



SOUTHEAST NEWS

June 2014

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

Dear Parents/Guardians;

Can you believe the end of the school year is almost upon us? This happens to have been one of the quickest years in my life, and I wonder if it has been the same for you? Please note this is the last newsletter for this academic year, as we are getting ready to prepare for the end of the year, as well as plan for next school year.



Thank you, on behalf of the entire SE staff, for the month long celebration of Teacher Appreciation Day. We were touched by your outpouring of support including gifts, warm sentiments, and the incredible luncheon that was provided to us last week. Our staff lounge was filled with so many delicious choices; it was hard to decide where to start! We wholeheartedly appreciate everyone who was involved with planning, cooking, set up, and clean up. There is no doubt that we are extremely fortunate to be in a community that prides itself on school support and kindness. This was just one more reason to be reminded of our good fortune and our rewarding partnership with you.

As we wind down this school year, we are preparing schedules and reviewing student progress. Most of the students have completed all parts of the Smarter Balanced Assessments, the DRA-2 reading test, and the STAR assessments. We are looking carefully at our data to analyze individual student progress and to plan for next year.

We look forward to seeing you at one (or more) of the year-end celebrations – like the Moving On Ceremony or the Ice Cream Social. There are many reasons to celebrate the individual successes of your child(ren) this year. It might be a meaningful activity to select some work from the beginning of the year and help your child compare it to now. It can be simple, but it can help with their own goal-setting for next year.

On a more personal note, I personally want to thank each of you for embracing me in my first year at Southeast. It has proven to be a year filled with new learning, making meaningful relationships with the staff and families, and getting to know your child. I feel fortunate to have been given this opportunity to join the Mansfield community and I look forward to another great year next year. Enjoy your summer vacation. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Rodriguez

Calendar of Events

June

June 2..... 9:30-10:00 AM - Suzuki Performance
7:00 PM - PTO Meeting



June 4..... Scholastic Book Fair



June 5..... Scholastic Book Fair
Grade K field trip to Children's Museum



June 6..... Scholastic Book Fair
6:30-8:00 PM - Ice Cream Social / Art Show

June 10..... Gr. 2 Pen Pal Picnic (rain date June 12)
1:00-3:30 PM - 4th Gr. Wax Museum



June 11..... 8:15-8:45- Mileage for Moms & Distance for Dads

June 13..... Fun in Our Own Backyard (rain date June 16)



June 18..... 7:00 PM - 4th Gr. Moving on Ceremony

June 19..... Last day of school for Preschool



June 20..... Last day of school for Gr. K-4

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Grades K-4:

Friday, June 20th

School will dismiss at 12:45

Preschool:

Thursday, June 19th

AM class dismisses at 11:45

PM class dismisses at 3:30



Bus Changes for 2014-2015 School Year

Please notify the office as soon as possible of any change in your child's transportation needs. If you do not inform us of any changes, we will continue to use your child's **current** day-to-day transportation schedule for the upcoming year.

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

Third Graders Experience

The Last Reef 3D: Cities Beneath the Sea

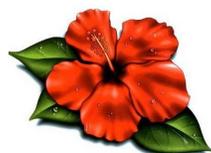
The third grade classes would like to thank the Southeast PTO for providing additional funding to view a 3D movie on their field trip to the Connecticut Science Center on May 29, 2014. This enrichment opportunity extension allowed students the opportunity to learn about our “connection – and responsibility – to the complex ocean.” Students were able to “experience dolphins, sharks and rays but also lesser-known species, such as crocodile fish, colorful nudibranchs and delicate flatworms.” This curricular extension allowed third graders to see the connection of science to the real world and how their actions now can affect the world in the future.



THANK YOU to the Southeast PTO for granting us this great opportunity!

Thanks for Making a Difference!

Thank you, Southeast School, for helping Madison Dunstan and Sophie Hart raise money to send to Heifer International. They wanted Southeast students to decide what Heifer should buy for the people in need. So they went to all the K-4 classrooms to ask. Here is what Southeast students decided! We will get a package that sends a girl to school. How does that happen? Well, Heifer International provides a family with training and live-stock so they can earn the income they need to pay for their daughter's school fees and supplies. We had enough money left over to buy rabbits for another family. Rabbits are easy to care for animals and their manure can be used in gardens, too! Then we also will send money for families to have ducks and geese. They can provide eggs to the family and they can sell the extra eggs, along with any baby geese and ducks, to earn more money for their family. If you would like more information about Heifer International, visit their website at Heifer.org.



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. 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.



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 June 16th)

Thank you to all of our student teachers and interns:



Kate Shuster, Gabby Pallotto, Jana Munoz, Sarah Riley, Jess Gagne, Jessica Raugitinane, Jill Vaz, Lauren Rodriguez, Jessica Deschenes

Ms. Math Visits Southeast School



Ms. Math visited our school in early April to share her love of math and to help us learn in new ways.

The kindergarten and first grade students spent time learning about numbers by arranging dice to make tens or twelves in lots of ways. The students enjoyed competing with their teachers in math games to see who can think of the most unique combinations of numbers. Second grade students learned all about money with coins. The third and fourth graders also used money but they were learning about place value. The older students also learned about note taking and how to instruct their classmates. The homerooms were split up so each group can teach the rest of their class. The first class used their money to explore numbers in different forms—expanded form, multiplicative form (you can stick your tongue out when you say that big word!), column form, and standard form.

The families who came to our Family Math Nights had a great time with card games and dice. There was so much fun and laughter, we forgot we were learning! Have you asked your child about Ms. Math? You can learn more about Ms. Math at her website: zoidandcompany.com

BUDDY BENCH



We are trying to raise funds for a Buddy Bench and we are asking for donations. A Buddy Bench is a place you go on the playground when you have no one to play with. Hopefully someone will come to play with you.

We would like to know how much money you might be willing to donate. The bench is going to be made of Douglas fir wood and will cost around \$250.00. If you'd like to donate please send your donation to Mrs. deVecchis' class before June 13th. Checks should be made out to Southeast School.

Thank you for donating to the Buddy Bench!

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.*



Southeast Star Students

Every month, one boy and one girl from each classroom are nominated by their teacher or classmates as a Star Student. These are students who have shown positive behavior, leadership skills, or have made significant improvement during the month.

They are recognized at a special lunch with Mrs. Rodriguez.

April Star Students

KINDERGARTEN: Sarah Brown, Landon Davis, Emma Elliott, Raemanny Garcia, Jeaniece Marble

1ST GR.: Grace Bladen, Elian Jiminez, Bronwyn Mott, Grace Slayton, Tyler Storrs, Aleeriza Tabarssi

2ND GR.: Hanzadah Alsuwat, Tessa Gile, Akosua Hansen, Myles LaRose, Erica Orgioli, Alexandria Ortiz, Casey Palmer

3RD GR.: Sofia Mendoza Barcelona, Henry Christenson, Janet Otu-Nyarko, Jade Pacheco, Preston Bennett, Colin Willour

4TH GR.: Elizabeth Bigelow, Ryan Sierra Torres, Magnus Mutch, Lucas Tamsin

May Star Students



KINDERGARTEN: Ben Engler, Penelope Noel, Andrew Cheng, Lilyana Sackschewsky

1ST GR.: Danielle Byun, Caleb Eldredge, Claire Hart, Madison Kelly, Aidan Leonard, Julia Popeleski, Michelle Zhu

2ND GR.: Auveen Beheshti, Gabriella Hernandez, Brielle Lopez, Jakob Sauve, Phoebe Stober

3RD GR.: Dylan Fisher, Ashlyn Higham, Cai Ouellet, Griffin Stacey

4TH GR.: Dakota Blanchard, Joshua Engler, Ben Higham, Fawn Owen, Shannen Cook



Thanks to all the families that participated in our Screen Free Week April 21-25. It was a great success and we hope you found ways to connect as a family.

Screen Free Week was organized by enrichment intern, Jillian Vaz, who kicked off the week with a pep rally outside with all Southeast students. Student-made posters decorated the school and our bulletin board overflowed with great ideas for how to spend our screen-free time. One of the highlights of the week was the Talent Show. You can see some Talent Show pictures in a slide show on the "SE Online" Blog, found on our school webpage under Quick Links.



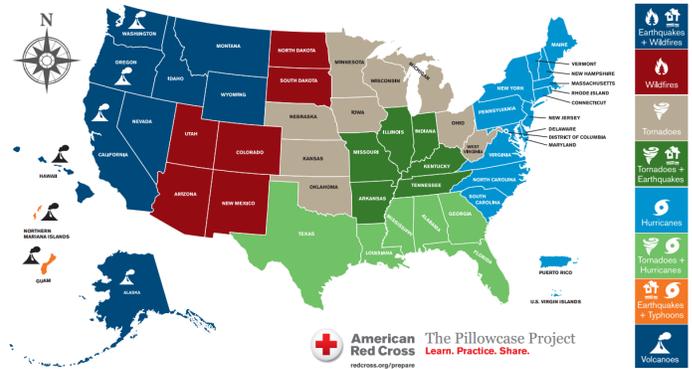
Mr. Hendricks Becomes a Disaster Preparedness Educator for the American Red Cross

Our very own third grade teacher began an expedition last July to become a volunteer within the American Red Cross Disaster Services. Since that time he has progressed to a leadership position within Territory 4 which is Windham, New London, and part of Tolland County (including Mansfield). His primary role is to support local disasters (fires, flooding, and more). This past month, Mr. Hendricks was trained to be a Preparedness Education Instructor for the American Red Cross Masters of Disaster Curriculum and Pillowcase Project, two separate programs within the American Red Cross' Preparedness Education branch. These projects were created after Hurricane Katrina as an outreach program to get students in third, fourth, and fifth grades involved in disaster planning with their families.

Recently, Mr. Hendricks, along with other Red Cross volunteers, implemented the programs within an enrichment cluster titled *American Red Cross: Are You Ready?* Students participated in activities that allowed them to understand the different disasters (house fires, thunderstorms/tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and more) in our region of the country and created a special pillowcase to build their own "go kit" in the event they needed to leave quickly. The cluster was well-received and exciting!

Hazards Map

Natural hazards happen all over the United States. Use this map to find out which kinds of hazards to prepare for where you and your relatives live.*



Be Prepared!



If you are interested in how you can volunteer your time with the Disaster Services branch or the Preparedness Education branch, please contact James Hendricks at james.hendricks@mansfieldct.org.



Summer Health and Safety

Ingrid Hanka, RN

As the warmer months approach, it's a great idea to start thinking about things to keep our kids healthy and safe this summer.

* Remind your children to drink plenty of fluids. Water is the best choice to keep all of us well hydrated and feeling our best. Children should drink approximately every 20 minutes if they are participating in activities outside during the warmer weather. (American Academy of Pediatrics)



* Sun screen is important if your child is going to be outside; 80% of lifetime sun damage occurs during childhood (melanomafoundation.org). This is why it's so important to protect your child's skin. If you expect them to be outside, you should apply sun screen lotion with an SPF rating of at least 15. Application should be liberal so that you are getting all the SPF benefits. *Please keep in mind that sunscreen cannot be applied by school staff.

* Hornets, wasps, and other stinging insects are out again. If your child is stung, be sure to remove the stinger (the edge of a credit card can be used to scrape it out carefully). Apply ice and watch your child closely for one half hour. This is especially important if your child has never been stung before. Localized discomfort is normal. But be sure that no other symptoms such as shortness of breath, a weak rapid pulse, vomiting, or fainting occur. These may be symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and require immediate emergency medical attention. (mayoclinic.com)



* Water safety is important no matter what your age. Children should always be supervised during any water activities. And if they don't know how to swim, now is a great time to consider getting your child involved with swimming lessons. Lessons can be found through almost any town recreation program. They provide both you and your child with a sense of pride and safety. (Discoveryhealth.com)

Southeast Runs

Miss Parker, Mrs. Irvine and Señora Hutton would like to say thanks to all the parents & staff who inspired kids and supported our 2013-2014 Southeast Running Club and Southeast Mileage Club. We also want to thank the PTO for their support and generosity. PTO funded all healthy snacks for Running Club as well as registration for KIDSMARATHON. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!

Recess Mileage Club has continued to be one of the healthy recess choices of many students in Grades 1-4. Now, we even have our Kindergarten kids doing laps during their afternoon recess! The kids set personal goals and feel great about their success. All kids are inspired by parents and teachers who come and cheer them on as they complete laps.

Southeast Running Club had over 50 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. Increased confidence and great pleasure came with this growth!

Those third and fourth grade students who completed at least 25 miles attended KIDSMARATHON on May 28, 2014 at Norwich Free Academy. They ran with kids from across the state to complete the final mile of a marathon. This is Southeast's sixth year attending this exciting event sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools. It was an absolutely perfect day! The KIDSMARATHON motto is "Finishing is Winning and Winning is Finishing". We're proud to say that all of our kids were "WINNERS"!

As our kids continue to "choose to move", we couldn't be happier with the results!

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Photos courtesy of Paul Tamsin



Principal's Blog on our website:
mansfieldct.gov/southeast



News, photos, resources for parents, etc.
 Look for this icon on our homepage.



To our parents who volunteer to help during these busy school days. And of course, thank you to our PTO officers this year:

- Co-Presidents.....Cyndi Wells
 Erin Christopher
- Secretary.....Britney Lima
- Treasurer.....Amy Dunstan



Upcoming Events

Mon. June 2nd-PTO Meeting 7PM-

Stay Informed! PTO meeting minutes and Treasurer Reports are posted to the Southeast School Web Site one month after the meeting. They contain important information like what programs are currently benefiting from our fundraisers. Even if you cannot make a meeting, please volunteer to help a fellow parent or staff member with coordinating an event!

June 3rd-6th Scholastic Book Fair-

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the school library for students and parents to buy books before (8:45) and after school (3:30-4). It will also be open during the ice cream social on Friday evening. All proceeds go to the Southeast PTO (which in turn benefits Southeast programs).

Friday June 6th- Ice Cream Social and Art Show.

Families are invited to the Southeast playground for ice cream and play-time. All Southeast students will have artwork displayed for families to enjoy. Thank you to our SE art teacher, Mrs. Anger, for her talent in bringing out creativity in our students! The book fair will also be open for purchasing items.

Fri. June 20th- Proposed Last Day of School

FALL 2014

Wed. Aug. 28th
First Day of School

Mon. Sept. 9th
First PTO meeting

Sat. Sept. 27th
Fall Carnival and Silent Auction

SCIENCE PROGRAMMING WITH MRS. HARRINGTON

One of the programs that *your fundraising dollars* supports is local science expert Sue Harrington visiting our classes and doing hands-on, creative and engaging science activities with all of our students.

Southeast Family Hike

To end "Screen Free Week," several Southeast families gathered to enjoy a two mile hike from the school down to the Mansfield Hollow State Park. It was a wonderful opportunity to get some exercise, soak in the fresh air and meet new friends! A special thanks to all who participated, and to Jana MacDonald for organizing it!

Movie Night

Southeast students were involved in voting for the movie night that was shown at Southeast in March. Families came with blankets and enjoyed the movie RIO, while eating some healthy snacks. It was a fun evening together and we thank Cyndi Wells for organizing it!

A food drive was also held that night and we collected many items for the "My Brothers Keeper" food pantry in Mansfield. Thank you to our students, Lila Gillon and Bronwyn Mott, for organizing a collection that contributed to a worthwhile cause.



Earn Cash for Our School!

BOX TOPS

The Box Tops program has raised \$650 so far this year. Please keep saving your Box Tops over the summer as this program has proven to be profitable for our school programs.