child did not arrive at school. If your child is going to be absent, it is very important that you contact our school office to let us know before 9:30 a.m. Calling in advance will stop the automated system from contacting you. Calls will begin at approximately 10:00 a.m. The attendance line phone number is 541-549-8981, option 1. You can also e-mail the absence to teachers.

Report Cards

Your child is receiving their report card that aligns with our state standards and across our school, and provide important information to our parents. Each grade level has a unique report card based on unique focus standards, while still adhering to a common structure and format. All grade levels share the same reporting of attendance, specialist grades and behavioral expectations.

We evaluate our students on a 4 point proficiency scale that measures their progress towards meeting standards. In a proficiency model, the goal for all of our students is to attain a level 3, which indicates grade level proficiency. Only a small number of students may receive a 4. A 4 indicates that a child is exceeding grade level standards and is above level. It is important to remember that this proficiency scale cannot be compared directly to a report card that gives letter grades. As parents, please celebrate with your student who receives a 3 and encourage your student who receives a 1 or 2 to keep working. We are still instilling a growth mindset in our students. One recommended way to talk to your student would be, “you haven’t achieved proficiency yet, but I know you can. How can we work together to help you grow in this area?” An important area for parents to focus on with your children is the behavior grades section.

Report Cards will be sent home on Monday, February 3 in the red folders. Please contact your child’s teacher if you do not receive your student’s report card.

State Testing (see attached)

We plan to assess our English Learners on the ELPA in March. This assessment provides the staff and parents with information on how well our students are acquiring the English language in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. This assessment is also used to determine when a student has the skills to exit the English Learner program.

We will be assessing all of our third and fourth grade students on the SBAC in May. The Smarter Balanced (SBAC) test results provide teachers and principals with a tool to evaluate teaching and learning in our schools and to compare our growth against state and national results. They also provide parents information on how well their student is doing compared to other students across the state. We support parental choice and encourage families to participate in this, Oregon’s only, statewide test. We hope to have all of our students participate in these tests; however, it is the parent’s right to Opt Out of state SBAC testing if they do not wish for their student to
participate. Opt Out forms are available in the front office of the school and need to be completed and returned by February 28 in order to opt out.

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**Elementary Homework Policy**

Based on research in educational best practices, it has been our policy at the elementary school to limit our homework to daily reading of at least 30 minutes (60 minutes would be even better) and some math practice, especially the practice of math fact fluency. Research also shows that limiting screen time during the week and replacing that screen time with exercise, games, puzzles and reading is beneficial to student brain development. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any further questions on how this applies to your child’s particular grade level and classroom. We will be celebrating Screen Free Week February 24-28.

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**From the Nurse**

Just a reminder from the School Nurse! Please keep your child home if they are sick! Your child should not be at school if they have a fever of or above 100.5, diarrhea in the past 24 hours, vomiting in the last 24 hours and/or colored drainage from the eyes. There are a lot of viruses in the community right now and we need the children attending school to be healthy. Also, February 19, 2020 is immunization exclusion date! If your child is not caught up on immunizations or you have not brought me an exclusion certificate your child will not be allowed to be in school on that date and forward.

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**Healthy Beginnings**

![Healthy Beginnings logo]

FREE health, development, and behavior assessments for ALL kids ages 0-5 in Central Oregon!

These assessments are recommended by kindergarten teachers & pediatricians

Saturday, February 22, 2020
11:00 - 3:00
Sisters Elementary School

'S last appointment starts at 2:00
'S please allow at least 60 to 90 minutes for complete screening

Meet with professionals in:
Health | Hearing | Vision | Speech | Behavior Development | Nutrition | Dental

to schedule an appointment:
www.myhb.org | 541.383.6357
Helpful Reading Tips

Designate a time each day to enjoy reading together with your child. There must be a reason for this advice being everywhere! Reading books together is the perfect combination of building relationship, building language and literacy, and showing the value of learning about our world! Repetitive books—or those with lines/phrases that show up over and over—are even more helpful in doing these things. Reading and talking about repetitive books builds speech and language. They also give you an easy way to take turns, to share in storytelling, and to model well-developed vocabulary and grammar. Additional reading tips include:

- Expose your child to nonfiction using newspapers, magazines, online articles and books
- Talk about captions, sidebars, diagrams, maps, charts and graphs.
- Look for a particular a fact or section using the table of contents or index.

Empowering ELL Parents and Families at Home

A wonderful site for parents, teachers, and students is colorincolorado.org. All parents can support literacy at home in valuable ways in any language. Through your native language, kids can develop key language and literacy skills that may help them to become excellent readers in English. Check out this great article at colorincolorado.org!

Why Reading to your Kids in Your Home Language Will Help Them Become Better Readers
By Lydia Breiset
https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/why-reading-your-kids-your-home-language-will-help-them-become-better-readers

Don’t forget to visit your local Sisters Public Library! There are many and varied reading materials and resources in Spanish. Contact Carly Garzón Vargas at the Deschutes Public Library (541) 312-1073.
http://www.deschuteslibrary.org

Services for Emergent Bilinguals continue throughout the year. If you have any questions about services, please call Dawna Spencer at 541-549-8981 ext. 5540 or email dawna.spencer@ssd6.org. It is a pleasure to work with such amazing students!
Valentine’s Day

If your child is not participating in Classroom Valentine Parties, please notify your classroom teacher. An alternative activity will be scheduled with our counselor. Also as a reminder, please help your students show kindness by giving valentines to all of their classmates.

Kiss-O-Gram’s

Kiss-o-Grms are valentines that are sent to friends, family, and loved ones through special school mail to be delivered only on Valentine’s Day at the elementary school. They are the main fundraiser for the 4th grade overnight field trip in May. Kiss-O-Grms cost $0.25 and when delivered, they have a Hershey’s kiss attached. More elaborate Kiss Roses can be purchased and delivered for $1.50. Students (and parents) can purchase them in the commons Feb.10-Feb.13 from 11:20-12:35. For Kindergarten and preschool, we send forms home.

Physical Education

This month students at SES have participated in Sport Stacking. Sport stacking is a fitness based sport that all kids can do! All students learned the 3 stack and the 6 stack! 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders also learned the Cycle Stack. We finished off our unit with some relays where we combined all of the different stacks!

Sport stacking can be done at home with plastic cups of the same size. Have your child show you what they learned and give it a try!

Mrs. Thomas
Physical Education Teacher

Counselor News

Wow! I can’t believe that it is already February. It is such a pleasure to continue to get to know your children and to be a part of this community. As a school counselor and a parent, I find it so easy to get caught up with the business of life. Sometimes we need reminders to slow down and make sure our children’s emotional cups are full. This image does a great job describing signs that your child’s cup may be empty and some ways you can help fill it.
**Musical Notes**

3rd Grade - 3rd Grade will be performing *COMPOSE YOURSELF* this month on Thursday, February 13 at 5:00pm. Please send your student in the following attire THAT DAY for our DRESS REHEARSAL:

- Composers - wear jeans on the bottom and a PLAIN BLACK SHIRT on top
- Students (with speaking roles) - wear your normal, everyday student attire!
- All other students without speaking roles - wear your normal, everyday student attire!

Parents, we really hope that you'll be able to join us for this 45-minute long musical about composers of years past! Our students have worked really hard to put together a fun and hilarious show for you and we cannot wait to see you Thursday, February 13 at 5:00pm in the Commons at SES!
Kindergarten - We are busy preparing for our PAJAMA PARTY! We will perform for our parents AND fellow students on Thursday, March 5th at 2:00pm in the SES GYM. To celebrate, we invite our ENTIRE STUDENT POPULATION to wear Pajamas that day - and parents, come join us for a celebration of all things cozy.

***Please send a labeled small "cozy friend" (stuffed animal - beanie baby-sized - NO LARGE STUFFIES, please) to school with your kindergarten child no later than February 5. We will be utilizing these stuffies in our presentation...so they will *live* in Mrs. Miller's classroom for a month, then be returned home after our performance on March 5.

4th Grade - Auditions will be held in class the first week of February for our musical The Adventures of Lewis and Clark! Watch for permission slips coming home the last week of January - in order for a student to audition, parent approval will need to be given. There are only about 12 speaking roles available in this 45-minute production, which means there is a LOT of memory work to be done for each role - which is where parent support is invaluable! We'll need your help from home if your student is awarded a part in this amazing presentation. Please return slips no later than Monday, February 3rd.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING SHOWS:
Compose Yourself - 3rd Grade - Thursday, February 12 5:00pm
Pajama Party - Kindergarten - Thursday, March 5 2:00pm
The Adventures of Lewis & Clark - 4th Grade - Tuesday, April 28 5:00pm
Swamped! & Go Fish! - 1st & 2nd Grade - Tuesday, May 19 5:00pm
ALL GRADES Musical Celebration "We're Making Music" - Thursday, June 11 2:00pm

Sara Miller

SES Music Specialist
sara.miller@ssd6.org
2019-20 Annual Notice for Statewide Tests

ALL STUDENTS GRADUATE PREPARED
In 2010, Oregon adopted higher K-12 standards in English Language Arts and Math to ensure all students move from grade to grade with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school. Because we raised the bar for what we expect students to know and be able to do, we have also changed the way we measure student progress through our state tests, known as Smarter Balanced.

Why does participation matter?
While no single test can give a complete picture of your child's progress, having your child take the statewide tests provides educators and administrators with information about what educational approaches are working and where additional resources are needed. Your child's participation is important to ensure schools and districts receive the targeted resources they need to help all students succeed.

Description of rights
House Bill 2655 permits parents and adult students to annually opt-out of Oregon's statewide summative tests in English Language Arts and Math by submitting an annual form to the school the student attends. Schools will provide parents with the annual form for 2019-20 at least 30 days prior to the start of testing. Visit this link to learn more about House Bill 2655: http://tinyurl.com/OR-HB2655.

OREGON’S STATE TESTS
- Challenge your child to think critically and apply his or her knowledge to real-world problems
- Go beyond multiple choice and ask your child to explain his or her answers
- Act as a snapshot of your child’s progress and may be considered along with other pieces of information to determine your child’s academic success
- Help identify schools and districts that need additional supports to ensure more students are meeting higher standards

STATEWIDE TESTING WINDOWS
English Language Arts & Math Tests
January 7 – June 5, 2020

When will my child take the test?
Your child will be tested once after he or she has completed at least two-thirds of the school year. Your child's school will determine the specific dates your child takes the tests within the statewide testing window.

STAY INFORMED
Talk to your child’s teacher or school principal if you have questions or want to learn more.

Resources
To learn more about what your child should know and be able to do in English Language Arts & Math: http://tinyurl.com/ELARoadmap & http://tinyurl.com/MathRoadmap
To view sample test questions: http://tinyurl.com/ORPracticeTests
To read more about your child’s test results: http://tinyurl.com/ORTestResults