



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

## February - March 2012

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

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Once again it is time to schedule our Kindergarten Registration. We are asking your help in identifying all children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year.

If you have a child or know of a child who will be five years old on or before January 1, 2012, please contact the school office at 423-1611. We are gathering all names and addresses in order to send out invitations to the activities necessary to register your child.

Please feel free to call the above telephone number with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Fondly,  
Norma Fisher-Doiron



### Mansfield Schools AlertNow System



We are pleased to announce that Mansfield Schools is now using the AlertNow system to notify parents of school closures, delayed openings and emergency early closings. The system sends a telephone message with a recorded announcement to parents, using home and cell phone numbers provided to the school.

If you have a phone number change, please call the school office to update school records. If you do not wish to participate in this service, please call your school and your number will be removed from this list. We encourage parents not to remove their phone numbers as we believe this is an effective method for making sure you have important information.

For anticipated events such as snowy/icy weather, you should also have a backup method in case you do not successfully receive the phone call.

- \* Local radio and TV stations will list Mansfield Public Schools closures, delayed openings and emergency early closings.
- \* Sign up at [www.ctweather.com](http://www.ctweather.com) to receive email notification and/or cell phone text pertaining to school closures, delayed openings and emergency early closings.

Please note that our QNotify system DOES NOT announce school closures or delayed openings.

We suggest signing up for Electronic Notification of School Closing Announcements through [www.CTweather.com](http://www.CTweather.com)

### Calendar of Events

#### February

- Feb. 1..... 9:00- 3rd Grade Science Workshops 
- Feb. 2..... Groundhog Day
- Feb. 6..... 6:00 Parents' Hour: Internet Safety and School Climate. Presented by Nancy Gifford  
7:00 PTO Meeting
- Feb. 9..... 7:30 Board of Education Meeting at Southeast School Celebration Presentation 
- Feb. 12..... Lincoln's Birthday  
3:30 Family Skating at UCONN Freitas Ice Forum
- Feb. 14..... Valentine's Day 
- Feb. 20..... **NO SCHOOL**- Presidents' Day 
- Feb. 21..... **NO SCHOOL**- February Vacation
- Feb. 22..... **REGULAR DAY OF SCHOOL**  
(to make up for days missed at beginning of school year)  
Ash Wednesday  
Washington's Birthday 
- Feb. 23..... **REGULAR DAY OF SCHOOL**  
(to make up for days missed at beginning of school year)
- Feb. 24..... **REGULAR DAY OF SCHOOL**  
(to make up for days missed at beginning of school year)
- Feb. 28..... 3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club   
6:30 Family Game Night
- Feb. 29..... 9:15-11:30 Science Fair kick-off program,  
Science Isn't Always Pretty by Keith Michael Johnson

#### March

- Mar. 5..... 6:00 Parents' Hour- Southeast Network  
7:00 PTO Meeting
- Mar. 9..... Progress Reports go home 
- Mar. 11..... Daylight Savings Time Begins (turn clocks ahead 1 hour)
- Mar. 17..... St. Patrick's Day 
- Mar. 19..... 1st Day of Spring 
- Mar. 26..... **NO SCHOOL**- Professional Development Day
- Mar. 27..... 3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club
- Mar. 30..... 1:00-3:30 Minute to Win It, Grades 3 & 4

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



## "I Have A Dream" School Musical

On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, Music Teacher Joan Carr put on a school musical, entitled "I Have A Dream!" written by Jacob Jacobsen, Rollo Dilworth, Moses Hogan and Emily Crocker. Songs for *Peace and Harmony* were sung by all of our third and fourth graders. Some of the song titles were – *I Have a Dream*, *The Rhythm of My Soul* and *We Have the Dream*. Our fourth grade soloist was Ruby Landry who sang *Down by the Riverside*.

This year our stage props, which were projected on the wall behind the students, were paintings of historical figures in history who contributed to peace and freedom within our country. All of the artwork was created by our third and fourth graders during an enrichment cluster this past fall.



Wendy Guyette Photo

## Have you seen our new website?

[Mansfieldct.gov/southeast](http://Mansfieldct.gov/southeast)

You'll find: Calendar of Events, forms and flyers, sign-up for eAlerts, Before/After School Program, Suzuki strings, Progress Report info., lunch menu, PTO, Staff Directory and more!



## Calling All Kindergarteners!

Once again it is time to schedule our Kindergarten Registration. We are asking your help in identifying all children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year.

If you have a child or know of a child who will be five years old on or before January 1, 2013, please contact the school office at 423-1611. We are gathering all names and addresses in order to send out invitations to the activities necessary to register your child.

For more information please go to our webpage: [Mansfieldct.gov/southeast](http://Mansfieldct.gov/southeast) and click on FOR PARENTS. Select Kindergarten Guidelines. Please feel free to call us with any

## Science Fair & Invention Convention Kick-Off Assembly "Science Isn't Always Pretty"



Keith Michael Johnson will be returning to Southeast for two assemblies on Wednesday, Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>. He will kick-off our promotion of the Science Fair and Invention Convention with his presentation called, SCIENCE ISN'T ALWAYS PRETTY. The assemblies will be 9:15-10:15 for grades 2-4 and 10:30-11:30 for grades PreK-1.

More info at [www.keithmichaeljohnson.com](http://www.keithmichaeljohnson.com)



## Simply Super Sleuth Mystery Club

Some of our third and fourth graders are participating in an exciting after school Simply Super Sleuth Mystery Club. Carol Barry, a new Library Specialist for the Mansfield Public Schools, created this intriguing club.

The focus of the club is on mysteries, which supports critical thinking, prediction and problem solving skills. Some of the activities during this two month club include solving some non-fiction history and social studies curiosities, a mystery read along, Readers Theater and reading popular age-appropriate mysteries. In addition, club members will post video reviews of mysteries on the Southeast's Library Online catalog.

## Bus Guest Forms STRICT POLICY



Due to the fact that we have an exceptionally large number of children going to different destinations at the end of the day, it is important for the children's safety that we all adhere to our School District's guidelines.

If your child will be going on the bus to another child's house:

- District policy requires us to have the Bus Guest Forms TWO days before the visit is to take place.
- Both parties need to fill out a separate Bus Guest form. The party sending a child, and the party receiving a child should each have a separate form.
- Proper forms must be used. Please, no handwritten notes.
- We will not accept telephone calls for visitations.

Forms are available in the school office or on our website, [mansfieldct.gov/southeast](http://mansfieldct.gov/southeast) and click on **DOCUMENTS** at the top of the page.

If these policies are not followed we will be unable to allow the visit. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you. It is important to follow the district policies in order to ensure the safety of your child.



### 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:

- **Little Critter: A Green Green Garden**....Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday Fiona! Love Mom and Dad
- **Hocus Pocus**....For Catherine Grenier on her 9<sup>th</sup> birthday. Love Mama and Dad
- **Sneezy the Snowman**....For Annie Berkowitz on her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. From Mom and Dad
- **Me and My Dragon**....In loving memory of Grandma France. From Grant Gifford
- **Rosalyn Rutabaga and The Biggest Hole on Earth!**....For Kira Shepard on her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. From Mom and Dad
- **Nancy Drew: The Secret of the Old Clock**....In memory of Rose Gauvin, who always loved to solve a mystery. Mother of Michelle Kolomyjec. From Norma Fisher-Doiron

If you are interested in purchasing a book for our library, please contact Suzanne Kelly at 423-6071 for more information. Books may be dedicated to your child in honor of his/her birthday, a thank you to someone special, in memory of a loved one, congratulations, or any occasion.



### From the Green Thumbs Club

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

- Cell phones
- Laptops
- iPods and MP3 players
- GPS devices
- Video games and game systems
- Digital cameras
- Used toner and inkjet cartridges
- Rechargeable batteries
- DVDs, CDs, and videotapes
- Worn out athletic footwear (no metal cleats)

Please note: we only recycle rechargeable batteries. Regular batteries should be put in the trash.

We no longer collect old calendars and wallpaper remnants.

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

Wanted: The Green Thumbs Club will reuse plant trays and pots for its annual plant sale. These items may be left outside by the greenhouse door.



### From Mansfield Youth Services:

### Thank You Southeast, For Your Generosity

We would like to thank students, families and staff for the wonderful assortment of stylish hats, gloves, scarves and mittens that were donated to Mansfield's children this holiday season.

Every year your generosity amazes us! It is an honor to be able to share your gifts with families that might not otherwise be able to enjoy warm accessories for the winter season. Those who received your gifts are touched by your acts of kindness.

Members of our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Group were blessed with a lot of these items and we thank you for thinking of others as your efforts do not go unnoticed.



In appreciation,  
Pat Michalak, Coordinator  
Kathy MacNamara, MSW



### "Grief Matters"

The Mansfield Youth Services Bureau, in conjunction with professional volunteers, is offering a children's grief group beginning Sunday, February 26, 2012. This group, running for 5 consecutive weeks, offers a place for children who have experienced a great loss to cope, connect with others in a similar situation, and deal with the grief they are experiencing. Meetings are from 5:30-7:00 pm, every Sunday, with a light dinner provided. A parent or other adult is required to attend the group with the child. There is no charge for GRIEF MATTERS.

Parents, grandparents, children, teens, and young adults are welcome to participate and encouraged to connect with others who may be experiencing a similar situation. "Over and over we have heard from those who are grieving that what has helped them the most was talking with others who have gone through a similar experience," says Patricia Michalak, Youth Services Bureau Coordinator. Kathleen McNamara, Program Social Worker, adds, "The program really answers a lot of questions about how children grieve and gives parents and children a language for their emotions."

For more information, please call Pat Michalak at 860-429-3318 or email MichalakP@mansfieldct.org

## Notes From the Health Room Ingrid Hanka, RN



### FEBRUARY IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Oral health is a vital component of a child's overall health. By providing a healthy diet, minimizing the consumption of sweets, cleaning a child's teeth twice a day, and getting early dental examinations, a child can have a happy, healthy smile.

Some great websites to check out are:

[www.healthyteeth.org](http://www.healthyteeth.org) From baby teeth to braces, Healthy Teeth is all about what goes on inside your mouth. Produced by dentists for elementary aged kids curious about the "why?" of oral health.

[www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org) KidsHealth has separate areas for kids, teens, and parents- each with its own design, age-appropriate content, and tone. There are literally thousands of in-depth features, articles, animations, games, and resources - all original and developed by experts in the health of children and teens.

### FEBRUARY IS ALSO HEALTHY HEART MONTH

Cardiac health is an important issue all year long, but with February designated as "Heart Month" we have listed some great websites filled with healthy tips:



[www.healthiergeneration.org/kids](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/kids) Lots of entertaining and interactive activities for kids.

[www.Americanheart.org](http://www.Americanheart.org) Learn more about the AHA's efforts to reduce death caused by cardiovascular disease.

[www.deliciousdecisions.org](http://www.deliciousdecisions.org) You can have it all: delicious, nutritious food and better health.

### MARCH IS NUTRITION MONTH

In today's world of fast food, convenience foods, fad diets, diet drinks, and diet bars simple nutrition seems a thing of the past. However, this month - National Nutrition Month, try to get back to the basics and celebrate nutrition.

The key principles of good nutrition are:

- eating regular meals and snacks
- including at least five servings of fruit or vegetables per day
- including two servings of milk per day
- eating high fiber foods
- limiting fats and sweets



Try to follow these basics during March and see if you don't feel better, enjoy food more, and maybe even lose a little weight!

### 9-5-2-1-0 For Health

Here's the EHHD ACHIEVE Initiative's recipe for healthy children. Every day, every child should aim for:

- 9** hours of sleep
- .5** fill half the plate with fruits & vegetables every meal
- 2** hours or less of screen time outside of school
- 1** hour of physical activity
- 0** sugary beverages

For more information visit [www.ehhd.org/95210](http://www.ehhd.org/95210)

## NEWS FROM THE PTO:

We hope you can join us for some fun events over the next few months!

### Southeast Family Skate



Join us on Sunday, February 12 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Mark Freitas Ice Forum, 509 Stadium Road, UCONN Storrs Campus. All Southeast families are welcome and may skate for free. Bring your own skates or they may be rented there for \$5. Helmets are strongly recommended.



### Southeast Family Game Night

All Southeast families are welcome to come and play on Tuesday, February 28 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Southeast School. Free admission with a donation of a non-perishable food or toiletry item to Mansfield Human Services.

### Citrus Sale Fundraiser



Orders are due by February 15! If you did not get a brochure, please e-mail Jessica Higham at [jjohigham@gmail.com](mailto:jjohigham@gmail.com). All checks can be made out to "SE PTO". Stay healthy with some tasty Florida oranges and grapefruit.



### Munson's Chocolates and Butter Braids



These fundraising packets will be coming home with your child in late February as well as fundraising packets for Summer Bulbs.

### Thank you!

Thanks again to the Southeast community for your involvement and support! So far we have raised \$11,000 toward our operating budget of \$17,000. All of the money raised is put toward Enrichment Programs, Community Building events, fitness and healthy eating activities and more.



### PTO Meeting & Parents' Hour

Our next PTO meeting will be this Monday, February 6 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Join us before the meeting for a Parent's Hour presentation from 6:00-7:00 p.m. by one of our own SE parents. Nancy Gifford will be leading a discussion about Internet Safety for children.



### Volunteers Needed

We are in need of some volunteers to help us coordinate the April dance (held during "Screen Free Week") and we would like to put together our committee for the Fall 2012 Auction. Help us lessen the workload-if you can lend a hand, please contact Jessica Higham at [jjohigham@gmail.com](mailto:jjohigham@gmail.com) or 786-7392.



### Box Tops for Education & Campbell's Soup Labels



Keep bringing them in! They help our school raise money and purchase equipment. Thank you!