

March 16, 2020

Message from Michelle Dixon, Principal at Philip R. Smith Elementary School:

I would like to thank you for your patience during this challenging and ever-changing situation. As you may be aware, Governor Lamont has issued an executive order that all public schools across the state will be closed until March 31. As a follow up to that order, Connecticut's Commissioner of Education has communicated that districts should start to think about how to best engage students in distance learning activities, as the duration of our closure could extend beyond this date.

There is a lot of uncertainty at this time. Please know that South Windsor Public Schools staff is working diligently to prepare for the implementation of these learning opportunities. Meanwhile, Dr. Carter's letter on March 13 indicated that we would begin implementing the already established Snow Day Scholar program this week.

Each of the two Snow Day Scholar activity sheets provides 16 activities which can be selected by students this week for a total of 32 activities. Although the original plan was for students to complete 4 activities a day, we encourage students to complete more activities when possible in order to provide lessons that are engaging and maintain a structure for learning. We also encourage students to read (or be read to) for an hour a day in order to maintain and practice their skills. More information and learning activities will be available to you as we finalize them.

The link below will allow you to access the two days of Snow Day Scholar information in the event that you have not received hard copies of the packets. Work does not have to be completed on the activity sheets in the links. If necessary, use a blank sheet of paper. Please be creative. For example, if an activity is to measure snow, you can have your child measure a daffodil stem. If an activity is to build something from snow, have your child use sticks and twigs or Legos to build something. The purpose is to engage children in meaningful activities that encourage creative thinking and help reinforce skills taught in the classroom.

[http://www.southwindsorschools.org/for\\_students/snow\\_day\\_scholars\\_-\\_elementary](http://www.southwindsorschools.org/for_students/snow_day_scholars_-_elementary)

As always, please reach out to me via email if you have any questions. Thank you and stay well.

Fondly, Michelle