



SOUTHEAST NEWS

April - May 2010

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 rain, some 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 for April. We will meet with our incoming kindergarteners and their parents in a few weeks. If you have a child or know of a child who will be five years old on or before January 1, 2011, please contact the school office at 423-1611. We will be gathering all names and addresses in order to send out invitations to the functions necessary to register your child.

Have a great spring!

With regards,
Norma Fisher-Doiron



Calendar of Events

April

- April 2 **NO SCHOOL** - Good Friday
- March 29-
April 5 Passover 
- April 2 **NO SCHOOL** - Good Friday
- April 4 Easter 
- April 5 1:00 pm- Second Grade Agriculture Presentation
7:00 pm- PTO Meeting
- April 8 Third Grade field trip to the CT Science Center
- April 12 7:30 pm- Public Hearing on Budget, Council Chambers
- April 13 7:00 pm- School Building Committee Proposal, Council Chambers
- April 15, 16 ... Kindergarten Screening by appointment
- April 18-25 ... **NO SCHOOL** - Spring Vacation 
- April 21 Administrative Professionals Day
- April 26-30 ... TV Turn-Off Week
- April 26 6:30 pm- Family Story Night
- April 27 3:30 to 5:00 pm- Green Thumbs Club
- April 28 7:00 to 8:00 pm- Talent Show 
- April 30 6:00 to 8:00 pm- Under the Sea School Dance

May

- May 3 Fourth Grade field trip to Florence Griswold Museum
7:00 pm- PTO Meeting
7:30 pm- Parents' Hour- Joanne Freiberg "Acts of Kindness"
- May 3-7 Special Persons Week 
- May 4 Teacher Appreciation Day 
- May 5 PTO Luncheon for staff
Cinco de Mayo
- May 7 8:15 am- Mileage for Moms
Third Grade Bowling field trip (AM & PM) 
- May 9 Mother's Day 
- May 10-14 Grades 3 & 4 Hartford Stage Residency- Literacy Connection
- May 18 3:30 to 5:00- Green Thumbs Club
- May 22 8:00 am- PTO Tag Sale
- May 25 Kindergarten field trip to Lutz Museum
- May 26 9:30 to 11:00 Kindergarten bus ride and
Parent Presentation
Grades 1 & 2 field trip to Bushnell 
- May 28 Fourth Grade Poetry Celebration
- May 31 **NO SCHOOL** - Memorial Day 

Parents of Incoming Kindergarteners



Kindergarten Screening and Registration will be held on April 15th. 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, 2010. Southeast Preschoolers entering Kindergarten do not need to attend registration and screening.

FOR SAFETY REASONS

When picking children up from school, please park in a parking space. For safety reasons we cannot allow cars to park by the building or alongside of other cars.

Parent should hold their child's hand or keep them close. Children should not be allowed to wander or run in the parking lot. Drive slowly - 5 MPH in the parking lot.

Please be courteous to our safety patrols who are there to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe.



Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

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

Science Fair and Invention Convention Held in November 2009

The annual Southeast School Science Fair and Invention Convention was held on Wednesday, November 16th. 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 1st at The University of Connecticut.

They are:

Catherine Grenier in Mrs. Robichaud's 1st grade class for her "Treat Light" invention- a Halloween treat bucket that lights up for safety.

Anatole Keshwani in Mr. Maheu's 2nd grade class for his "Book Stand" invention that holds your propped book open with clips .

John Zhou in Mr. Warinsky's 4th grade class for his assistive device for helping with light switches called the "Staffy Light Switch Turner On/Offy, Door Opener, Button Presser Thingamabober".

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

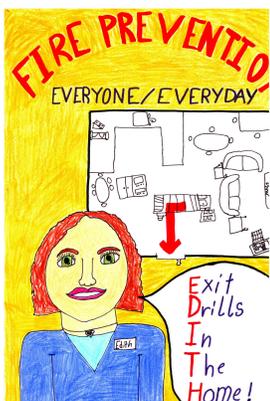
Thank you to all families who helped their children with their projects and to all the teachers and staff who supported this event.

Emma Ann Powers, County Winner in the Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest

We are pleased to announce that Emma Ann Powers, 4th grade student in Mrs. Sangree's class, has been named a county winner in the 2009/2010 Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest.

Emma, her parents and Mrs. Sangree attended an Award Presentation Luncheon at the Marriott in Cromwell on March 18th. Emma was presented with an award certificate and Savings Bond. Her poster will be featured on the 2010/2011 Connecticut Fire Prevention calendar.

Our heartiest congratulations to Emma!



Emma, pictured second, with her award.

TV-Turnoff Week

Southeast School will be participating in **TV-Turnoff Week, April 26th—April 30th**. 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 2010 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. Many students participated in our poster contest. Posters are displayed around the building to show how we can spend our TV-free time. They will be judged on their creativity and message.

There are several events planned in the evenings during TV Turn-Off Week. On Monday, April 26 at 6:30, there will be a **Family Story Night** during which families can come and hear stories from various guest readers and storytellers. On Wednesday, April 28th, we are pleased to sponsor our annual **Southeast Talent Show**. You will be amazed by the talented Southeast community. Don't miss the fun! The Southeast PTO is sponsoring a **School Dance** on Friday, April 30th. Whether your family is taking part in TV Turn-Off Week or not, all families are invited to attend any or all of these events.

Hope For Haiti

Recently, Southeast School joined other schools around the state to help raise money for relief efforts in Haiti, particularly those that impact Haitian children. To date, our school has raised over \$2000. Two of our third graders, Daisy Zhang and Nana-Boatema Hansen, have joined this effort by making origami paper hats, headbands and bracelets to give to families who donated money at two of our family events. They are very proud of the overwhelming response they have received to support their creative fundraiser.





Mansfield Campership Program

For over 37 years, the Mansfield Community Council has offered Mansfield children with limited incomes, opportunities and/or special needs the chance to attend area summer camps. Camp can be a wonderful opportunity for new experiences, personal growth and learning new skills. If your child would enjoy such an experience, an application form can be obtained from the school nurse.

Funds for these camperships are solicited from local Churches, organizations and most importantly, individuals. There are many children in Mansfield who would greatly benefit from a summer camp experience. If you are able to help us with this endeavor, please send your tax-deductible donation to: Mansfield Community Council member, Betsy Hamill, 30 Centre St., Mansfield Center, CT 06250.

Southeast Teachers and Students Attend KIDSMARATHON Press Conference



PE instructor Betsy Parker, World Language teacher Diane Hutton and three of our fourth grade students- Kobe Edwards, Emerson Femc and Calista Storrs, attended a KIDSMARATHON press conference at CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools) in Cheshire on Thursday, February 25th. In interviews with news reporters from Channel 8, Channel 3 and the Hartford Courant, they answered questions about how they prepared for KIDSMARATHON last year. The discussion included mileage club, running club and good nutrition choices at Southeast. KIDSMARATHON is an 8 to 10 week training program that enables kids to complete a full marathon (26.2 mi.) by running incremental distances each week leading up to the finish in front of hundreds of fans. Last year, Southeast was chosen as one of the schools to pilot KIDSMARATHON which will be offered to all CT schools this spring.

Healthy Snack Program

As part of National Nutrition Month, all of the Southeast students participated in a free healthy snack program for the month of March. This opportunity has been graciously supported (\$800) by the Southeast P.T.O. Some of the nutritious snacks included: honeydew melon, grapefruit, pineapple, snow peas, snap peas and cucumbers.



No Idling Skit

Recently, students from the Green Thumbs Club, an environmentally oriented after school club, presented a skit on idling awareness to help educate PreK-4 students about the dangers of idling vehicles while parents drop off or pick up their children at Southeast. Through the request of a parent and Ginny Walton, Mickey Maheu, founder of the Green Thumbs Club, had the following third and fourth graders present the skit: Cyanne Landon, Annie Wang, Sarah Sommer, Ella Demers-Schiffler, Jalean Peruggoria, Katie Cranmer and Emma Powers.



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:

- Who! Who! Goes The Train – In loving memory of Roland L. Leclerc – Adventurer, Innovator and Humanitarian. Always looking for a new adventure! – From The SE PTO
- Pig Boy - In loving memory of Roland L. Leclerc – Adventurer, Innovator and Humanitarian. Always looking for a new adventure! – From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- Make Way For Dyamonde Daniel - In loving memory of Roland L. Leclerc – Adventurer, Innovator and Humanitarian. Always looking for a new adventure! – From The Southeast Staff
- You Are The First Kid on Mars – To all the kids who love reading! From, Lucia Magnuson, who does too!
- Theodore – The Adventures of a Smudgy Bear – In loving memory of Carol Gifford, with love from her grandchildren – Kelly, Jesse and Grant.
- I Spy A to Z: A Book of Picture Riddles - In loving memory of Carol Gifford, with love from her grandchildren – Kelly, Jesse and Grant.

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 for more information.

Amazing Play Re-Written for First Graders

Third graders, Nana Boatema-Hansen and Medwyn Roberts from Ms. Kamienski's class wrote and directed a play that was performed by Ms. Hathway's first graders. The play was based on Ereth's Birthday written by Avi. The girls wanted to write something that their first grade reading buddies could perform at their own level. "It was so much fun watching them learn their lines and act," said Medwyn and Nana as they thought about the enjoyment they brought to their friends. Parents, other classes, teachers, and Mrs. Fisher-Doiron came to the special play and performance. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to collaborate and learn from each other. We hope to see more of this as the year continues.

The Mansfield Middle School Association (MMSA) in cooperation with the Mansfield Public Schools Information Technology Department invite all interested parents and students to:

Bringing Up Safe Digital Citizens

Intended for parents and educators

A presentation by:
Mrs. Meryl B. Menon
Education Consultant

Time: 7:00—8:00 PM

Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Place: Mansfield Middle School Auditorium
205 Spring Hill Rd.
Mansfield, CT 06268



Dear Southeast Families,

Throughout this school year, we have been working hard as a team to learn about and portray various aspects of the word **character**. This spring we are continuing to show our good character by caring for others. We just finished collecting donations for the Haiti relief fund and are so proud of all of the money that we raised. We would like to continue to extend our caring acts to places both inside and outside of our Mansfield Community and we want to offer as many opportunities as possible. We know that it is a difficult time for all, but as you have shown in the past, caring for others is at the heart of Southeast families. We have had such success in giving to others, through large and small donations. We would like to continue to do good for those in need and want to offer a variety of ways to do this.



For the next several weeks, we will be donating money to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, through pledges from the Math-A-Thon. At the end of April, the PTO will collect nonperishable food items at our school dance to donate to the Covenant Soup Kitchen. In May, we will support the E.O Smith Leo Club in collecting food, clothing, and eyeglasses for those in need within our community. Finally, in June we will gather items to create theme baskets to raise money to benefit local charities.

As a Southeast team and family, we graciously thank each and every one of you for your continued support and generosity throughout this school year. You have proven that "Together Everyone Achieves More" and that is what a team is all about. We hope that by offering a variety of opportunities to give, families can choose to donate at their comfort level. We understand that some families may choose not to participate and we respect that. We want to thank all of our Southeast families for supporting us as we put our good character into action. Please watch for more information and contact us if you have any questions or would like to help in other ways.

Sincerely,
The Character Education Committee

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.

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.



COLT Rhyme Celebration

Fourteen school systems gathered this month for the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (COLT) Rhyme Celebration at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury. Southeast was one of the schools representing Mansfield's Elementary School Spanish Program. Representing our school at the celebration were Spanish teacher, Diane Hutton and the following Southeast students, Keith Dixon, Leah Newmyer, Erica Oliver, Emma Powers, Sarah Sommer, Caitrin Spottiswoode, Calista Storrs, Gina Sydie, Annie Wang and John Zhou. They performed songs, rhymes and/or chants in the language they study. This year's theme was Discover Languages, Discover Friendships.



Former Southeast Student Recruited for UConn Men's Basketball Team

Tyler Olander, a former Southeast student, has been recruited by Coach Jim Calhoun to play for the UConn Men's Basketball Team. He spent the last four years playing for E.O. Smith High School. Tyler is 6 feet 9 inches. It's hard to imagine how a 3 1/2 foot kindergartener could be almost 7 feet playing for the UConn basketball men's team. We can't wait to see Tyler on the Gampel basketball court. Go Tyler!





PTO Corner:

2009 -2010 PTO OFFICERS

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

Message From the President

Someone recently asked me if it was okay for him to come to a PTO meeting. Of course! The PTO meetings are open to everyone. By being a parent or guardian of a Southeast student, you are automatically a member of the PTO. If you would like to hear what's going on in the school or if you have an issue you would like to bring up, please feel free to come to the monthly meetings or contact me or one of the other PTO officers. Your input is valued. Our next meeting is Monday, April 5 at 7 p.m.



~ Julie Brown



Movie Night

Despite the snow, children and parents turned out to see *Horton Hears a Who* on the big screen in the gym. A special thanks to Andrea Lennon for organizing the event, and thanks to Mr. Hendricks for his technical help. Also, a thanks goes out to Dave Delaney for picking up the popcorn machine, and many thanks to Jess Higham, Karen Molloy, Celine Demers-Schiffler, and Wendy Guyette for helping with the bake sale table. Thank you to everyone who contributed delicious baked goods, including Laurie Cooper, Patti Jajliardo, Erin Ballou, Karen Molloy, Jana MacDonald, Coby Cassells, Amy Dunstan, Ana Fidantsef, Jessica Higham, and Melissa Shashok. And thank you to Mrs. Fisher-Doiron and Ms. Parker for their help during this and all of the other PTO events.

Tag Sale

Don't throw away your unused household items! In April we will start collecting donations for the tag sale. We will send home flyers to let you know when.

Upcoming PTO Events

The annual school dance will be on Friday, April 30 from 6 - 8 p.m. Admission is free. This year's theme is "Under the Sea", and it will be in the Southeast gym. Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up. Contact Andrea Lennon at 455-2100 or Stevlen4@charter.net to volunteer.

**Reminder: Call the school attendance line
 423-2793 by 9:00 a.m.
 if your child will be absent**

Notes from the Health Room

“Shine Your Smile Day” is Coming!



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

A mini-dental office will be set up (at a location yet to be determined) 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 yet returned your registration form, please do so as soon as possible.

Learn more about this program by visiting its website: www.mobiledentists.com or contact Vicki Daniels, School Nurse 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. The items needed most are pants, sizes 8-12 and any elastic waist pants.

Donations can be brought to the office. Thank you.

Potentially Dangerous Toy Circulating around MMS



Apparently a number of students have purchased and brought to school small, very strong magnetic marbles or "BuckeyBalls". These are potentially very dangerous if swallowed or inhaled. It has come to our attention that students are using them to mimic piercings and may be putting them in their nose or mouth.

What makes a magnetic toy unsafe? As long as rare earth magnets are stuck securely inside a toy and/or are too large to be ingested, they can be safe for children to play with. However, if tiny rare earth magnets fall out of a toy or are sold in pieces that are small enough to be swallowed, then they become dangerous. If a child eats or inhales two rare earth magnets (or one magnet and a piece of metal), the strong magnetic attraction can pull the two small objects together even through internal organs and intestine walls, thus damaging a child's insides.