



# EAGLE EYE



**JANUARY 31, 2022**

## **BUILDING FUTURES: LOOKING AHEAD TO FUTURE NEEDS AT SPEC**

Over the past four school years, enrollment at South Park Elementary Center has increased by approximately 11%. This school year, the district welcomed one of its largest kindergarten classes in recent years, totaling eight kindergarten sections. With that steady growth forecasted to continue and an expanding footprint of special services provided at the elementary center, the South Park School District has started preliminary studies and discussions about the future physical space needs at the elementary center, which was built more than 20 years ago.

At a board of directors meeting in October 2021, district administrators presented the increasing enrollment numbers and space limitations at the elementary center. This year, the district has had to make creative modifications to the building's classroom layout. Administrators envision a possible expansion of the elementary center to include dedicated spaces for additional learning support classrooms, speech/language areas, an enhanced technology classroom, a hearing/vision area and the addition of large group instruction rooms. Presently, spaces like shared group instruction areas and offices are being utilized for some of these special services while other special services teachers push into existing classrooms.

While discussions into the future needs of the building continue, the district's board of directors approved core drilling work to begin on the elementary campus to provide a better picture of the elementary center property. Also, the district's architect of record has been authorized to draft design plans which are scheduled to be presented to the board of directors in the spring for consideration and further discussion. If the project were to be approved later this year, work could begin in spring 2023. The district's architect of record projects any potential project lasting three years from approval and bidding to closeout. In anticipation of a potential project, the district's board of directors approved a \$10 million bond in January 2022 at the suggestion of the district's financial advisors to take advantage of lower borrowing rates.

Discussions, research and analysis will continue through the remaining winter months, as the district works to ensure the elementary center building continues to meet the needs of its youngest learners.



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

<i>February 10</i>	Board of Directors Meeting (In-Person) 6:30 p.m., South Park High School Cafeteria
<i>February 21</i>	School In-Session (Make-Up Day from Cancellation on September 1)

**2022-2023  
KINDERGARTEN  
REGISTRATION**

**BEGINS FEB. 7**  
**MORE INFO ON PAGE 3**



## SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

The South Park High School Eagle Blues Marching Band traveled to South Park Middle School on Thursday, January 13 for a special performance of its halftime show. In addition to performing, several high school students talked about the different sections of the band and encouraged the middle school students to join the band when they move up to South Park High School.



## FEBRUARY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The February 2022 Board of Directors meeting will be held in-person in the South Park High School cafeteria on Thursday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. There will not be a virtual component to this meeting.

## REMINDER: SCHOOL IN SESSION ON FEBRUARY 21

School will be in session on Monday, February 21. While previously listed as an off-day for students, it became a school day following the cancellation of school on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 due to heavy rain and flooding.

## SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

January is School Director Recognition Month — a month to honor the commitment of school board members to their students, schools and communities. Local school boards are vital parts to school districts' administrative teams. They make informed decisions that lead public schools and provide opportunities for every student to succeed.

At their meeting on Thursday, January 13, the nine members of the South Park School District Board of Directors were recognized for their service.

"The job of a school director requires more than attending board meetings," said superintendent Wayne Gdovic. "It takes dedicated, passionate individuals to invest countless hours from their already busy lives to review meeting materials, hear the questions and concerns of their fellow community members and support our school community. These men and women have professional and personal commitments. They lead organizations and institutions, serve and teach in our neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods, and, most importantly, are parents and grandparents to South Park students and staff. Yet, they have chosen to take on another important role - the role of a school director."

4,500 school directors serve Pennsylvania's 500 public school districts. All serve as volunteers, without pay.





## 2022-2023 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The South Park School District plans to open online 2022-2023 Kindergarten registration at noon on Monday, February 7, 2022. In order for your child to be eligible for kindergarten, the student must reach the age of five (5) before September 1, 2022.

Through the PowerSchool Enrollment Portal, much of the registration process can be completed online, on a parent's/guardian's schedule. Information about Kindergarten registration will be available on the 2022-2023 Kindergarten registration website on [sparksd.org](http://sparksd.org) on Monday, February 7. A link to the 2022-2023 Kindergarten registration site will be available under the parents tab. Families of incoming kindergarten students should follow the steps below to ensure their child is properly registered for kindergarten this fall.

### STEP ONE - ONLINE REGISTRATION THROUGH THE POWERSCHOOL ENROLLMENT PORTAL

Visit the PowerSchool enrollment portal (A link will be posted on the Kindergarten registration website.) If you have not enrolled a student through the PowerSchool enrollment portal over the past two school years, you will need to create an enrollment portal account. Please note, an enrollment portal account is different from an existing PowerSchool parent portal account.

Complete and submit the "New Student Registration" for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have more than one child enrolling in Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year, you will need to complete a registration form for each child. (Registration for students in grades 1-12 for the 2022-2023 school year will begin in May.)

Once you submit the online registration, you will find a link on the confirmation page to schedule your child's Kindergarten screening appointment on Friday, May 13. The Kindergarten screening assessment is a simple, 10-15 minute assessment to check basic Kindergarten readiness. Skills such as letter and number identification, rhyming, counting, saying the alphabet and shape identification may be some of the basic skills students may have before entering Kindergarten. On the day of your child's screening appointment, please arrive 5-10 minutes early.

### STEP TWO - COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Throughout the online registration process, families will be prompted to download, print and complete the required, additional documents necessary to enroll their child in Kindergarten. Those required forms can also be found in the Kindergarten Registration Home & Health packet available on the Kindergarten registration website. We ask that you bring as many of those forms to the elementary center on the day of your child's screening appointment. An elementary center staff member will review these documents with you while your child is taking part in the screening. You may also bring the completed forms and documents to the elementary center office at your earliest convenience. Dropoffs can be made between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on school days or from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Thursday during the summer.

The district also requires a copy of a child's birth certificate and two proofs of residency (ex. driver's license, utility bill, rental agreement). Students are also required to have the proper immunizations as set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Allegheny County Health Department. When registering your child, you must provide a copy of your child's immunizations to the school office. No student's registration can be completed without documentation of the proper immunizations.

Families without internet access can forego the online registration portal and complete a kindergarten registration packet. Those packets will be available at the South Park Elementary Center office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, February 9. If you have any questions about kindergarten registration, please contact the elementary center office.



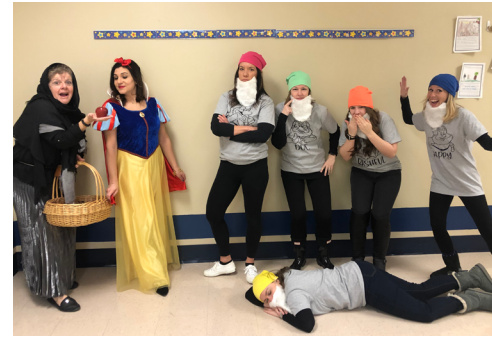


## ONCE UPON A TIME

First grade students have been learning about folktales, and the lesson culminated with Folktale Day on Thursday, January 20.

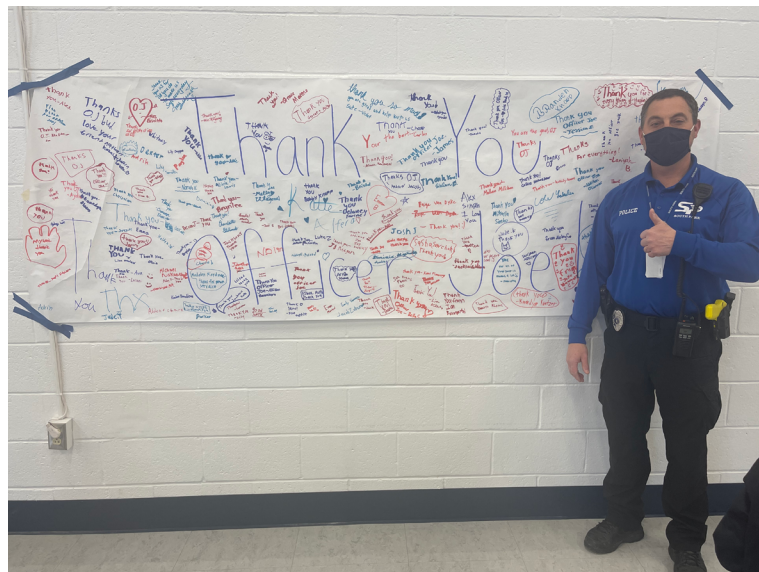
Before Folktale Day, Mrs. Dubyak kicked off the week with a folktale-themed STEM activity. After reading and comparing a few versions of "The Three Little Pigs," Mrs. Dubyak's students became part of the story. The students pretended they were the fourth little pig. Their challenge was to build a house to protect themselves from the Big Bad Wolf (Mrs. Dubyak and her hair dryer). Students had materials to choose from to try to build the sturdiest house to protect the little pig inside. All of their houses withstood the huffing and puffing of the big, bad hair dryer!

On Folktale Day, students read even more folktales, and some dressed up as their favorite characters. From princesses to Jack from "Jack and the Beanstalk," the students' favorite stories came to life in their classrooms.



## SAYING THANKS

South Park Middle School students, faculty and staff showed how much they appreciate Officer Joe Cawley in a big way. Sunday, January 9 was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. When Officer Joe came to work the next day, he was greeted by a large sign thanking him for his service. It was signed by students and staff at the middle school.



## SWIMMERS RECOGNIZE TEACHERS

Prior to their meet on Wednesday, January 12, senior members of the South Park High School swim team recognized and thanked South Park School District staff members. Each swimmer personally invited one teacher who made an impact on them during their time in South Park for a special pre-meet ceremony.

The teachers who were recognized this year were Mrs. Kendra Barbone, Mrs. Dawn Byron, Mr. Charles Correll, Mrs. Caroline Hecht, Mr. Dan LaBarbera, Ms. Erika Stull, Mrs. Tracee Surovchak, Mr. Alex Whittington and Mr. Eric Wisler.





## WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?

Mr. Quast's fourth grade students took the learning outside this month, thanks to all of the snow we received. They completed cross-curricular learning activities including calculating the height, circumference and weight of their snowmen; writing a sequence of events on how to build a snowman; and wrote original poems about snow and snowmen.



## INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDERS

Should weather conditions necessitate a building closure, there are two possible options. The district's announcement will outline whether the district will transition to remote learning for all students on a two-hour delay schedule or cancel all classes with no remote learning.

In most instances when district buildings are closed due to inclement weather or another emergency situation (not related to COVID-19), the district will utilize remote learning on a two-hour delay schedule. On a remote learning day, students will not report to school but will participate in synchronous (students and teachers are online at the same time, engaged in instruction and learning) or asynchronous (students complete assignments independently) learning. Teachers will communicate specific remote instruction procedures with their students/families via Canvas and/or email. These instructions will include whether that teacher's class(es) that day will be synchronous or asynchronous. Teachers will be available to answer questions via email and Canvas during the school day on all remote learning days.

Students will also be required to complete a virtual attendance form. Links to all teachers' forms can be found by [clicking here](#).

For more details, [click here](#).

In compliance with the federal McKinney-Vento Assistance Act, as reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), South Park School District is attempting to identify all children within the district who may be experiencing homelessness.

The term homeless children and youth defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes individuals:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to lack of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
- Living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground due to lack of alternate adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings; bus or train stations or similar settings;
- Living in substandard housing (no running water or working utilities, etc.)

Children who are experiencing homelessness may qualify for assistance with free school lunch, school supplies/materials, tutoring and transportation so that they can remain in their school of origin.

If you believe your child(ren) may qualify for this service, please contact the principal of your child(ren)'s school. You may also call 412-655-3111, extension 1000.

If your living situation changes during the school year, and you and your children become homeless, please be sure to contact the school. We will work with you so that your child(ren)'s education is disrupted as little as possible.

**South Park School District • 2005 Eagle Ridge Drive • South Park, PA 15129 • (412) 655-3111**

The South Park School District's mission is to provide an educational atmosphere where all students have opportunities to discover their talents, develop their abilities and achieve the expectations embedded in our educational program to become responsible and productive members of society.

### Board of Directors

**John Innocenti, President • Frank Wentzel, Vice President • Lorraine Blackburn • Mark Depretis  
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The South Park School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability or any other legally protected classification in its education programs, activities or employment practices. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws including Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.