The ‘Season of Giving’ is quickly approaching

Students can participate in the ‘Season of Giving’ in several ways.

Many clubs and organizations have signed up to ‘Adopt’ a needy South Brunswick family for the holidays. This wonderful program provides holiday gifts for children and their families in the community who otherwise would receive nothing.

If your child is not a member of one of the groups that has ‘adopted’, please consider participating through our Giving Trees by contributing gift cards for Stop and Shop, Target or local gas stations. The trees will be on display during December, but you don’t need to wait, just have your son/daughter bring his/her gift card to Gina Welsh, Activities Coordinator located in the Activities Office, Room 109 in the Annex. Cards in envelopes clearly marked ‘Ms. Welsh’ can also be dropped off at the main reception area.

All gift cards will be distributed to qualified needy South Brunswick families through the SB Social Services Department.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Happy ‘Season of Giving’ to all!

Global Studies Acts Globally

While studying about the United Nations, the students in Mrs. Welsh’s Junior Global Studies Classes got into the Halloween spirit and voluntarily collected nearly $200 for UNICEF - the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund!

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF began in 1950 as a way to help children who need more than candy. Since then, kids across the USA have raised more than $170 million for UNICEF. The organization makes sure that 91.2 cents of every dollar spent goes directly to help children. According to UNICEF figures, the $200 collected at SBHS will provide vaccinations for 660 children.

Pay-to-Participate for Advanced Placement and Clubs

If you haven't already done so, please remember that students in Advanced Placement courses MUST pay a $50.00 registration fee per course to meet the Pay to Participate requirement. Only students who have registered for the course will be eligible for AP Exam materials to be ordered in January. The period for registration was October 15, 2015 – November 15, 2015. Keep in mind that the $50.00 course registration fee is separate from the $92.00 AP Exam Ordering fee. The registration fee is applied to the cost of Advanced Placement course materials and training for teachers.

To register for an Advanced Placement course, please log onto the South Brunswick High School Website. Under “Quick Links,” please select the “Pay to Participate Registration Information.” Select “ONLINE PAYMENTS - Click Here to register for all Pay to Participate and Community Education Programs.” (Instructions for online payments are available below this link.)

IMPORTANT: In the event that a student does not pay the required fee, we will withhold Advanced Placement weighting and we will not order an AP Exam for the student.

If you have any questions, please contact April Gonzalez, Assistant Principal for Academic Leadership.

New Club Pay-to-Participate/Registration Information

Students must submit a payment receipt to each group Advisor by their 3rd meeting. The fee is $25 per group with a maximum of $250 per family. To pay go to www.sbschools.org/sbhs and select “Pay to Participate Registration Information” in the yellow Quick Links box.

Once you pay, PRINT A RECEIPT. Students failing to submit receipts will not be permitted to attend or participate.
November/December/January at a Glance

Dates School will not be in session
November 26
November 27
December 24 - January 1
January 18

Early Release Days
November 25
December 23
January 12

Special Events and Programs
Project Graduation Craft Fair
November 28

Winter Concerts
December 8, 9, & 10 - 7:30 p.m.

PSAT Night
December 21 - 7:00 p.m.

Winter Play
January 14, 15 & 16 - 7:30 p.m.

8th Grade Parent Night
January 20 - 7:00 p.m.

Quarter 2 ends on January 30.

Kudos, Kudos, Kudos...

Congratulations to the following seniors who have been recognized in the National Merit Scholarship Program

Semi-Finalists
Rohan Dighe, Anshul Doshi, Matthew Kiely, Aslesha Parchure, Meera Sakhivel, Michael Shultz, Mihika Thapliyal

Commended Students

Annual Troop Care Package Collection

The annual Troop Care Package Collection is running until November 23rd. Shoeboxes, ziplock bags, travel size personal care items, and individually wrapped treats are just a few of the items needed. Items can be dropped off at the boxes located at the main entrances at the high school. A check to support shipping costs can be made payable to SBHS-Soldier Packages. For more information contact nicole.sanyigo@sbschools.org.
Please click on the following link for a list of items needed: http://www.sbschools.org/schools/sbhs/school_information/docs/Troop%20Package%20Collection%20items.pdf

The SBHS and public library are also doing a paperback book drive for the troops. New or like new paperbacks in genres that would appeal to soldiers ages 19-30 are needed. Books can be dropped off outside of the SBHS library or at the public library in the labeled boxes. For more information contact lisa.manganello@sbschools.org.

A note from our Nurses:

Winter Sun Damage

Did you know skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States?

Even when we don’t feel the heat outdoors the sun’s ultraviolet rays can harm the skin making our skin prone to developing skin damage or skin cancer in the winter months

The good news is we can prevent it. With plenty of sun screen, hats, sunglasses, long sleeves and avoiding the sun we can decrease our risks of developing skin cancer. The single most important thing you can do is make an appointment with a dermatologist to have your skin checked.

The American Academy of Dermatology reports that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime. Don’t be the one! Prevent, detect, live!

Check our online school calendar at www.sbschools.org for a complete list of school events and updates. Follow the calendar link at the top of the page.

To view the District School Calendar and School Closing Information listing dates school will not be in session, as well as early release days, please go to http://www.sbschools.org/our_schools/docs/12-13_closings_calendar.pdf

Also included in this calendar is emergency information and the many methods the School District employs to alert parents and guardians to emergency situations.

Congratulations to the following student who has been recognized in the National Hispanic Recognition Program

Victoria Gonzalez
sbEarth lends a hand in Clean Ocean Action’s Fall Beach Sweep

sbEarth, the environmental club at SBHS, sponsored a trip for club members and other students to Island Beach State Park on Saturday, October 24. Twelve student volunteers, ranging from freshman to seniors, along with advisor Jane Rothfuss, spent two morning hours helping in Clean Ocean Action’s Fall Beach Sweep. The goal of the Beach Sweep is to reduce and eliminate sources of litter as well as raise awareness about the negative impacts of litter on wildlife and the ocean. The students collected data on what litter they picked up and learned about the types and quantities of debris found along the coast. The most common debris found was plastic pieces, with the students picking up over 500 pieces of unidentifiable plastic. Other common litter found included plastic bottle caps, straws and balloons.

The data collected state-wide during the Beach Sweeps provides information used to combat litter and other pollution sources by identifying and monitoring trends. The data is used to help create federal, state, and local programs and laws to reduce litter in the environment to keep beaches clean and healthy for citizens and marine life. Fall Beach Sweep data is submitted to the Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC, as part of its international database on marine debris and worldwide campaign against ocean pollution.

After a picnic lunch, the students enjoyed walking on two self-guided nature trails including a maritime forest trail and a bay-side trail. Island Beach State Park is a relatively large expanse of preserved barrier island that provided the students a rare chance to see the type of beach habitats found along the New Jersey coast many hundreds of years ago.

#sbhslibrarylife joined NJ Library Snapshot Day

In the spirit of Halloween, on October 21st, we encouraged our students to don masks featuring our new hashtag, #sbhslibrarylife, to demonstrate their support for our library via #snapshotnj. Launched in 2009 by the New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Library Association, the campaign uses social media tags to capture the busy reality of our libraries. Follow us on Twitter at sbhslibrarian #sbhslibrarylife.

SBHS MakerSpace: First Steps

This year our library has launched the SBHS MakerSpace. Maker spaces are designed to appeal to students’ natural intelligences by building diverse learning opportunities into the school day. The SBHS MakerSpace begins with three stations. A Disassembly Line, where students can deconstruct simple electronics to better understand the components, design, and function. A Creation Station, where students can construct a simple product to donate to a child in need. Finally, the future of printing is (almost) here, as we will soon unveil our 3D printer. We look forward to working with students and teachers to make this new offering a success!
Latin as Newton or Copernicus would have used it  by Matt Kostovny

Students in Latin Honors IV and V classes, taught by Mr. Matthew Kostovny, are in the process of writing up and orally presenting their results of a density lab, in which classroom supplies are placed in water to see if they will sink or float.

Who would have thought that science would be experienced in the Latin classroom? Mr. Kostovny did. The purpose behind the lab was to provide the students with the science vocabulary and put into active practice the way to express observations in Latin via “indirect statement”. An additional goal was to address the desire of students to communicate in Latin.

The first day, the class actively participated in the modeling of the experiment. Mr. Kostovny taught that day’s class exclusively in Latin. The students had to perform the command given to them and answer questions in the target language using a shared Google document, which was referred to as the “live Twitter feed.”

The next day, the students conducted their own labs. The third day each group created a Google Slide presentation of their results. On the final day, each group orally presented their results to the class. As for the Honors V, they each composed a lab report demonstrating their ability to use advanced grammatical concepts that they had studied.

Student Council was very busy in the month of October  by Kelly Boyer

For September’s cause of the month the Student Council supported Prostate and Ovarian Cancer Awareness. During lunches a carnival was held by the cafeterias where students could donate money or show off their teal and spin the wheel for a chance to win prizes. A donation of $300 was given to the American Cancer Society as a result.

On October 16th, South Brunswick High School went pink for Think Pink Day. The Student Council raised money and awareness for Breast Cancer Awareness by hosting an event at RedBerry in Plainsboro, donations in school and selling food and merchandise during the pink out football game. In total, over $1,000 was donated to Day By Day Hope Foundation, a charity founded in South Brunswick and serving local residents.
The World of STEM at SBHS by Aparna Rajagopal

Our commitment to providing enriching opportunities in STEM education remains unwavering. Our academic programs are consistently revised and modified to reflect research findings in both STEM and pedagogical practices. In addition to all the activities and academic programs we have offered in the past, we have added to our opportunities.

Our goal is to incorporate more field experiences that promote interest in science. With this in mind, we are offering students the opportunity to spend two weeks in a cloud forest doing biodiversity studies in Honduras. In addition to several lab practicals, and marine studies they will complete a course on Neotropical Ecology including: rainforest structure and biodiversity, adaptations and co-evolution, amphibians and reptiles, cloud forest birds, cloud forest mammals and conservation synthesis.

In the Computer Science world, we have introduced a new course called Honors Computer Science Principles, in preparation for an AP course with the same curriculum. This course has a unique focus on creative problem solving and real-world applications. The course introduces students with no prior experience to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. We have also added a Computer Science Club to our co-curricular opportunities. This student run club focuses on teaching students programming skills using Python.

The XSTEM club along with the Computer Science club will be hosting a hackathon at SBHS from 7:30 p.m. on December 18th through noon on December 19th. This is an overnight event and chaperones will be present throughout the night. The goal of a hackathon, a portmanteau of marathon and hacking, isn’t to obtain confidential data the way hackers infiltrated Sony Pictures last year. Instead, teams attempt to build a new piece of technology. Students with ideas and/or coding skills are welcome to participate. Many major universities and corporations host hackathons, and this event hosted by us will be an excellent exposure for students interested in STEM.

The XSTEM club is in its second year and is focusing on helping students prepare to participate in STEM competitions. The Robotics program is as strong as ever and our students have begun competing in events across the state.

Please visit the website http://www.sbschools.org/departments/steam/index.php for the latest updates on STEM in SBSD.
The Viking Closet continues to help the community by Jenn Webb

As the SBHS Viking Closet begins its 4th year serving the SBHS students and community, we have remained genuine in our mission to make sure our students’ basic needs are met.

Through donations from the surrounding communities, students and staff, we continue to offer free clothing and accessories to anyone in need, and so much more.

A few insights to our program….

- 15 to 30 students a day shop at the Closet.
- Work with Social Services in South Brunswick to supply basic necessities for families in need.
- Reach out to families that experience house fires.
- Help to clothe the homeless in our community.
- Support students who live in varied states of housing with the basic clothing needs and accessories.
- The Viking Closet Club is an integral part of the “Closets” operation. This year we have 55 club members.
- 100+ volunteers help manage daily operations and assist in running events.
- We hold 2 free raffles a year. Wonderful prizes are awarded to the winning recipients.
- We have a facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/SouthBrunswickVikingCloset, and email vikingcloset@gmail.com

In just 3 years the Viking Closet has received multiple awards and grants: two time Education Foundation Grant recipient, Pride Grant from South Brunswick Education Association, 1st prize for donating our surplus Prom dresses to an organization that also has charity Prom events called “My Fairy Godmother”, $250.00 monetary grant and supplies from Christine’s Hope for Kids, $1,000.00 from the SBHS Asian club, who continues to support. In addition, we are the proud recipient of the Viking Spirit Award at Convocation. We have been recognized by Assemblymen Jack M. Ciattarelli from the NJ General Assembly 16th Legislative District for our efforts to provide low cost prom attire and accessories.

Each year over 30 businesses and organizations continue to support us both financially and through donations. For a complete list of donors, please go to our Facebook page.

We have held four successful free Prom events since the Viking Closets inception. Every year we have over 300 dresses donated, and all the pertinent accessories.

At the very end of the 2015 school year, the Viking Closet & Environmental club worked together to recycle binders and notebooks. We had our 4th successful Back to School drive and received many needed items. Each September we offer Back to School items (new and used) to all our students. The Viking Closet assists many students each day with athletic attire so they will not be unprepared for physical education class.

At this time we are collecting winter clothing and outerwear. Thank you again for all your donations!

The Viking Closet welcomes your input. Like us on our Facebook page @ “South Brunswick Viking Closet”. We would love to hear what you think.

The boys basketball team joined "Team Ryan Moran" at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) walk held at Rutgers University….

Project Graduation is an all night alcohol, tobacco and substance free celebration that is held on graduation night and assures our graduates are safe as they celebrate their accomplishment together. This evening is provided to all SBHS Graduates at little or no cost to encourage as many graduates to attend as possible. In order to do this, we need the support of the entire South Brunswick High School community.

Please consider attending one of our meetings to see how you can be a part of making this amazing evening happen or support our fundraising efforts by attending one of the events we have planned. You DO NOT have to be the parent of a senior to participate, as a matter of fact, underclass parents are encouraged to get involved. Our meetings are held in the high school library at 7pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

We are off to a great start, however we can only be successful with the support of the South Brunswick community. Below is a list of the events currently scheduled, (we are working on a few other events, watch our Facebook page and the online “News from SBHS”for updates!):

Craft Show-Saturday, November 28
Prom Preview Fashion Show-Saturday, January 23
Flea Market/Book Sale/Clothing Drive-Saturday, April 30
Bingo/Tricky Tray-TBA

Have a question? Email us at sbhsprojectgraduation@gmail.org. Follow us on Facebook SBHS Project Graduation

Nancy Asher-Schultz &Christine Resnick Co-Chairwomen

Congratulations to the following journalism students who won the statewide writing contest for the Garden State Scholastic Press Association:

Gopa Praturi
-Second place In-depth reporting

Nina Mendes and Jessica Baker
-First place in Features Writing

Students Malaika Jawed and Gopa Praturi also presented at the organization’s annual Student Press Day on October 26th.

Congrats to all our student reporters.

Gopa Praturi and Victoria Gonzalez
-Third place for In-depth writing

Alumna Ipsita Rao
-Third place for Newswriting
Musical Notes:

**SBHS Viking Marching Band Champions 3 Years in a Row!**

The SBHS Viking Marching Band celebrated an undefeated regular season of competition. The outstanding run began on September 26th when the Band won the Piscataway US Bands Competition with an 85.475 and won awards for Best Colorguard, Best Visual, Best Music, Best Effect, and Best Percussion and the Mayor’s Trophy for Best Overall Band.

After hosting their own Tournament of Champions Competition on October 3rd, the band competed in shows the following weekend winning both! Receiving the highest score and winning the awards for Best Music, Best Visual, Best Overall effect, Best Percussion and Best Colorguard the Vikings swept competitions at Hillsborough HS and North Brunswick HS.

The following week was a victory at East Brunswick High School. The band scored a 91.575 to defeat all bands in the competition. They also won trophies for Best Colorguard and Best Overall Effect. This completed an undefeated regular season for the band!

At Rutgers Stadium on Halloween night the band scored a 95.338 to win the New Jersey State Championship for the 3rd year in a row. They won additional awards for Best Music, Best Visual, and Best Overall Effect.

On Saturday night November 7th at MetLife Stadium the Vikings finished the season taking 2nd place at the National Championships. They won the award for best visual and performed a tremendous show. Their score of 96.933 was a season high and 3 points shy of perfection!

In addition to competition the band is a constant supporter of activities at SBHS and performed for our Veteran’s at the South Brunswick Municipal Building on Veteran’s Day, November 11th.

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Athletics News

**Winter Sports Tryouts** have started up. Check the school athletic website for tryout dates and click on the sports for individual team specific information. All physicals must be handed in and cleared by the school doctor. Physicals were due for all November tryouts, and you will not be permitted to tryout without the proper clearance.

The **Viking 5 K and 1 Mile** run was a great success. We had over 430 runners participate ranging from all ages! The Viking Athletic Club would like to thank all those who participated and volunteered their time on Sunday, November 1st. A special thanks to the SBHS athletes, K-12 students, parents, administration, district staff members, police department and rescue squad that made this race such a great community event.

**Girls Cross Country** has had a successful season thus far. The girls captured the Red Division Championship with a convincing win of 29-45 on 9/21. The girls then captured the GMC Conference Championship on 10/24 with a score of 49-97 over Metuchen. Placed 3rd in the NJSIAA Central Jersey Group IV Sectional Championships, and will be competing in the State Group IV Championships. Girls are currently ranked 20th in the state by NJ.com.

**Boys Cross Country** has also had a great season. The boys finished 2nd in the Red Division championship on 9/21. The boys then finished 2nd in the GMC Conference Championships on 10/24. Finished 2nd in the NJSIAA Central Jersey Group IV Sectional Championships, and will be competing in the State Group IV Championships. Boys are currently ranked 10th in the state by NJ.com.

**The Girls Tennis** program had a successful season that resulted in a GMC championship on October 20th. A final record of 14-4 highlighted an 11-1 win in the Red Division. The team is split of the Red Division County title with JP Stevens. Five players were named to the All County All Star Team and All Red Division team namely: Rashmi Venkatarama, Prathyusha Pandu, Swathi Chandrika, Ashi Yadav and Sneha Rampalli. The team was ranked as high as 19th by NJ.com during the season.

**Fall cheer** had a successful beginning of the season and placed 1st in cheer and 3rd in extreme routine at UCA camp. We have been working hard to cheer on the Vikings every Friday night and we are now preparing for our upcoming playoff games.

**Football team** won their second Red Division Championship title in a row by beating Piscataway 14-10. Our record is 7-1 and we are the top seed in our section for the playoffs.

**Gymnastics team** placed 4th at GMCs. On Saturday, November 7th, they will be competing at Sectionals. The team will be competing in the team competition, along with 7 girls competing in the individual competition.
FBLA off to a great start by Annette Galaro

Our 2015-2016 FBLA year has kicked off to a great start with a number of conferences and exciting meetings!

From June 29 through July 2, several members went to Chicago for the National Leadership Conference. Here they competed, networked, and bonded with members from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands!

The school year led off with officers attending the New Jersey State Fall Leadership Conference in October to discuss ways to enhance the club and hear about key initiatives for the coming year.

In November, we headed to the National Fall Leadership Conference in Baltimore where we had the opportunity to meet officers and members from a multitude of chapters in the United States but primarily from the Eastern Region, of which we are part.

In addition to attending conferences, FBLA has been busy selling fresh popcorn every Wednesday after school in the school store to raise money for the March of Dimes, our national community service partner.

FBLA members will soon begin selling chocolate-covered pretzel rods as part of our annual fundraiser. Look for these tasty treats to be coming to your neighborhood soon!

Over 120 students have joined the chapter as of October 30, and we look forward to having another great year with all of our members, officers, and the advisor team!

Parent Academy Welcomes Esteemed Author & Entrepreneur by Christine Mariano

The South Brunswick Parent Academy is very pleased and honored to announce a special event: Challenge Your Limits, Change the World, an insightful and inspirational workshop to be presented by Dr. Vikram Akula, renowned author, entrepreneur, and humanitarian, on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at the South Brunswick High School Auditorium. Attendees to this special event will hear about Dr. Akula’s journey, particularly how his college and career choices led to his success, and of course, how challenging limits directly impacted and improved the lives of millions of India’s poorest citizens.

Dr. Akula, a close personal high school friend of our own Superintendent, Dr. Jerry Jellig, began working in rural development in 1990, initially as a grassroots social worker in India. In 1997, he founded SKS and led the company to an IPO in 2010 reaching a market capitalization of $2.2 billion and an outreach of 7.3 million low-income borrowers across 120,000 villages. As of June 2015, SKS had disbursed more than $6.3 billion in micro-loans. Dr. Akula left SKS in 2012 and became Chairperson Emeritus. In 2014, he joined a financial inclusion start-up, VAYA, which uses technology such as tablets to deliver financial services in rural areas.

Dr. Akula has a B.A. in Philosophy and English from Tufts, an M.A. in International Relations from Yale, a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago, was a Fulbright Scholar, and has worked as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company and as a researcher with the Worldwatch Institute. He was named the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in India (Start Up in 2006 and Business Transformation in 2010), the World Economic Forum’s Young Global Leader in 2009, the Schwab Social Entrepreneur of the Year in India in 2006 and is a 1998 Echoing Green Fellow.

Dr. Akula is the author of A Fistful of Rice: My Unexpected Quest to End Poverty Through Profitability (2010), as well as several other esteemed publications. Ten copies of Dr. Akula’s book will be given out to randomly chosen attendees.

Please note that the workshop will be held at South Brunswick High School, a change from our usual locale. As with most SBPA workshops, the workshop will run from 7:00-8:30 pm, however childcare will NOT be provided. Interested parties can register online by visiting the District’s Website, www.sbschools.org and clicking the South Brunswick Parent Academy icon or by emailing sbpa@sbparents.org.