Dear Families,

Happy Holidays! I am excited to introduce the winter principal and PTA book choice *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* Carol McCloud, an expert on infant brain research, states in her work “Think of every baby as being born with an invisible bucket.” It is our mission as a faculty to fill the buckets of each and every child that walks through our doors. We are also teaching students to fill the buckets of their classmates, too. This direct instruction has taken place at our building-wide SPLASH assembly. Teachers will carry those lessons into their daily instruction.

How do we teach children to fill someone’s bucket? We encourage them to do the following: Say or do something kind to someone. Smile at other children in the hallway. Be a friend to someone who appears lonely. Donate time or money to a charity that is near and dear to your heart. These are just a few examples of how you can fill someone’s bucket. It is important that we, as adults, model these bucket-filling behaviors for the children.

The idea of bucket-filling stemmed from the PTA and Southdown faculty’s implementation of Random Acts of Kindness Month for the second straight December. I would like to extend my thanks to the PTA and teacher leadership for organizing so many wonderful learning activities for the students.

Listed below are a few additional examples of what we are doing to instill the idea of bucket-filling into the children at Southdown:

Homework - Each child at Southdown is going to receive three leaves. Children will be asked to bring in one of their leaves every Wednesday in
December with an example of how they filled someone's bucket. We will display those leaves on our “kindness tree.” The “kindness tree” was purchased by the PTA and will be displayed in the hallway between the cafeteria doors. Kindergarten will have orange leaves. First graders will have red leaves. Second graders will have dark green leaves. Third graders will have yellow leaves. Fourth graders will have light green leaves.

The newly elected student council will be writing bucket-filling letters to children and/or adults in our community who are need of some kindness.

The PTA has designed and purchased several inspirational posters that encourage bucket filling behaviors. These posters will be displayed throughout the school and will help further our message of kindness.

These are just a few examples of what the combined efforts of teachers and parents can do for our students. We will be doing many more activities that instill the idea of bucket-filling in our students throughout the month of December. It is my hope that children will demonstrate bucket-filling behaviors not just during this month but throughout their entire life!

Thank you all for your unwavering support of the Southdown faculty and staff as we continuously strive to develop well-rounded children.

Sincerely,

Scott Oshrin