

From: [JENNIFER NZEZA](#)
To: [Southside Elementary School Recipients](#)
Subject: Principal's Newsletter 1/29/2021
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 5:34:36 PM

Principal's Newsletter

January 29, 2021

SOUTHSIDE'S

VISION: To learn, to dream, to laugh, to love every child every day - whatever it takes!

MISSION: To use data-driven instruction for progress monitoring, so that each student is learning, succeeding and reaching above and beyond their potential every day.

IMPORTANT DATES

1/29 - Celebrate Literacy Week Ends

2/12 - Bestie's BINGO - see flier below

2/14 - Valentine's Day

2/15 - President's Day - No School

2/18 - Southside Foundation for the Arts Virtual Event with Karim Manning - 6:00 - More to come!

2/22 - PTO Meeting

3/15-3/19 - Spring Break

WHAT'S NEW?

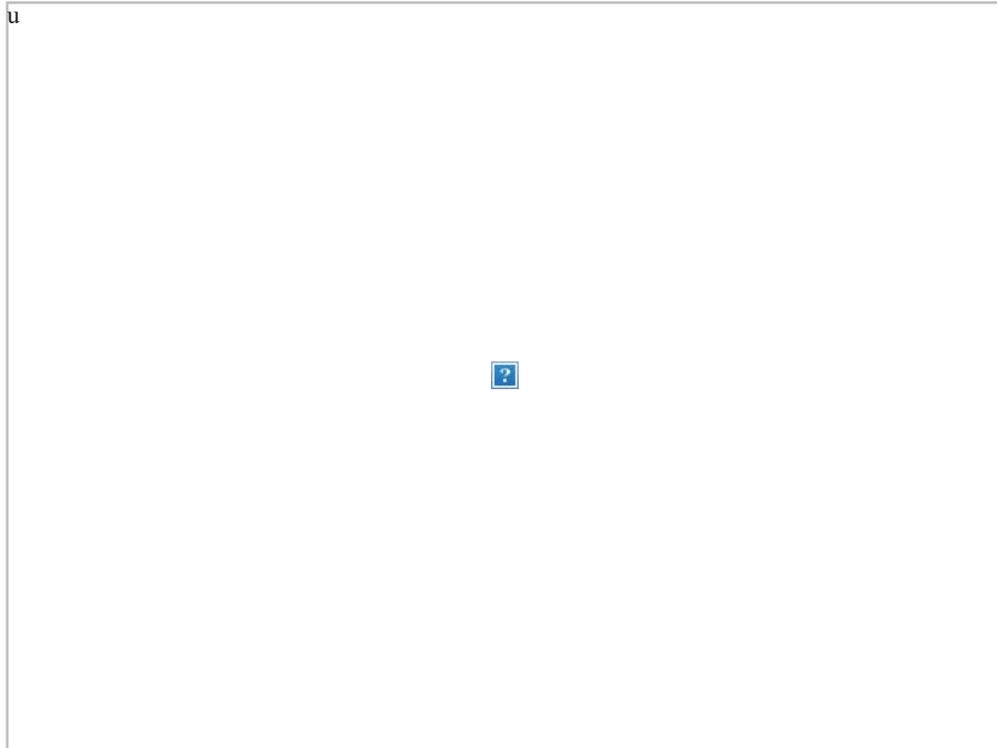
SSFA Holiday mART Goodies

To those parents who purchased items during our Southside Foundation for the Arts Holiday mART - please know that the items arrived today! We are so sorry for any

inconvenience, but we were unable to get them into the hands of the teachers by dismissal today and we'll have to do so on Monday. Thank you for your patience!

Behind-The-Scenes Helpers

We are excited for you to learn about our staff members who work to make Southside the best school in the district. This week we introduce to you to our ESOL Liaison, **Michele Miller** and our ESOL Paraprofessional, **Debbie Abt**.



Mrs. Miller (left) wears many hats at Southside, but her favorite is in her role as the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Liaison. She enjoys working with both students and staff members at all grade levels. It is her responsibility to ensure that our English Language learners are receiving the extra support they need in order to become proficient in the English language. She is also responsible for reporting information to the district office about our English Language learners at Southside. This ensures that we continue to receive funding for the ESOL program through the federal English Language Acquisition Act.

In addition to her responsibilities as ESOL Liaison, she is also Assessment Coordinator and Library Administrator. These three roles keep her very busy, but she loves working with many students and staff members in these capacities. When she's not at work, she enjoys spending time with her husband Jason, her 7-year-old daughter Cecelia (a first grader at Southside!), her 4-year-old daughter Vivian (she'll be at Southside next year!), and 13-year-old stepson Grant (seventh grader at Pine View). She also likes listening to audio books, cooking, and playing games with her girls. Their new favorite game is "Bold" by the makers of Uno!

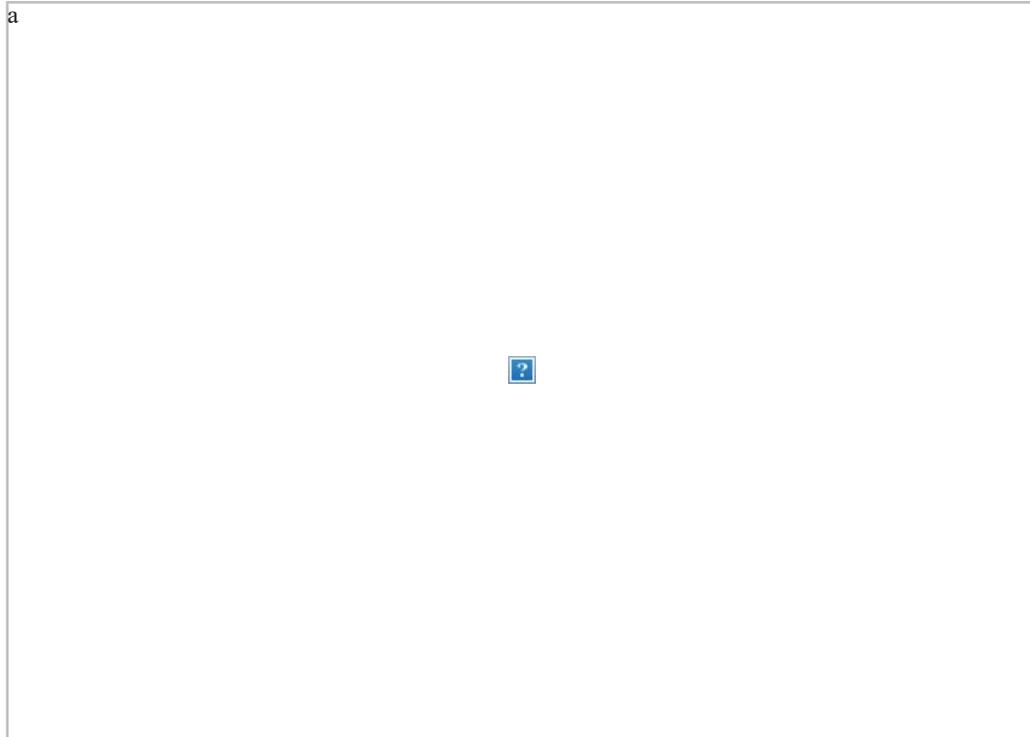
Ms. Abt (right) works with students in all grade levels, sometimes in small groups or in a one-on-one setting. With the younger English language learners, she works on letter recognition and early reading skills. She works with our older English language learners in the content areas to help strengthen their vocabulary.

Ms. Abt was born in Argentina and moved to the states when she was 6. She was also

enrolled in the ESOL program when she entered school so she can see how this program helps not just the students, but the families as well. Debbie is currently a full-time student at USF finishing her Bachelors in Communicational Science and Disorders. She recently moved here with her boyfriend Ryan, so on their free time they enjoy getting to know the area. Lastly, Debbie is a "obsessed" cat mom to her 3-year-old tabby, Pumpkin.

Fun Experiences and Community Building

Please consider joining the members of the Southside Student Council for a fun and interactive BINGO night! The evening is sure to bring lots of smiles, laughter, and fun!



Our Southside Student Council holds these wonderful community-building activities as fundraisers to help our student focus on "giving back" to the community. This year, even during the pandemic, they've worked to clean up at Payne Park, and provide donations to both the Salvation Army and Southside Angels. Thank you to our Southside Student Council!

Around the same time, our Southside PTO will be sponsoring **FRIENDSHIP GRAMS!** What a fun way to spread some positivity and show some love for your friends and maybe even your teachers! The flier below should be coming home soon!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SOUTHSIDE?

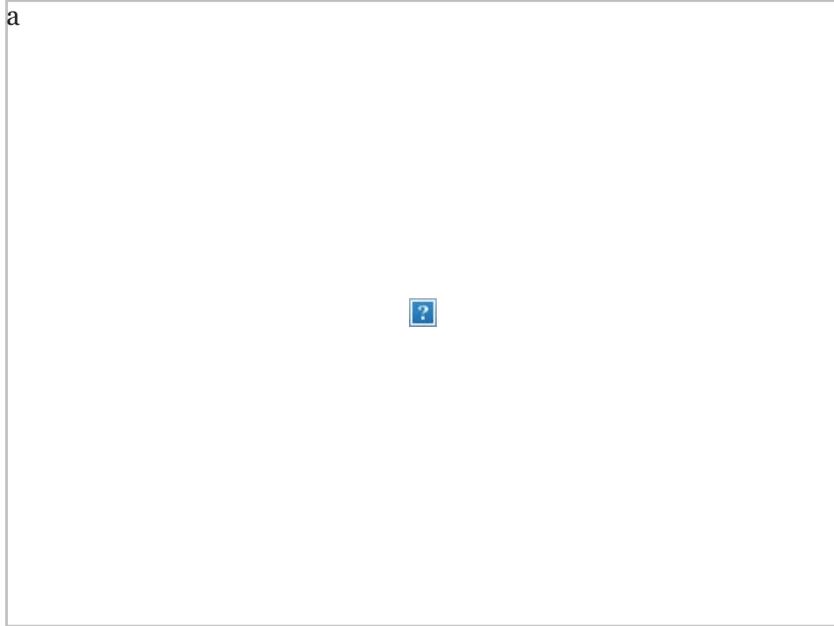
Loving Literacy!

The Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer for Sarasota Schools, Dr. Laura Kingsley, visited Mrs. Jones' Kindergarten class this week in honor of Celebrate Literacy Week!

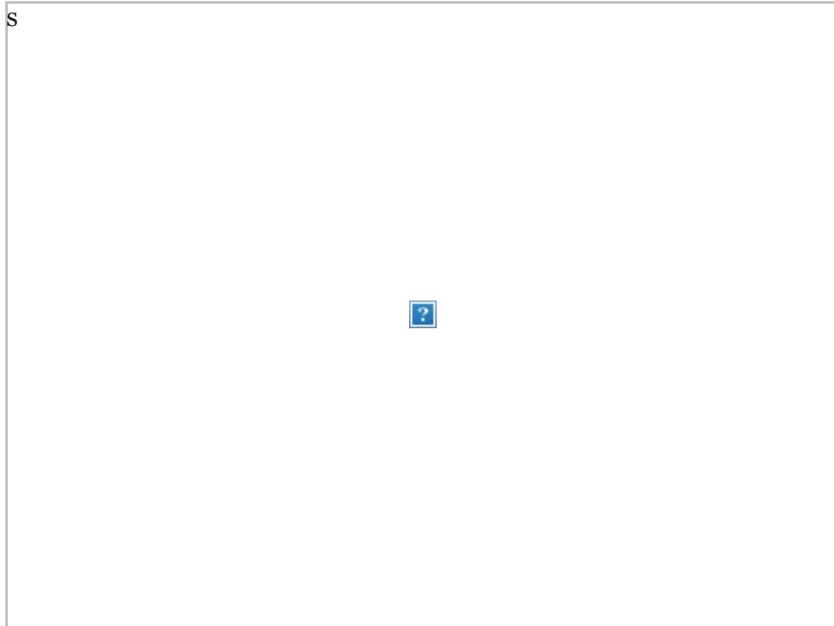
Several district personnel made special visits to our schools to interact with kids of all ages. Dr. Kingsley read *The Sneetches*, by Dr. Seuss. The class loved her sing-song voice as she read the story! Having Dr. Kingsley read aloud to a class at Southside was a special honor as she recently announced her retirement from the district after 35 years! Thank you, Dr.

Kingsley!

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FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Dismissal

Parents, there have been times this week when I've noticed some concerned faces and even heard some distraught voices when children weren't at their expected location at an expected time for dismissal.

Please know that your children are safe within the classrooms at the end of the day and are not dismissed to their assigned locations until their name appears on the teacher screen for

dismissal, are walked to their dismissal area, OR they are called on the radio or the intercom by a staff member.

It may take a little longer for your child to arrive at the gate or in the car line, but all of our students are typically gone in the afternoon by 3:25 at the latest, with dismissal starting at **3:05 for K-1, 3:10 for 2nd, and 3:15 for grades 3-5.**

Please know that we are here for you. If you have concerns, please let us know, but please also know it may take some time to get your child.

Walkways

We still have parents walking the wrong way in front of the school. Please follow the **BLUE directional arrows** on the sidewalks and walk with the flow of traffic while on campus. Traffic on school sidewalks is one directional. Thank you!

Have a wonderful weekend!



"The arts is not just a way out. It's a way in. It's a way in to your humanity. It is a way in to the beauty of the world. It's a way in to finding your power. That's what it is."

-Debbie Allen

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