

19th December, 2018

Greetings Parents/Guardians

As we come to the end of term one I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your overwhelmingly positive support, and to also wish you all the sentiments associated with this time of the year. We have had a few highpoints, which give us cause to celebrate:

Achieve 3000: Approval for funding was finally granted in November. Primary three to six students have taken their pre-assessments and most students have begun to use the programme. The Achieve 3000 is a literacy based programme that meets the needs all learners (gifted, special needs, ESL students). By reaching and teaching our students at their individual reading levels, we expect to encouraging individual and schoolwide gains in reading.

Lit Pro: The Lit Pro Reading Programme is now current for this school year. I will provide a more detailed update in 2019, along with our school's overall reading results.

Dream Box Mathematics: Dream Box It is a digital adaptive mathematics program that adapts to provide lessons students need. It is rigorous, challenges students to think critically, and it is meant to be done independently by the students. It is engaging and motivates students to want to do math! The programme is designed for students in P3-P6; however, it's pleasing to note that we have some level 4 P1 & P2 students (Alyanna Alayon, Zavien Butler-Hassell, Ruth Correia, Immanuel Douglas, Capri Fuhrtz, Sophie Gauntlett, Alessia Vianello, and Zion Mallory-Robinson) who are engaged in an enrichment group, facilitated by Mrs. Rose-Robinson. The following P3 students now do their mathematics lessons entirely in P4: Jordan Burrows, Cruz Harvey, and Jasmine Taylor.

The chart below is a summary of performance (Dream Box) since September 2018. Please be reminded that students can access the website from home; and I encourage you to set aside time throughout the week so that they can complete assignments. As a school, we have demonstrated 29% growth. Please speak with your child's teacher or Mrs. Rose-Robinson, Math Teacher Leader if you require an individual report.

Classroom	Average number of minutes per week	Total Number of Lessons completed	Average number of objectives achieved with proficiency	Percentage of Growth
Primary P1/P2 Enrichment	69	204	6.7	40%
P3Simmons	45	899	4.4	34%
P4Monk	52	626	4.1	38%
P5Massa and P5Wilson-Place	74	1019	5.9	33%
P6Siese	35	509	5.5	16%

Somerset Primary Science Fair 2018 (submitted by Science Teacher Leader, Mrs. Siese)

Congratulations to all the young scientists who participated in the SPS 2018 Science Fair! Students explored a range of questions ranging from “How do geckos climb?” to “Can you burst a balloon with an orange?” to “Which solvent works the best? Learners were required to use a scientific process method to design and carry out a test to try to answer their question.

For 2018, the project de jour was definitely the bouncy egg. We had a record number of students finding out variations on the questions “Can you ever make an egg bounce rather than break when it is dropped?” Most students, of course, thought that eggs will always break when dropped, but if you soak an egg in vinegar, the shell dissolves and the membrane hardens, creating a “bouncy” effect. Of course, if you soak an egg in other liquids, the same thing does not happen – but making a mess is part of the fun of studying science!

During the fair, several students volunteered to present their projects to the audience at large. Not only were they excited about their projects, they were thrilled to share what they had found out.

Almost all of our students participated this year, learning not only about the topic of their choice, but about the process of inquiry in Science, an important strand in the Cambridge Curriculum, and a critical component of understanding how the world works. We do invite you to seek help if needed, as we require all students to participate in this learning activity.

Football: Our boys placed third in the league and second in the six-a-side tournament. Patrick Dill has been selected to train for the All-Star football match, which will take place on the 26th January, 2019.

Netball: Rain has hampered league play, so postponed games will carry over into 2019.

Cross-Country: Jaeda Grant, P6, continues to dominate the primary school girls. She has also qualified for the Front Street Mile. I encourage each of you to show strong support for Jaeda on 19th January, 2019, at 6:00pm.

Prefects: Damani Assing, Khylie Waryn-Darrell, Patrick Dill, Latarie Doers-Bowen, Jaeda Grant, Isaiah Hayward, Jaylen Mitchell, Micah Oliveira, Eliyah Seon, and Kemya Wilson have been selected as prefects for the 2018/2019 school year. Khylie, Latarie, Jaeda, Isaiah, Micah and Eliyah are vying for Head Prefect positions; they will address the assembly on Friday, 4th January, 2019. You are invited to attend.

Christmas Production: Santa’s Playlist was a resounding success. The play is a testament to our strong music programme. Parents, thank you for your support of the production, as well as the PTA’s raffle draw.

Industrial Action: Although both the teachers’ and principals engaged in industrial action, it did not adversely impact Somerset Primary School. I can assure that teachers attended to their contractual duties. Thank you for your understanding and support as both parties work to resolve matters of concern with the Department of Education. The action did, however, impact

movement with **Standards Based Grading**. Our teachers are making good progress with understanding and implementing the principles, nonetheless. In December I attended an overseas conference in Punta Gorda, Florida and I'm looking forward to full implementation of this "best practice" method of teaching, learning and assessment. I take this opportunity to thank the PTA for supporting me in this endeavour. On the 2nd of January, SPS teachers will engage in system-wide training (one of the positive outcomes of the industrial action), at the Southampton Fairmont Hotel.

Please remember to facilitate your child's reading just as you promote brushing their teeth: twice or sometime three time a day.

Have Merry Christmas!