



SOUTHEAST NEWS

June 2008

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-1611

Dear Southeast Families,

As our school year draws to a close, we want to thank all of you for your tremendous support and guidance. You have helped us to improve and enrich our programs. I deeply appreciate the time and effort you have given on behalf of the Southeast students.

Once again, I would like to invite you to share your comments regarding how you feel we did in meeting the needs of your children. Please share your reflections with the teachers or me as appropriate.



I extend my best wishes to you and your family for a safe and fun-filled summer. Enjoy!

Sincerely,
Norma Fisher-Doiron

To the Many Volunteers Who Have Helped Us This Year:

You've been so very good to us.
You've been kind in every way.
You've made us treats and helped
On all our special days.
Today we'd like to thank you
For all you've done this year,
And to tell you that you're special
And so very, very dear.
Today we'd like to tell you
In our own special way:
We appreciate the things you've done
More than words can say.



WE APPRECIATE YOU!!!

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day of school for Grades K-4 will be
Friday, June 20th
School will dismiss at 12:45

Preschool Last Days:

A.M. session - June 13th
P.M. session- June 16th

Calendar of Events

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| June 1..... | PTO sponsored CT Defenders Game |  |
| June 2..... | 6:00 Parents' Hour
7:00 PTO Meeting | |
| June 3..... | 9:05-3:10 4th Grade Fieldtrip to Pequot Museum
10:00-1:15 Kindergarten fieldtrip to Bakerwoods Farm | |
| | 3:30-5:00 Expanding Horizons | |
| June 4..... | 8:45-4:00 Scholastic Book Fair | |
| June 5..... | 8:45-4:00 Scholastic Book Fair
9:30-1:00 2nd grade Pen Pal Picnic |  |
| | 3:30-5:00 Expanding Horizons | |
| June 6..... | 8:45-4:00 Scholastic Book Fair
1:15-3:15 Enrichment Clusters
6:30-8:00 Ice Cream Social
(Book Fair will be open during the Ice Cream Social) | |
| June 9..... | 9:00-10:00 Suzuki Performance at Southeast | |
| June 10..... | 9:00-3:00 Book Swap | |
| June 11..... | Fun In Our Own Backyard | |
| June 12..... | Rain date for 2nd Grade picnic
1st Rain date for F.I.O.O.B.Y.
7:30 PM Board of Education Meeting | |
| June 13..... | AM Preschool Last Day of School
1:15-3:15 Enrichment Clusters |  |
| June 15..... | Father's Day | |
| June 16..... | PM Preschool Last Day of School
2:00 Mrs. Latino's Class Play
7:00-9:00 Mrs. Latino's Class Play | |
| June 17..... | Preschool Screening (by appointment)
8:15 AM Enrichment Team meeting
7:00-9:00 4th Grade Moving-On Ceremony | |
| June 18..... | 8:15-8:45 Distance for Dads
2nd Rain date for F.I.O.O.B.Y.
Preschool Screening (by appointment) | |
| June 19..... | Raindate: Distance for Dads | |
| June 20..... | Last Day of School K-4
Early dismissal 12:45
Progress Reports go home |  |

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

Please visit our website www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast



MANY THANKS...

To our parents who volunteer to help during these busy school days. And... of course, thank you to our PTO officers this year:

- President.....Kim O'Keefe
- Vice President.....Kimberly Christenson
- Secretary.....Monique Brown
- Treasurer.....Lesley Sweeney

A special thanks to Andrea Lennon & Wendy Guyette for putting on a spectacular Luau Dance.



Bus Changes for 2008-2009 School Year

Please notify the office as soon as possible of any change in your child's transportation needs. If we do not hear from you, we will continue to use your child's **current** day-to-day arrangements for the upcoming year.

Moving?

As we begin planning for the 2008-2009 school year, it is important to have any information which will give us a better idea of which students will not be at Southeast Elementary next school year. If you will be moving from the Southeast District before next school year, please call the school office and let us know. Not only will this help in our planning, but it will also enable us to facilitate a smooth transition for your child to his or her new school.



Incoming Kindergarteners

Parents of incoming kindergarteners:

Please send in kindergarten physicals and paperwork as soon as possible for the 2008-2009 school year. Make sure that we have proof of residency (rental agreement, utility bill) and original birth certificate (we will make a copy for our records).



Dropping Children Off at School

Parents dropping off children should park in the designated areas of the parking lot on the side of the building and walk with their children into the building. For safety reasons, we cannot allow children to be dropped off in the parking lot.



If you arrive after 8:55, please report to the office to sign your child in. If this is not done, the child may be marked absent.

Congratulations to Mrs. Norma Fisher-Doiron

2008 National Distinguished Principal of the Year for the State of Connecticut



The Southeast family is thrilled to announce that Norma Fisher-Doiron has been selected by the Connecticut Association of Schools as the 2008 National Distinguished Principal for the State of Connecticut.

This award recognizes the outstanding school principal in the state who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, a passion for educational excellence, a commitment to students and staff, and service to the community. Mrs. Fisher-Doiron's warm, nurturing spirit and her belief in the potential of every child have been the catalysts behind the family of students, parents and staff that genuinely care for one another. She leads by example, putting into practice her philosophy that all that happens at Southeast Elementary School must be in the best interests of the students. It is because of this belief that Southeast has become the dynamic and creative family of learners that it is...an environment that nurtures growth in students, staff and parents.

Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Fisher-Doiron for this remarkable achievement and in thanking her for her dedication and service.

Congratulations to Catherine Cranmer and Amelia Strimple

Volunteer teachers across the state have chosen to publish "The Moon Shone Brightly on a Starry Night," a piece of writing by 2nd grade student, Catherine Cranmer in the *Connecticut Student Writer*. This statewide magazine was established in 1988 to recognize excellence in student writing, K-12. An Honorable Mention was awarded to 3rd grade student, Amelia Strimple. This year, over 1,200 pieces were submitted. To have their pieces chosen from this group of talented writers is a credit to both girls, their families, their teachers and to our school.



A recognition ceremony was held at the Jorgenson Auditorium on May 20th where Catherine and Amelia were each presented with a certificate of merit and copy of the magazine.

We are so proud of you, Catherine and Amelia.



PTO Updates & Events:

2008-2009 PTO Officers

President.....Kim O'Keefe
 Vice President.....Andrea Lennon
 Secretary.....Monique Brown
 Treasurer.....Lesley Sweeney

Disney Luau Dance Wrap-Up

On Friday, April 28th, the Southeast Gym was transformed into a Hawaiian Disney World! The DJ played a great selection of music and there were little dancing pirates & princesses everywhere? We had a great turnout and all the kids had an amazing time.

We were able to surprise Mrs. Fisher-Doiron with a little gift for becoming Connecticut's Principal of the Year and crowned her "Queen of the Dance".

We were able to collect a number of wonderful things to send to our troops. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

A BIG thank you to Julie Brown, Jenny & Sean Cassell, Kim Christenson, Kimberly Clark, Ken Guyette, Pat Hawthorne, Patti Jajliardo, Robert Lennon, Karen Mitlitsky, Margaret Morrison, Kelly Murphy, Kim O'Keefe, Cookie Sabo, Jennifer Schletter, and Irene Sheehan for helping to decorate & clean up the gym, collect the donations, pass out hand-outs, take luau photos, paint faces and man the water table. It was all of your efforts that helped us put together such a great event!



We would also like to thank Mr. Dieter, Brownie Troop #65030 and Junior Girl Scout Troop #65577 for creating such a beautiful Cinderella's Castle, and the TV Turn-off Week Committee for their prize donations.

~Andrea Lennon & Wendy Guyette

The Tag Sale was a Big Success!

We raised over \$1600 at this year's tag sale. The event couldn't have been possible without the amazing help of the following people: Bill Bradley, Lisa Cackowski, Louanne Cooley, Dave Delaney, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Kristy Emery, Kim Ewalt, Katherine Salai, Pat Hawthorne, Patti Jajliardo, Kim O'Keefe, Andrea Lennon, Karen Mitlitsky, Andrea Newton, Betsy Parker, Karen Porter, Jen Schletter, Karen Sommer, Martin Sommer, Esther Soffer-Roberts, Heather Spottiswoode, Lesley Sweeney, Ruth Washington, and Jim Pender's Boy Scout Troop #61.

We would also like to thank Brian McCarthy at the Home Selling Team for allowing us to use his moving van and signs and Jenny and Sean Cassells for their donation of bottled water.

Thank you to everyone who donated so many wonderful items.



Southeast PTO Annual

Ice Cream Social

Friday June 6th

6:30 - 8:00 PM

\$2.00 per person

What a great way to share a Friday night! Bring a picnic dinner for your family if you wish. Families and friends are welcome to attend. This event will be held rain or shine.

All proceeds to benefit the Southeast PTO fund.

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

Contact Kim O'Keefe at 429-6711

Scholastic Book Fair

June 4th, 5th & 6th

8:45 - 4:00

(and also during the Ice Cream Social)



Book Fair week is a very exciting time for our school and we'd love for you to join us in making it a success. We invite you to participate in this celebration of reading, which raises funds for our school.

We are looking for volunteers to help out during the Book Fair. Contact our Book Fair Chairperson, Ruth Washington at 477-0096 or email ruth.washington@uconn.edu.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

On Wednesday, May 7th, the PTO held its annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the Staff Lounge. We were able to surprise the staff with a catered-like affair that seemed to please them immensely.

I'd like to thank all of the families for the foods that they prepared and dropped off.

A special thank you to Moon Bae, Nanette Bidwell, Wendy Guyette, Karen Mitlitsky, Margaret Morrison, and Richelle Strimple for all of their hard work in preparing, serving and cleaning up. An extra thank you to Cookie Sabo for her cooking and providing all of the chafing dishes.

We could not have fulfilled this event without the help and support of Maureen Gagne in the kitchen. She was a tremendous help!

We have received numerous thanks and compliments from the staff, my response is this:

"What we did for you, we did for one day. You spend every day of the school year teaching, guiding and protecting our children. It was our pleasure to do this for you."

~ Andrea Lennon

Stories for Southeast

The Gift That Keeps on Giving



We would like to thank the individuals below for their purchase of the following books for our school library:

- Rosie's Family ... From Spencer and Jacob Gormley to welcome their new sister, Madison
- The Grand Canyon ... For Keith Dixon on his 8th birthday. From Mom, Dad and Fiona
- Family Fun Cooking with Kids ...Dedicated to Our Wonderful Brownie Troop Leaders Wendy Guyette and Richelle Strimple for all their efforts in 2008 to give our Brownies so many wonderful experiences togetherLove, Brownie Troop #65030
- Our Principal Promised to Kiss a PigTo Mrs. Norma Fisher-Doiron.... In recognition for National Principal of the year... Thank you for all you do for our school.... From The Southeast P.T.O.
- Birdhouse for RentTo Mrs. Norma Fisher-Doiron.... In recognition for National Principal of the year... Thank you for all you do for our school.... From The Southeast P.T.O.
- Backyard Bird Watching for Kids: How to Attract, Feed and Provide Homes for BirdsTo Mrs. Norma Fisher-Doiron.... In recognition for National Principal of the year... Thank you for all you do for our school.... From The Southeast P.T.O.
- The Audubon Backyard Birdwatcher: Birdfeeders and Bird GardensTo Mrs. Norma Fisher-Doiron.... In recognition for National Principal of the year... Thank you for all you do for our school.... From The Southeast P.T.O.
- Sailing Days To Mrs. Beth Latino... Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement.... From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- Solo Sailing To Mrs. Beth Latino.... Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School Congratulations on your retirement.... From the Southeast P.T.O.
- Readers on Stage: Resources for Reader's Theater To Mrs. Beth Latino.... Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School Congratulations on your retirement.... From the Southeast P.T.O.
- Cam Jansen and the School Play Mystery To Mrs. Beth Latino.... Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement. ... From the Southeast P.T.O.
- A Bear and his Boy ...Dedicated to Vicki Daniels..... Congratulations on the birth of your 1st grandchild, Joshua Mason Daniels.....With love from Nancy and Jane.
- Campfire Mallory ... To Jr. Girl Scout Leader, Suzanne Crosthwaite Thank you for your time and energy, your kindness and for showing us how to be tomorrow's leaders! From Junior Girl Scout Troop 65577

If you are interested in purchasing a book for our library, please contact Linda Sydie at 423-1282 or email at lsydie@snet.net for more information.



This year Southeast Elementary School will be having FUN IN OUR OWN BACKYARD— a day filled with games, relays, and other activities on our school grounds.

Following our routine morning activities in classrooms, the BACKYARD festivities will begin at 9:30 a.m. Children will participate in games, relays, and other activities throughout the morning. At the conclusion of the morning activities, lunch and recess, children will participate in afternoon activities.

- Please send your child to school dressed to be active and outside for the entire day. Comfortable play clothes are suggested.
- Your child WILL BE getting wet, so please send a change of clothes.
- SNEAKERS ARE REQUIRED as they are for Physical Education, so no other shoe apparel, please.
- A hat, if already owned, is good protection from the sun.
- SUNSCREEN MUST BE APPLIED AT HOME.

Parents are welcome and needed to help with our activities. Help is especially needed from 9:15 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. If you are able to lend a hand, please call and leave your name with Betsy Parker at 423-1611 ext. 125. Come and join in the fun!

We are looking forward to a lot of fun and excitement at FUN IN OUR OWN BACKYARD.

(Raindates will be Thursday, June 12th & June 18th)

CALLING ALL GARDENERS



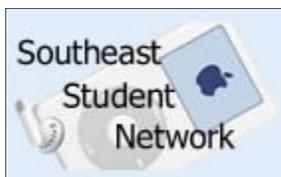
Help is needed to maintain our gardens over the summer. If you have a "green thumb" or like to garden, let us know if you might be able to help look after our school gardens. Make it a family event and bring your children. We'd like to set up a schedule so that the gardens can maintain their lustrous look during the summer months. Send a note with your child to school, e-mail, or leave a voice message with Cheryl Hathway (ext. 112) or Sue Kamienski (ext. 115). Thank you!

hathwaych@mansfieldct.org
kamienskise@mansfieldct.org

Have you visited our website lately?

Here is just a sample of what you'll find:

- [Principal's Message](#)
- [About Our School & Mission Statement](#)
- [Certified Staff Directory](#)
- [Kindergarten Info. and Administrative Guidelines](#)
- [PTO](#)
- [Handbooks](#)
- [Lunch Menu](#)
- [Internet Safety](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Yearly Calendar](#)
- [Library Media Center](#)
- [Student Work](#)
- [Family Enrichment](#)
- [Reference Tools & iCONN Digital Library](#)
- [School Newsletters](#)
- [Forms](#)
- [Board of Ed. Information for Parents & Students](#)
- [Delays and Closings](#)
- [School Bus Routes](#)
- [Directions](#)
- [Staff Technology Trouble Ticket System](#)
- [ProTraxx Teacher Professional Development Management System](#)



Also included are links to the following sites:

- Town of Mansfield
- Mansfield Public Schools
- Goodwin and Vinton Elementary Schools
- Mansfield Middle School
- E.O. Smith High School

www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast

Put us in your favorites!



Seeking Adoption...

The Mansfield Public Works department is looking for families to join the "Adopt-A-Road" program. The goal of Adopt-A-Road is to keep the amount of Mansfield's roadside litter to a minimum. Of the 104 miles of roads in Mansfield, 115 individuals have adopted roughly 34 miles of road.

We need more help, and what a great opportunity for Southeast School families. Not only is it good exercise to take a walk, it is a suitable family activity that teaches the value of community service and caring for our environment. *It is easy to participate.*

Participants decide what portion of a road they want to look after and how often they want to go through the area. By adopting a road you do not get charged for bags of litter at the transfer station or, if you have trash and recycling collection service, bags of roadside litter can be placed next to your household trash (no limit restriction on the bags of litter). Our preference is that littered cans and bottles are recycled and kept separate from the trash.

To sign-up, contact the Mansfield Recycling Coordinator at 429-3333 or send an e-mail to waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.

Have you heard about Radio Southeast?

Mr. Hendricks and Mrs. Irvine work with Southeast students to create a radio-like broadcast that is posted on the Southeast web site for families to hear at home. Students write scripts and record audio using a computer and the audio is then pieced together to create a podcast or radio-like show. Some mini-episodes are also created to showcase student work such as poems and stories. Mr. Hendricks and Mrs. Irvine received a grant in 2006 from the Connecticut Association for the Gifted (CAG) to purchase more equipment and expand the Radio Southeast program to include more students and staff.



Inkaswasi Visits Southeast

Early in May, Southeast students and staff felt like they were transported to the Andes Mountains of Peru with the professional musicians and dancers of "Inkaswasi".

These descendents of the Incas came in present day elaborate traditional handmade costumes covered in the colors of the rainbow. They danced and taught the children steps of the "Huayno", the dance included in many Andean celebrations. They played "sikus", which are similar to pan flutes, ranging dramatically in sizes from tiny to huge.

Third and fourth grade students attended a hands-on "museum" workshop in addition to the school-wide assembly. They played many types of percussion instruments, checked out the large collection of Peruvian hats known as "chullos", learned about the history of the Incas and the Inca empire at Machu Picchu, and they even saw the skin of an anaconda that was nine feet long!

This spectacular day was made possible by the generosity of our own Southeast PTO. With their support, student learning was enriched through this unique multicultural event. Thanks PTO!



Games, Puzzles, Art Supplies Needed



In Mrs. deVecchis' class, we are talking about problem-solving in our community. Mrs. Irvine helped us brainstorm some ways that we can help our Southeast community.

One problem we thought of was that there were not enough games and activities to play with for first and second grade indoor recess, so we are trying to get more games and activities for indoor recess. To help us with this, we are asking Southeast families to donate used games, puzzles, and art supplies that are appropriate for first and second graders.

We surveyed the first and second graders and made a list of their favorites. We would love to have Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, Scrabble, Monopoly, Boggle, Connect Four, Checkers, Dominoes, Sorry, Trouble and construction materials like Legos, books, activity pages like connect-the-dots. Please make sure that there are no broken or missing pieces.



Thank you for helping us!



3K Night of Sharing

Wednesday, June 4th
6:00-7:00

Ms. Kamienski's third grade class will celebrate learning by having a "Night of Sharing" to be held in Ms. K's Room #15 and in the Computer Lab. All of her parents are invited as well as anyone who would like to hear some wonderful student stories, autobiographies, and see Power Point presentations of their biographies..

We hope to see you there!

*We wish you and
your families a
safe and
happy
summer.*



Plan Ahead....

First day of school for
2008-2009 School Year:

Wednesday, August 27th

For a copy of the 2008-2009 school year calendar,

log on to our website at:

www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast