September 12 "Wear Red, White and Blue"

September 11, 2001 Remembrance
It's hard to believe that 13 years have passed since that fateful day that rocked the very soul of our country. Today, we remembered September 11, 2001. The flag was flown at half-staff. We began the day with the Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison over the public address system. I shared some comments about the date with all the students and staff and then we observed a moment of silence. The teachers followed up in their classrooms. I hope you will follow-up at home as well. To me it's vital that our children know our country's story.

Star Spangled Banner is 200 years old
Two hundred years ago this weekend, Francis Scott Key wrote his famous poem that became our national anthem in 1931. Tomorrow morning all our students and staff will gather at the flag pole in front of the main entrance. The program will begin with the raising of our flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and comments from several of our fifth grade students about the history of “The Star Spangled Banner”. We will also sing “This Land is Your Land” and of course “The Star Spangled Banner”. The program will begin at 8:30 AM. From the description above you can tell that the program will be brief; we would love to have anyone who has the time to stop by and join us. We will block off the front of the school so parking will be limited, but someone will direct you.

Note: I'm a firm believer that our students need to know our history and we need to present it in a timely fashion.

School Opened Smoothly
From my perspective, school opened smoothly with just a few glitches. Over the summer, our custodial staff went through this building from top to bottom, inside and outside. Our teachers spent many days here this summer getting their rooms ready and it showed - they look great. One of the bus routes needed a little tweaking, but that seems to have been corrected. We are now completing a full cycle of our schedule and so far it seems to be working well. I have had an opportunity to meet all the students and I'm making progress learning their names. I visited every classroom and reviewed our school's position on bullying. We had an assembly program with all the students and shared the district's Core Values which are included in the Parent Student Handbook on page 4 (I added in one more - "be respectful"). As I travel from class to class, I see your children engaged and busy at work. Lunch and recess seem to be going well. The students seem to be enjoying the playground expansion.

That all adds up to a smooth start.

Spring Test Scores
The results of the NJASK tests have been received and will be sent home sometime next week.

The Playground Expansion
This summer, the Board of Education approved the expansion of the playground. The expansion involved making the mulch one continuous area that spans almost the entire back of the school. A border was installed that outlines the entire area. The old swings were removed. (No one can remember when they were originally installed. People who attended school here in the 1950's say they were here then.) Three sets of eight swings were installed. A pavilion that measures 14’ X 26’ was set in place on the edge of the playground to provide a shaded area for students to meet as well as serve as a base for classes held outdoors. Three hundred ten yards of mulch were installed inside the perimeter - it's quite a substantial cushion.
This was an excellent example of people working together. Our custodians put in many hours this summer removing the old and decaying railroad ties. They cut out and/or buried some of the old weed barrier that was sticking out all over and they helped spread endless mounds of mulch. One of our Board of Education members, Joe Falchetta, devoted many hours measuring, laying out and assisting with the installation of the equipment and pavilion. Matt Hull, one of our parents and a local contractor, donated his time and equipment to remove the old swings and dig out for the pavilion. Glenn Hull, one of our grandparents, helped with the removal of the old swings. The Sandyston Township Road Department used their bucket loaders to help distribute the mulch and the Sussex County Sheriff's Department's Work Assistance Program helped spread it. Thank you again and again to all those who helped.

This is phase one of the playground expansion. On October 2, five more pieces of playground equipment will be delivered and installed. There will still be room for additional equipment when it is purchased.

### Error in Back to School Night Date
Please note the correct date for Back to School Night is Wednesday, September 17th. We published an incorrect date in our opening day letter which you received on September 4th. We apologize for the error.

Back to School Night will begin at 7:00 PM in the gym. This is an opportunity to meet your child’s new classroom teacher and hear about what will be accomplished this year, and to visit the special area teachers as well. The evening will be divided into three segments of 20 minutes each. We hope to see you on the 17th.

### A Message from Mrs. Greene, Librarian
Sandyston-Walpack has helped break the World Reading Record! Previously, in 2013, the World Record was 176,438,473 minutes of reading. The 2014 World Record for reading was logged in at an astounding 304,749,681 minutes. Congratulations to all this year’s Scholastic Summer Readers for meeting the reading challenge. Check the school hallways to see some of the amazing times logged by our students. I’m very proud of all of you for participating.

### Date Change for November Pizza Lunch
Please note that pizza lunch for the month of November will be on November 21. This is the only full day Friday of the month.

### School Pictures
School pictures will be taken Wednesday, September 17th in the morning portion of the day. If you would like to have your preschooler photographed, please stop by between 8:20 and 8:30 that morning, or we will squeeze you in between the classes throughout the morning.

### Educational Foundation Casino Night!
The Sandyston-Walpack Educational Foundation is pleased to announce that they will once again host “Casino Night” at Camp Linwood MacDonald. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 4th at 7:00 PM for this evening to benefit the Foundation. More information will be forthcoming.

### Mobile Dentists Visit SWS – A Message from Mrs. Schultz
Welcome back to a great school year! Staff and students are very happy to be here. The Mobile Dental Clinic will come to SWS on Friday, Sept 19th. Your child can have their teeth cleaned twice at school if you have dental insurance. Just think...no after school cleanings and think of the gas money you could save! If you have no dental insurance, you can still get your two cleanings a year at half the price. If you do not have the budget to fund the reduced rate, your child can have a teeth cleaning once a year during the school day. Also, the Mobile Dentist will clean the teeth of all children in our district between the ages of 3-18 years. If your child is at KRHS, we can get them done ASAP in the morning and they can be on their way to school with a late note from here. Please support this wonderful program and send your permission slip in today. If you need another permission slip or have questions, please call the health office at 973-948-3263.

### Sandyston Recreation Family Event – Thanksgiving Morning
Mark your calendar and be sure to sign up for Sandyston Recreation’s “Gobble Hobble” to be held on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 27th. The event will start at 9 AM. A reduction in fees will be in effect until September 15th so hurry! Gobble Hobble is a family event – a 5K run, walk or hobble! This race will be conducted throughout paved roads in the township. More information including registration may be found at Active.com For more information, contact Recreation at SRGobbleHobble@gmail.com Prizes will be awarded to both male and female in the following age categories: Under 12, under 13-17, 18-30, 31-50 and 50+. Join the fun!

### Join Branchville Cub Scout Pack 180
Attention all boys in First – Fifth grade! Do you like camping, hiking, racing cars, going on adventure trips and just having fun? Then Cub Scouts is the place for you! Come to the First Presbyterian Church of Branchville, 35 Wantage Ave at 7pm on Friday September 19th to play some games, have some fun and learn what scouting is all about. Contact Jen Winkelman for more information. Jpw77eis@yahoo.com or 973-271-6067.

### Important Dates
- **September 12** – Wear Red, White and Blue - Celebration of 200th anniversary of “The Star Spangled Banner” – 8:30 AM
- **September 15** – PTO Meeting in the library – 7 PM
- **September 17** – School Pictures in the AM
- **Back to School Night** – 7 PM
- **September 19** – Mobile Dentists at SWS