



Soddy Elementary Laker News



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Quarter 2 Edition



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SES Music Program

By Rylee McCorvie

Mr. Williams is now doing choir, band, and guitar class/lessons.

Choir is on Monday from 3:30-4:30,

Guitar is on Thursday from 3:30-4:30,

Band is on Friday from 3:30-4:30.

These three classes/lessons will take place

the entire school year. It has been 4 to 5 years since we have been able to have a choir at Soddy Elementary and that is a long time without being able to do things like music at school.

Students have many opportunities in music class. All grades get to sing, and play instruments. Students learn a new song each week, and the songs are silly so it's not hard to remember the words.



Mr. Williams teaching students with Boomwhackers in music class.

Soddy Elementary Students Sing!

Mr. Williams is new to Soddy Elementary this year, but he is amazing and has a very good music program. He chose to do a music program because it builds a musical community by having all the lessons and classes. He wanted to be a music teacher because he was not very good at academics so he did band, and that's what woke him up in the morning for school. Once he was out of school, he just didn't want to give up band, so he became a music teacher.

When Mr. Williams was in elementary school, he did not do choir at school, but he did in church. That is just one of the reasons he wants us to do choir now, to get the hang of it. And who knows, you may fall in love with it too!

There are a few exciting things happening in music at the current time. In choir, they are working on a Christmas sing along, and in October they were working on songs for Hamilton Sings.

Their favorite song was "Get it Together Harambe."

In band, students are playing all the concert band instruments.

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Soddy Elementary Sports

By Sawyer Hicks and Eli Sammons

Sports play an important role in the lives of many families. When we think of sports, we sometimes focus our attention on professional sports, but school sports can be just as important as the pros.

There are many benefits to playing sports, particularly in elementary school. One of the most important reasons for elementary students to participate in sports is self-esteem. Playing sports not only helps students to feel well physically, but also emotionally and mentally, and this may lead to student's building self esteem. Playing sports also helps students build teamwork and leadership skills. One of the best ways to learn to work together is to be on a team with others.

Finally, playing sports helps students relieve stress, which is a normal part of childhood in today's world. It is important that students remember that sports should be about having fun with friends and just enjoying being a kid.

Soddy elementary offers many opportunities for students to participate in sports. In fact, basketball try-outs just wrapped up and SES has their official teams for the 2022-2023 school year. If you didn't make the team this year, no problem! Just practice hard and try out again next year!

If you enjoy playing sports and want to play on a team for SES, please don't hesitate to try out! It is fun and can be very good for you!



Principal's Corner

By: Kaylei Burt and Eva Sneideman

Soddy Elementary School principal, Mrs. Kimberly Roden, has always wanted to be an educator, so she could "support and help children." Mrs. Roden has been an educator for thirty-seven years. She taught students in first, second, third, and fifth grades. When asked what inspired her to become an educator, Mrs. Roden credited her second-grade teacher as her inspiration. She later went on to become a principal and says that "she loves that the teachers [at SES] stay after school to help students become better learners."

There are currently many after school opportunities for SES students.



Mrs. Roden, happy to be interviewed by the newspaper staff.

SES eLab Creates Opportunities for Students

By Mary Hampton Howell and Eva Sneideman

Gig City Girls

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education puts an emphasis on preparing future generations to be successful in their careers, but STEM-based education teaches children more than science and mathematics concepts. The focus on hands-on learning with real-world applications helps develop a variety of skill sets, including creativity, media and technology literacy, productivity, social skills, communication, flexibility and initiative. Other skills attained through STEM education include problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, decision making, leadership, entrepreneurship, and acceptance of failure to name a few.

Gig City Girls, at Soddy Elementary, is an after school program for girls in upper elementary, grades 3-5. Girls participate in fun STEM activities in the schools' Elab with Mrs. Phillips.

Gig City Girls enjoy fun activities including coding, baking, and more. These activities will help them when they are older to get great jobs such as computer programmers, doctors, scientists, astronauts, and many, many more. It gives them an opportunity to learn more about stem careers and real world jobs.



Preparing today's children to become the innovators and inventors of tomorrow begins with STEM education programs.



Zooming in on Curriculum

By Staff Reporters

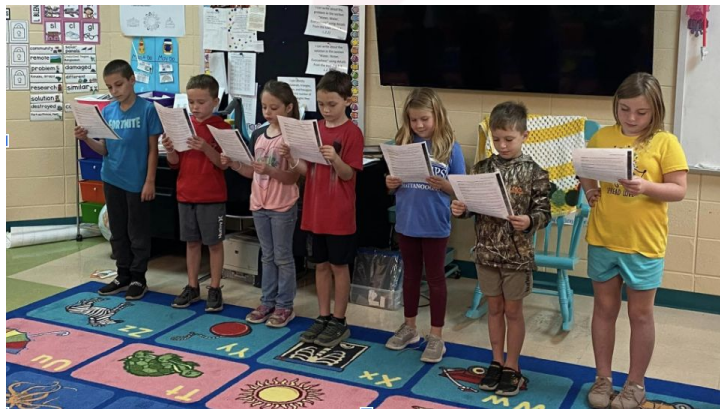
Kindergarten

Kindergarten will be working on Module 2: “Learning Through Science and Story: Weather Wonders.”

In this module, students will build literacy and science skills as they participate in a study of the weather. The module begins with a story about Sophia, a girl who is curious about the weather. She wants to learn more about being prepared for all types of weather and she asks kindergarten students to help her in her quest of knowledge.

Second Grade

Second grade students have just started a new module on comparing and contrasting two different schools. They will be writing a story about our school and another school. The story will be about how the schools are different and similar to each other. Their next module will be on fossils and paleontologists. They will also be writing a first person narrative as the paleontologist in their story.



Mrs. Clem's class participating in a reader's theater.

Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade is currently working on their second module, “Animal Defense Mechanisms.” Using their book: “Animal Behavior, Animal Defenses”, they will collect information and turn it into a flipbook of information for their chosen animal. Afterward, They will use the information on their animal and its defense mechanisms to create a Choose-Your-own-adventure book.

First Grade

First grade is learning about the sun, moon and stars through their second module, “What’s up in the Sky: A Study of the Moon, Stars, and Stars.”

The module begins with a story about Elvin, a young boy who is curious about the sun, moon, and stars. He wants to learn more about these things and shares what he learns with first-grade students.

In Unit 1, students study the sun, moon, and stars through various narrative texts and begin to understand the impact these celestial objects have on the inspiration of authors. Students respond to texts by participating in role-play activities and through written response.

In Unit 2, students engage in a close-read aloud of *What Makes Day and Night* by Franklyn Branley as well as other texts. Students also track their observations of the sun, moon, and stars in pictures and videos in a Sky notebook.

In Unit 3, students use a text to build an understanding of author’s craft and compose a narrative poem.

Strategies that will be used to teach this module include partner work/talk, whole-group, and small group instruction.

Third Grade

Third-grade students are reading “Frogs and Other Slippery Creatures” for this module. With this book they are writing a narrative paragraph response and working with the main idea with supporting details. The Performance task is researching frogs to create a fact card.

The next module is going to be about water and other countries' access to clean water.

The teacher's expectation is for their students to be able to deepen their understanding of nonfiction texts and be able to efficiently be able to locate test answers in a text. According to third-grade teachers, the students are doing well so far, but there is definitely room for improvement.

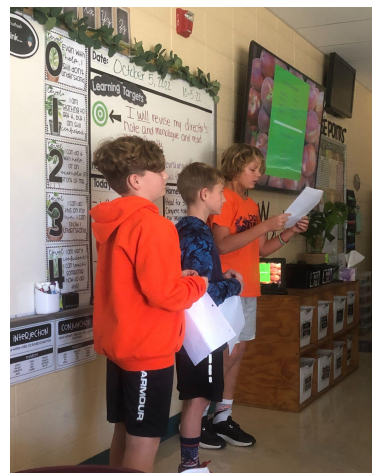


Mr. Karpinko's fifth-graders working on the Module one performance task.

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade just wrapped up “Stories of Human Rights”, their first module of the year, and will be moving on to “Biodiversity in the Rainforest” after Fall Break. During the first module, fifth graders learned about human rights and how the rights of characters in their novel *Esperanza Rising* were threatened. For the performance task, students worked in groups to write and perform monologues, write director’s notes, and create programs for their performances.

In Module 2, students will be learning about biodiversity in the rainforest and writing first-person narratives based on the texts used for the module.



Mrs. Johnson's fifth-graders reading their author's notes and monologues in class.

Talking to a Turkey

By Maleigh Harvey

One day, a girl named Eleanor Clemens was walking. "Gobble gobble!" she heard from a leaf pile. "GOBBLE GOBBLE!" Eleanor walked towards the small leaf pile. "Hello?" She exclaimed. The soft gobbling continued. When she went to uncover what was underneath, a small turkey ran out. "AH!" she yelled. "Hey, I'm not that scary!" something.....or someone replied. Eleanor looked around. "Right here!" the voice yelled. She looked down, and saw the little turkey talking. Eleanor stared at it. "Stop staring girl!!!" the turkey yelled at her. "Y-You're a talking t-turkey!" She stuttered. "Yeah, what's wrong with that?" it asked. "The names Tilly, Tilly turkey. "You're sassy." Eleanor said. "I know, now do you have seeds?" Tilly asked. Eleanor did have some in her pocket. She gave them to Tilly, watching everyone around her. "Now.....can other people hear you?" She asked, scraping off the seeds that stuck to her hand. "Guess not if they haven't turned their heads." Tilly responded. Eleanor gasped. "PEOPLE WILL THINK I'M CRAZY!!!!!" she screamed. That was when people turned their heads. Eleanor's heart was beating in embarrassment. "Lets go." she exclaimed, walking off. Tilly followed. When they got home, Eleanor begged her mom to let Tilly stay. Her mother said yes. That is the story of how Eleanor Clemens met and became friends with a talking turkey named Tilly.



Movie Reviews

By Jade Skiba

Hocus-Pocus 2

Hocus-Pocus 2 is about how teenage girls wake the Sanderson sisters. Before this happened a store worker gave them a box because it was her birthday. They went into the woods, opened the box and it was the black flame candle. They lit the candle and the sisters rose. Now.....you have to watch the movie to find out what happens next!

What I think:

I did enjoy this new movie but I would've liked to see more of the characters from the original movie.

Rating 7.5/10



Book Review



By Kennedy Rogers

Flying Solo by Ralph Fletcher

When the substitute for Mr. Babiano's class never shows up, his students are left on their own. Wanting to be in charge for the day, to prove they can run the class by themselves, they decide not to let anyone know that they are teacherless for the day. What a lot of careful planning, what could go wrong???

Flying Solo is a wonderful book. I enjoyed the way the book was written and laid out. The way the reader gains information about the main character first, then to the least important characters. In my opinion, this is something any author should aspire to.

My overall rating for this book is 8/10.

What's Happening at SES?

Mary Hampton Howell

- 12/5/22: 2nd quarter benchmarks begin
- 12/1/22-12/16/22: 12 days of Christmas (see Laker News email from 11/27)
- 12/14/22: Christmas Lunch
Fifth grade: 10:45-11:30
PreK/DLP: 11:35-12:30
First Grade: 12:15-1:00
Third Grade: 12:45-1:30
- 12/16/22: Christmas Parties: 9:30-10:30
- 12/16/22: Last Day before Christmas break
- 1/4/23: Students return to school

