



SOUTHEAST NEWS

April - May 2012

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 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 in April. We will meet with our incoming kindergarteners and their parents in a few weeks. If there are families in your neighborhood who have children who are ready to enter kindergarten, please ask them to call our school office to be sure their children are on our list for the 2012-2013 school year.

Have a great spring!

With regards,
Norma Fisher-Doiron

Preschool Screening
May 30th, 31st & June 1st
 (by appointment only)

Buchanan Auditorium at the Mansfield Public Library

Mansfield Public Schools will be conducting Screenings for three and four year old children eligible for preschool for the 2012-2013 school year. Children must be age three by the first day of pre-school (Aug. 30, 2012) in order to be eligible for screening. Please call 423-1611 for an appointment.

Any child who will be 5 years old by Dec. 31, 2012 is eligible for kindergarten. Please notify the school if you have a child who will be entering kindergarten so we can keep you informed of the activities necessary to register your child.

Scan our QR Code to get to our website

We've got all the information you're looking for:



- News and Announcements
 - Calendar of Events
 - Documents and Forms
 - Sign up for eAlerts
 - Lunch Menus
 - P.T.O.
 - Staff Directory
 - Parent Handbook
- and so much more!*

What is a QR Code? QR Codes are 2 dimensional barcodes that are easily scanned using any modern mobile phone. This code will then be converted (called "dequarified") into a piece of (interactive) text and/or link. For instance, you walk around in the city and notice a poster for an event that seems interesting. You take out your mobile phone, scan the QR Code and will instantly get more information and a link to a website where you can book your tickets. You don't have to type or remember anything and because QR Codes can be very small, this saves a lot of space on the product as well.

Credit: www.Qurify.com

APRIL

Calendar of Events

- Apr. 2..... 9:15 Gr. 3-4 Field Trip to Hyde Cultural Center
7:00 PTO Meeting
- Apr. 4..... 6:30-7:30 Science Fair & Invention Convention
- Apr. 6..... **NO SCHOOL** - Good Friday
- Apr. 7..... Passover
- Apr. 8..... Easter
- Apr. 11..... 6:30-7:30 Kindergarten Parent Orientation
6-7:30 Are You Smarter Than a Third Grader- Ms. K's class
- Apr. 12..... Last day of C.O.P.E.
7:30 Board of Education Meeting
- Apr. 16-20..... **NO SCHOOL** - Spring Vacation
- Apr. 23..... 6:30 Literacy Night
- Apr. 23-27..... Screen-Free Week
- Apr. 24..... 8:15-8:45 Schoolwide Enrichment Team Meeting
9:00-12:00 4th Grade visits MMS
3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club
- Apr. 25..... Administrative Professionals Day
Talent Show (details to follow)
- Apr. 27..... 3rd Gr. Bowling Field Trip
6:30 School Dance "Dancing in the Streets"



MAY

- May 1-4..... Special Persons' Week
- May 7..... Kindergarten Registration and Screening (by appt. only)
7:00 PTO Meeting
- May 8..... National Teacher Day
- May 9..... National School Nurse Day
Mobile Dentist (details to follow)
- May 10..... 7:30 Board of Education Meeting
- May 11..... Assemblies- Fidelco Guide Dogs: Watch Me Grow
- May 13..... Mother's Day
- May 15..... 8:15-8:45 Schoolwide Enrichment Team Meeting
- May 16..... Incoming Kinders Bus Ride
- May 17..... 9:30-2:00 K Field Trip to Blue Slope Farm, Franklin
- May 19..... Southeast Tag Sale (details to follow)
- May 22..... 10:45-1:00 Gr. 1-2 Field Trip to Hyde Cultural Center
3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club
- May 25..... Gr. 2 Field Trip to Sturbridge Village
- May 28..... **NO SCHOOL** - Memorial Day
- May 29-31..... PTO Book Fair (also held on June 1st)
- May 30 & 31..... Preschool Screening- by appointment
- May 31..... 4th Grade Parent Tea at MMS



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

Important Information for Parents of Incoming Kindergarteners for 2012-2013



Parent Orientation will be held on Wed., April 11th from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. This presentation is for parents to learn about our kindergarten program and the process of entry to Southeast School. You will hear from the Superintendent and Principal, as well as kindergarten teachers and the screening team. Specific details regarding registration and your child's visitation will be reviewed. At this meeting you will be given the registration forms needed for enrollment and sign up for a registration/visitation date and time.



Science Fair and Invention Convention



Attention Southeast Families! The **SE Science Fair & Invention Convention** will be held on **Wednesday, April 4th**. Projects should be brought to school that day. Anyone may attend the evening event at 6:30. Everyone who participates will get a certificate and a ribbon.

Has your child already thought of an idea for the Science Fair? If not, consider that there are two special certificates that are new this year.

- Students who do a project that promotes environmental awareness will get a *Green Scientist Certificate*.
- Students who do a project that promotes health and well-being will get a *Health and Wellness Certificate*.

We hope you find a way to participate in this fun family event. Visit the Southeast website or contact Mrs. Irvine for more information.

Battle-of-the-Books Students Helping to Save the Green Sea Turtle



As part of this afterschool program, third and fourth grade members of the Battle of the Books Club sent personal letters to DEEP Commissioner Daniel Esty regarding ways they can save the green sea turtle by lowering emissions from coal powered energy plants. A thank you letter from Tracy Babbidge, Interim Chief for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, was sent to each of the twelve students. The thank you letter states that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection continues to help residents of Connecticut lower carbon emissions and address climate change. It was further stated that Commissioner Esty is working on the following initiatives:

- Lowering emissions and creating jobs in the state by developing renewable energy like solar power.
- Increasing energy efficiency – reducing energy at home, in businesses and schools saves money, energy and helps the environment.
- Drive less – biking, walking, taking the bus eliminate car trips and reduce air pollution.

Our students were very excited to receive a personal letter from Interim Chief Tracy Babbidge.



Savory Samples at Southeast

A great night was had by all! The school was looking very festive and the stage was set for wonderful entertainment which was provided by some very talented students in grades K-4. The students performed an African piece and a dance from Ecuador to get the night started.

Over 175 Southeast family members and staff came together on March 22nd to sample generous helpings of savory recipes from more than 35 different nations. We enjoyed unique and delicious international food and wonderful conversation. It was truly a tribute to the diversity of our Southeast family.

The "Savory Samples" committee members (Señora Hutton, Mrs. Ziko, Mrs. Zirakzadeh, Mrs. Carr and Mrs. Lennon) want to thank all who came and all who helped out behind the scenes for their generous contributions to this night of celebration. It was pleasure to share food, music and conversation with such a lovely crowd.

National Grange Presents Dictionaries To Third Grade Students

Mansfield's local chapter of the National Grange presented third graders at Southeast with its yearly donation of dictionaries. As part of The Dictionary Project, the Grange has once again donated dictionaries through its *Word for Thirds* program. The goal of the program is to help third graders complete the school year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing them with their own personal dictionaries. The gift of a dictionary provides each student the opportunity to use it at school and home for years to come.

James Hendricks, third grade teacher, shared that his students learn how to use the dictionary through the language arts program and then use it independently throughout the school year. He stated that "With every student receiving the same dictionary, it makes it easier to teach dictionary skills." After receiving the gift of a dictionary, one student said, "I love the smell of the new dictionary. It is great!" Another student said, "I can search for new words to learn every day; this is awesome!"

The National Grange, America's oldest rural and agriculture organization, has presented more than 1.8 million children with dictionaries.





The St. Jude's Math-A-Thon has begun. According to Ms. Kamienski, Southeast has been sponsoring the St. Jude Math-A-Thon for about 8 years and we've raised \$44,682.00!

Math-A-Thon is a cool way to sharpen your math skills and earn awesome prizes while helping to save the lives of patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Please see the bulletin board in the main hallway, posters around school, and our website for important information.

**It's official. Spring has sprung!
Southeast is on the Move!**



Recess Mileage Club

Starting on March 27th, Recess Mileage Club is back for the season on Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:30 for First and Second Graders and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00 for Third and Fourth Graders. Kids can choose to come as often as they like on these days.

Southeast Running Club

For 10 weeks, from March 30th until June 1st, registered Third and Fourth Graders will be setting both personal and team running goals at Southeast Running Club.

Meeting dates are:

March 30th, April 5th, April 13th, April 27th, May 4th, May 11th, May 18th, May 25th, May 31st & June 1st.



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 can leave a voicemail for Cheryl Hathway or Sue Kamienski at 423-1611.

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:

- **Olive and Snowflake**....In memory of Vanessa Zirakzadeh who loved animals. Daughter of Barbara Zirakzadeh. From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- **Bailey**.... In memory of Vanessa Zirakzadeh who loved animals. Daughter of Barbara Zirakzadeh. From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- **Five Little Monkeys**.... In memory of Vanessa Zirakzadeh who loved animals. Daughter of Barbara Zirakzadeh. From The Southeast PTO

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.

School Bell and Tardiness



The morning bell rings at 8:55 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 a marked absence.

Please remember that parents bringing children to school should park in the designated areas of the parking lot on the side of the building and walk with their children into the building at the Arts Wing entrance. For safety reasons, we cannot allow children to be dropped off in the parking lot.

School Hours

Grades K-4.....8:55 to 3:30
AM PreK.....8:55 to 11:45
PM PreK.....12:50 to 3:30

Students who are late for school interrupt the classroom and miss valuable instruction and work. PUNCTUALITY IS VERY IMPORTANT. Please allow extra time getting your children to school in the morning.

**Durham School Services
Now Hiring Drivers**



Bring your Children to Work
No License /No Problem CDL Training

Now Hiring for Mansfield Location
1725 Stafford Road, Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268
860 429-1225

SIGN ON BONUS EFFECTIVE 1-13-2012 THRU 03-01-2012
For Fully Licensed CDL Driver with P/S Endorsements

Please call 860 429-1225 for more details

June Calendar Preview

- June 1..... Preschool Screening- by appointment
3rd Grade Field Trip to Mystic Seaport
Last day of Scholastic Book Fair
Ice Cream Social (details to follow)
- June 2..... KidsMarathon at Norwich Free Academy (details to follow)
- June 4..... MMS visits 4th Graders
7:00 PTO Meeting
- June 7..... 2nd Grade Pen Pal Field Trip to Mansfield Hollow Dam
- June 12.... (rain date for 2nd Grade Pen Pal Field Trip)
4th Grade Moving-on Ceremony (details to follow)
- June 14.... 7:30 BOE Meeting- SE School Celebration Presentation
- June 15.... Fun In Our Own Backyard (raindate: June 18th)
- June 20... **EARLY CLOSING 12:45 - Last Day of School**
(extended to make up one snow day) Hopefully we will not need to make up any more inclement weather days.

Notes From the Health Room Ingrid Hanka, RN

"Shine Your Smile Day" is Coming!

We have invited Mobile Dentists/Smile Programs to bring it's on-site preventative dental services on Wednesday, May 9th because we know how important good oral health is to our children's overall general health.

The team will set up a mini-dental office and can provide *dental examinations, cleanings, flouride 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.

Registration forms will be sent home in the next few weeks.

Location has not yet been determined.

Learn more about this program by visiting its website:

www.mobiledentists.com or contact Ingrid Hanka at 423-2793.



How Do You Know if It's Strep Throat?

Strep throat is a bacterial infection of the tissues in the back of the throat (pharynx) and the tonsils or adenoids. The tissues become irritated and inflamed, causing a sudden, severe sore throat. Symptoms of strep throat include a sore throat with:

- Fever of 101° or higher.
- Pain and difficulty swallowing.
- White or yellow spots or coating on the throat and tonsils.
- Swollen lymph nodes in the neck.

In children, strep throat may also cause body aches, headache, stomachache, nausea, vomiting, or listlessness. Strep throat usually does not occur with cold symptoms, such as sneezing, runny or stuffy nose, or cough.

- It is treated with antibiotics. Antibiotics may not make you well faster, but they shorten the time you are able to spread the disease to others. Antibiotics also lower the risk of the infection spreading to other parts of your body.

Children should be **fever free and treated with antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.**

The PTO Provides Healthy Snacks Throughout the Month of March



For three days a week, throughout the month of March, the PTO provided healthy snacks for Southeast students. The snacks served were various fruits and vegetables.

The PTO would like to thank Maureen Gagne and Michelle Rosado for their assistance in preparing the snacks.

Scan our PTO QR Code to See Our Page on the Southeast Website.

Here you will find PTO Agendas and Minutes, as well as upcoming events and fundraisers. PTO flyers and fundraiser forms can also be found on this page. Check it out!



NEWS FROM THE PTO:

What an eventful school year! We would like to give the Southeast community an update on PTO events, and take this opportunity to thank all of you for your generous support and helping to assist with school wide initiatives.

PTO Officers: Cyndi Wells, President; Jessica Higham, Vice President; Gwen Sgro, Treasurer; Mike Kelly, Secretary

Mission Statement and Goals: The Southeast PTO is comprised of parents, teachers and principal who work together to support the programs of Southeast, work toward continuous school improvement, and strengthen the Southeast community. Communication and support are the two primary goals of the PTO.

Initiatives and activities for the 2011-2012 school year:

1. **Communication and collaboration/support with parents, the community and school:**

- Community Building events-Fall Carnival; Adopt a Family and WAIM Walk for Warmth; Cocoa, Crafts and Caroling; Family Skating; Family Game Night; April Dance; Ice Cream Social.
- Events to collaborate with school initiatives: UCONN and Scholastic Book Fairs; Stories for Southeast (a way to bring books to our library while also celebrating a special occasion/person); Special Person's Days; Collaborating with Character Education Committee for Adopt a Family; and collaborating on Parents' Hours.

2. **Fundraising to support school:**

- Operating budget=\$16,000
- Funds raised to date=\$11,000
 - * Silent Auction held during the Fall Carnival was supported by over 75 local businesses who generously donated to the cause; various catalog fund raisers, such as bulbs, gift wrap, Munson's, citrus fruit; direct donations from families and the community; our annual tag sale
- Last year the PTO purchased three SMART Boards for the school, this year we are continuing to support the school through helping to pay for some field trips ("Skippyjon Jones" and "Freedom Train"); scholarships to students for field trips; enrichment speakers (Keith Michael Johnson Science Insight) and programs such as enrichment clusters; fourth grade Moving-on Ceremony; community building events (Cocoa, Caroling and Crafts and April dance); snacks for the Running Club and Nutrition Month (March); museum passes at Mansfield Public Library; Special Person's Days; CAS Leadership conference and more!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, or if you would like to be added to the Southeast PTO e-mail list to receive period updates, please e-mail cyndi.wells.pto@gmail.com. Thanks!

Upcoming volunteers needed for the School Dance (April 27), Ice Cream Social and Book Fair (May 28- June 1) and preparation for the Fall Silent Auction. For more information, please contact Jess Higham at jhigham@gmail.com.