



## Dates to Remember

## Somers Elementary School News

**April 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>**

No School  
Spring Break



**April 19<sup>th</sup>**

No School  
Good Friday



### Office Reminders!

**June 12<sup>th</sup> is the last day of school**

It is a ½ day and no lunches will be served. 1:00 dismissal.

**Lost and Found:** Please have your child check the lost and found. We have a LOT of items. If they are not claimed by the last day of school, they will be donated to charity.

**Medications:** All parents/guardians of students who have prescription OR over the counter medication with the school nurse must come to pick it up no later than June 14<sup>th</sup> or the medication will be disposed of.

**Report Cards:** Are issued the last day of school. If your child is not in attendance, you may come to the office June 12<sup>th</sup> to pick up the report card. No report cards will be given out prior to June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Moving:** If you are moving out of Somers, please notify the school office so we can prepare your child's records to be sent to their new school.



THANK YOU to all those who participated in this year's Spirit Week Fundraiser!

We collected over \$500 for the SES student activity fund!

## Student Placements for the 2019-2020 School Year

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the end of the 2018-2019 school year approaches and we all begin to think about the next school year, we would like to share some information regarding student placement. There are many factors that constitute your child's placement and the composition of an entire class. Here are just some of the many aspects that are taken into consideration:

- Student learning style
- Balance in the number of male and female students
- Academic and behavioral needs of students
- Over all class size

Please do not contact the administration or your child's current teacher specifying the teacher or teachers with whom you would like to see your child placed with for the new school year. Each spring, our teachers collaborate for hours determining the best class placements for their students and administration reviews all class lists before they are finalized.

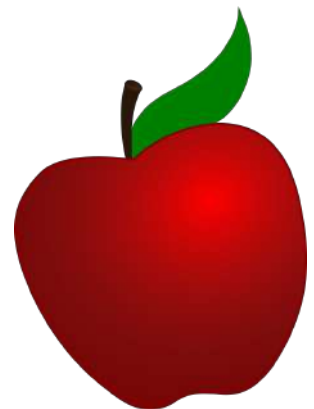
Like previous years, students will be notified of their next year's teacher via U.S. Mail. A letter from next year's teacher will arrive in August.

We ask that you place confidence and trust in the professionals who have been working closely with your child for the last ten months. Thank you in advance for your adherence to this request.

Your Partners in Education,

*Dina M. Senecal*  
Principal

*Melissa Mucci*  
Assistant Principal





## The Primary Play Project

I wanted to formally introduce myself to the Somers Elementary School Community. The Primary Play Project was implemented here in November 2015, and we are thrilled that this beneficial program is continuing and expanding. Our first session for the 2018-2019 program is currently underway. I am looking forward to working with the selected Kindergarten and grade one students in the playroom.

In addition to programs in the Primary Project playroom, I am also visiting each Kindergarten and first grade classroom weekly to implement the social skills program, Second Step. The students seem to enjoy the lessons and I certainly have a lot of fun teaching them as well!

For more information about the Primary Play Project, do not hesitate to contact me at the email listed below and/or visit: [www.childrensstitute.net](http://www.childrensstitute.net).

Sincerely,

Stacey Brown, Child Associate

[stacey.brown@somers.k12.ct.us](mailto:stacey.brown@somers.k12.ct.us)

## Character Trait of the Month: HONESTY!

Colleen Meier and Jenny Devlin



Honestly, honesty is hard! Truth takes courage and discipline: courage to own up to mistakes and face consequences (ie. admitting to cheating on a test;) courage to risk upsetting another person (ie standing up for your beliefs and values;) courage to appear less than amazing (ie. not stretching the truth;) discipline to honor one's promises and commitments (ie. showing up;) and discipline to delay gratification (ie. refraining from keeping the money dropped by the person in front of you.) Yet, no matter how difficult, the fruits of honesty are sweet! Honesty is linked with perseverance and is correlated with trust, courage, confidence, self-awareness, and self-esteem. We hope the following tips help you and your family cultivates this invaluable trait.

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**Make honesty a family value...**Communicate the importance of honesty in your home. Explain what it means to your family to be able to trust and depend on each person's words and deeds. Explain what happens when family members break trust. A google search found an easy to use representation that may help your child to understand the effects of being dishonest: "Breaking someone's trust is like crumpling up a perfect piece of paper. You can smooth it over but it's never going to be the same again." (author unknown.) You could use a piece of paper and fold-in "light" crumples for less serious lies and "heavier" crumples for more serious lies to help make the abstract harm of lying more concrete for your child.

Also, remember that you are your child's best teacher. If honesty is a family value, you must model honesty. Your child picks up on and learns about your values from even "innocent" lies such as telling Grandma you are sick and cannot come over for Sunday dinner when, actually, you are going out to see a movie instead. Reading stories together is another great way to hone in honesty as a family value. Books provide an indirect approach to teaching values that children may perceive as less threatening and more welcoming. Your family may enjoy the following stories: *The Dog Who Cried "Woof! (Barkly;)"* *Oh, Brother! Someone's Fibbing* (Birney;) *Franklin Fibs* (Bourgeois;) *I Did It, I'm Sorry* (Buehner); *Finders, Keepers* (Crary;) *The Empty Pot* (Demi;) *Fibber E. Frog* (Newman;) *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* (Ross;) *A Big Fat Enormous Lie* (Sharmat;) *Clifford and the Big Leaf Pile* (Page;) *Edwurd Fudwupper Fibbed Big* (Breathed;) *Sam Tells Stories* (Robberecht;) *The Honest-to-Goodness Truth* (McKissack;) and *Be Honest and Tell the Truth* (Meiners.)

**Recognize honesty...**Praise your child when he demonstrates both little and big acts of honesty. When he admits to having acted in the wrong, tell him you recognize his bravery and how valuable it is to you he told the truth.

Con't on Next Page...



**Helping kids avoid lying...**It is important to remember all kids will lie, especially at certain developmental periods (preschoolers are beginning to separate fantasy from reality; and teenagers are testing limits and their own independence.) To help kids avoid lying, Arky reports on the following suggestions from Dr. Carol Brady, PhD (childming.org):

- Reduce the consequences when your child tells the truth. In this case, a parent praises the child for telling the truth about an action that has caused harm AND reduces the consequences that would have otherwise been handed down. For example, your child admits to playing video games instead of doing her homework. You praise her for telling the truth and reduce the punishment from 5 days with no video games to 2 days with no video games.
- Use Truth checks: If a child fails to tell the truth the first time, you could say, “I’m going to walk away and give you 10 minutes and then I’m going to come back and ask you again. If you change your mind and want to give me a different answer, it’s just a truth check and you won’t get in trouble.”
- Give a “Preamble”: Set your child up for telling the truth when he makes a mistake by reminding him you can handle the truth even if it is hard to hear, you understand everyone makes mistakes, and that you will love him no matter what the mistake.

**References:**

<http://www.viacharacter.org/www/Character-Strengths/Honesty>  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/parenting-is-contact-sport/201103/teaching-your-kids-be-honest>  
<https://childmind.org/article/why-kids-lie/>  
[https://www.aacap.org/aacap/families\\_and\\_youth/facts\\_for\\_families/fff-guide/Children-And-Lying-044.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/aacap/families_and_youth/facts_for_families/fff-guide/Children-And-Lying-044.aspx)  
<https://parenting.uwhealth.org/2017/02/when-kids-lie/#more-5397>

**Book suggestions:**

Otten, K. L., & Tuttle, J. L. (2011). *How to Reach and Teach Children with Challenging Behavior*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.  
<https://parentinghealthybabies.com/book-teaching-honesty-to-children/>



Somers Elementary School is in Twitter!  
Follow us @ Somers\_ES or click on the  
link below to view our “Tweets”.

[https://twitter.com/Somers\\_ES?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/Somers_ES?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Visit the “Home School Connection”  
link on the Somers Elementary School  
Homepage for more information!



## Physical Education News

Spring is officially here! Time to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. This month we have some updates and reminders along with class news for you. We hope you're as excited as we are to get outside again!!

It's that time of year when you're two physical education teachers start to think about their favorite day - FIELD DAY! We already have several exciting games planned and we're starting to organize the schedule. We hope that lots of parents will be able to volunteer to come and help us to make it a success. We could not do this without your help! This year's date has been chosen and it's Friday, June 7th. Grades K-2 will play in the morning from 9:00AM - 11:00AM. Grades 3-5 are scheduled for 1:00PM - 3:00PM. As always a picnic lunch will be provided. More information will follow in May.

In our PE classes the students have been busy practicing their volleyball skills. We are very pleased with how our SES students are progressing. Most students can now successfully bump, set and serve the ball. As the culmination of our unit we will be playing a much requested mass game called 4-court volleyball.

For those of you who are playing and or working outdoors, tick season is beginning. Please be sure to check your children and yourselves each time you come into the house. There are new clothing products with a tick repellent that lasts up to 40 washings. You can buy a permethrin product to self-treat your clothing as well. These are excellent products but are not 100% effective. So please continue to be vigilant and check yourselves and pets too. When walking in tall grasses or through bushy areas ticks like to attach to you as you pass by. It is recommended that long pants be tucked into socks. And again always do a tick check afterwards.

We look forward to getting into some of our outdoor units now that spring is upon us. After we wrap up our volleyball unit we will be eager to get outside for 4 square and other fun summer games! As always thanks for reading our PE blurb and we'll talk to you soon!!

Stay Active,  
Mr. J. Tarpinian  
Mrs. L. Messenger



# ***SES Art Matters***



## **Somers District Art Show 2019**

Somers Public Schools will hold its annual District Art Show

Somers Public Library

**Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.**

An Opening Reception will be held on

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm – 7:30 pm.

Artwork from students in grades K – 12 will be represented.

The art may be viewed during library hours.

***Please come and enjoy the show!***

### SBAC Testing Dates Gr. 3-5

<b>ELA</b>	Monday May 6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Math</b>	Tuesday May 7 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday May 8 <sup>th</sup>
<b>NGSS Science</b>	Thursday April 4 <sup>th</sup> (Gr. 5 only)



There are a total of three Smarter Balanced Assessments for students in grades 3-5 that measure student knowledge in both Math and English Language Arts. For these two subject areas, students will complete a computer adaptive assessment. Based on student responses, the difficulty of questions is adjusted throughout the assessment. For example, a student who answers a question correctly will receive a more challenging item, while an incorrect answer generates an easier question. By adapting to the student as the assessment is taking place, these assessments present an individually tailored set of questions to each student and can quickly identify which skills students have mastered.

In Math, students will complete an additional assessment called a performance task. This assessment, unlike a more traditional “multiple choice assessment” is open-ended, asks students to apply their learning in a real-world context and does not yield “one right answer” but rather has a set of criteria students have to demonstrate.

Students in grade 5 will participate in the Next Generation Science Standards assessment. “The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) were adopted by the Connecticut State Board of Education in November 2015. Further information about the NGSS can be accessed through the science home page of the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). (<http://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Science/Science-Standards-and-Resources>)

All of these assessments will be administered over multiple days and sessions in the hopes of reducing stress and allowing us to continue to maintain the integrity of the regular academic schedule throughout this testing period.

Teachers use the results of these assessments, in conjunction with classroom observations and additional assessments to tailor their instruction in a way that best fits the individual needs of students.

During the SBAC “assessment window”, please support your child by encouraging him/her to: get a good night’s sleep, eat a healthy breakfast & pack a hearty snack, as well as arrive to school on time.

For more information on the SBAC assessment, please visit: <http://www.sde.ct.gov>