

The Dove's Nest

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF



Susie King Taylor
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2019

NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2019



L'SHANAH TOVAH

Rosh Hashanah is the start of the Jewish New Year. It starts at sundown on September 29th and lasts until the evening of October 1st. Happy Rosh Hashanah to the members of our community who are celebrating!

KEY NOTES FROM COMMUNITY MEETING

On Thursday September 26th we held our first Community Meeting. Community Meeting at SKTCS is an opportunity for the school to share out important policies and/or upcoming events and to field questions from families.

Restorative Justice

At this past Community Meeting we had a presentation from Randy Dean of the Institute for Restorative Justice and Restorative Dialogue. This past summer Randy conducted a voluntary two-day training for 95% of our teachers which focused on conducting inclusive circles that promote rapport and relationships between teachers and students as well as implementing disciplinary practices that are grounded in natural consequences and meeting the needs of the whole child.

This past Thursday and Friday Randy spent time in our building observing our classes and on Monday, September 30th, he will provide strategic feedback for teachers on their restorative practices in action.

Bathrooms

We also discussed the issues concerning the bathrooms. On Monday September 23rd between 3 and 4 pm the girl's bathroom was shut down while the custodial staff removed a clog from the toilet. There was an announcement made over the PA system that female students could not use the main bathroom and would have to use the other bathrooms in the building including the ones in the kindergarten room and the staff bathroom. The problem was remedied before dismissal.

Currently the girls' room is reduced to two stalls (some days just one) and the boys' room to two stalls (although they have five urinals) because of an issue with the pressure in the restrooms. Thankfully, this is a temporary problem and our generous landlord will replace the toilets in both restrooms and install a technology to increase the flow to all toilets on Saturday October 5th. In the interim all toilets in the building are being made available for female students during high-traffic times of the day.

We understand that some parents have been concerned that they were not notified and recognize the need to share this information with more urgency in the future. We thank you for your patience with our current inconvenience, and apologize for not sharing this information sooner.



KUDOS KORNER

Kudos to Mrs. Medina for executing the first Literacy Night. Families who came out were able to learn about the various components of reading and took home games and activities to help their students. Kudos also to all of the volunteers who helped staff the tables and to the families who attended.

Kudos to PTA for an excellent Book Fair. The profits from Book Fair will stock the classrooms with new books for their classroom libraries.

Kudos to Ogeechee (6th grade) for winning the most house points for the month of October. Ogeechee has earned a water ice party.



THE SKTCS PROMISE

In the spirit of full transparency, the spring of 2019 was a trying time for the SKTCS family. We had a significant turnover of staff, the addition of middle school, and we welcomed a host of new staff/faculty. Because of what we experienced we added some new policies to bring us closer to fulfilling our promise of becoming the school that we said we would be. It is important that all families thoroughly read the [Family Handbook](#) so that we are on one accord with expectations and norms. If your family desires a hardcopy of the handbook please email frontoffice@sktcs.org and one will be sent home to you.

School's Commitment to Families

SKTCS teachers and administration agree to:

- Provide a safe and welcoming environment for students, families, and our greater community.
- Be a positive role model for our students and families by maintaining a positive attitude.
- Honor and respect diversity.
- Consistently and thoroughly share current standings and future goals relating to student achievement.
- Make learning meaningful.
- Provide consistent and frequent communication.
- Personalize learning to meet the readiness, interests, and learning styles of the student as much as possible.
- Use technology as a tool for learning and not a replacement for teaching.
- Join and/or attend school functions as frequently as possible. (2019 - 20 Family Handbook, p. 5)

In return, we ask that you,

Families' Commitment to School

By enrolling at SKTCS families have demonstrated their commitment to create a safe learning community that values each individual. Each student, family, and employee in our community agrees to:

- Maintain punctual and regular attendance.
- Encourage a positive school culture by supporting positive behaviors from students and adults
- [Seek peaceful resolutions to conflict.](#)
- Engage in productive and direct communication with adults regarding the needs of students.
- Participate in the school culture by attending and participating in school meetings and events. (2019 - 20 Family Handbook, p. 6)

However, we do not live in a utopia and there will inevitably be conflict. This school was founded to teach appropriate and productive conflict resolution skills to students and we as adults model the expected behavior through our conflict resolution policy

Conflict Resolution

In any community, conflict is inevitable. How we deal with that conflict as a community determines how resilient we are, and has a direct impact on our collective success. We understand that when our children are involved, those conflicts are extremely personal. The Governing Board and Administration of Susie King Taylor Community School both have the ultimate goal of our students' well-being, and reserve the right to interpret school rules, guidelines, policies and personnel issues fairly, without retaliation, and with respect to all parties involved. We see conflict as a chance for growth and improvement. The steps in the conflict resolution and grievance policy reflect the Susie King Taylor Community School's values. We encourage staff, faculty, families and board members to model the behavior stated in the core values. Taking the courageous steps to utilize this process, and constructive

conflict resolution practices, demonstrates transformative teaching and learning, developing the capacity for responsible choice and responsibility to others.

Conflict Resolution. As is human nature, from time to time we will experience disagreements in our community. We invite adults to share their grievances through proper channels:

- **Step 1:** Speak directly with the person (e.g. – parent, teacher, administrator) you have an issue with and attempt to come to an understanding.
- **Step 2:** Invite a third-party to mediate at a second conference. If no resolution occurs move to step 3.
- **Step 3:** Arrange a meeting with the School Director where all parties will be present. If your grievance is with the School Director then you may arrange a meeting with the SKTCS Governing Board Clerk and/or another board member. (2019 - 20 Family Handbook, p. 33)

If you feel as if you have a need that is not being met or a concern, we implore that you bring it to the school's attention by following the process as outlined above.



OCTOBER SCHOOL FUN - PARADES AND TRUNK-OR-TREAT

On Friday October 25th SKTCS will have all of our seasonal events.

Storybook Character Parade

First, at 3 pm we will have our third annual Storybook Character Parade. On this day students may bring a non-violent, non-scary, storybook related costume to change into after lunch. We will then have a parade where each grade will show their stuff. Top prizes in each grade will be awarded for:

1. Most creative
2. Best homemade costume
3. Most peaceful

Costume Rules:

- Students may not bring weapons or wear masks.
- Costumes must fit properly - should not drag or be restrictive.
- Students should be able to get into and out of costumes with ease.

Be aware, students will wear costumes home - there is not time to change after the parade.

First Trunk-or-Treat

However, we hope that students will not change as we will have our First Annual Trunk-or-Treat. This event will take place in the parking lot shortly after dismissal. From 5 - 5:30 pm families may line the lot and set-up their trunks. Students may go around getting candy from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Families we have a few personnel changes to announce to you:

It is with great sadness that we would like to announce to our community that Mrs. Sarah Batt has left our special education team to return to a general education position in Jasper County, SC. We will miss her and wish her luck on her next great journey.

There will be no interruption in the services provided to her students. While we search for her replacement, Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Sikes will attend to her students.

Although we had originally partnered with the RCC for our health classes, we are going to have to temporarily press pause on those classes until we can work out some logistics. However, we welcome Coach "Smitt" Smith to being on campus full-time now as a PE teacher on Mondays, a Floater on Tuesdays - Thursdays, and as the Health teacher on Fridays.

Additionally, we welcome Mrs. Keysha Dukes, as a special education paraprofessional for Kindergarten and Third grade beginning this week.

CALENDAR

Just a reminder: SKTCS has a different calendar than SCCPSS. We are off tomorrow September 30th and Friday October 11th (the district has an early release day, our students do not report to school at all). You can access our monthly and annual calendar on our [website](#).



2019-2020 School Calendar

July 2019							August 2019							September 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

October 2019							November 2019							December 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25*	26*	27*	28	29	30	29	30	31				

January 2020							February 2020							March 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18*	19*	20*	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31				

April 2020							May 2020							June 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

- School Closed/ Holidays
- Professional Development Day (No School for students)
- Report Card Conferences
October 21st – 25th
January 7th – 10th
March 11th – 12th
- Pre/Post Service (no school for students)
- First and Last Day of School
- Report Cards Issued

Calendar Template © calendarlabs.com

REPORT CARD TIME

First quarter report cards will be issued October 21st - 25th. You must schedule a meeting with your child's teacher (middle school parents schedule with the homeroom teacher) in order to receive your report card(s). We will make every attempt to find a mutually agreeable time (even if over the phone). Sign-ups will be available on Bloomz this week. If you have any questions please contact your student's teacher.



SAVE THE DATE:

Wednesday October 2nd

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Student Success Meeting

Thursday October 3rd

5:30 - 6:30: Governance Meeting

Wednesday October 9th

6 pm: Board Meeting (Rm 103 - Please enter through parking lot double doors)

Friday October 11th

All Day: No School (Professional Development Day for Faculty and Staff)

Friday October 18th

3:15 - 3:45 pm: Lower School Meeting - Host: Ms. Montana's Class (Gym, parents are invited)

Monday October 21st - Friday October 25th

Per Teacher's Schedule: Report Card Conferences - Families must attend to receive their students' report card. Please schedule on Bloomz with your teacher.

Friday October 25th

3 - 3:45 pm: Storybook Character Parade

5 - 7:00 pm: Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot

VOLUNTEERS

We are always in need of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering (even as a trip chaperone) for the school or in your student's classroom please complete the volunteer orientation and return the [Certificate of Completion](#) to each of your students' teachers.

