



SOUTHEAST NEWS

December 2011- January 2012

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

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As this year comes to a close, I can't help but look back at all the wonderful happenings at Southeast for 2011. I feel so fortunate to be a part of a community that works together as a family to provide enrichment and support to all of our children. Once again, we have demonstrated that "Together Everyone Achieves More".

This year was filled with many challenges. As we review the past year, we can see that our efforts have been extremely productive. I commend our staff, parents and families for doing an outstanding job in providing all of our children with so much in the way of academic support, encouragement and love. I look forward to our continued partnership in making Southeast School a place where all children meet with success.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season filled with happiness, lots of love and good health.

See you next year!

Fondly,
Norma Fisher-Doiron

WINTER WEATHER, DELAYED OPENINGS, EMERGENCY EARLY CLOSINGS

As winter approaches, the possibility exists for storms that would require the Superintendent to order a delayed opening or an emergency early closing.

It is the parent's responsibility to be aware of delayed openings and early closings or cancellations by listening to the radio or TV and to make arrangements for childcare. We encourage you to sign up for Electronic Notification of School Closing Announcements through www.CTweather.com



For more information about delays and emergency early closings, please log on to our website at:

www.mansfieldct.gov



Calendar of Events

December

- Dec. 20..... Hanukkah begins at sunset
- Dec. 22..... First Day of Winter
- Dec. 25..... Christmas Day
- Dec. 26..... **NO SCHOOL** - Winter Vacation
Kwanzaa begins
- Dec. 27..... **NO SCHOOL** - Winter Vacation
- Dec. 28..... **NO SCHOOL** - Winter Vacation
Hanukkah ends at sunset
- Dec. 29..... **NO SCHOOL** - Winter Vacation
- Dec. 30..... **NO SCHOOL** - Winter Vacation



January

- Jan. 1..... New Year's Day
Kwanzaa ends
- Jan. 2..... **NO SCHOOL** - Winter Vacation
- Jan. 3..... Trestle Tree begins
- Jan. 9..... 6:00-7:00 Parents' Hour: 9-5-2-1-0 for Health
7:00-8:00 PTO Meeting
- Jan. 16..... **NO SCHOOL** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 18..... 4th Grade Ice Skating field trip
- Jan. 23..... Chinese New Year



Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

Despite Mother Nature's best efforts to disrupt trick-or-treaters from collecting money, the Mansfield School communities raised \$1950.07 for UNICEF. Thanks to all of our students who were encouraged to take the orange UNICEF boxes and collect and/or donate money. Children around the world will benefit from the money that was collected for this worthy cause.

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

The Trestle Tree is coming soon to Southeast School!



A physical education program unique to Mansfield Public Schools, the Trestle Tree satisfies the differentiated needs of all children. Beginning with low heights and simple activities in Preschool and Kindergarten, the Trestle Tree progressively gets higher and more challenging as children get older and more skilled. Activities on the Trestle Tree include creative movement, problem solving initiatives, movement exploration games, gymnastic skills, strength building, climbing and landing techniques, and cooperation.

The Trestle Tree, which consists of many components, is creatively assembled in various forms resembling a cross between gymnastic apparatus and an indoor playscape. The components of the Trestle Tree include trestles, balance beams, bridges, ladders, bars, nets, slides, mats, and ropes. We are looking forward to the challenges presented by the Trestle Tree program.

Schoolwide Thanksgiving Feast



Southeast School celebrated its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Friday, November 18th. The dinner was part of a schoolwide assembly. All of the Southeast PreK-4 students and faculty sat together to enjoy a family style meal, which included turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls, applesauce, cranberry sauce, gingerbread and milk.

To carry out the message of "giving thanks", Enrichment Teacher, Sue Irvine and Erika LaBella, one of our kindergarten teachers, introduced a schoolwide community service project. In keeping with this year's schoolwide theme, *Together Everyone Achieves More*, a bulletin board was created in the main hallway near the front door with the message giving gifts to families in need. Both talked about the specifics of the project and explained that everyone was encouraged to help those in need during the holidays. The second graders began the festivities by singing Thanksgiving Day songs.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Gagne and Mrs. Rosado for preparing our delicious feast. We are also grateful for the energetic parent volunteers that arrived early to set-up, serve and clean-up for this special celebration day.

First Grade Scarecrow Festival



We would like to thank all the parents who helped us during our Scarecrow Festival. The children did such a wonderful job creating their scarecrows and placing them outside our garden for all to enjoy. A special thank you to the Wells family for providing grain bags and twine again this year.

Holiday Gift Ideas from the Art Room!

Children love to create and art supplies are a wonderful gift to help encourage them to imagine, create, explore, problem solve, and have a blast in the process! Art supplies don't have to put a big dent in your wallet. Here is a list of things we use in the art room that are favorites with my students. Buy a plastic bin or tote to keep everything in and your budding artists are good to go! Most of these items can be found at stores like Dollar Stores, Lots and More, Ocean State Job Lot, Wal-Mart, A.C. Moore or Jo-Ann's. Have fun shopping. I guarantee you, and the kids will love these!

-Karen Anger/ Art Teacher

- * Colored Construction Paper
- * Pad of white drawing paper
- * Markers
- * Crayons (regular, fluorescent, metallic...)
- * Oil crayons
- * Tape (clear and masking)
- * Scissors (I like the *Fiskar* brand)
- * Pencils (colored and regular)
- * Pipe cleaners, all kinds!
- * Craft foam (in sheets or shapes)
- * Colored felt squares
- * Pom poms
- * Googly eyes
- * A box of craft sticks (popsicle sticks)
- * Glitter glue
- * Watercolors/brush (these are not very messy, good for at-home use)
- * Brown paper bags
- * White paper plates
- * Elmer's Glue (works the best!)
- * Glue sticks
- * Save boxes, cardboard tubes, etc. (the kids love creating and building things with them using masking tape.)
- * Yarn or string
- * Sequins
- * Assorted buttons



THE GIVING TREE



Our Giving Tree has been such a success these past years that we have decided to have another. We are collecting new hats, mittens, and scarves for local, needy families. Both adult and children sizes are needed. There is a tree in the main office on which the children can place their donations of hats, scarves and mittens. Please leave the items unwrapped. Last day for donations will be Monday, December 19th, at which time they will be picked up for distribution to those families in need.

Monetary donations to Mansfield Youth Services will be accepted this year as well.

Thank you so much for your community support.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Now that the weather is changing and temperatures are dropping, dressing your child appropriately for the weather is important. Students will be sent outdoors for recess, weather permitting. It is important for the students to go out in the fresh air and exercise. Please be sure your child has a winter coat, gloves or mittens and hat. For your child's comfort please include boots, snow pants and an extra pair of dry socks when there is snow on the ground.



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:

- **Homework**Dedicated to Benjamin Higham in honor of his 8th Birthday. From Mom
- **Testing the Ice**.... Dedicated to Ashlyn Higham in honor of her 6th Birthday. From Mom
- **Sivu's Six Wishes**....For Nikolas Anagnostou on his Birthday.
- **Children Make Terrible Pets**.... For Junseo Hong in the hope that he will continue to love reading. From Mom and Dad
- **Goodnight, Little Monster**.... For Junseo Hong in the hope that he will continue to love reading. From Mom and Dad
- **Let's Count to 100**....For Bhagyavi on her 5th birthday. From Mom and Dad
- **Mary and Her Little Lamb**.... For Virginia Martin on her 7th Birthday. Love, Mom and Dad
- **No Dogs Allowed**.... Happy Birthday Daniel. We love you! Mom, Dad, Jonas and Priska
- **Secrets at Sea**.... Happy 8th Birthday Jacqueline Grace Obey. With Love Mommy and Jeff
- **Brontorina**.... For Olivia Rose on her 4th birthday. From Mommy
- **The Pout-Pout Fish**....In loving memory of Dorothy Schafer mother of Wendy Darre. From The Southeast PTO
- **Can't Sleep Without Sheep**.... In loving memory of Dorothy Schafer mother of Wendy Darre. From Norma Fisher -Doiron
- **10 Little Hot Dogs**.... In loving memory of Dorothy Schafer mother of Wendy Darre. From Norma Fisher -Doiron
- **Ocean Alphabet Book**....Dedicated to art and reading, complimentary colors on the wheel of learning! From the Southeast PTO
- **Boat Alphabet Book**.... Dedicated to art and reading, complimentary colors on the wheel of learning! From The Southeast Staff
- **Underwater Alphabet Book**.... Dedicated to art and reading, complimentary colors on the wheel of learning! From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- **Underwater Counting Book**.... Dedicated to art and reading, complimentary colors on the wheel of learning! From Norma Fisher-Doiron

If you are interested in purchasing a book 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.

Books & Breakfast Program

Linda Robinson, Emily Tinnel and Joyce Meimers were recognized for their B&B Program at the Connecticut Association of Schools 18th Annual Program Recognition Banquet at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington on November 21, 2011.

Southeast Elementary school is in its third year of offering a district-wide Books & Breakfast program. The goal of this program is to use a read-aloud to engage the student listener while developing background knowledge, increasing comprehension skills, and fostering critical thinking. A read-aloud can model the use of reading strategies that aid in comprehension.

During the six-week program, which is offered twice a year, kindergartners and their parents/guardians meet for one hour before school. By involving parents/guardians in this activity, the intent is to show them how to use a read-aloud effectively and how to select quality books for sharing at home. Library Coordinator, Linda Robinson and Shared Librarian, Emily Tinnel designed and developed this program.

Each week participants receive a nutritious breakfast from our school kitchen, which they take down to the library. After sharing breakfast surrounded by books, Joyce Meimers, from our library staff, presents a story time that focuses on a specific pre-literacy skill. Each week the stories and activities, such as puppets or puzzles, emphasize a skill. The program



follows an interactive format that encourages students and adults to participate and share. Parents receive a handout that summarizes the information on the skill covered that week and contains a suggested list of books that focus on continued development of that skill.

Families that attend all six sessions receive information on the pre-literacy skills of vocabulary, print motivation, print awareness, narration, letter recognition, and phonological awareness. At the conclusion of the program, children and adults can also select books to borrow from the school library. The parents are also offered a set of children's paperback books specifically designed to review that week's skill. To encourage a broad range of participation we also offer transportation and daycare for siblings.

This program makes learning fun. Positive feedback and repeat participation by many of our families highlight our success. Students love sharing this special time before school, adults enjoy the unique access to reading resources, and the library staff appreciates the opportunity to help students become successful readers. Books & Breakfast is a win-win program for all involved.

Notes to Teachers

When sending notes to teachers for parent pick-up, etc. please make sure that the paper you write the note on is large enough to be found by the teacher. Tiny scraps of paper are often overlooked or get lost.

For your convenience, we've put a generic form on our website. You may find it handy to use.





Notes From the Health Room

How to Reduce Your Risks with Influenza

Be Healthy

- Eat nutritious meals; drink plenty of water; stay physically active.
- Avoid habits that put your hands near (or in) your mouth like nail biting, pencil holding, licking fingers to turn the page, smoking, etc.
- **Practice safe respiratory etiquette:** cough or sneeze into a tissue or napkin (and throw away), if a tissue or napkin is not available, cough or sneeze into your upper arm or the crook of your elbow.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly: use soap and water; scrub for 20 seconds (sing the ABC song). Aside from washing hands after using the bathroom, it is good practice to wash before eating or preparing food; after sneezing or coughing, and after being in a public area (door knobs, park benches, stair railings, etc).
- If you are ill, stay home; do not go to work or school; do not send sick children to school or day care .



Be Prepared

- Keep a two-week supply of easy to prepare food (including ready-to-eat or canned items and a manual can opener) for each person in your home.
- Have disposable cups, plates & utensils and trash bags set aside for an emergency.
- Always have a two-week supply of medicines you take regularly.
- Pack an emergency box of items for care-giving including: a first aid kit, disposable gloves, fever thermometer, pain relievers (ibuprofen and acetaminophen), over-the-counter flu remedies, hand sanitizer, and surgical masks. Cold packs, blankets, and humidifiers could also be useful.
- Keep a two-week supply of basic items such as diapers & wipes, soap, shampoo, toothpaste & toilet paper, napkins & paper towels.
- Think about other items you might need to store or have available in the event of a two-week interruption in community services. Remember food, water, and litter for your pets; cash; a cell phone or regular phone with a cord; and a portable radio and flashlight with extra batteries.



Be Informed

In the event of any public health emergency, the Eastern Highlands Health District will have current local information posted on the website: www.ehhd.org

Keep informed about general information about a pandemic from reliable sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov)

From Eastern Highlands Health District

Dealing With Holiday Stress

Holiday stress is felt by most people. It is a time of experiencing mixed feelings. For many there are feelings of excitement and anticipation while for others there are feelings of sadness and loneliness. Depending on what is going on in their lives people can experience both feelings simultaneously. Here are seven coping skills sure to help you lessen stress during the holidays.



- Acknowledge what you feel. If you have had a loss or can't be with loved ones you will feel sadness. Give yourself permission to be sad but also look for positive ways to help you get through this time of year.
- Be realistic about change. Remember that change is a constant in life. All families grow and change as do celebrations and rituals. Look for what you can do to make this a meaningful time of year for you. Hold on to rituals that you enjoy and can continue and find ways to add newness to the holidays.
- It will help to accept family members and friends as they are. Every one of them is dealing with their own stress. Let go of unspoken expectations. Instead see how you can be supportive to them.
- Keep up your daily healthy habits. If you regularly exercise, stick to your schedule. Exercise is a great way to relieve stress. If you have not been exercising try to add 15 minutes a day for some aerobic exercise. You will be amazed how much more energetic you will feel after a brisk walk around the block.
- If you tend to indulge too much try having a plan this year. There will be more food and alcohol to tempt you. Eat a healthy snack before going to a party so you don't go overboard on the items that are hard to say no to. Overindulgence increases self-loathing. Better to remind yourself ahead of time and stick to a plan instead of berating yourself with guilt.
- Be the one who decides what is right for you. Learn to say NO. Get good at listening to what your body and mind say you can handle. Others may have expectations of you but you are the only one who can decide if you can fulfill them or not.
- There is no such thing as perfect holidays. Don't aim for perfection. What you want to keep in mind is that you will be more relaxed if you have a simple goal like "I want to enjoy my holidays."

Article Source: [Ezine Articles](#)

Author: [Kristina von Rosenvigne](#)

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM A VAMPIRE?

The way a movie vampire covers his face with his cape is a good way to stop the spread of germs. It's called the Vampire Cough. Next time you cough or sneeze, cough into the inside bend of your elbow. If you cough into your hands, the germs from your mouth get spread around. Think about it - what was the last thing you touched with the inside of your elbow?



Our Schools' Art Curriculum

The Mansfield Public Schools is pleased to announce that we have begun using a new communication vehicle designed to share images of our K-8 art curriculum with students, parents, staff, and community members. Monitors have been placed at a variety of Mansfield public buildings including our schools, town hall offices, the public library, and the Community Center.



Art teachers from our schools will share images of our students engaging in our art curriculum and /or displaying finished art projects. Images will change throughout the course of the year to reflect our schools' art curriculum. Each school will show images of its students and this artwork while those in other public buildings will have a mix of images from all four schools. Any parent/guardian not wanting to have their child shown in either the school or public building venues should contact their art teacher.

We welcome your thoughts as we seek to support the arts in this new way. If you have questions regarding this activity, please feel free to contact me at mboesupt@mansfieldct.org and/or 860 429-3350.

Gently Used Clothing Needed

Spills happen! We are in need of used clothing to lend to children who may need a dry change of clothes during the day.

Items most needed: elastic or adjustable waist pants, long sleeve shirts. We will always welcome donations of new, packaged underwear for both girls and boys.



PICKING CHILDREN UP FROM SCHOOL

Please remember to send a note in with your child if you will need to pick him/her up from school early or unscheduled at the end of the day. A separate note for each child's teacher is preferred. This will eliminate any confusion at dismissal time and assure your child's safety.

If your child is being picked up by someone other than yourself, a note is necessary. We will not release a child to anyone other than their parent without written authorization.

Phone calls, e-mails and/or faxes cause interruptions of the classroom and are not reliable or acceptable ways to notify the teacher or the office. Please keep in mind that if there is a substitute teacher, they do not have access to email.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

NEWS FROM THE PTO:

THANK YOU

Thank you Southeast Community for all of your support this Fall! A special thank you to Jean Johnson, Karen Molloy, Erin Ballou, Erin Christopher and Sarah Kaufold for working at the bake sale, as well as all of the families who donated baked goods. Added thanks to Maryann Olson and Silvia Dorado for organizing the book fair. The *Walk for Warmth* was held on a beautiful November day and six SE families participated. We appreciate the families who attended this event and helped to heat the homes of area families in need.

FUNDRAISERS

We had many donations of yummy baked goods during the Parent Teacher Conferences. Additionally, the PTO held the second silent auction, and the Scrips and Equal Exchange fundraisers. With these funds we are coming closer to achieving our fundraising goal of \$16,000- money that will be put right back into the school to support enrichment programs, field trips, healthy snacks and other fun activities!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

The *Adopt-A-Family* program was a huge success! It looks like we'll be able to fulfill the needs of families' in need during the holiday season. Many thanks to the Southeast community who participated in this program. Due to everyone's generosity, we were able to create a brighter holiday for 5 families' (25 people) in our community.

COCOA, CAROLING AND CRAFTS

This family event was held Friday, December 9, and it was terrific! We made recycled reindeer ornaments, paper snowflakes, holiday cards, star ornaments and more all while singing along with carols. In addition to the fun, we also collected lots of non-perishable food that has been donated to the Mansfield Food Pantry to create the holiday food baskets for families in need.



UPCOMING PTO SPONSORED EVENTS:

Mark your calendars (and keep checking the SE school web site for updates and further information)!

- January 9th, 6:00-7:00 PM- Parents Hour-presentation and discussion from EHHD's 9-5-2-1-0 Program.
- January 9th, 7:00-8:00 PM- PTO Meeting.
- February 6th, 6:00-7:00 PM- Parents Hour-Internet Safety presentation and discussion.
- February 6th, 7:00-8:00 PM- PTO Meeting.
- February 12th, 3:30-4:30 PM- Family Ice Skating at UCONN sponsored by the PTO.

Have you seen our new website?

Go to www.mansfieldct.gov and click on schools, then click on the Southeast tab.

Looking for a form or flyer?

MANSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DOCUMENTS CALENDAR DIRECTORY eALERTS Quick Links

Southeast Elementary School

Mansfield District Office Mansfield Middle School Goodwin Elementary School **Southeast Elementary School** Vinton Elementary School

District Information For Students **For Parents** For Staff Community Links

Welcome to the Southeast Elementary School!

We are an elementary school in northeast Connecticut serving 260 students in preschool to fourth grade. Our shared goal is to develop high self-esteem, academic achievement and social development in all students.

[More information...](#)

Online Learning Resources

Raz-Kids.com

STUDY ISLAND

Mansfield School Libraries

Discovery EDUCATION

[More links...](#)

Southeast News & Announcements

- ▶ PTO Adopt-A-Family (Updated 12/7)
- ▶ Third and Fourth Grade Musical - Thursday, 12/15
- ▶ Electronic Notification of School Closing Announcements through www.ctweather.com
- ▶ Revised 2011-2012 School Year Calendar
- ▶ PTO Agendas and Minutes

Southeast Elementary School
134 Warrenville Road
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[Driving Directions](#)

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[Staff Directory](#)
Norma Fisher-Doiron, Principal

[School Hours/Delays & Closings](#)
[PTO \(Parent/Teacher Organization\)](#)
[School Lunch Menus](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Southeast Elementary School
Thursday, December 15

Monday, December 14

3:30pm Expanding Horizons

7:00pm Winter Concert- "I Have a Dream"

Tuesday, December 20

8:15am Schoolwide Enrichment Team Meeting

3:30pm Expanding Horizons

Wednesday, December 21

Hanukkah

Thursday, December 22

Winter Solstice

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time

[Link to Full Page Calendar](#)

Southeast Elementary School 134 Warrenville Road, Mansfield Center, CT 06250 | Phone: 860.423.1611 | seoffice@mansfieldct.org

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Calendar of Events

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