



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

## February - March 2009

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

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Once again it is time to schedule our Kindergarten Registration and Parent Orientation meetings. We are asking your help in identifying all children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2009-2010 school year.

If you have a child, or know of a child, who will be five years old on or before January 1, 2010, please contact the school office at 423-1611. We are in the process of gathering all names and addresses in order to send out invitations to the functions necessary to register your child.

Please feel free to call the school office with any question you may have.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Fondly,  
Norma Fisher-Doiron

### Connecticut Mastery Test



We will begin our testing sessions of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) for grades 3 and 4 on March 2nd. Test sessions will include testing in the areas of math, reading/language arts and writing. We hope to have all testing sessions completed by March 10. Make-up dates will be March 11-19.

We ask that you help us by seeing that your child has enough sleep each night, a good breakfast, and that you provide support by realizing this is a somewhat stressful time for children. We will provide some practice tests in order to familiarize the children with the kinds of test questions and procedures used on the CMT.

If you have any questions regarding CMT testing, please feel free to call.

### School Bell and Dropping Children Off

Our school bell system has been reinstated. The bell will ring at 8:55 in the morning to start off our school day. Any student arriving after the bell will be marked tardy and must be signed in by a parent, at the office.

To ensure the safety of each student, children must be escorted into the building by an adult (per school policy, page 9 of the Southeast Parent Handbook). We need to work together to ensure the safety of all students and appreciate your effort and cooperation.



### Calendar of Events

#### February

- Feb. 2..... Groundhog Day  
6:00 Parents' Hour- Judy Stoughton  
7:00 PTO Meeting 
- Feb. 5..... Board of Education meeting to be held at Southeast  
7:00 building walk-through 7:30 meeting
- Feb. 6..... 4th grade students- NAEP Testing
- Feb. 12..... Lincoln's Birthday - School in Session
- Feb. 13..... Trestle Tree ends
- Feb. 14..... Valentine's Day 
- Feb. 16 - 20..... February Vacation - **NO SCHOOL**
- Feb. 22..... Washington's Birthday  
Family Skate at UCONN rink 
- Feb. 24..... 9:45-10:15 K-2 Assembly, Captain Super Tooth  
3:30 - 5:00 Green Thumbs Club
- Feb. 27..... CMT Practice Test

#### March

- Mar. 2 - 10..... 9:00 CMT Testing - 3rd & 4th grades 
- Mar. 8..... Daylight Savings Time begins 
- Mar. 9..... 6:00 Parents' Hour - Joanne Freiberg  
7:00 PTO Meeting - elect new officers 
- Mar. 11 - 19..... Make-up testing for CMT
- Mar. 17..... St. Patrick's Day  
3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club 
- Mar. 23..... Professional Development Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- Mar. 26..... 11:00-12:00 Assembly, Healthy Choices

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 -



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

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

Please visit our website [www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast](http://www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast)



### Southeast Student Leaders

On Thursday, January 8, 2009, five Southeast School fourth graders attended the Connecticut Association of Schools Elementary Student Leadership Conference at Asnuntuck Community College. Tyler Carroll, Lizzie Velazquez, Tariq Ali, Chloe Gibson, and Sagan Hayes represented Southeast along with approximately 300 other student leaders from around Connecticut. These Southeast students attended workshops about Productive Thinking, Communication and Decision Making. Highlights of the day for the students included: meeting kids from many different towns and making new friends; developing the courage to speak in front of a group; discovering new things about how to be a positive leader; and interacting with interesting instructors, especially the Connecticut high school student leaders. Southeast is quite involved in this unique and exciting event. Mrs. Fisher-Doiron is on the planning board for the conference and, in addition to sending student leaders and chaperones to the conference, Southeast teachers are some of the instructors as well. This year second grade teacher Mr. Maheu and Mansfield's Recycling Coordinator Mrs. Walton introduced productive thinking about the environment while second grade teacher Mrs. Brennan and enrichment teacher Mrs. Irvine led student leaders in communication activities. The students are very excited to use their new ideas and put their leadership skills to work at Southeast.



### ARTISTS NEEDED

As part of our **National Distinguished Principal Celebration** we are looking for artists for a special project. If you are one or know of one please contact Joan Carr for more information. She can be reached at 423-1611 ext. 124 or send an email to [joan.carr@mansfieldct.org](mailto:joan.carr@mansfieldct.org).

### THANK YOU!

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you for all the generosity and support given to us by Southeast School and it's families.



~The Harakaly family

## Mansfield Board of Education Meeting to discuss proposed budget and Four Schools Project

We invite you to attend the BOE meeting to be held on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 5th. At 7:00 Mrs. Fisher-Doiron will conduct a tour of the school for Board members and anyone else interested. The meeting will begin at 7:30 and will consist of a regular BOE agenda. Portions of the 2009-2010 proposed budget will be discussed, as well as an update on the Four Schools Building Project. In addition, the parent organizations will be invited to share with the Board what they have been doing to help support their school and, as always, there are two opportunities for the public to speak.

We hope you will be able to join us at this meeting.

Mary V. Feathers  
Chair

Frederick A. Baruzzi  
Superintendent

### Dates to Remember

Budget Review, MBOE	Jan. 22 - Feb. 5	7:30 pm
Budget Review, Town Council	Mar. 26 - Apr. 9	Varies
Public Information Session	April 2	7:00 pm
Public Hearing	April 13	7:30 pm
Council Adoption of Budget	April 16	7:00 pm
Public Information Session	April 23	7:00 pm
Region 19 Budget Referendum	May 5	INSERT
Annual Town Meeting	May 12	7:00 pm

### Dates & Times Subject to Revision

Check [www.mansfieldct.org](http://www.mansfieldct.org) for locations & other meeting information.

### From the Green Thumbs Club

JUNK MAIL: Are you tired of getting so much junk mail? Here are some tips to reduce the amount of junk mail you receive:

Send a letter to:

Mail Preference Service  
Direct Marketing Association  
PO Box 9008  
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008



State: "Please remove my name from your mailing list. Do not lend, sell or trade my name to any other organization." List all the various ways that your name and address typically appear on mailing labels.

One way to stop receiving unwanted catalogs is to log on to <http://catalogchoice.org>. This is a quick, user-friendly, and convenient site for removing your name from catalog mailing lists.

If you don't want to receive Valpak coupons, you can remove your name and address from their mailing list by going to [coxtarget.com](http://coxtarget.com) and click on "Contact us." Then follow the link and look to the bottom of the page for another link to "Mailing Address Removal Request Form." You can always visit [val-uepak.com](http://val-uepak.com) and print out only the coupons you need.



## 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:

- How Soccer Works ... For Finn, Tessa & Annie Morrison.... From, Mom and Dad
- Henny Penny .... Happy 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday Carly Schaefer ... From, Mom
- Stink and the Incredible Super-Galactic Jawbreaker ...For Brandon Colburn on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday ... From, Mom

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

## SACCNE- Before & After School Program

Before and after school childcare is available at our school through the School Age Childcare Programs of Northeast Connecticut (SACCNE). For further information please call the SACCNE Executive Director, Jean Bell at 455-0545. Brochures and applications are available in our school office.



# THANK YOU

We would like to thank you for the beautiful hats, scarves and mittens. As a result of your kindness, the holidays were a special occasion for many families of Mansfield Youth Services.

You are all very special and we want you to know that your contribution made a difference.

~Pat and Kathy, Mansfield Youth Services

## PARENTS' HOUR

February 2, 2009  
6:00 PM  
In Room 20

### "Blueprint for Mansfield's Children"

A grant-funded project that addresses the needs of children birth to age 8 in the areas of health, education and community connectedness. Learn about the project, who is involved and what has been done so far, and what has been identified as the main issues we think concern Mansfield families.

Community feedback is greatly needed.



Presented by  
**Judy Stoughton**  
Member of MAC Leadership Work

This presentation is open to all parents/guardians of the Southeast community.

Childcare will be available in Room 21.  
Refreshments will be served: Pizza & Juice

Please call the office at 423-1611 to arrange for childcare.

**P.T.O. Meeting to follow at 7:00 PM**



## PTO Happenings:

### FAMILY SKATE AT UCONN

Lace up your skates! The PTO will be hosting its annual Family Skate at the Mark Freitas Ice Arena at UCONN on Sunday, February 22, 2009 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Join us for a slip-sliding good time! There is no charge for this event. Bring your own skates or rent them at the rink for \$4.00.



### PTO OFFICER ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT PTO MEETING on MARCH 9th

After serving the Southeast PTO over the last few years, Kim O'Keefe, President, Monique Brown, Vice President and Leslie Sweeney, Treasurer, will be moving on with their children to the Middle School at the end of this school year.

Therefore, the PTO will be holding Officer Elections for President, Vice President and Treasurer at the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 PTO Meeting. This will allow the current officers enough time to train the new, incoming officers before moving on.

If you are interested in running for an office position, please speak with a current PTO officer or attend the February and March PTO meetings.

### USED CLOTHING FUND DRIVE

Starting to do some spring cleaning? Don't throw out those unwanted clothes, shoes, belts, handbags, curtains, or linens yet! As part of this year's school dance, the S.E. PTO will be collecting used clothing during the week of April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>. We have made arrangements with A&E Clothing Corp, a corporation who distributes the items to less fortunate countries, to pay us a fee per pound of items collected. Funds raised will be donated to the Harakaly Family.

### TAG SALE ORGANIZERS NEEDED

The Tag Sale is an annual fundraiser that has brought in significant funds for Southeast in the past. However, the enormous task of organizing the Tag Sale usually falls upon one person. This year, we would like to delegate the various tasks among a few organizers. The intended date for the Tag Sale this year is Sat., May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.



If you would like to take part in the organization of this fundraiser, please contact Andrea Lennon, VP, at 455-2100 or via email @ [stevlen4@charter.net](mailto:stevlen4@charter.net). This event may be cancelled if we do not have enough volunteers.

### Keep those BOX TOPS coming!

So far we've earned \$193.50 for our school.



## Notes from the Health Room

Vicki Daniels, RN 423-2793



### FEBRUARY IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Oral health is a vital component of a child's overall health. By providing a healthy diet, minimizing the consumption of sweets, cleaning a child's teeth twice a day, and getting early dental examinations, a child can have a happy, healthy smile.

Some great websites to check out are:

[www.healthyteeth.org](http://www.healthyteeth.org) From baby teeth to braces, Healthy Teeth is all about what goes on inside your mouth. Produced by dentists for elementary aged kids curious about the "why?" of oral health.

[www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org) KidsHealth has separate areas for kids, teens, and parents - each with its own design, age-appropriate content, and tone. There are literally thousands of in-depth features, articles, animations, games, and resources - all original and all developed by experts in the health of children and teens.

### "Shine Your Smile Day" is Coming in April

We have invited Mobile Dentists/Smile Programs to bring it's on-site preventative dental services for all Mansfield schools in April. We know how important good oral health is to our children's overall general health.

The team will set up a mini-dental office in a school to be designated and can provide *dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, x-rays and sealants (if necessary)* for children.

The Mobile Dentist/Smile Programs provide these services to families who need financial assistance with *subsidized fees* for those who choose to pay for the preventative care. Even children with insurance can be seen if they have no personal dentist. No child is ever turned away from the program because of financial need.

Registration forms must be returned ASAP.

Learn more about this program by visiting its website:

[www.mobiledentists.com](http://www.mobiledentists.com)

or contact Vicki Daniels at 423-2793.



### FEBRUARY IS ALSO HEALTHY HEART MONTH



Cardiac health is an important issue all year long, but with February designated as "Heart Month" we have listed some great websites filled with healthy tips:

[www.healthiergeneration.org/kids](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/kids) Lots of entertaining and interactive activities for kids.

[www.Americanheart.org](http://www.Americanheart.org) Learn more about the AHA's efforts to reduce death caused by cardiovascular disease.

[www.deliciousdecisions.org](http://www.deliciousdecisions.org) You can have it all: delicious, nutritious food and better health.

### MARCH IS NUTRITION MONTH

In today's world of fast food, convenience foods, fad diets, diet drinks, and diet bars simple nutrition seems a thing of the past. However, this month is National Nutrition Month, so let's get back to the basics and celebrate nutrition.

The key principles of good nutrition are:

- eating regular meals and snacks
- including at least five servings of fruit or vegetables per day
- including two servings of milk per day
- eating high fiber foods
- limiting fats and sweets



Try to follow these basics during March and see if you don't feel better, enjoy food more, and maybe even lose a little weight!

### Recess and Winter Weather



Now that cold weather is here, dressing your child appropriately for the weather is important. Students will be sent outdoors for recess, weather permitting. It is important for the students to go out in the fresh air and exercise. Please be sure your child has a winter coat, gloves or mittens and hat. For your child's comfort please include boots, snow pants and an extra pair of dry socks when there is snow on the ground. Boots and snow pants are required for any child wishing to play in the snow.

*Thank you for your extra effort .*

### Save on Eyeglasses

A Southeast parent reports that you can obtain reduced prices for glasses at [zennioptical.com](http://zennioptical.com). They offer complete single vision eyeglasses starting at \$8.00.

Check their website for more information.



### Stop & Shop Offering Free Antibiotics

Starting January 2 and continuing through March 21, Stop & Shop pharmacy is offering up to a 14-day supply of the most commonly prescribed generic antibiotics for free. Simply bring in your valid prescription from your doctor.



This special service is part of their health and wellness initiative. For more information log onto their website:

[www.stopandshop.com/antibiotics](http://www.stopandshop.com/antibiotics)