



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

## November - December 2009

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

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Hope you are enjoying the beautiful brilliance of the fall season.



As we approach the month of November, I would like to mention a few upcoming events. Progress Reports will be sent home on Friday, November 20th and Parent-Teacher Conferences will begin the week of November 23rd. You will have an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and the contents of the report with his or her teacher/s.

One of the biggest educational events of the year is American Education Week (AEW) which is scheduled for November 15-21. This year's tagline, **Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility**, calls upon America to provide students with quality public schools so they can grow, prosper and achieve in the 21st century. As part of the 88th AEW, the National Education Association (NEA) spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college, and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great. This seems to fit in nicely with our school wide theme, **T.E.A.M. - Together Everyone Achieves More**. I look forward to working with you to provide quality education for all of our Southeast students.

Norma Fisher-Doiron  
Principal

### DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER



Now that the weather is changing and temperatures are dropping, 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.

**Thank you for your extra effort.**

### Reminder:

Please call the school attendance line  
423-2793 by 9:00 am  
if your child will be absent.



### Calendar of Events

#### November

- Nov. 1 ..... Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov. 2 ..... 6:00-7:00 Parents' Hour- Parent Math Night  
7:00-8:00 PTO Meeting
- Nov. 3 ..... Election Day
- Nov. 4 ..... 2:00-3:25 Enrichment Clusters
- Nov. 11 ..... **NO SCHOOL** - Veterans' Day
- Nov. 12 ..... 7:30-9:00 pm Board of Education Meeting
- Nov. 13 ..... 1:15 Schoolwide Character Education Assembly
- Nov. 16 ..... 7:00-8:00 pm Board of Ed. / Building Committee /  
Town Council Meeting RE: 4 Schools Plan
- Nov. 17 ..... 3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club
- Nov. 18 ..... 2:00-3:25 Enrichment Clusters  
Science Fair/Invention Convention:  
8:30 am- drop off projects  
6:30-7:30 pm- Family Celebration
- Nov. 19 ..... Scholastic Book Fair
- Nov. 20 ..... 12:00-1:00 Thanksgiving Dinner Assembly  
Progress Reports go home  
Scholastic Book Fair
- Nov. 23 ..... 12:45 **EARLY DISMISSAL**  
Scholastic Book Fair  
6:00-8:00 pm Parent-Teacher Conference (by appt.)
- Nov. 24 ..... 12:45 **EARLY DISMISSAL**  
Scholastic Book Fair  
2:00-5:00 pm Parent-Teacher Conference (by appt.)
- Nov. 25 ..... 10:45 Turkey Trot  
12:45 **EARLY DISMISSAL**
- Nov. 26 & 27 ... **NO SCHOOL**- Thanksgiving Recess



#### December

- Dec. 2 ..... 2:00-3:25 Enrichment Clusters
- Dec. 8 ..... 7:00-8:00 pm Gr. 3 & 4 Winter Concert
- Dec. 9 ..... 2:00-3:25 Enrichment Clusters
- Dec. 10 ..... 7:30-9:00 pm Board of Education Meeting
- Dec. 11 ..... Hanukkah starts at sundown
- Dec. 15 ..... 3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club
- Dec. 19 ..... Hanukkah ends at sundown
- Dec. 23 ..... FULL DAY of school
- Dec. 24  
to Jan. 3 ..... **NO SCHOOL**- Winter Vacation



Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

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



## Southeast School Science Fair and Invention Convention

**Wednesday, November 18, 2009**

**6:30-7:30 p.m.**

in the Southeast All-Purpose Room

All families are welcome to attend this educational and fun evening! Presentation of certificates for participants will begin at 7:15 p.m. The announcement of the Southeast representatives to the Connecticut Invention Convention will also be made at this time.

*That evening, students will remain with their own projects since they will have an opportunity to see the other projects the following day. We invite families to spend time speaking with our scientists and inventors. We know that Southeast families have worked hard and our students have learned a lot. This is a great opportunity to learn about science while encouraging our great minds of the future!*

## Enrichment Clusters

Enrichment Clusters will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00-3:25 on November 4, November 18, December 2 and December 9. All K-4 students participate in enrichment clusters. They are small, multi-grade groups of students working for 4 sessions on hands-on projects in an area of interest that they choose. Clusters are fun and engaging learning for students and presenters. Parents are invited to be an extra set of hands for any session. Contact Southeast enrichment teacher, Susan Irvine, if you are interested in helping out.



## Southeast Energy Committee

The Southeast community is invited to participate in the **Southeast Energy Committee**. The energy committee is a group of staff, parents and students who search out ways for our school to be more energy efficient. Then we make recommendations to administration to carry out those ideas.

We will be meeting several times this year on Monday mornings. Please join us or send your great ideas!

## From the Green Thumbs Club

RECYCLING COLLECTION STATION: The Green Thumbs Club is collecting the following items for recycling:

- old cell phones
- rechargeable batteries
- old DVDs, CDs, and videotapes
- worn out athletic footwear (no metal cleats)
- used toner and inkjet cartridges from your home or office, wall paper remnants and old calendars.



A collection center for all of these items is located in the hallway by Mrs. Irvine's room (#22).



**Thank you** so much for helping make our annual Southeast School Alex's Lemonade stand a success. Thanks to you, we raised close to \$200.00 to battle childhood cancer! Together, we truly can make a difference.

## Promoting Optimism and Resilience in Your Child

A Note From Marie Liebman,  
School Psychologist



The National Association of School Psychologists is partnering with Fishful Thinking, an outreach program to help parents promote optimism and resilience in their children. The program is based on the research of Karen Reivich, PhD, co director of the Penn. Resiliency Project out of the University of Pennsylvania. The five ingredients of Fishful Thinking are: Optimism, Emotional Awareness, Goal Setting/Hope, Resilience, and Empowerment. The Fishful Thinking program helps parents learn to talk with their children about how to deal with the ups and downs of life. It gives tips and tools to teach children effective problem solving strategies to encourage feelings of competence and an optimistic attitude. There are activities to help parents develop positive communication toward the goal of happier, healthier, more resilient children.

## Congratulations to Marie Liebman

Marie Liebman, our school psychologist, will be recognized by the Connecticut Association of Schools for her efforts in providing the Southeast Social Lunch Groups program for our K-4 students. Each day, small groups of students come to the her office during the two lunch waves. Some of the groups are on-going, others are short-term, and all are flexible. The students not only bring their lunches, but their issues, concerns, and problems to discuss and share. As a group they converse, problem-solve, and play games that teach friendship skills, anger management and coping skills. The popular program is a fun, special lunchtime for the students that allows the school psychologist to "keep a pulse" on the school, the children, their issues and to keep school staff and parents informed.



## LET'S HELP OUT THE ART DEPT!!!!

The Art Dept. is in need of men's polo type collared shirts for children to use as smocks. Anyone who is cleaning out their closets and can donate these types of shirts, please bring them to the art room. ATTN: Mr. Dieter.



## Food Free Celebrations

This year at Southeast School we are asking our families to support us as we recognize special events with *food free celebrations*.



Although we recognize that cupcakes and other treats have traditionally been the way birthdays are celebrated at school, we believe that we can still celebrate our children with birthday fun that doesn't involve food. There are many students and staff at Southeast who have food allergies. Our town wellness policy reflects both the allergy concerns and the nutritional concerns of food celebrations.

We are looking forward to seeing some creative ideas for non-food celebrations. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.



## Warm Clothing, Food, and Eyeglass Drive Oct. 26th - Nov. 13th



The E.O. Smith Leo Club is a community service club at E.O. Smith High School. They are holding a drive at our school. The warm clothing will go to Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM) and non-perishable food will go to Willimantic Covenant Soup Kitchen, while the eyeglasses will go to people across the world to help them see better. Please participate in this drive and help make the world a better place!

The donation box is in the front hall by the office.

## Chemical and Fragrance Sensitivity

If you feel ill when around fragrances, cleaning products, plastics and other products that have strong smells, you may have a condition called chemical sensitivity. Symptoms can range from headaches, dizziness, and breathing difficulties to almost total incapacitation in serious cases.



We have some students and staff members with this condition and ask that you please be aware of your use of perfume and heavily scented body washes or lotions when you are going to be in the school building. Students should not wear perfume or cologne to school. Thank you

## **iMuchas gracias!**



A few weeks back, Alex Russell, father of our 4<sup>th</sup> grader, Lydia Russell, delivered all the clothing and books we collected here at Southeast for underprivileged children in Peru. He reported back that our Peruvian friends were extremely grateful for all of the wonderful, warm clothing, as well as the books they can use to help them learn English. They were touched by the incredible generosity of our students, families and staff. Thank you for helping to let our world neighbors know WE CARE!

## Notes From the School Kitchen

### Menus

At the end of each month, a menu for the upcoming month will be sent home. This menu is also available on our web site.

Lunch alternatives are Bag Lunch, Yogurt Bag Lunch, or PBJ. Alternate lunch choices include all five food group components. All juice drinks are 100% juice.



### Meal Prices

Breakfast- \$1.25

Lunch- \$2.00

Milk- 50¢

### Paying for School Lunches

School lunches are paid in advance and recorded on a debit based system. If your child normally buys school lunch, it is suggested that you pre-pay at least a week in advance. Monthly lunch ticket payment coupons are available on our website.

If a student does not have his/her lunch money, the district will permit an emergency charge of a lunch meal for a maximum of 3 (three) days. It is expected that the student and his/her family will be able to reconcile their account in this time. After three days, the student will not be allowed to charge any more lunches and the students' family will be contacted. The student will only be eligible for an alternate lunch until the balance is cleared.

### Breakfast

Breakfast will be offered each day for all students. Please contact our school nurse if you need financial assistance.

### Free or Reduced Lunch

If your financial situation changes during the school year and you need assistance with the cost of your child's lunch, please contact the school nurse for details on the Free or Reduced Lunch Program.

### Birthday Celebration T-Shirts

- Choose a T-shirt
- Use fabric markers provided and have your friends sign & decorate your T-shirt
- Once it is signed, wear your shirt that very day!
- PLEASE return fabric markers to your cafeteria manager
- Cost: \$4.00 can be taken off your lunch account.

For more details about the Mansfield School Lunch Program, see the town-wide Parent Handbook, page 43.

You can also call the Southeast Food Service Manager, Ms. Maureen Gagne at 423-7251 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.



## Stories for Southeast

### *The Gift That Keeps on Giving*

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



# PTO Updates & Events:

## 2009 -2010 PTO OFFICERS

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

## The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!

Nov. 19, 20, 23, 24



Our annual Book Fair is coming up in November. For every book you buy at the book fair, money goes to the library for new books. Volunteers are needed to run the table. Please call Andrea Lennon at 455-2100 or email her at [stevlen4@charter.net](mailto:stevlen4@charter.net), if you can spare a little bit of your time to help out.

## Thanksgiving Pie Sale

Nov. 23, 24, 25

Our next fundraiser will be a Thanksgiving pie sale, which will take place the week of Thanksgiving. Come and buy a home-baked pie for the holidays! You can also help by contributing a pie or other baked items for the table. A flyer will be sent home with further details.



## SCRIP Fundraiser



Could you use gift cards for your household shopping or as holiday gifts? Raise money for our school by ordering them through us! The program is fantastic, ordering is easy and the company is completely reliable. We've had great experience with them in the past!

Go to: [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

Click "Get Started" then "Register" and enter our Enrollment Code: **9B4L529A4L36** (No financial information is required!)

Purchase all of your gift cards online, drop off a check payable to Southeast PTO at the school and the school will earn a percentage of the total order.

Our first order will go in on **Friday, November 20**. Please get your orders in before 3:30 pm on that day. Cards should arrive in about a week. We will try to fit in a couple of orders before the holidays if there is enough interest.

A flyer with more details will be sent home, but feel free to sign up and/or order before then if you like! If you have friends or family who might like to order through us, please pass this information with our code to them and bring their payment to the school.

Contact Kimberly at 450-1390 or email her at [kgandabc@rocketmail.com](mailto:kgandabc@rocketmail.com) if you have any questions.

Thanks so much for supporting Southeast Elementary School!



## Fall Carnival

This year the Carnival raised over \$7000! This money will be used throughout the year to fund things such as assembly speakers and artists, buses for field trips, after-school science and math programs, and Special Persons Day. Thanks to everyone who put in so much of their time to make the Carnival a success, including Karen Mitlitsky, Kimberly Clark, Gordon Clark, Patty Braithwaite, Andrea Lennon, Margaret Morrison, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Monique Brown, Betsy Parker, Mia Mitoma, Hope Pearl, Dave Delaney, Dave Landry, Art Engler, Jennie Novick, Mark Ballou and Jen Schletter.

## Ice Cream Social

Our Ice Cream Social was a big success as well! We had a huge turnout. The Social gave Southeast families a chance to meet new families, chat with old friends, and enjoy the delicious UConn Dairy Bar ice cream. Thanks to Tia Willour and Jennie Novick for organizing it and to all the volunteers who helped scoop, set up and clean up.



## Wrapping Paper and Bulb Fundraisers

Thank you to Heather Spottiswoode, Kim Ewalt and Richelle Strimple for organizing the wrapping paper and bulb fundraisers, and thanks to all of our Southeast families who contributed to these very successful fundraisers.



**Monday, November 2nd**  
**Parent Math Night 6:00-7:00 pm**

Join Mansfield Mathematics Consultant, Karen Moylan to see how you can help your child learn their math facts. Learn strategies and ways to help your child become proficient with all their math facts.

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

**PTO Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm**

1. Thank you's
2. Principal's Report - Norma Fisher-Doiron
3. President's Report
  - Book Fair
  - Thanksgiving pie sale
  - Wolf Pack
  - Scrip orders (Kimberly Clark)
  - Emergency closing (Kimberly Clark)
  - Fall Carnival/Silent Auction
4. Vice-president's Report
  - Avon fundraiser (Patti Jajliardo)
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. News items

Childcare will be available across the hall in Room 18 (for both meetings)  
 Refreshments will be served: Pizza & Juice  
 Please call 423-1611 if you will need childcare