



**SOUTHWEST  
BALTIMORE**  
CHARTER SCHOOL

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 3**            **3rd Grade to the Aquarium**  
**Mar 7**            **SBCS Play Date, 10:00 AM**  
**Mar 13**          **Professional Development Day;**  
**School Closed for Students**  
**Mar 16-23**      **Hearing and Vision Screening**  
**Mar 20**          **School-Wide Meeting, 9:00 AM**  
**Mar 24**          **Middle-Grades Skate Trip**  
**Mar 26**          **6th Grade to JA BizTown**

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Looking at the school calendar, March is a busy month, but one of my favorites for two reasons. Daylight Savings Time (Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>) and Spring begins. I am looking forward to longer hours of daylight and warmer days!

In reflecting on our year to date, I marvel at how much our kids have grown since the beginning of the year. I'm not just talking height-wise, but also in areas like academics, responsibility, and maturity. It's one of the great joys of my job to be able to witness this each year. Thanks for all you do to support our efforts to help your children excel!

As you continue to support our efforts to help your children excel, please be reminded that parental involvement is more than volunteering at school. In fact, research shows that supporting your child at home is even more important. Having conversations with your child about school will not only keep you informed about what your child is doing but will give you some special time together in the evening after school. Asking your child what he/she did at school will likely result in the classic response, "Nothing." Here are some

questions/suggestions that will result in a more engaging conversation and opportunities for activities that you can do together:

- Tell me what you learned today that you'd like to know more about. (This could lead to a trip to the library to do some research, or a visit to a museum.)
- Describe a book you enjoyed today. (Use this interest to build a daily reading habit. Encourage reading and listening skills by reading aloud and letting your child read to you.)
- What's the coolest thing that happened? What wasn't cool?
- What was the most creative thing you did?

(Adapted from Home & School Connections: Working Together for School Success.)

Thank you for your continued support and all you do to make SBCS the great school that it is. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 443-984-3385 or [igordon@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:igordon@bcps.k12.md.us) with any feedback, questions or concerns.

Yours in education,  
Iffeisha Gordon-Toppin  
Principal

### PRE-K UPDATE

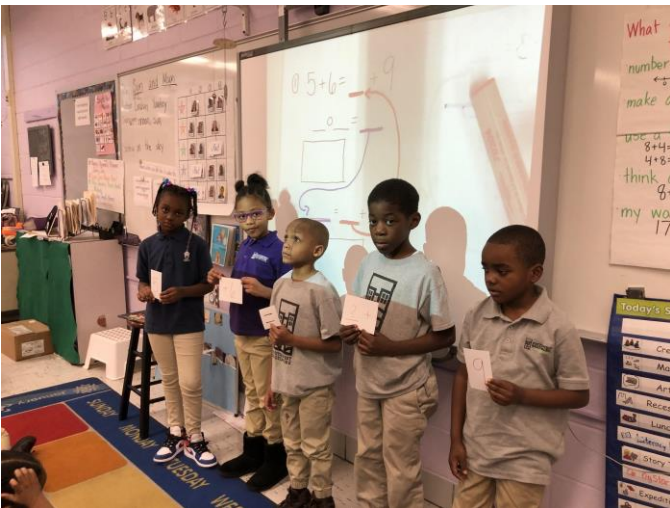
Our hospital unit is up and running! We have a waiting room, a nursery, a dentist's office, an ambulance, a doctor's office and a pharmacy! An ask: we have been getting so many good snacks, but we need something to put them on. If you happen to have any extra paper napkins or plates, could you please send them in?

## KINDERGARTEN UPDATE



Kindergarten has been working hard learning what makes something a living thing. We have read a few different books to help us to gain new information. We have practiced what researchers do by making observations and taking notes. We will continue learning about living things, and how people and animals depend on living things to survive.

## 1ST GRADE UPDATE



First graders have been using hands-on strategies to attack challenging math problems! We are currently studying the movement and patterns we see in the sky- take some time to look at the night sky with your scholar and discuss what you see and how the moon changes over time!

## 5TH AND 6TH GRADES UPDATE



In March, an expert named Kondwani Russel will visit to share high-quality examples of poetry that students will use to create their final products in Literacy. Students will also show off the entrepreneurial skills they've learned in Crew at JA BizTown. Please send in pencils with your scholar so they are prepared for class.

**Middle Grades Fitness and Adventure:** 4th-8th Grade is now playing 4 v 4 Floor Hockey games. They recently completed their second PACER test and more than half showed growth on their scores. Way to go!

**Elementary Grades Fitness and Adventure:** 2nd and 3rd graders just finished their 2nd dribbling and shooting evaluation and we've seen great growth. They will now be starting 3-on-3 basketball games in preparation for our end of the trimester tournament. Pre-k, kindergarten and 1st graders have been rolling balls in preparation for our bowling games. Next week we will be forming our teams to compete against each other and we're excited!!!

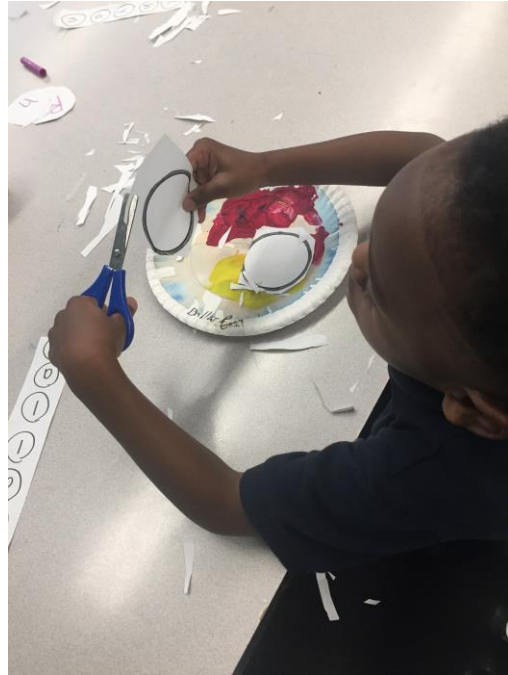


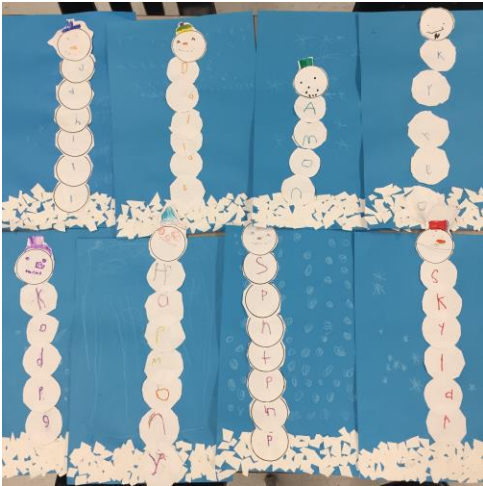
**Middle Grades Art:** 4th through 8th grade students have begun the drafting process for the creation of their final products. Final products will be inspired by contemporary Black artists. Final products will be part of the SBCS art show. Further details about this event will be coming out soon.



**Elementary Grades Art:**

In Pre-k we brought snow! We studied winter scenes, explored cutting circles, and practiced writing our name, in order to create a snowman scene that spells out our name!





**Kindergarten:**

Kindergarten is getting ready for spring by making flower stained glass made from black paper, glue, and oil paste!



**From Our Community School Coordinator:**

Exciting things are in the pipeline for our community school. We have growing interest in our PTO and families who are ready to be more activated advocates of change. We have emerging partnerships that will be of great benefit to our entire community. You all bring such wonderful energy and joy to the school and we look forward to building further together.

The next PTO meeting is:  
 Wednesday, March 12, 2020, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.  
 Food and childcare is provided. Hope to see you there!

## **SUPPORT SBCS**

If you purchase items from Amazon, please start at our website, [www.sbcschool.org](http://www.sbcschool.org). On the bottom of the homepage, click on the Amazon link. We will then receive funds equal to 0.5% of your purchase price!

If you shop at Giant Food, please register for A+ School Rewards so that SBSCS can earn cash through the Rewards Program. All you have to do is log on to [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus) to register online using your Giant Card. Our school ID is 05598. Thanks!

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Connect with us on Facebook at Southwest Baltimore Charter School and follow us on Instagram at SbcSchool and keep up to date on SBSCS news through our website at [www.sbcschool.org](http://www.sbcschool.org).

## **EARLY DISMISSAL**

If you need to pick your child up for early dismissal, please send a written request with your child. Elementary Grades children will not be released between 2:30 and 3:00, and Middle Grades children will not be released between 3:00 and 3:30, unless they bring in a written request **that morning**. Teachers will not release your child to you if they do not have an Early Release Pass from the Main Office.

## **COUNSELING SERVICES**

We have a variety of counseling services at the school. If you feel that your child needs social-emotional support, please contact the school at 443-984-3385.

## **SBSCS INC. BOARD MEETINGS**

SBSCS, Inc. board meetings are held six times yearly, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. They are open to the public. Please check the calendar in this newsletter or at [sbcschool.org](http://sbcschool.org) for applicable dates.

