PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE
NOVEMBER 6TH, 2026

Dear SES Families,

As we move from the beautiful days of November into the festive warmth of December, a wonderful sense of magic and anticipation always fills our hallways. This time of year brings so many reasons to celebrate, and the pure excitement our students share as the holidays approach reminds us all of the joy of community and connection.

This holiday season also marks a bittersweet milestone for our school family. On Monday, November 9th, Dr. Garrett Dukette will officially begin his journey as the new principal of Scotland Elementary School. I know you will give him the warmest, most enthusiastic SES welcome. I wish Dr. Dukette incredible success as he steps in to lead SES forward, keeping our students growing, learning, and finding new ways to amaze us every day.

A couple of weeks after he settles in, I will be crossing a big finish line of my own as I officially retire. Serving as your principal has been one of the absolute greatest honors of my life. I have deeply loved leading this school, partnering with the wonderful Scotland community, and above all, getting to know and love each and every child at SES. Your children have filled my days with endless inspiration, immense pride, and a whole lot of unscripted laughter that I will miss terribly.

As I turn the page to my next big adventure, I am trading school schedules for family road trips, long-overdue travels, and the highly demanding, unpaid role of full-time grandma “MeMe”. I cannot wait to simply sit back and watch my own grandchildren grow and learn into 2027 and beyond.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your unwavering partnership, your trust, and the beautiful memories we have built together. I leave knowing that the brilliant spirit of SES will continue to shine as bright as ever. Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season filled with peace, love, plenty of laughter, and joyous celebrations!

Warmest regards,
Principal Ann Knowles

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, November 9th
- *Welcome Dr. Dukette (Principal) 1st Day*

Tuesday, November 10th
- *10:00 -11:40 AM Field Trip Preschool, PreK & Kindergarten to visit Farmer Hayden Stearns*

Wednesday, November 11th
- **NO School - *Veteran’s Day***



Wednesday, November 18th
- *Make-up Photo Day - Bring your smile!*
- *3:00 -5:00 PM Family Event: Luminaries & Meet & Greet Dr. Dukette with Pizza Truck*
- *5- 6:30 PM Circle of Security Parenting Class*

Thursday, November 19th
- 9:30 AM *Field Trip Gr. 3 & 4 to Mill Museum*

Wednesday, Nov. 25th - Friday, Nov. 27th
- ***NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break***

Tuesday, December 1st
- *6:30 PM Board of Education in school library*

Wednesday, December 2nd
- *5-6:30 PM Circle of Security Parenting Class*

Friday, December 11th
- *PJ Day for Kids with Cancer (Wear PJs)*

Tuesday, December 15th
- *3 PM Family Event Gingerbread houses*

Thursday, December 17th
- *Gr. 3 & 4 Author Visit from Grant Program*

Wednesday, Dec. 23rd - Sunday Jan. 3rd, 2027
HOLIDAY VACATION - NO School





TO: Scotland Elementary School Families and School Community

As we approach the holiday season, our focus naturally turns to celebration, gratitude, and community. While these occasions bring a wonderful sense of joy to our preschool through 6th-grade students, they also require us to be exceptionally mindful of the health, safety, and well-being of every child in our building.

Recently, we have seen an increase in the number of students with severe food allergies and dietary restrictions within our building. To protect our children and ensure our learning environment stays entirely safe and free from harmful foods, we are adjusting our protocols for school celebrations and shared treats. **All food and snacks brought into school for celebrations must be strictly store-bought with the original ingredient label fully intact and clearly visible.** This rule is vital because it allows our staff and school nurse to read and verify all ingredients before any food is distributed to classrooms. We love celebrating our students' milestones, but we can no longer accept home-baked goods or unlabeled items for shared events.

Additionally, we want to use these celebrations to encourage lifelong healthy choices by limiting heavily processed, sugary, or unhealthy snacks. We encourage families to look toward fresher, more nutritious options if at all possible when choosing what to bring. Simple healthy items like store-bought yogurts, bananas, apples or pre-packaged apple slices, individual raisin boxes, whole-grain crackers or pretzels make fantastic celebration treats.

Approved Allergy-Conscious & Healthy Alternatives

To help you plan your next classroom contribution, here is a quick list of sweet, fresh, and highly allergy-friendly options available at your local grocery store. (Suggestions Only)

Snack Category	Sweet & Fresh Allergy-Friendly Options	Why It's a Great Choice
Fresh Whole Fruits	Bananas, clementines, or pre-cut store-packaged apple slices.	Naturally sweet, packed with vitamins, and naturally free of the major top 9 allergens.
Individual Fruit Cups	Applesauce pouches, diced peaches, or pears packed in 100% juice.	Highly shelf-stable, sweet, and zero risk of cross-contamination from a home kitchen.
Dried Fruit Boxes	Individual boxes of raisins or certified nut-free dried cranberries.	A concentrated, chewy sweet treat that satisfies a sweet tooth while offering plenty of fiber.
Allergy-Friendly Packaged Goods	Certified "School-Safe" brands (such as *Made Good* or *Enjoy Life*).	Specifically produced in dedicated nut-free facilities, making them entirely safe for standard classroom distribution.

By working closely together, we can widen our food safety net while still preserving the beautiful tradition of school celebrations. Thank you for your continued partnership, support, and dedication to keeping SES a safe place for every student to learn and grow. If you have any questions regarding a specific snack or food allergy concern, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school nurse, Sharon St. Rock (sst.rock@scotlandes.org).

Warmly,
Ann Knowles
Principal, Scotland Elementary School