

News from Stormy the Sidewinder SSE, A Great Place to Be!

September 2023

September
Character Trait:
Responsibility

Dear Families,

Thanks for a great start to the 2023-2024 school year. It's been wonderful to see all our returning Sidewinders and welcome all our new Sidewinders and their families. We had a great turnout for open house and thank everyone who was able to attend. We look forward to an incredible year!

Upcoming Events:

1. Labor Day (no school) - Sept 4
2. 1:55 Release - Sept 6, 13, 20, 27
3. PTO - Sept 7 (3:15)
4. School Council - Sept 11 (3:00)
5. Kona Ice Treat Sale at Lunch/STUCO Spirit Day (Sports Day) - Sept 15
6. Fall Book Fair - Sept 18-21
7. 11:55 Release/Parent Teacher Conferences - Sept 21, 22
8. SSE Family Afternoon at the Book Fair - Sept 21 (1:00-5:00)
9. Powerhouse - Sept 29 (9:00)
10. 11:55 Release - Sept 29

SSE's Focus

We will continue with our school motto "SSE, A Great Place to Be!" We will maintain our focus on SSE's Three to Be "Be Respectful, Be Responsible," and we will be adding "Be Kind" this year as our focus. Character Counts, CHAMPS, and SSE's Three 2 Be help all students create positive relationships with their peers and staff and also supports them as they work toward being the best they can be. In support of our school's goals of increased achievement in literacy, math, writing, and in addition to our core block of instruction, we will be continuing with "Read, Rattle & Roll" and "Walk to Math" as we work with all students according to their ability and needs for a 30-minute intervention and/or enrichment block.

Professional Learning Communities/Data Teams

We are beginning our 13th year as a Professional Learning Community/Data Team where teachers work collaboratively, focusing all their strengths on improving instruction, maintaining ongoing meaningful assessment, and using all available data to drive instruction to better meet the needs of our students. We will also be focusing on

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multi-grade PLCs where grade levels meet quarterly to discuss student progress, intervention strategies, and vertically align curriculum. Teachers will be meeting on all early release days.

Meet our new Dean of Students

Hi Sidewinders!

I am Renae Cruz, your new Dean of Students! It's hard to believe but I am beginning my 25th year here in GPS and 28th year in education! I hail from the great state of Wisconsin, but I am happy to have called Arizona home since 1999. I received my undergrad at the University of Wisconsin... On Wisconsin! and my Masters' degrees from ASU... Forks Up! and GCU.

During my time here in Gilbert, I have taught 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th grades at Pioneer and Carol Rae Ranch Elementary. Before I arrived here at SSE, I was the Dean at South Valley Jr High for 2 years.

As a devout sports fan and my daughter's Uber driver, most of my free time is spent pursuing all things athletic! After school and on weekends, my time is devoted to chauffeuring Isabella, to Highland High for her flag football, basketball, and track practices and games! We are diehard Green Bay Packers, Chicago Cubs, and Wisconsin Badger fans, but as Arizonans, we love rooting for the Cardinals, Suns, and ASU Sun Devils!

I am excited to join you all here at Superstition Springs Elementary! I can't wait to see all of the wonderful and exciting things we have in store for this upcoming year!

Social Worker

Hello SSE Families! As the school social worker I provide several services to our families that include weekend food bags, support during the holidays, referral to other supports and other resources. Should you have questions or need these services please contact me by phone or email.

I would like to update families on our SEL classes. In Kindergarten and 1st grade we are working through our Being Successful at School unit. In this unit we discuss skills that will help us be successful in the classroom. We use video clips, books and pictures to go through the unit. In 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th we will be completing our Kindness Unit. In this unit we also discuss bullying and how it is not allowed here at SSE. We discuss what we can do at school to be kind to

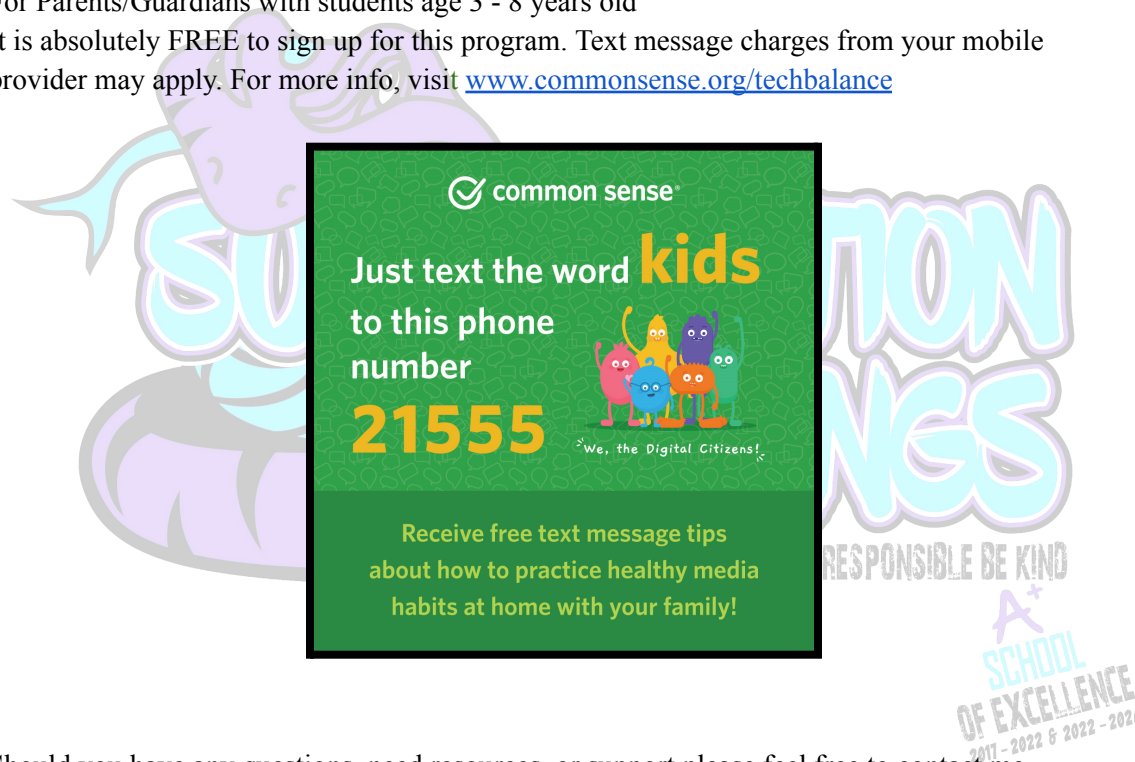
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each other. We watch video clips, look at school pictures, and read books to go through how we can be kind at school. I hope your students are enjoying SEL as much as I am!

At GPS we use Common Sense Media/Digital Citizenship lessons to teach students about safety online and cyberbullying. Some of the resources for families are as followed:

For Parents/Guardians with students age 3 - 8 years old

It is absolutely FREE to sign up for this program. Text message charges from your mobile provider may apply. For more info, visit www.common sense.org/techbalance



Should you have any questions, need resources, or support please feel free to contact me.

Shawnda Harmsen MS, RYT, RCYT

Email: shawnda.harmsen@gilbertschools.net

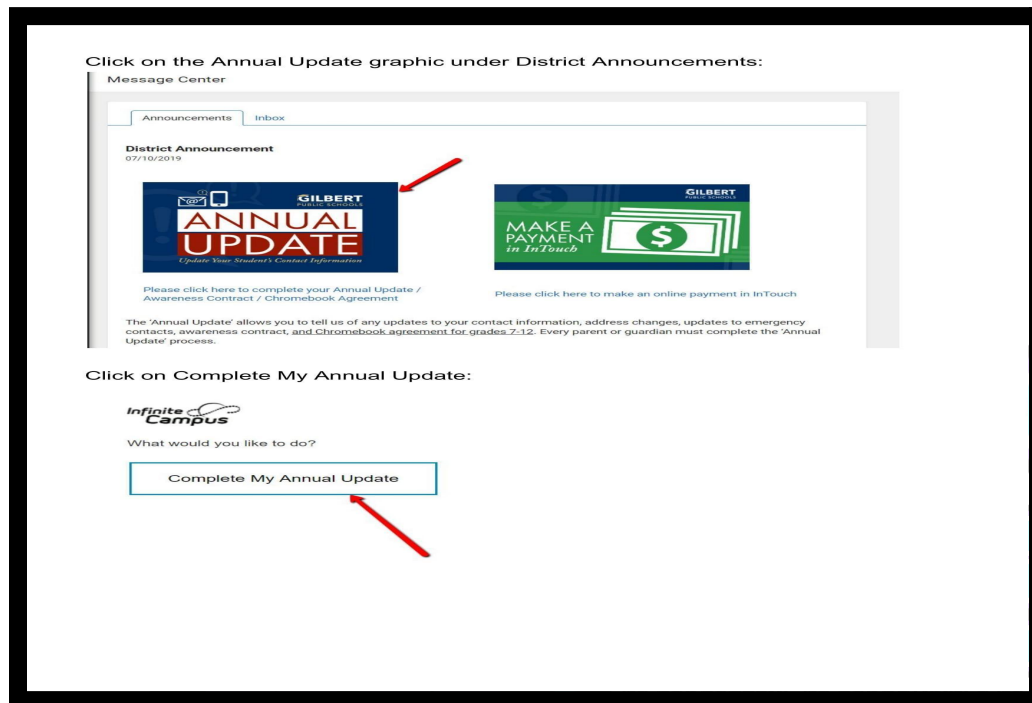
Phone: 480.641.6413 x 1407

GPS Wellness Resources for Families: <https://www.gilbertschools.net/wellness>

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Annual Update - please complete

Annual Update Short Video - https://youtu.be/m_IMVfKtzwl



SSE Health Office

DON'T FORGET TO SEND A REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

HEALTH OFFICE WISH LIST

Tissue boxes

Elastic waist shorts/pants-gently used

Shoes-gently used

Underwear-New only please

Bottled water

Donations are Appreciated!

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SSE Parking Reminders

A few reminders to ensure the safety of all our Sidewinders.

- please do not pick up students in the front of the school. This is the bus lane.
- please, if using the car pickup in the back of the school, remain in your car. SSE staff will direct students to you.
- please, when picking up your student in the back car pickup area, have the name of your student displayed in the front window. This helps keep the long line moving.

PTSO

A huge THANK YOU goes out to those who participated in our Cookie Dough Fundraiser. We raised over \$9,000 which will go directly back into the classrooms for technology and learning tools.

****Cookie dough will be delivered to students on Monday, September 18th. Parent pickup arrangements will be needed for large orders.**

Dinner Night Out:

Our August DNO was a success at Peter Piper Pizza! The money raised was used to purchase a new iPad so SSE can continue to do morning announcements. Our September DNO is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 19th from 4:00-8:00pm at Panera** at the new Power/Ray location.

Fundraising opportunities:

American Furniture Warehouse - mention SSE and they will donate up to 4% of your sale back to the school.

Fry's also does this same type of donation - you just need to make sure your Fry's VIP Card is linked.

*Tell friends and family about these easy ways to support SSE!!

Save the Date:

Our next PTSO meeting is on Thursday, September 7th after school in the library at 3:15. Kids are welcome to join.

Our annual Spooktacular will be on Friday, October 27th. Keep an eye out for a flyer with more info coming soon!

Free and Reduced Lunch Forms

<http://gilbertschools.net/meals>

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SSE's 32B Golden Ticket Winners

Brooklyn Williams
Ruby McKellar
Matthew Gintz
Milo Cannon
Audrey Veeder

Bentley Derby
Joey Muzzana
John Brown
Alora Bandin



SSE's 32B Character Winners

Kennady Searcy
Haley McClellan
Jasper Curiel
Ruby Olsen
Victoria Garcia Ramirez
Curtis Currier
Olive Miller
Vivian Tobin
Haley McClellan
Connor McIlveen
Kristine Bandi
Colton Pringle
Ruby McKellar
Arianna Flores
Ruby Webb
Zain Tarin
Madilyn Wade
Nora Dronseiko

Kalia Laker
Ben Rivera
Asunna Torres
Alyosha Ruiz
Jade Brough
Evan Lugo
Jon Campbell
Audrey Kespel
Harley Jamerson
Oliver Clark
Arianna Flores
Ruby Olson
Mayo Guevara
Silas Marshall
Gabriel Banyai
Brady Robinson
Monroe Summers
Mateo Arcos

Brighton Boudreaux
Ainslie Dupont
Kaden Liu
Brooks Onken
Braxton Weathers
Marissa Nino
Nancy Chandler
Pepper Thorpe
Skylar Parks
Wyatt Cala
Dalton Hebner
Micaela Molina
Elias Beard
Bradley Skousen
King Jones
Avery Taylor
Dylan Janecek
New Black

SPRINGS
BE RESPECTFUL BE RESPONSIBLE BE KIND

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Nash Kargas
Jodi Mista
Ethan Corona
Conner IcIlveen
Rinley Ruffcorn
Devin Jurca
Owen Donaldson
Michael Dorado
Cannon Gardner
Kinsley Sotelo
Dylan Miller
Jude McKellar
Evelyn Howard
Waylon Castaneda
Isla Heidemann
Curtis Currier
Viviaan Tobin
Dalton Hebner
Penny Clark
Julia Christensen
Jacob Valenzuela
Harper Durrant
Josie Lilly
Zayden Clapper
Kennadi Searcy
Brighton Boudreaux
Estevan Kent
Tyler Radcliffe
Cannon Gardiner
Oliver Clark
Gia Puailoa
Zayden Rogers
Desmond Goudy
Troy Jocom
Sadie Williams
Brady Robinson
Elise Spearman
Azeneth Ochoa

Maddie Myrmel
Jax Cardenas
Porter Hoffman
Gianluca Adobatto
Safia Garcia
Damien unoz
Jesse Martinez
John Brown
Tyler Ruiz
Ruby McKellar
Jack Shepard
Mateo Lobatos
Jazlynn Cardenas
Becket Castle
Henry Werner
Ruby Webb
Parker Hovey
reed Cannon
Zayden Rogers
Nayeli Partida
Kalia Laker
Natalia Maynez
Mariana Ribeiro
Audrina Alcantara
Brady Robinson
Bryce Wyatt
Zain Tarin
Kynlee Middleton
Melini Tukuafu
Zachary Erwin
Ethan Dentman
Zauden Fox
Connor McIlveen
Jillima Hiley
Brady Robinson
Brighton Boudreaux
Brayden Terry
Lani Alatini

Kinsley Sotelo
Olive Miller
Alex Bartlett
Cristiano Lopez
Claire Connett
Mason Alyashai
Lincoln Hart
Siena Mahiya
Owen Covert
Aubrey Craig
Alianah Nolte
Daisy Thorpe
Liam Johnson
Raena Luna
Noah Barnes
Claire O'Herron
Michael Dorado
Emma Stalder
Kristine Bandi
Lillian Howard
Sophie Tucker
Reed Smith
Nolan Santana
Elijah Conde
Mayo Guevaro
Carlie Nino
Matthew Corona Frias
Angel Nino
Maggie Jones
Calvin Jones
Gwyneth Ferguson
Jaden Nguyen
John Cambell
Zayden Clapper
Lydia Thorpe
Jude McKellar
Jonah Webb
Dana Price

Tim Moses, Ed.D
Principal

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Samantha Martinez
Charlee Williams
Lillian Howard
Luke Black

Ruby McKellar
Blakely Weathers
Zayden Fox
Oliver Clark

Facundo Munoz
Brady Robinson
Maddie Myrmel

MOWR (Move Over When Reading)



SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Shane McCord
ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT
Ms. Bonnie J. Betz
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS
Dr. Jason Martin Mr. Jared Ryan
Mr. Shawn McIntosh Ms. Marcie Taylor

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GOVERNING BOARD**
Mrs. Lori Wood, President
Mrs. Sheila Rogers Uggetti, Clerk
Mrs. Jill Humpherys, Member
Mr. Chad Thompson, Member
Mrs. Ronda Page, Member

July 2023

Dear K-3 Parents and Guardians,

This letter is to provide you with information on Arizona's Move on When Reading(MOWR) legislation and the impact it has on third grade promotion and retention.

The MOWR legislation was designed with the understanding that some students face unique challenges to learning. There are four exemptions to retention for a student who does not obtain a sufficient score on the reading portion of the 3rd grade statewide exam. These exemptions are:

1. A student is an English Language Learner or is Limited English Proficient and has received less than three years of English instruction.
2. A student with disabilities has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and the IEP team, which includes the student's parent/guardian, agrees that promotion is appropriate.
3. A student is in the process of a special education referral or evaluation for placement in special education and/or a student who has been diagnosed as having a significant reading impairment, including dyslexia.
4. A student has demonstrated or subsequently demonstrates sufficient reading skills or adequate progress towards sufficient reading skills of the 3rd grade reading standards as evidenced through a collection of reading assessments approved by the Board of Education.

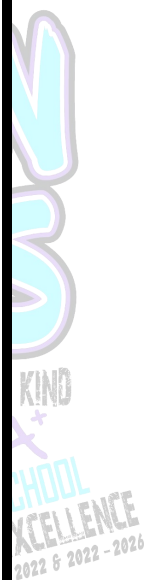
Arizona's Move on When Reading (MOWR) legislation places great importance on the learning to read process beginning in kindergarten to ensure all students remain on track to be reading by grade level by the end of 3rd grade. Arizona Revised Statute § 15-701 states that if a student scores below the cut score on the reading portion of the 3rd grade statewide exam, he/she will not be promoted to the 4th grade until the student makes sufficient progress in reading proficiency. In the Spring 2023, results for the Reading Subtest of the new state assessment, *Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA)*, will be available prior to GPS Summer School, and families of students who fail to meet the minimum threshold for third grade promotion will be contacted by the school's principal or their designee to explore options for remediation to assist in plans for the following school year. A student may not be retained more than once.

Gilbert Public Schools values a collaborative partnership between home and school. We incorporate a structured Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS), which enables us to provide additional student support to address specific reading deficiencies. Continuous progress monitoring is provided to ensure student success. Part of this partnership also includes a plan to keep parents informed of their child's progress throughout the school year.

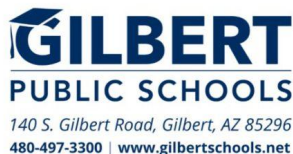
Information regarding A.R.S. § 15-701 can be found online at www.azed.gov/mowr. You may also contact your child's principal if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Bircher, Jr.
Director of Elementary Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment



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Julio 2023

Estimados Padres y Tutores de Kinder a Tercero,

Esta carta es para proporcionarle información sobre la legislación de Arizona Move on When Reading (Avanzar Cuando Lees) (MOWR por sus siglas en inglés) y el impacto que tiene en la promoción y retención de tercer grado.

La legislación MOWR fue diseñada con el entendimiento de que algunos estudiantes enfrentan desafíos únicos en el aprendizaje. Existen cuatro excepciones para la retención de un estudiante que no obtenga una puntuación suficiente en la porción de lectura de la evaluación estatal del tercer grado. Estas excepciones son:

1. Un estudiante es un aprendiz del idioma inglés o tiene una Competencia Limitada del Idioma Inglés y que ha recibido instrucción en el idioma inglés por menos de tres años.
2. Un estudiante con discapacidades que tiene un plan de educación individualizada (IEP, por sus siglas en inglés) y el equipo del IEP, el cual incluye al padre o tutor del estudiante, está de acuerdo en que la promoción es apropiada.
3. Un estudiante que está en proceso de una recomendación para educación especial o de una evaluación para la colocación en educación especial y/o un estudiante que ha sido diagnosticado con un impedimento de lectura importante, incluyendo dislexia.
4. Un estudiante que ha demostrado o subsecuentemente demuestra habilidades de lectura suficientes o un progreso adecuado hacia las habilidades de lectura en los estándares de lectura del tercer grado como se evidencia a través de una serie de evaluaciones de lectura aprobadas por el Consejo de Educación.

La legislación Move on When Reading (MOWR) de Arizona otorga gran importancia al proceso de aprendizaje de lectura que comienza en el kinder para garantizar que todos los estudiantes permanezcan en el camino de leer a nivel de grado al final del 3er grado. El Estatuto Revisado de Arizona § 15-701 establece que si un estudiante obtiene puntuaciones por debajo del puntaje corte en la porción de lectura del examen estatal de 3er grado, él / ella no será promovido al 4to grado hasta que el estudiante haga suficiente progreso en la habilidad de lectura. En la primavera del 2023, los resultados de la subprueba de lectura de la nueva evaluación estatal, la Evaluación de Estándares Académicos de Arizona (AASA por sus siglas en inglés), estarán disponibles antes de la Escuela de Verano de GPS, y las familias de los estudiantes que no cumplan con el umbral mínimo para la promoción del tercer grado serán contactadas por el director de la escuela o su designado para explorar opciones de remediación para ayudar en los planes para el siguiente año escolar. Un estudiante no puede ser retenido más de una vez.

Las Escuelas Públicas de Gilbert valoran una colaboración entre el hogar y la escuela. Incorporamos un Sistema de Apoyo Estructurado de Múltiples Capas (MTSS por sus siglas en inglés), que nos permite proporcionar apoyo adicional al estudiante para abordar deficiencias específicas de lectura. Se provee monitoreo continuo del progreso para asegurar el éxito del estudiante. Parte de esta asociación también incluye un plan para mantener a los padres informados del progreso de sus hijos a lo largo del año escolar.

CE
2026

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SSE Student Council Crazy Hair Day

Thanks to all our awesome students who participated in SSE's Crazy Hair Day!



STITION
PRINGS

RESPECTFUL BE RESPONSIBLE BE KIND

A+
SCHOOL
OF EXCELLENCE
2017-2022 & 2022-2026

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Library Link

THE LIBRARY LINK

good things are happening in the library

NUMBER OF BOOKS CHECKED OUT THIS YEAR: **6,000+**



Welcome back to the new and improved SSE Library!

Thanks to everyone who stopped by and said hi during our Meet the Teacher Night! I hope you enjoyed seeing all the work that we have been doing to update our library space and make it a warm, welcoming environment for our students. Thanks to the District and to PTSO for helping fund the new furniture, scanners, shelves, and more!

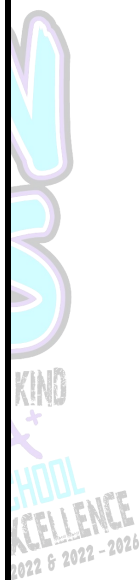


Friends of the Library Donation = More books for SSE!

The SSE Library recieved the extremely happy news that we were chosen to be one of nine recipients of a generous donation from the Friends Place Bookstore inside the Southeast Regional Library. This money will allow us to purchase more books for our voracious readers at SSE!

DID YOU KNOW?

You can donate your used books to the Friends Place Bookstore anytime. The funds made from the sale of your used books allows the Bookstore to continue making donations to our schools year after year!



Tim Moses, Ed.D
Principal

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Sidewinders are Learning in the Library!

Left: 2nd Graders practice delivering pizzas (authors) to their correct addresses (call numbers).

You can help your student be ready for Library by making sure they have their library books in their backpack the night before their assigned Library day. THANKS!

Battle of the Books

*Corrected Dates!

1st Battle
1:30pm Library
October 24th

2nd Battle
1:30pm Library
January 9th

3rd Battle
1:30pm Library
March 26th



Lost/Damaged Books

Students will be charged a \$10 replacement fee for any lost or damaged books. If this is ever an issue for your family, please reach out. I am happy to work with your family's personal circumstances.



Fall Scholastic Book Fair!

Monday, September 18th –
Friday, September 22nd
Family Afternoon Thursday,
September 21st 1pm–4pm

SSE, A GREAT PLACE TO BE!