



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Saratoga Shores Elementary Students and Parents:

I would like to take this opportunity to express to you my excitement about being the principal at Saratoga Shores – particularly this year. As Saratoga Sharks, the faculty and staff consistently rally around our school's mission statement that declares, "Our Saratoga Shores community creates, develops, and promotes responsible life long learners." Using this mission statement to focus our efforts, we have selected for our school goal this year: Building a Community of Learners – One Student at A Time.

We will "build up" your student(s) by enhancing our writing, math, and science curriculums this year. Our faculty collects and studies data each week to help determine how we can continue to improve student learning – "one student at a time." In our Monday Collaborative time we analyze that data to provide targeted supports in the classrooms, and additional supports that are funded by our school Trust Land Grant. These funds provide STARS reading tutors, and Shark Attack Time (Flex Time) aides that deliver an additional dose of reading and math instruction.

As part of our desire to "Build a Community of Learners" with our students, we have enhanced our student recognition programs. New this year:

1. **Wheel of Fortune** is a student recognition program that celebrates academics and citizenship. Teachers who notice students being examples of one of our school character traits can reward that student with a "Wooden Shark Nickel." Students can cash the nickel in for a prize and a chance to spin for larger prizes on the Wheel of Fortune, which takes place **at lunchtime on Fridays**.
2. **Lunch with the Principal:** Once a month, two students from every class will be randomly selected to eat lunch with the principal. Students have an opportunity to share how they are doing at school.
3. **Birthday Books:** In our on-going efforts to provide opportunities to read, each student will receive a book from the Principal & PTA on his/her birthday!
4. **Students of the Month:** Students are selected each month as examples of our Character Trait of the month. They are honored in our monthly Character Trait Assembly.
5. **Spirit Shark:** Classes showing school spirit by living our Character Trait of the month will have the chance to be honored by a visit of our school mascot the Saratoga Shores Shark.
6. **Shark Cards:** Positive notes home!

WE INVITE YOU TO PLEASE READ OUR STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK WITH YOUR STUDENT SO THAT AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO "BUILD" YOUR STUDENTS YOU ARE AWARE OF CRITICAL SCHOOL INFORMATION AND POLICES.

These are just a few of the many things that make Saratoga Shores Elementary the BEST place to be! As we start this new school year I wish to thank each of you for the support you provide us in our efforts as educators. I speak for the entire faculty and staff when I say that we are so thrilled to have your students back to brighten our days with their creativity and enthusiasm. Here's to "Building a Community of Learners – One Student at a Time!"

Dr. Vallen Thomas (Dr. T), Principal

P.S. – For your convenience we would encourage you to view the student drop off/traffic flow map displayed on our school web page for information on how to safely drop off your student.