



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

## April - May 2009

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

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is finally spring! It's true...no more snow, lots of sunshine and plenty of mild weather to keep us all happy.

We have many upcoming events to keep us busy for the next few months. We hope you can join us for these planned activities. Please save the attached calendar of events so you can refer to it through the month of April and May.

Kindergarten Registration and Screening is scheduled in April. We will meet with our incoming kindergarteners and their parents in a few weeks. If there are families in your neighborhood who have children who are ready to enter kindergarten, please ask them to call our school office to be sure their children are on our list for the 2009-10 school year.

Have a great spring!

With regards,

Norma Fisher-Doiron

### Parents of Incoming Kindergarteners

Kindergarten Screening and Registration will be held on April 16th. If you have not yet made your appointment for registration and screening, please call the office at 423-1611. Please remember to turn in your Physical forms to the nurse before June 30, 2009. Southeast Preschoolers entering Kindergarten do not need to attend registration and screening.



### PICKING CHILDREN UP FROM SCHOOL



Please remember to send a written note in with your child if you will need to pick him/her up from school early or unscheduled at the end of the day. This will eliminate any confusion at dismissal time and assure your child's safety.

Phone calls, e-mails and/or faxes cause interruptions of the classroom and are not reliable or acceptable ways to notify the teacher or the office.

**Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.**

### Calendar of Events

#### April

- Apr. 6..... 4th Gr. Art Field trip to Florence Griswold Museum  
7:00 PTO Meeting
- Apr. 8..... Passover begins at Sunset 
- Apr. 10..... **NO SCHOOL** - Good Friday
- Apr. 12..... Easter 
- Apr. 14..... 7:00 Internet Awareness Presentation at MMS
- Apr. 16..... Kindergarten Visit/Screening- by appointment  
7:00 Board of Education Meeting  
Passover ends at nightfall
- Apr. 20-24..... **NO SCHOOL** - Spring Vacation 
- Apr. 22..... Administrative Professionals Day
- Apr. 27-30..... T.V. Turn-off week 
- Apr. 28..... 3:30 Green Thumbs Club  
6:30 Family Math Night
- Apr. 29..... Talent Show
- Apr. 30..... 9:00 SE Hosts Sweeney School, Windham 3rd Grade  
9:15-10:15 Grades K-2 Space Presentation  
10:30-11:30 Grades 3-4 Space Presentation 

#### May

- May 1..... 6:00-7:30 School Dance- Southeast Goes Galactic
- May 4..... 6:00 Parents' Hour- Joanne Freiberg  
7:00 PTO Meeting 
- May 4 - 8..... Special Persons' Week  
Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 7..... 7:00 Board of Education Meeting
- May 8..... PreK & K Special Person's Day  
9:00- 3C & 3K Bowling Field trip   
1:00- 3H Bowling Field trip  
4th Grade visits Mansfield Middle School
- May 10..... Mother's Day 
- May 12..... Town Meeting- Vote on Budget
- May 16..... Southeast Tag Sale
- May 19..... 3:30 Green Thumbs Club 
- May 25..... NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day 
- May 26..... 3:30-4:30- MMS 4th Grade Parent Tea
- May 28..... 9:00 Third Grade Field trip to UConn  
Incoming Kindergartener Bus Visit 

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

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

## Science Fair and Invention Convention

The annual Southeast School Science Fair and Invention Convention was held on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Many families came to support our student scientists and inventors and to celebrate their hard work and creativity!

Each student who participated received a ribbon and a certificate at the end of the evening. Our judges selected three inventors to represent Southeast School at the Connecticut Invention Convention on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at The University of Connecticut.

They are:



- Carlie Cassells in Mr. Warinsky's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class for her "Easy Auto Pump" invention that automatically waters your Christmas Tree or other plants.
- Max Rueckl in Mr. Hendricks' 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class for his "Minivan Slider Thingamajig" invention to move items from the front to the back of a minivan.
- Brian Adamson in Mr. Warinsky's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class for his "SRD" the Snow Removal Device that clears snow from wheelchair wheels.

Congratulations to these students and all who participated at Science Night!

Thank you to all families who helped their children with their projects and to all the teachers and staff who supported this event.

## School Bell and Tardiness



Our school bell system has been reinstated. The bell will ring at 8:55 in the morning to start off our school day. Students should be in their classrooms by 8:55.

Any student arriving after the morning bell will be marked tardy and must be signed in at the office by a parent. Failure to sign your child in may result in him/her being marked absent.

Note: Please remember that parents bringing children to school should park in the designated areas of the parking lot on the side of the building and walk with their children into the building at the Arts Wing entrance. For safety reasons, we cannot allow children to be dropped off in the parking lot.

## NEW Join Southeast School's E-mail and Text Messaging Lists

Southeast Elementary School uses the QNotify Messaging Service to enhance communication with families via e-mail and cell phone or pager messaging. You can sign-up to receive free notices from Southeast Elementary School informing you of announcements about school events and groups.

This service is free of charge and signing-up is fast and easy. You can enter e-mail addresses and/or cellular devices. You choose which addresses receive only emergency or priority notifications and which addresses receive all notifications. There is no cost to sign-up for this service (your phone provider's normal text messaging charges will apply if you sign-up your cellular device). Your contact information will never be sold or distributed, and there is no advertising attached to this service.

We encourage you to sign up for this service. We think that it will help us to communicate with you more effectively. Thank you for your participation!

## Internet Awareness for Parents and Educators



presented by:

**Thomas Lawler**  
Supervisory Special Agent, FBI

Tuesday, April 14th  
7:00-8:00 PM

Mansfield Middle School Auditorium

This presentation covers the topics of Child Predators and Cyber Bullies and offers awareness regarding Internet threats as well as strategies for parents and educators to help protect children who use the internet.

Parents from surrounding towns are welcome to participate. There is no charge to attend this presentation.

## Calling All Gardeners



**Help!** Our gardens have become more than we can handle. The Southeast garden committee is looking for volunteers to help us weed and maintain our gardens. Any interested volunteers should contact Cheryl Hathway or Sue Kamienski at 423-1611.

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

## Waste-Free Snacks

Our entire school put our best feet forward last month to help reduce the amount of waste we produce here at Southeast. Throughout the month of February, students were encouraged to bring in waste-free snacks, or snacks packed in reusable containers, so they produced no garbage from packaging. Every day that a student brought in a waste-free snack, their name was entered into a raffle to win a Bento laptop lunchbox. Winners of the lunchboxes included first grader Noah Hanka, and second graders Taoufik Oucha, Jack Molloy and Isabelle White (pictured here), third grader Hyunmin Lee, and fourth grader Lizzie Velazquez. Congratulations to our winners and to our entire Southeast Community! Overall we brought in a total of 1,446 waste-free snacks!

Although our raffle is over, we hope that students will continue to participate in the waste-free initiative to help save the environment and to help Southeast be more green! Keep up the good work!



## International Pot Luck Dinner

On March 24th, the English as a Second Language Program hosted an International Potluck Dinner. Close to 50 people attended and brought a variety of delicious food from countries such as China, Korea, Poland, Japan, Canada, France, Turkey, Ireland and the U.S.A. It was fun to taste so many different foods. Thank you to all who attended and shared their food with us.

I would greatly appreciate it if those families can send in recipes since so many people do request them. I am considering putting together an international cookbook.

Thank you again for a wonderful turnout and great food.

Nancy Armstrong  
ESL Teacher



## 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 Basketball Works ... For Gabriel Mindek on his 9th Birthday... From Mom and Dad
- Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes ... In Loving Memory of Jane Walsh, mother of Mary Angeloff. She loved children and reading to them..... From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- Who's Been Here? A Tale in Tracks ... In Loving Memory of Jane Walsh, mother of Mary Angeloff. She loved children and reading to them..... From The Southeast PTO
- New Socks .... In Loving Memory of Jane Walsh, mother of Mary Angeloff. She loved children and reading to them..... From The Southeast Staff

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

## From the Green Thumbs Club



On behalf of the Southeast Energy Committee, we would like to remind you to please refrain from using the Handicap door system unless it is necessary. These doors stay open for approximately 15 seconds and a large amount of heat escapes as wasted energy.

Steps have been taken to reduce the amount of energy we use at school. There is a district-wide effort to close blinds and shut off lights at night to reduce energy loss. Thermostats are being updated to more efficiently regulate heat and motion-sensing lights are being adjusted. We are also putting new door flaps on the underside of exterior doors to reduce heat-loss. Please help us in our endeavor to reduce the amount of energy we use at Southeast!

Southeast's Recycling Center is now collecting and recycling Brita Pitcher Filters! Please deposit any of your used filters in the designated bin of the recycling center, located in the Fine Arts hallway. As a reminder, we also recycle cell phones, batteries, ink cartridges, sneakers, and technological items. Thank you!



## Sign Up For Clean Energy

The Green Thumbs Club would like to encourage the community to sign up for clean energy. For the past few months we have been learning all about renewable energy and its benefits. We learned that by signing up for CTCleanEnergyOptions through Connecticut Light & Power the Town of Mansfield can earn solar panels to help power our schools. We have already earned some panels and they are helping to power E.O. Smith High School. Clean energy *does* cost a little bit more, but by signing up you are helping our town to become more eco-friendly. If you and your family are interested in signing up for CTCleanEnergyOptions you can visit [cl-p.com](http://cl-p.com) and click on CT Clean Energy Options on the bottom of the left hand menu.

## Mansfield Loves to Read

Did you know that Mrs. Tinnel, one of our Mansfield librarians, has a blog? It's called Mansfield Loves To Read and it includes posts about great new books, library events, book reviews and more. Best of all, Mrs. Tinnel has featured some Southeast writers blogging about their favorite books. Check it out by logging on to: <http://mansfieldlovestoread.blogspot.com/>

Have you seen Ethan and Emily Eagle's blog? Ethan and Emily are Southeast's mascots and they write about items of interest to eagles and about some great things happening at Southeast. Read their blog at:

<http://southeasteagles.blogspot.com/>  
Don't miss Mrs. Fisher-Doiron's blog at [mrsfisherdoiron.blogspot.com](http://mrsfisherdoiron.blogspot.com) which includes all the celebrations we have enjoyed in honor of Mrs. Fisher-Doiron's National Distinguished Principal award this year.



## Have you checked out our website lately? [www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast](http://www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast)

Here is just a sample of all of the information available:

### Links:

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



### What's New?

- Next Day Off: [Good Friday](#) (Friday, April 10)
- [QNotify Email and Text Messaging Notifications](#)
- [Progress Reports Parent Guides](#)
- [Science Fair](#) and [Invention Convention](#) Information
- [Internet Safety/Awareness Presentation & Links](#) (Tues., April 14 @ MMS)
- [Mansfield Public Schools Curriculum Connections](#)

### Calendar of Events

## Happy Belated Chinese New Year!

The children have been busy making their Dragon, which was proudly paraded through the halls of Southeast. They also learned a few Chinese characters, shared traditional red envelopes with chocolate coins for good luck, and enjoyed scrumptious dumpling tasting thanks to Mrs. Keshwani. Great fun!

In February we prepared our gift boxes for the Valentine's Day party and as always we have been encouraging random acts of kindness. We are especially proud of our pennies-for-food-share program (items collected will be presented to a local food-share at the end of the year.)

In March we celebrated St. Patrick's Day and looked at Irish heritage and traditions.

April will bring us many surprises and hopefully some guest speakers from the Fire and Police Department.

Do you have any interesting professions or hobbies that you would like to share with the children? Perhaps a special talent or story that they would enjoy? Don't be shy, please contact me by email or stop by!

Kindest regards,

Luann Llanes, Head Teacher  
Before and After School Programs  
CTSTAR789@yahoo.com



## TV -Turnoff Week

Southeast school will be participating in TV-Turnoff Week, April 27th—May 1st. The week is a nationwide event sponsored by the TV-Turnoff Network and celebrated by schools, families, and other civic and community groups each year. All week long, millions of children and adults pledge to spend seven screen-free days. Instead of watching TV or playing computer games, children will have an opportunity to read, exercise, work in their communities, or spend time with family and friends.

Studies show that children who watch less TV are more likely to read well and to be physically fit. Turning off the TV also allows for more family time. In the course of a year, American children spend more time in front of the TV than at school. We think that TV-Turnoff week 2009 is a great way to jump-start our kids into more reading, learning, and active play. It's also a lot of fun!

During this week, we would like to ask for your support in our efforts. Many families choose to join their children by keeping the TV turned off all week long. This kind of support is the best thing you can do to ensure that your child will have a successful and beneficial experience. Families will also be able to take advantage of special opportunities provided by participating local businesses during this week.

**Poster Contest:** The theme for the poster contest is "I'm unplugged and ready to...". Posters may be of any size and will be judged on their creativity and message. The posters are due April 13th and will be judged during that week. Prizes will be awarded to the poster contest winners.

**Talent Show:** A Talent Show will be held to support families who decide to commit to turning off their TV for a week. The Talent Show will be held on Wednesday, April 29th from 6:30-7:30 pm in the school gymnasium. Past performances have included karate demonstrations, dance routines, and magic tricks.



**Southeast  
World  
Language  
Students  
attend  
The CT  
COLT Rhyme  
Celebration**

As in prior years, a group of Southeast students were selected to attend an event

called "The Connecticut COLT Rhyme Celebration", which took place in Burlington, CT on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. This event was attended by World Language students from across the state in grades pre-school through sixth. All students presented songs, rhymes or chants in the language they study. This year the theme was "Long Live the Animal Kingdom" so all acts pertained to animals from around the world.

Representing Southeast School's Spanish program were Amelia Strimple, Jenny Wells, Lizzie Velazquez, Carlie Cassells and Amber Quick. Smaranda Solomon sang a song in her heritage language of Romanian and Zhaorunqing Liu recited a poem in her heritage language of Chinese. All did a fabulous job. Congratulations to all of you!

Each year a theme button is designed for all students and teachers to wear and to keep as a memento of the event. There was a contest held to decide whose button design would be used. Carlie Cassells was a runner up in the button contest and her design was printed in the program. Way to go Carlie!



## PTO Corner:

### PTO OFFICER ELECTIONS POSTPONED TO APRIL MEETING

Due to inclement weather the March PTO meeting needed to be cancelled. Therefore, PTO Officer elections will now be held in April. Vacant positions include President, Secretary, & Treasurer. Anyone interested in filling these positions can speak with a current officer or attend the April Meeting on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM.



### STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON WED., MAY 6<sup>th</sup> 11:30am – 1:00pm

The time has come again to show our appreciation to the Southeast Staff for all that they have done for our children all year long!

Anyone who is interested in helping out the day of the event or by making an appetizer, salad, main course or dessert can contact Andrea Lennon at [stevlen4@charter.net](mailto:stevlen4@charter.net) or by phone at 455-2100.

### CLOTHING DRIVE TO BE HELD

During TV Turnoff Week, Southeast School will be collecting gently used clothing, handbags, shoes, belts, curtains, sheets, & linens. Items can be dropped off at the school during the week or brought to the school dance being held on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Our school will receive money for every pound we collect. The used clothing will be donated to A&E Clothing Corp. and the proceeds will be donated to a Southeast Family.



### SILENT AUCTION VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEEDED!

Each year in September, Southeast hosts a Silent Auction at the Fall Carnival. Part of the success of this event is the coordination of the volunteers who solicit the donations. This year, Southeast needs a new volunteer to coordinate this portion of the event. Past coordinators are available for advice.

Anyone who is interested can contact Andrea Lennon at [stevlen4@charter.net](mailto:stevlen4@charter.net) or by phone at 455-2100.



### ATTENTION SOUTHEAST BASEBALL FANS!

The Southeast PTO is looking into hosting another Southeast Day at Dodd Stadium with the CT Defenders Baseball Team. Last year, the Southeast Students that attended enjoyed the sunny weather at the park, doing the "Southeast Wave", followed by a run around the bases and ending it with an ice cream sundae!

The beauty of this fundraiser is that even if you cannot make the date of the tickets, the CT Defenders will honor the ticket at any other home game for the 2009 season! Watch for more details!

### SOUTHEAST FAMILY SKATE SCORES A 10!

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, many of Southeast's families turned out for the family skate at UCONN. It didn't matter whether you were just a beginner or an expert skater, because everyone that skated had a good time. We even managed to get everyone in the center of the ice for a group shot. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this another successful PTO event!



### THE PTO PROVIDES HEALTHY SNACKS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MARCH

For three days a week, throughout the month of March, the PTO provided healthy snacks for Southeast students. The snacks served were various fruits and vegetables. The PTO would like to thank Nurse Daniels, Maureen Gagne and the kitchen staff for their assistance in serving the snacks. We hope the children are feeling strong & healthy!



### GET READY FOR LIFT-OFF AS "SOUTHEAST GOES GALACTIC" FOR THIS YEAR'S SCHOOL DANCE!

The Southeast PTO is busy planning another fun filled school dance for Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Come dance under the stars & planets, take a trip around the world, dress up as an alien, or sign up to be a Southeast Star.

We will need volunteers for this event to help decorate the Gym from 3:30 – 5:50pm and again to help clean up the Gym after the event. If you are able to help out, please contact Andrea Lennon at 455-2100 or Wendy Guyette at 429-0335.

The dance will be in coordination with TV Turnoff Week and we will be carrying the theme, "Southeast Goes Galactic", throughout the week.

There will be no admission charge. However, we are asking families to donate clothing, linens & accessories to help raise funds for a Southeast Family. Please see the separate news article and flyer for details.



### TAG SALE! TAG SALE! TAG SALE!

Southeast will be holding its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Tag Sale this year on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 8:00am – 2:00pm. We will need a lot of volunteers to help us set up the night before, Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:30–10:00pm and to work the sale. Even if you can only help out for a few hours, we need you! Volunteers can contact Mary Attardo at 429-6045.

Please keep an eye out for flyers and emails with more details about this event!



### SOUTHEAST CASHES IN ON BIG Y EDUCATION EXPRESS POINTS!

This year Southeast was able to purchase 3 big bean bag chairs for the Pre-School class and a new label maker with extra labels using the Big Y Express Points earned by Southeast families! If you haven't already registered with Big Y, please do so! Our School ID Number is 5377. It is a great way for Southeast to be able to purchase free merchandise needed for our school. There is no cost to you. Just register at the Big Y Customer Service Desk. The school ID number gets linked to your Big Y Savings Card. The points just start adding up from there!

## Notes from the Health Room

Vicki Daniels, RN 423-2793



The Department of Public Health State Immunization Program has adopted the following proposed changes to school immunization requirements for the 2010-2011 school year.

### 2nd Dose Varicella: Kindergarten and 7th Grade

Two doses of varicella containing vaccine for kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry beginning in August 2010.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Mumps & Rubella: Kindergarten and 7th Grade

Two doses of mumps and rubella containing vaccines for kindergarten and 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry beginning in August 2010.

### Adolescent Tdap Vaccine: 7th Grade

A Tdap booster vaccine for 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry beginning in August 2010.

### Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine: Grades Pre-K & Kinder.

One dose of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine administered after the first birthday for all children in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten who are born on or after January 1, 2007 and are less than 5 years of age.

## Lyme Disease - Still a Concern

Children ages 5-14 years accounted for 61% of the reported cases of Lyme disease. Cases typically peak between May and August, reflecting transmission by nymphal vector ticks during May and June.



Lyme disease is caused by a spirochete which is transmitted to humans by the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. Early signs of infection include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash. Left untreated, the joints, heart, and nervous system can be affected.

There is no available Lyme disease vaccine. The risk for tick borne illnesses is reduced by avoiding tick infested areas when possible, using insect repellents containing DEET, and examining the skin daily for ticks after possible exposure. In North America, removing ticks within 24 hours of attachment reduces the chances for spirochete transmission. Exposure to ticks can be minimized by removing brush and leaf litter and by using wood chips or gravel as a barrier between forest and lawns or recreational areas.

(Bacon RM et al. MMWR. 2007; 56(23): 573-576)

## First-Rate Calorie Cutter

*Here's another reason to boost fiber intake:* It may reduce the calories your body absorbs from food. One study found that women and men who doubled their fiber consumption absorbed 90 and 130 fewer calories a day.

**Note:** You should increase your fiber consumption gradually.

(Source: United States Department of Agriculture)

## HUSKY Children to Benefit in New Dental Program



Children in the State's HUSKY program are now receiving their dental care in a new program, the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP).

Starting last September, the dental programs in HUSKY A & B, SAGA and Title XIX were 'carved out' of the managed care system and put into the CTDHP, which serves children and adults. Dental reimbursement rates for children were significantly increased, a care coordination component was added and many new providers were recruited.

Help in finding a dentist, making an appointment, obtaining transportation and general information can be obtained by calling 866-240-2924.

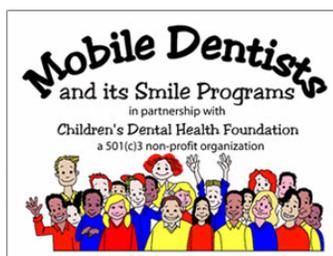
## "Shine Your Smile Day" is Coming!

We have invited Mobile Dentists/Smile Programs to bring it's on-site preventative dental services on April 28th because we know how important good oral health is to our children's overall general health.

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

The Mobile Dentist/Smile Programs can provide these services to families who need financial assistance and it has *subsidized fees* for those who choose to pay for the preventative care. No child is ever turned away from the program because of financial need.

If you have not returned your registration form please do so at this time.



*Location has not yet been determined.*

Learn more about this program by visiting its website: [www.mobiledentists.com](http://www.mobiledentists.com) or contact Vicki Daniels at 423-2793.

## Spills Happen

We are accepting donations of gently used children's clothing to lend to children who need a clean, dry change of clothing during the day.

Donations can be brought to the office.

Thank you.