



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

June 2011

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

Dear Southeast Families,

We are just one week away from the end of another busy and successful year. On behalf of the staff, thank you for all of your support and encouragement this school year. Together we were able to achieve more in order to provide each of our youngsters with enriching opportunities throughout our PreK-4 school curriculum.



Wishing you and your family an enjoyable summer!

Fondly,  
Norma Fisher-Doiron

## Calendar of Events

- June 15..... 7:00 4th Grade **Moving On Ceremony**  
Doors open at 6:45 pm 
- June 17..... 8:15 Distance for Dads  
Enrichment Exploration Day 
- June 19..... Father's Day
- June 20..... Fun In Our Own Backyard- all day event
- June 21..... Raindate- Fun In Our Own Backyard  
**LAST DAY** for PM Preschool
- June 22..... **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL-** K-4 & AM PreK  
Early Dismissal 12:45  
Progress Reports go home



## Are You Moving?

As we begin planning for the 2011-2012 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.

## 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.

## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

### Grades K-4:

Wednesday, June 22nd  
School will dismiss at 12:45

### Preschool Last Days:

#### A.M. session

Wednesday, June 22nd  
Session will dismiss at 12:45  
(children must bring lunch and drink from home)

#### P.M. session

Tuesday, June 21st  
Session will dismiss at 3:30

## Incoming Kindergarteners

Please send in kindergarten physicals and paperwork as soon as possible for the 2011-2012 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



Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793 Please call by 9:00 AM if your child will be absent or tardy



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 Tuesday, June 21st)*

## **Enrichment Exploration Day** (formerly Enrichment Clusters)

Enrichment Exploration Day will be held on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. All K-4 students will be selecting a morning and an afternoon enrichment workshop to attend. Workshop topics include *Interesting Insects, Chemistry, Pop-up Books, Letterboxing, Fairy Houses, Wilderness Survival, Painting, Zumba, Exploring the Ocean, Geometric Designing, Martial Arts, Energy Efficiency, Collage Creations, Kites, The Science of Toys, Animals* and more!

Parents are welcome to come to Southeast on that day to help out in a workshop. Contact Enrichment Teacher, Susan Irvine [susan.irvine@mansfieldct.org](mailto:susan.irvine@mansfieldct.org) if you'd like to help out during a fun day of exploring.



## **Convention Invention Winners**

The Connecticut Invention Convention was held at Gampel Pavilion at the University of Connecticut on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Representing Southeast School were :

- **Emmett Christenson** in Mr. Hendricks' class for his "Washing Machine Vibration Reducer"
- **Anatole Keshwani** in Mrs. Cackowski's class for his "Push Through Screen"
- **Isabelle White** in Mrs. Sangree's class for her "Communitube"

All three students were recognized with awards in their judging circles. In addition, Emmett and Isabelle were featured in an article in the Mansfield Patch on-line newspaper. Congratulations, to Anatole, Emmett and Isabelle!

## **Savory Samples at Southeast School**



On May 17<sup>th</sup>, over 50 Southeast families came together to share savory samples of food from over 35 different nations. At least 150 Southeast family members came to the potluck dinner with the finest examples of foods that showcased traditional meals of many cultures. It was truly a tribute to the wonderful diversity of our Southeast family!

The "Savory Samples" committee (Señora Hutton, Mrs. Ziko, Mrs. Zirakzadeh and Mrs. Carr) want to thank all who came for their generous contribution to this night of celebration. It was a pleasure to share food, music and conversation with such a lovely crowd. We hope you and even more Southeast families will all join us again next year!



## **Star Students**

We would like to congratulate the following "Star Students" for the month of April:

Abdullah Alhashmi Alamer  
Jade Pacheco  
Alexis Taylor  
Zachary Kelly  
Aaron Kaufold  
Jesse Gifford  
Alisha Smith

Christina Cranmer  
Sophia Cherrier  
Anatole Keshwani  
Alexandra Mitlitsky  
Rachel Houman  
Kelley Gifford  
Medwyn Roberts

"Star Students" are students who exhibit exemplary behavior and leadership during lunch time. Star Students are selected every month and have been able to "lead the lunch line" for the following month. They are also invited to "eat at the Principal's Table" and have a special treat with Mrs. Fisher-Doiron.



Mansfield School Libraries and Mansfield Public Library have some great programs (and loads of books) lined up to make sure you have lots to read and do this summer!

Our theme this year is "One World, Many Stories" and we have fun programs and book suggestions to help you explore your world through books all summer long.

We're loading up a bus full of books again, so keep a look out for more information about dates and times for Books on Buses!

We'll send home information and summer reading resources from school at the end of the year, and it will all be available online at the public library: [mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org](http://mansfieldpubliclibraryct.org) and the school library: [mansfieldschools.follettdestiny.com](http://mansfieldschools.follettdestiny.com)



All you need in order to take out a book is your Mansfield Public Library card. We will provide more information, including the stop locations and times, at the end of the year in the 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.

Sign up online or in person at the public library on the first day of summer vacation to start the summer off with a book!



## UConn National Champion

Just about a year ago we wrote that Tyler Olander, a former Southeast student, was recruited by Coach Jim Calhoun to play for the UConn Men's Basketball Team. As you know, the 2010-11 UConn Men's Basketball Team won this year's NCAA national championship.

Tyler came to Southeast a few weeks ago to be recognized as a National Basketball Champion. He talked with our students, staff and some parents, signed autographs and even showed some of his unbelievable dunking moves with students and staff assisting him. Betsy Parker, P.E. instructor, with other staff members organized a schoolwide assembly as an opportunity to emphasize the message of believing in oneself and living a healthy and active lifestyle. Tyler spoke to our students about his experiences as a student at Southeast and said "how important school is, and to do what your parents ask of you because they know what is best for you." He also told the students that they "need to listen to their teachers, do their work and work hard at everything they do so their dreams will come true." Of course, Tyler had a captivating audience.

The students and staff congratulated Tyler by presenting him with an autographed basketball.

## Earth Day Poster Contest Winners

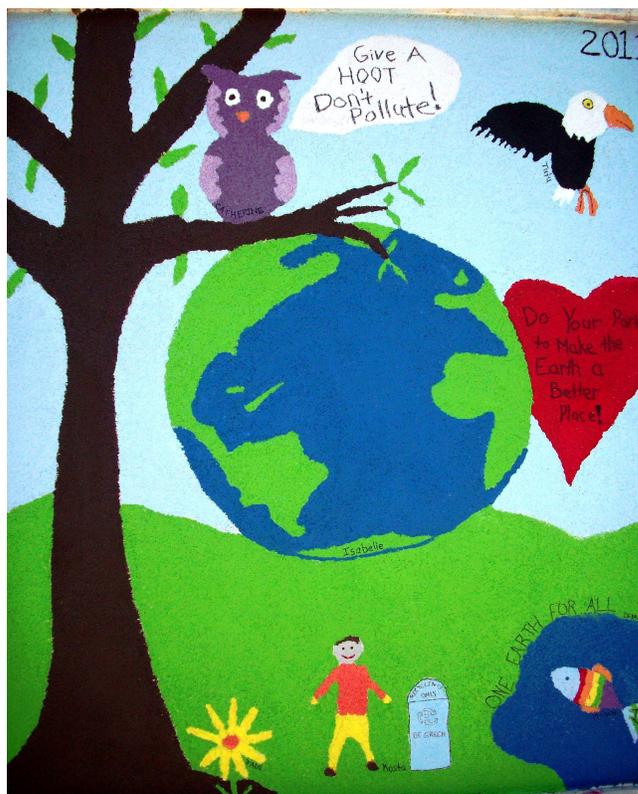
UConn Master's Program interns, Nicole Francisco and Hannah Sunderland, sponsored a "Go Green Mural" poster contest for Earth Day. Students were invited to design a poster that promoted earth-friendly practices and environmental sustainability. Posters would be judged on their message and appearance. The winning poster would be recreated as a mural on an outside school wall. To the credit of the participants, the submissions were so good that the interns were unable to select *just one* entry as the winning poster! They decided that the mural would be a collage of four winning entries. The winning student drawings were then interwoven and painted by Ms. Francisco and Ms. Sunderland to create the "Go Green Mural."

It can be viewed on the outside wall along the entryway to the portable classrooms.

The artistic talents and creativity of the following students helped to create this mural:

- 1<sup>st</sup> grade: a collaboration from Tutu Hansen, Jade Rivera, Michelle Zhu and Deyala Abou Saad;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Catherine Grenier;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Kosta Bokovic; and
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade: Isabelle White

The Southeast community extends its congratulations to these students, their families, and their teachers for promoting messages of care and concern for the environment. Well done!





## Southeast Runs

Miss Parker and Señora Hutton would like to say thanks to all the parents, staff, UCONN students, and EO Smith athletes who inspired kids and supported our 2010-2011 Southeast Running Club and Mileage Clubs. We couldn't have done it without you!

Recess Mileage Club has continued to be one of the healthy recess choices of many students in Grades 1-4. The kids set personal goals and feel great about their successes. They are inspired by parents and teachers who come and cheer them on as they complete laps.

Running Club had 67 third and fourth grade members this year. Every Friday, the kids were presented with new goals and new trails. After each 10 week session, we saw great growth in endurance and stamina.

Those third and fourth grade students who completed at least 25 miles attended KIDSMARATHON on June 4, 2011 at Norwich Free Academy. They ran with kids from across the state to complete the final mile of a marathon. This is Southeast's third year attending this exciting event sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools and it was an absolutely perfect day!

Our kids continue to choose to move and we couldn't be happier!

## Staff Appreciation Luncheon



The Southeast Staff would like to thank the PTO for all their hard work organizing the annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the Staff Lounge. The Southeast staff was treated to an assortment of delicious entrees, salads and desserts. It was truly a pleasant and relaxing get-away with delicious food enjoyed by all.

We would like to thank all of the families for the foods that they prepared and dropped off.

**NOW HIRING & TRAINING**

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## Notes From the Health Room:

### 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 (between 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.*



## 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!



## PTO Corner:

### PTO Officers 2011-2012

At the May PTO meeting, the following officers were elected:

President.....Cyndi Wells  
 Vice-President.....Jessica Higham  
 Secretary.....Mike Kelly  
 Treasurer.....Gwen Sgro

### Thank you to our 2010-2011 PTO Officers

A big thank you to Julie Brown, Andrea Lennon, and Kimberly Clark for their years of service and dedication to the Southeast Elementary School. Thank you to Mike Kelly, who served as PTO Secretary this year.

Good luck to the Lennon and Clark families on their endeavors in middle school!

### April TEAM Dance & Ice Cream Social Was a Great Hit!



The TEAM Dance was held at SE School on Friday, April 29. A special thanks to Andrea Lennon and Wendy Guyette for their hard work in organizing a great night! Thanks to Tia Willour, parents and staff who chipped in to help with last week's ice cream social.



### Southeast Flea Market & Tag/Bake Sale

This year's flea market was a big success! The Southeast PTO raised \$1100.

Thank you Jessica Higham, Tia Willour, Erin Ballou, Esther Soffer Roberts, Sarah Kaufold, Andrea Lennon, Michelle Boskovic, Maryann Olson, Charmaine Strickland, Monique Brown and Julie Brown for your hard work in organizing and running this event!

### Special Person's Day Thank You

Thank you to Suzanne Kelly for organizing this year's Special Person's Day that was held in May.



### Scholastic Book Fair Thank You



Thank you to Silvia Dorado for the Scholastic Book Fair that was held the first week of June. We made \$700.00 for the Southeast PTO.

### Volunteers Needed

The Southeast School PTO relies on its volunteers to help spread out the workload, please consider giving some of your time in the near future at an upcoming event.

Thanks to all of you who have given your time and talents this year!



### Upcoming Events:

Be on the lookout for information regarding the Summer Reading Program which has been coordinated through the libraries.

### PTO Funds at Work

Some may wonder, where do our PTO funds go? Over the 2010-2011 school year, some of the PTO funds were used for:

- Two new Smart boards for the kindergarten classrooms
- Young Author Joseph Bruchac visit
- 4th Grade Chemistry Seminar
- 4th Grade Moving On Ceremony
- Fun in Your Own Backyard
- Leadership Conference
- School Dance
- Game Night
- Fall Carnival
- March Healthy Snacks
- Family Skate
- Mansfield Library museum passes
- Books for the Southeast Library
- Fall Ice Cream Social
- Kids Marathon
- Staff Appreciation Day
- Equipment for the gym including ropes for the trestle tree
- Assemblies and enrichment programs such as Inkas Wasi, K-4 class science enrichment seminars, and the Talcott Mt. Science presentation

### Congratulations and Good Luck to our 4<sup>TH</sup> Grade Students

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



**Best wishes to the Southeast School  
community for a safe, happy and healthy summer!**