

June

2018

Swanson Road  
Intermediate School

## From the Principal's Desk...

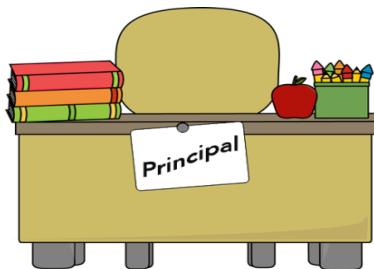
### A Year in Review

Swanson Road Intermediate School has had another successful school year. As I reflect on 2017-2018, I realize the many accomplishments of our staff and students. Continuing our mission of being a community dedicated to the academic, social, physical, and emotional needs of each student, we have had success in each area. The teachers at Swanson remain on the cutting edge of educational practices and as such continuously developed engaging learning experiences that captured the learning styles of all students through a variety of differentiated experiences. Utilizing innovative practices, we refined teaching and learning through ongoing collaboration surrounding our core programs, *Wonders* and *Go Math*. Enrichment components were added to our science and social studies curriculum through guest speakers, assemblies, performances, and working with the AHS science department in creating hands-on labs for our students. Additionally, thoughtful analysis of our diagnostic assessments throughout the year, resulted in more targeted instruction, interventions, and extensions in all content areas. All of which led to greater student success and overall improvement.

In educating the whole child, we continued to refine and expand the social-emotional supports to maintain the positive, safe, learning environment maintained at Swanson. We have continued to refine the S.T.A.R. morning and afternoon programs, provided daily check-ins with students and utilized adult mentors to support our students. Rockets to Rockets peer support program doubled in size and participation. This lunch group focused on interpersonal skill-building and social activities for students with intensive special needs with same-aged peers. Additionally, we expanded *On Giants' Shoulders* whereby grade five students had an opportunity to build relationships with AMS students through guided peer to peer weekly iPad interface conversations.

This year, one of our key focus areas was to embed cultural competencies into our academic routines. The results of this concerted effort increased discussion related to the similarities and differences in cultures, family heritage, traditions, and the importance and value diversity brings to our school culture and our community-at-large. We have thoughtfully placed permanent visuals around our school community, one of which is our 'Words of Welcome' in over 20 languages; another is the hallway of diversity in which the flags of every cultural heritage at Swanson is represented. Additional opportunities to learn about global events were realized in our Community Service Learning projects. The 2018 SWIS Winter Olympic celebration, as well as, our Mother Earth Day community project, were inclusive of multicultural learning, performances, food, and dance.

## From the Principal's Desk cont...



The 2017-2018 school year saw many enrichment programs that lead to a diverse repertoire of club offerings before, during and after school. Complementing our academic content, these clubs had outstanding participation and were highly regarded by all who attended. This year we were able to offer clubs that engaged hundreds of students during the course of the year. Math Academy, MCAS Club, Spanish Club, SWIS In the News, Maple Leaves Green Team, LEGO WeDo, VEX Robotics, Girls On The Run, Random Acts of Kindness Club, SWIS Honor Choir, B.O.K.S. Girls, B.O.K.S. Grade Three BOKS Grade Four BOKS Grade Five, Art Club, Instrumentals, Band, Beginning Strings Orchestra, Advanced Strings, and Activities Club, completes the offerings.

Throughout the year, we sought ways in which we could strengthen our community partnerships and broaden the scope of our network both locally and globally. These well thought out assemblies and opportunities have been integrated into the school's overall mission and goals. The majority of these projects were organic in their beginnings and were lead by SWIS students. Community service projects lead to many generous contributions both locally and globally. Hurricane relief packages were sent to Florida, Puerto Rico, and Texas in early fall. Three hundred pounds of candy was delivered to a local Veteran Shelters for Veteran's Day. SWIS Honor Choir performed a special program for our Veterans. Hundreds of pounds of non-perishables were donated to support Auburn Youth and Family Services. A successful toy drive resulted in hundreds of toys for children in foster care around the Commonwealth. Recently, a book drive to support the school libraries in St. Thomas, devastated by hurricanes, lead to a very generous donation of books. In similar fashion, the SWIS Community Service Learning Projects (CSLPs), included two major projects this year. The first being the 'Turkey Trot' which raised over \$3,000. Contributions over the past three years have now resulted in a school being built in a small community in need in South Africa. The second CSLP lead to the expansion of the SWIS green space breathing life back into Auburn's Arboretum. Working with the Regional Environmental Council, MA Agricultural Council, MA Cultural Council, Bay Path, professors at Clark University and The College of the Holy Cross, along with numerous local Auburn businesses, we have continued our work in the arboretum and courtyard on SWIS grounds. Additionally, muralist Alice Mizrachi, spent a week at SWIS creating the beautiful mural seen on the exterior of the glass hallway.

As always, I would like to sincerely thank the Auburn Public Schools, the School Committee and community at-large for their ongoing support and generosity in helping to ensure the continued success of the Swanson Road Intermediate School.

Yours in Education,  
Dr. Lopez



## From the Desk of Mr. Lavelle



Hello Swanson Families,

The students here at Swanson Road have truly given there all this year and I am happy to report that there were thousands of kind deeds recognized through our Random Acts of Kindness Initiative this year. Our school Community has seen many thoughtful acts of kindness performed on a daily basis, as well as, for the global community. These acts include our annual Turkey Trot fundraiser benefitting a village of South Africa, books drives for libraries in St. Thomas, and Mother Earth celebration to name just a few. Once again, because of the students' kind efforts, Swanson Road was also recognized by the Random Acts of Kindness National Organization as a Kindness Certified School.

I would like to take the opportunity to once again thank you all for welcoming me into your community and treating me as part of the community here in Auburn. I wish you all a very safe and happy summer, and my best to each and everyone. Swanson Road Intermediate School is a place that I will always remember, I will always be terribly proud of, and I will carry memories of for many years to come!

A Very Sincere Farewell,

Michael W. Lavelle

Assistant Principal

Swanson Road Intermediate School



## Nursing Notes



### End of year reminders and needed items for next year:

- **If your child has medication** in the Nursing office such as an inhaler, an Epi Pen, or other medication please plan to come pick it up on Tuesday ,6/19 until 3pm or Wednesday ,6/20 until noon. We will discard any medication not picked up by a parent.

- **We will need a new Doctor's order for the upcoming school year and a parent signature also** for all medications including over the counter medications. (We will offer a Permission to Treat option and a parent signs forms for this standing order).

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#### **Plan for summer safety:**

A. **Use sunscreen**, seek shade, and wear a hats and sunglasses. Check for changes to freckles or moles with uneven edges, darkened area or seepage and call your child's doctor to get the area checked. Prevent skin cancer by

1. Swimming lessons are a great idea. Remind your child to always swim with an adult or buddy!
2. Remind your child to wear a life vest on a boat or when participating in any water sports.
3. **Please check for ticks daily** if you or your pets spend time outdoors.

If the tick is attached please remove fully and contact your child's doctor. Lyme disease is preventable and something to avoid.

- **Needed forms for RN in September:**

1. Updated physicals from the previous months
2. Information about any new allergies, illness, surgery or concerns from the summer months
3. New orders for all daily medications and for inhalers, Epi pens, etc.



Thank you for a great year at Swanson Road and we wish you all a healthy and happy summer!

Anne Elsaid and Sherinda Trudell

## Music Corner with Mr. Lesley and Mrs. Caruso



Wow! It is hard to believe that we are just about done with our school year. The kids have done an exceptional job this year in music and we couldn't be more proud!

Our third and fourth graders here at SWIS have done a phenomenal job with their end of the year performances. The third graders sang their hearts out at the Fine Arts Night a few weeks back, while the fourth graders put on an impressive Memorial Day program.

Fourth grade parents, Mr. Lesley and I are now in discussion with your child about what their musical options are for next year (band/chorus/strings). There are so many exciting opportunities, so please consider letting your child join an ensemble.

The SWIS 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been working so very hard to prepare for their FINAL concert here at Swanson Road! Please come and join us in celebrating our students at AHS on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We have asked all students to be dressed in black on bottom and white on top (ladies an all black dress works too!). Band students will plan on meeting in the presentation room, Mrs. Caruso's students will meet in the chorus room while Mr. Lesley's students will meet in the cafeteria.

The SWIS String Society and the SWIS Honor Choir have had an incredible year which ended with a performance to remember! I couldn't be more proud of how far they have come in just a years time. BRAVO!!

String parents are asked to keep an eye out for information regarding rental return and what is happening next year. Strings WILL continue and actually now be opened to all students at SWIS grade 3-5.

We cannot thank you enough for the continued support of our music programs here at SWIS! YOU ROCK!

Mr. Lesley & Mrs. Caruso



## Math News

### To the Tune of the Theme Song from “Phineas and Ferb”

There's 75 days of summer vacation  
And school comes along just to end it  
So the annual problem for our generation  
Is finding a good way to spend it

Like maybe...  
Studying math facts  
Or playing a math game  
Or measuring the Eiffel Tower

Discovering something that doesn't exist (Hey!)  
Or dividing by the tenth power  
Solving a Sudoku  
Creating Pictographs  
Or locating points on a grid (They're over here!)

Finding elapsed time  
Adding some fractions  
Or biking up an inclined plane (Angles!)

As you can see  
There's a whole lot of stuff to do  
Before school starts this fall (Review, Review)

So stick with it cause Swanson boys and girls  
Are gonna do it all  
So stick with it cause Swanson boys and girls are  
Gonna do it all!  
(Mom! The boys are making a Fibonacci Sequence)

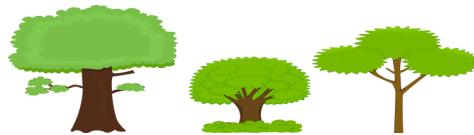


## Media Literacy News

Grade three students are wrapping up the school year by completing a research based narrative within the digital Inquiry Space focused on endangered frogs. During this unit, students defined a task, identified sources, composed research notes, outlined a story, and constructed a narrative.

Our community service learning project continues to flourish in the Arboretum. With the help of the Rotary Club of Greater Auburn, we have planted nine new trees in the active greenspace. Over 250 families came out for "Mother Earth Day" to witness the unveiling of Alice Mizrachi's mural, "Gaia." The mural was painted with the help of students who contemplated the question: How do our habits currently and historically help or hurt our land? Cultural partners like the Imperial Lion Dance Team and the Rice Truck helped to emphasize that the trees in our arboretum hail from all over the globe. In addition, community members used metal detectors in an attempt to locate the combustion engine that was buried beneath the Arboretum as a symbolic gesture representing the demise of pollution in 1971.

With the aid of technology, the authentic research process is more accessible than ever before. I am forever impressed by our students' ability to pursue their curiosity, pose higher order thinking questions, and expand their media literacy prowess in an increasingly independent fashion.



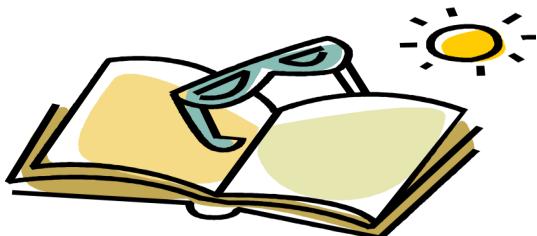
## Grade 5 news

We are ending the school year with a love, hands-on Science wax museum. The event dates are June 6, 7 and 8. The kids are excited to share projects with you, and we hope to see you there!

The fifth graders worked very hard this year and we are so proud of their accomplishments. We are confident that they will be successful in middle school.

Just a reminder: Please remember to complete summer reading and summer math assignments.

Have a fun, relaxing and safe summer!



## News from the Reading Room

It's hard to believe that this school year is coming to a close. We have enjoyed watching our students grow as readers this year. Please watch for the Summer Reading Packets that will be coming home in the week prior to school closing. We encourage all students to get a picture of themselves reading and bring it in on the first day of school. It will be posted on our summer reading bulletin board.  
Have a wonderful summer!

Diane Saad

Stacy Bergeron

Rhonda Murray



## Grade 4 News

Although the school year is quickly coming to a close, we are still hard at work in fourth grade. The students have successfully finished all MCAS testing. We are very proud of the children for their efforts during these assessments. They have also completed their end of the year benchmarks in reading, writing, and math. In Social Studies, our study of the United States will soon be completed with a unit on the states of the west, and we will finish the year in science by learning about weather. In writing ,the students are learning to craft an option essay to include strong details. We continue to work on skills learned throughout the year in all subjects in preparation for their transition to fifth grade.

We participated in interactive presentations from Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Drumlin Farm and enjoyed our nature walk at Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center. Thank you to all our chaperones for making it a safe, fun, and successful field trip.

As we start our end of the year clean up, donations of cleaning wipes would be greatly appreciated. It has been a wonderful year at Swanson Road Intermediate School. Make sure to complete summer reading and math assignments as well as practicing multiplication facts to be ready for fifth grade. We hope everyone has a fun and restful summer!



## Grade 3 News



It's hard to believe that a whole school year has passed . It is so hard for us to let our little 3rd graders fly the nest, but they are so ready for 4th grade! We have had a wonderful year together and will miss them tremendously and look forward to their visits next year. Consider taking a field trip to any of the local tourist spots (Lexington & Concord, The Freedom Trail, Old Sturbridge Village, Plimoth Plantation, etc.) that we have read about in Social Studies in the fall or a trip to a science museum to relate to all we've learned this spring. Please make sure your child reads every day in the Summer...on the beach, in the hammock, by the pool, or in a tent! Continue to study those math facts; you'll still need them next year! We hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer filled with fun and family time.

## Art Room News



Would your child be interested in taking **ART CLASSES** over the summer? There are fun and creative art opportunities available at the Worcester Art Museum in July and August. The youth art classes being offered are “Knights and Castles” (ages 5-7), “Mosaic and Collage” (ages 8-10) and “Fashion Design” (ages 11-13). If interested, check it out online at “Summer at the WAM”, or email [transactions@worcesterart.org](mailto:transactions@worcesterart.org), or call (508) 793-4333.

Whether your children takes a formal art class this summer or not, you can provide him/her with a pad of drawing paper, along with markers, crayons, pencils, erasers, charcoal pencils and/or oil pastels and **encourage their creativity to flow!**

Enjoy your summer!



## Guidance News

Students have completed their Second Step lessons for the 2017-2018 academic year. As we prepare for the summer, all classes are reviewing how to stay safe and healthy during the summer months.

Before the end of the school year, students will have the opportunity to visit their classroom and meet their teacher for the upcoming year. If you have any concerns regarding your child's upcoming transition to the 2018-2019 school year, please contact your child's teacher and their school counselor.

Lastly, we would like to give a special thanks to Mrs. O'Donnell for supporting our SWIS students during Mrs. Nikopoulos' absence. Thank you for all your hard work!

Jamie Nikopoulos Megan Berg  
Students A-H Students I-Z

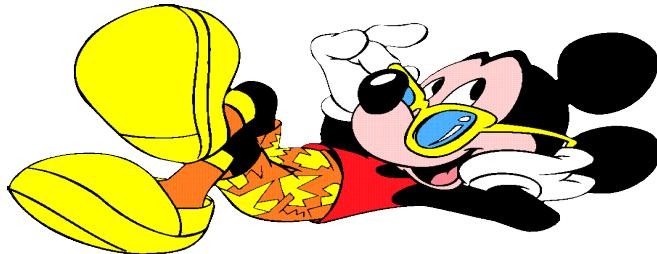


## PE News



Another year has come to a close! The 2017-2018 school year has been a lot of fun in physical education. Throughout the year, we have done some cross country, played some tennis, and some teambuilding through cooperative activities. Students also learned Chinese Ribbon Dancing & line dancing, played some pillow-polo and even a little disc golf. We enjoyed a little competition back in February with our Winter Olympics. Through it all, we saw countless examples of good sportsmanship and teamwork. We always cheer our teammates on and encourage all of our classmates. We will miss the 5<sup>th</sup> graders but know that they will do well at the Middle School and will have lots of new opportunities with the P.E. program up there.

With the summer upon us, be sure to keep your children active! If possible, get them into a daily routine that involves some form of physical activity. There are tons of different types of camps (day or sleepover) that keep kids active and teach them new skills and new games. The bottom line is – keep them healthy and keep them fit! See you in the fall! Have a GREAT SUMMER!!!!



# June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4 SWIS School <i>Council 3:30pm</i> <i>PTO Mtg. 6:30pm</i>	5 Gr. 3-AHS <i>Grade 5 Spring Concert 6:30pm AHS</i>	6 Gr. 5 <i>Biome Wax Museum 1:30-2:30</i>	7 Gr. 5 <i>Biome Wax Museum 1:30-2:30</i>	8 Gr. 5 <i>Biome Wax Museum 1:30-2:30</i>	9
10	11 Grade 5 <i>Farewell 1:20-2:20pm</i>	12	13 <i>Spree Day!</i>	14 <i>Spree Day Rain Date</i>	15 <i>Zoomobile Program Visiting Gr. 3</i>	16
17	18	19 <i>Last Day for Students 12:00 noon Dismissal</i>	20 <i>Last Day for Teachers</i>	21  <i>First Day of Summer</i>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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