



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

June 2009

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

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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 at Southeast. I deeply appreciate the time and effort you have given on behalf of our 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 feel free to share your reflections with the teachers and/or me as appropriate.

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



Fondly,  
Norma Fisher-Doiron

## Incoming Kindergarteners



Please send in kindergarten physicals and paperwork as soon as possible for the 2009-2010 school year. Make sure that we also have proof of residency (rental agreement, utility bill) and **original** birth certificate (we will make a copy for our records). Thank you

## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

### Grades K-4:

Wednesday, June 24th  
School will dismiss at 12:45

### Preschool Last Days:

**A.M. session** last day:  
Wednesday, June 24th  
Session will dismiss at 12:45

**P.M. session** last day:  
Tuesday, June 23rd  
Session will dismiss at 3:30

## Calendar of Events

### June

- June 1..... 7:00 PTO Meeting 
- June 2..... Ralph Fletcher, Author Presentations & Book Signing
- June 3..... 8:45-4:00 Scholastic Book Fair, SE library  
3:00-3:30 Science Sampler  
7:00-8:00 Grades K-2 Bugz Concert
- June 4..... 8:30-9:15 "Community Conversations" with Superintendent, Fred Baruzzi   
8:45-4:00 Scholastic Book Fair, SE library  
9:00-12:00 4th Grade field trip to UCONN  
9:15-1:30 Kindergarten field trip to Bakerwoods  
6:30-7:15 "Community Conversations" with Superintendent, Fred Baruzzi
- June 5..... 8:45-4:00 Scholastic Book Fair, SE library   
1:45-3:15 Enrichment Clusters  
6:30-8:00 Ice Cream Social
- June 8..... 2:30-3:30 Suzuki Concert at Southeast
- June 9..... 9:15-10:00 Gr. K-1 Journeys of Sound Assembly  
10:15-11:00 Gr. 2-4 Journeys of Sound Assembly  
11:15-12:00 & 1:00-3:30 Music Workshops
- June 10..... 9:00-3:30 3rd grade field trip to Mystic Seaport
- June 11..... 9:00-1:00 2nd grade Pen Pal Picnic  
7:30 Board of Education Meeting
- June 14..... Flag Day 
- June 16..... 8:15 Enrichment Team Meeting
- June 17..... 8:15 Distance for Dads   
7:00-8:30 4th grade Moving-On Ceremony
- June 18..... Rain date- Distance for Dads  
Rain date- 2nd gr. Pen Pal Picnic
- June 19..... All day- Fun In Our Own Backyard
- June 21..... Father's Day 
- June 22..... Rain date- Fun In Our Own Backyard
- June 23..... Last day for PM Preschool
- June 24..... Last day for AM PreK, K-4   
School dismisses at 12:45

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

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



## Bus Changes for 2009-2010 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 school year.

## Moving?



As we begin planning for the 2009-2010 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 as soon as possible. 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.

## **Community Connections with Superintendent of Schools, Fred Baruzzi**

As the 2008-2009 school year comes to an end, the Mansfield Public Schools invite you to attend a "community conversation" with Fred Baruzzi, Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Baruzzi will review highlights of our current program of study and address several topics of interest to parents/guardians including regionalization, school renovations, redistricting, and opportunities for community involvement. A question and answer period will follow so all may be heard. Questions and answers will be posted on the district and schools websites at the conclusion of the meetings. Please consider attending any/all of the following sessions:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tues., June 2	7:30-8:15 am	MMS, Library Media Center
Tues., June 2	6:00-6:45 pm	MMS, Library Media Center
Tues., June 2	8:30-9:15 am	Vinton, Library
Tues., June 2	7:00-7:45 pm	Vinton, Library
Wed., June 3	8:30-9:15 am	Goodwin, Room 14
Wed., June 3	6:30-7:15 pm	Goodwin, Gym
Thurs., June 4	8:30-9:15 am	Southeast, Art Room
Thurs., June 4	6:30-7:15 pm	Southeast, Room 17

If you are unable to attend but have a question you would like addressed, please feel free to email your question to: [mboesupt@mansfieldct.org](mailto:mboesupt@mansfieldct.org)

Thank you for your interest.

## **Plan Ahead....**

First day of school for  
2009-2010 School Year:

**Wednesday, August 26th**



Once again, 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**. We **DO NOT** have dry clothing to give to cold, wet children.
- SNEAKERS ARE REQUIRED as they are for P.E., 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.

(Rain date will be Monday, June 22nd)



## **It's Show Time!**

It's Show Time at Southeast School featuring grades K, 1 and 2 on Wednesday, June 3rd at 7 p.m. Crazy "bugz" are going to a crazy picnic, invited or not. They are all getting ready for the event. The Lady Bugs are in charge of proper etiquette; the Army Ants are in charge of security; the Fireflies are there to light the way and everyone is trying to figure out how to tell the Stink Bug that she is not really welcome because she will spoil the tasty event.

Come join us for a fun filled evening!

- Joan Carr, Music Teacher



## Do You Love Cats and Dogs?

Would you like to help some pets that are in need?

We are going to have a collection to benefit the

**Mansfield Animal Shelter**

May 18th - June 5th.



Items needed are cat food, dog food, cat litter, chew toys and cat toys. The collection boxes are outside of the office.

Thank you for your help!



## Stories for Southeast

*The Gift That Keeps on Giving*

We would like to thank the individuals below for purchasing the following books for our school library:

- Happy Birthday to You! ... For Pat O'Connell-Buckley .... A dear friend and beloved teacher! We will miss you! .... Love, The Sydie Family
- Roald Dahl's Book of Ghost Stories ... In memory of Ruth Cryan (1923-2009) who taught me how to read .... Jeff Cryan. From The Southeast PTO
- Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes. In memory of Ruth Cryan (1923-2009) who taught me how to read .... Jeff Cryan. From The Southeast Staff
- The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More ... In memory of Ruth Cryan (1923-2009) who taught me how to read .... Jeff Cryan. From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- K is for Korea ... In loving memory of Marion E. Armstrong, mother of Nancy Armstrong.... From The Southeast PTO
- Eddies' Kitchen and How to Make Good Things to Eat .. In loving memory of Marion E. Armstrong, mother of Nancy Armstrong.... From The Southeast Staff
- The Game Store Mystery .... In loving memory of Marion E. Armstrong, mother of Nancy Armstrong.... From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- Big Bigger & Biggest ... In loving memory of James Rood, father of Judith Shay... From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- Our Frog Sang ...In loving memory of James Rood, father of Judith Shay ... From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- Snow ... In loving memory of James Rood, father of Judith Shay... From The Southeast PTO
- Minerva Louise and the Red Truck .... In loving memory of James Rood, father of Judith Shay .... From The Southeast Staff
- Do You Love Me .... For Malcolm's Oma Gitti! .... From Anke, Greg and Malcolm

Any books purchased after the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 will be listed in the October, 2009 newsletter.

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



## Welcome Aboard!

Mansfield Public & School Libraries have teamed up to provide the community with Books on Buses. Every one - - preschoolers, elementary school & middle schools students as well as adults are welcome to use the Books on Buses Bookmobile. Mrs. Meimers will be riding the bus and providing library services within the Southeast School district.

### About Books on Buses

Books on Buses will provide library services to students and people in the community. Each bookmobile holds approximately 1,000 books, Pre-K through eighth grade, with some adult reading material as well. Each patron will be able to check out four books for one week using their MPL card.

The primary functions of the bookmobile service are to:

- provide reading materials to students Pre-K through eighth grade for their leisure, education and lifelong learning
- introduce the community to library collections and services
- conveniently provide popular materials in a variety of formats that will increase library use and encourage a lifelong desire to read
- present programs that encourage use of the bookmobile and the main library
- support basic literacy and ESL programs
- increase visibility of the library and the Friends of the Library by generating a positive image throughout the entire community

All you need to take out a book is your Mansfield Public Library card. On a typical day, the bus will be at the first stop at 8 a.m. and the last at 12 p.m. We will provide more information including the stop locations and times at the end of the year in summer reading packets. The library recognizes that parents have the primary responsibility for guiding their children's reading, however, staff will be happy to help you find books and information you need.



## Congratulations to Jennifer Wells, Winner in the C.H.E.T. Dream Big! Competition

Congratulations to Jennifer Wells in Mrs. Sangree's fourth grade class for being selected as a winner in the CHET (CT Higher Education Trust) Dream Big! Competition. Jenny's essay about how she will change the world after college inspired the judges. She represented Tolland County in an awards ceremony at Goodwin College on May 27.

## Dr. Raouf Mama, African Storyteller

African Storyteller, Dr. Raouf Mama visited Southeast School on Monday, May 18th to share stories, poems and songs. To keep everyone engaged and smiling as he told the stories of animals and people from around the world, Dr. Mama included lots of call and response. "Story time" Dr. Mama said; "Story time" we repeated. We even got up and moved around the room with some African dance. Dr. Mama is originally from Benin in Western Africa and speaks six languages. His message to Southeast students was even though a person may eat and dress and look and speak differently, we all laugh and cry the same way. We have much to share with each other if we listen to each others' stories. Dr. Mama encouraged the future storytellers in the audience to "become friends" with stories in order to tell them. There is no need to memorize but just to know their stories like they know their friends and find ways to connect with their audience.

Thanks to the PTO for sponsoring this great event.



## Congratulations to Sophie Strimple, Published Author

Congratulations to Sophie Strimple in Mrs. Brennan's second grade class. Sophie's poem "Diamonds Sparkle" was selected by the Connecticut Student Writers Magazine for publication. The Connecticut Student Writers Magazine represents excellence in K-12 student writing. Sophie was recognized at an event at the Jorgensen Auditorium at UConn on May 12<sup>th</sup>.



## Congratulations to Amelia Strimple, E.P.A Poster Contest Winner



Congratulations to Amelia Strimple in Mr. Warinsky's fourth grade class for being selected as a winner in the Environmental Protection Agency's Paul G. Keough Earth Artists Program. Amelia's poster entry was one of those chosen out of hundreds of entries from all over New England in kindergarten through sixth grade. Amelia will be recognized at a ceremony on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the University of Hartford's Lincoln Theater.

## How to Reduce Your Risks with Influenza

### Be Healthy

- Eat nutritious meals; drink plenty of water; stay physically active.
- Avoid habits that put your hands near (or in) your mouth like nail biting, pencil holding, licking fingers to turn the page, smoking, etc.
- **Practice safe respiratory etiquette:** cough or sneeze into a tissue or napkin (and throw away), if a tissue or napkin is not available, cough or sneeze into your upper arm or the crook of your elbow.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly: use soap and water; scrub for 20 seconds (sing the ABC song). Aside from washing hands after using the bathroom, it is good practice to wash before eating or preparing food; after sneezing or coughing, and after being in a public area (door knobs, park benches, stair railings, etc).
- If you are ill, stay home; do not go to work or school; do not send sick children to school or day care .



### Be Prepared

- Keep a two-week supply of easy to prepare food (including ready-to-eat or canned items and a manual can opener) for each person in your home.
- Have disposable cups, plates & utensils and trash bags set aside for an emergency.
- Always have a two-week supply of medicines you take regularly.
- Pack an emergency box of items for care-giving including: a first aid kit, disposable gloves, fever thermometer, pain relievers (ibuprofen and acetaminophen), over-the-counter flu remedies, hand sanitizer, and surgical masks.
- Cold packs, blankets, and humidifiers could also be useful.
- Keep a two-week supply of basic items such as diapers & wipes, soap, shampoo, toothpaste & toilet paper, napkins & paper towels.
- Think about other items you might need to store or have available in the event of a two-week interruption in community services. Remember food, water, and litter for your pets; cash; a cell phone or regular phone with a cord; and a portable radio and flashlight with extra batteries.



### Be Informed

In the event of any public health emergency, the Eastern Highlands Health District will have current **local** information posted on the website: [www.ehhd.org](http://www.ehhd.org)

Keep informed about general information about a pandemic from reliable sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))

*From Eastern Highlands Health District*

## 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.....Andrea Lennon  
 Secretary.....Monique Brown  
 Treasurer.....Lesley Sweeney



### 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!!!**

### The Southeast Staff Sends it's Sincere Thanks to..

A special thank you to Wendy Guyette and Andrea Lennon for all of their hard work in putting on a wonderful school dance. Southeast Goes Galactic was amazing and everyone had a fantastic time.

A big thank you to Linda Sydie for setting up the refreshments for Special Persons' Day. Her special touches and stunning flower arrangements made it very pleasurable for our guests.



Once again the Southeast PTO has outdone themselves with the wonderful luncheon they put on for teachers and staff on May 6th. The entire staff of Southeast School extends it's sincere thanks to all who contributed their time and effort to prepare the delicious food and set up the lounge for us to enjoy. It was a delightful time had by all.

Special thanks go out to the Johnson and Newton families for the tremendous job they did cleaning up our gardens during April vacation. The staff and children truly appreciate your help!

## Burning Gas and Going Nowhere

**Q:** What is your miles per gallon when you're idling?

**A:** Zero. You're actually burning gas... and going nowhere.

Idling school buses pollute the air that children breathe. Pollutants can accumulate inside the bus and outdoors near the bus. Exhaust from idling engines may also be sucked into building ventilation systems, affecting air quality inside schools. Eliminating unnecessary idling is a simple, cost-effective way to help reduce children's exposure to air pollution. The State of Connecticut enacted a no-idling law for school buses in May 2002, and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection regulations went into effect in April 2004 prohibiting idling longer than three minutes for ALL vehicles. That's right, ALL vehicles. (Some common sense exceptions apply such as idling at a traffic signal.) The school bus contractor, Durham School Services, trains its drivers to shut off the buses as soon as they arrive at school and turn them on only when students start to board.



### But what about the other vehicles left to idle in the school parking lot?

While idling buses are important targets for reducing pollution, idling cars, trucks and SUVs also contribute significantly to pollution problems. If left running for the same amount of time, an idling car causes more pollution than if it was traveling at standard speed. Burning fossil fuels like gas and oil produce hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, which react to form ground-level ozone. Ozone irritates and inflames the respiratory tract.



Air pollution tends to be worse in the late afternoon, precisely when driving parents gather to pick up their children, who excitedly rush from school into clouds of exhaust from idling vehicles. Idling vehicles are also a safety issue. Children are unaware of a vehicle's intent when it sits idling.

Contrary to popular belief, idling is not an effective way to warm up your vehicle, even in cold weather. Unless it's below freezing, cars don't need to be warmed up at all. Driving them gently is the best warm up there is. If it's 25 degrees out, a 30 second warm up is enough. If it's 10 degrees out, warm it up for a minute. Idling only warms the engine, not the wheel bearings, steering, suspension, transmission, and tires. These parts also need to be warmed up, and the only way to do that is to get the vehicle moving.

Nor is idling good for a vehicle. An idling engine is not operating at its peak temperature, which means fuel combustion is incomplete. This leaves fuel residues that can condense on cylinder walls, where they contaminate oil and damage engine components such as spark plugs. When spark plugs are fouled, fuel consumption increases by 4 to 5 percent. Finally, idling can allow water to condense in the vehicle's exhaust, causing rust in the exhaust system. As if the salty winter roads weren't enough to corrode the muffler to flaky brown bits.

Excerpts taken from EPA, CT DEP and Car Talk. submitted by Ginny Walton



# PTO Updates & Events:

## 2009 -2010 PTO OFFICERS ELECTED

The following PTO volunteers have been elected for Officer Positions:

President.....Julie Brown  
 Vice President.....Andrea Lennon  
 Treasurer.....Kimberly Clark  
 Secretary.....Jennie Novick

*Congratulations to the new officers!*

A great big thank you to the current PTO officers for all their hard work throughout the school year.



## Cool Down at the Ice Cream Social June 5<sup>TH</sup> 6:30-8:00

The PTO will be hosting their Annual Ice Cream Social fundraiser on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Why not enjoy a family picnic first and then buy a sundae for dessert! Don't forget to stop in at the Book Fair while you're there!

All proceeds to benefit the Southeast PTO fund.

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!! Contact Kim O'Keefe at 429-6711

## Scholastic Book Fair

June 3rd, 4th & 5th

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 to have you 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. Please contact our Book Fair Chairperson, Ruth Washington at 477-0096 or email her at [ruth.washington@uconn.edu](mailto:ruth.washington@uconn.edu).



## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual PTO Tag Sale Another Big Success!

With the help and support of many volunteers, the PTO held it's 6<sup>th</sup> annual Tag Sale on May 16<sup>th</sup>. With all the generous donations of the Southeast Families and the Mansfield Community, the Tag Sale was another big success! We'd like to thank all the volunteers who contributed their time and effort to this event. An extra special thank you to Kim O'Keefe, PTO President, who originally started the Tag Sale as a fundraiser and has put uncountable hours into this event for 6 years! It won't be the same without her!

## PTO Volunteers Needed For the 2009 – 2010 School Year

Each year more and more PTO volunteers move on to the Middle School along with their children. This leaves us with a shortage of PTO volunteers here at Southeast. As a parent or guardian of a SE student, you are automatically a PTO member. Whether it is attending PTO meetings, organizing or helping out at an event, creating flyers or even just taking pictures for the scrapbook, we can really use your help!

Anyone interested in volunteering for any upcoming events for the new school year, can contact Andrea Lennon, PTO Vice President, at 455-2100 or email her at [stevlen4@charter.net](mailto:stevlen4@charter.net).



## Congratulations and Good Luck to Southeast's 4<sup>TH</sup> Grade Students



The Southeast PTO would like to extend our congratulations and wish good luck to all the 4<sup>th</sup> graders that are moving on to the Middle School! We hope you will always remember your years at Southeast and even come back to visit once-in-a-while!

## A Heartfelt Good-bye

The Southeast PTO would like to say thank you and extend a heartfelt good-bye to our current President, Kim O'Keefe. Kim will be "Moving On" to the Middle School in September. Besides serving as President for multiple terms, she has organized and volunteered at many events that have raised thousands of dollars to benefit Southeast School and its students. Her biggest accomplishment has been to chair the Playscape Project Committee and to coordinate the fundraisers in order to raise enough funds to complete the project. We wish her well at MMS!



## Congratulations to Mrs. O'Connell-Buckley



The Southeast PTO wishes to extend its congratulations to Mrs. O'Connell-Buckley on her retirement from Southeast School. We will all miss her very much!



## PTO Updates & Events:

### Southeast Goes Galactic Dance was a BLAST!



On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the PTO held the Southeast Goes Galactic Dance and it was out of this world! We had dancing martians, earthlings, astronauts and Star Wars fans! The PTO would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this event a blast! A special thank you to the Cassells Family for their donation of bottled water.



### Staff Appreciation Luncheon Well Received!

The Southeast PTO hosted and served another top notch luncheon on May 6<sup>th</sup>, as a thank you to the S.E. Teachers & Staff.

The PTO would like to thank all the S.E. families who contributed a luncheon item for this much deserved event!

### Clothing Drive Warms the Heart

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the clothing drive held by the Southeast PTO. Together with monetary donations, the PTO will be able to make a generous donation to a Southeast Family.



### Summer Shopping at BIG Y

Be sure to keep using your Big Y Express Savings card over the summer! The points still count towards purchasing school equipment. If you haven't already designated Southeast School onto your Big Y card, please do so ASAP! Our school number is 5377. You can register on line or at the Customer Service Desk at Big Y.



### CALLING ALL PHOTOS!!!!

If you have taken pictures at PTO events this year (for example: school dance, young authors day, science samplers, assemblies, ice cream social, field trips, moving on ceremony) and are willing to have them placed in the PTO scrapbook, please send them to Andrea Lennon, PTO VP. You can either print them & send them in to school in an envelope marked to my attention or email them to me at [stevlen4@charter.net](mailto:stevlen4@charter.net) and I can print them out. *Thank you*

### Silent Auction Season Has Arrived

We are looking for volunteers to help us contact potential donors for our Fall Carnival Silent Auction. The money raised by the auction helps our PTO provide lots of fun and educational events for our children. Please consider donating a few hours of your time to support a great cause!

For information contact Patty Braithwaite at [padb4@hotmail.com](mailto:padb4@hotmail.com)



### Mansfield School Buses Clearing the Air

In Connecticut, 390,000 children rely on the transportation of school buses to get them safely to school each day. Most of these buses run on diesel fuel, which produces multiple forms of air pollution. Diesel exhaust contains significant levels of small particles known as fine particulate matter. Fine particles are so small that several thousand of them could fit in the period at the end of this sentence. Fine particles in the air are a serious public health problem. They pose a significant health risk because they can pass through the nose and throat and lodge themselves in the lungs. These fine particles can aggravate asthma and allergies or cause other serious health problems, especially for our children. Children are more sensitive to air pollution because they breathe at a faster rate than adults, and asthma is the most common long-term childhood disease. Yet, accident statistics indicate that school buses are the safest way to transport children.

The Town of Mansfield has taken action to minimize the pollution from our school buses, making the ride to and from school not only safe, but healthier. In December 2007, the Town of Mansfield was awarded an EPA Clean School Bus USA grant in the amount of \$246,600 to retrofit the twenty buses servicing the Mansfield schools with diesel engine particulate filters. The Town holds a multi-year contract with bus company Durham School Services. With their cooperation, each of the twenty buses had a filter added to the exhaust system, which captures most of the greenhouse gases, such as nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide, and respiratory irritants, such as fine particulate matter, that would otherwise be released into the air. This March the retrofit was complete reducing these pollutants by 90% to 95%. At the April 16, 2009 ribbon cutting the Board of Education celebrated this achievement.

EPA and New England States have been taking steps to advance cleaner diesel engines. The introduction of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel in October 2006 reduced sulfur content in diesel fuel by 97 percent. This cleaner burning fuel in combination with pollution control technology means that model year 2007 trucks and buses are as much as 95 percent cleaner than older trucks and buses. Pre-1990 buses can pollute as much as six times more than new buses. The Mansfield school buses that were retrofit with particulate filters range from model years 1998 to 2006.

\*Excerpts taken from EPA literature

submitted by Ginny Walton

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





## Keeping Children Safe in the Sun

It is now well known that exposure to sun puts people at risk for skin cancer and premature aging and that most of that exposure comes during childhood (80% of a person's lifetime sun exposure occurs before they are 21). Regular use of sunscreen in children can lower their risk of skin cancer by almost 78%.

There are many sunscreens available for safe use in children over six months old. Pick one that offers UVA and UVB protection and that has a SPF of 15 or higher (especially if your child has light skin). Apply the sunscreen in a thick coat at least 30-45 minutes before going outside and reapply every two hours (or more often if he/she is swimming or perspiring heavily).

Here are some other tips to protect your child from the damaging effects of the sun.

- Wear protective clothing, including a hat and long sleeve shirt and long pants. Keep in mind that most clothing only has a SPF of 5-9, so you can still get sun damage with a shirt on.
- Limit exposure to the sun when it is at its strongest (10am-4pm).
- Protect your child's eyes with sunglasses that protect against UVA and UVB radiation.
- Use sunscreen daily, even if it is cloudy, since most of the sun's radiation penetrates clouds and can still cause sun burn.
- Consider using a sunscreen with ingredients (such as zinc oxide or titanium dioxide) that physically block the sun's radiation if your child has sensitive skin.



*Please encourage your child to drink more water during summer days.*

## Child Health, Life Development & Nutrition for the Family

At [www.Life.FamilyEducation.com](http://www.Life.FamilyEducation.com), you'll find information for parents on every aspect of family life. Browse their resources on child health, child development, nutrition for kids and teens, fitness for the whole family, and child safety. You'll also find information on social and emotional issues, like child discipline, communicating with your kids, teaching good behavior, and building your child's self-esteem. Don't miss the tips on family travel, vacations, and family finance!

## LOST & FOUND

Please ask your child to look through the Lost & Found box located in the Art's Wing. Any items not claimed before the last day of school will be donated to Mansfield Youth Services.

## Join Southeast School's E-Mail and Text Messaging

Southeast Elementary School uses the QNotify Messaging Service to enhance communication with families via e-mail and cell phone or pager **text 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.

**To sign up log on to our website:**

**[www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast](http://www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast)  
and click on QNotify**

Thank you for your participation!

You can remove your address from any of our lists at anytime by clicking on the "unsubscribe" link that comes with each message that you'll receive.

This service does not announce school closings. To sign-up for the school closings notification system, please go to [http://mansfieldct.org/mboe/information/early\\_closing.php](http://mansfieldct.org/mboe/information/early_closing.php)

## Family Fun in Connecticut

Connecticut is filled with opportunities for family fun all year long. For information and ideas on indoor and outdoor home activities and places to visit around the state, check out the website: [www.ctparenting.com](http://www.ctparenting.com) and click on Family Fun.

The Family Fun categories include:

- Camps & Campgrounds
- Children's Fun
- Sports
- Arts & History
- Parks



There's so much to do and see in Connecticut!