



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

February - March 2007

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

Dear Southeast Families,

Once again it is time to schedule our Kindergarten Registration and Parent Orientation meetings. We are asking your help in identifying all children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2007-08 school year.

If you have a child or know of a child who will be five years old on or before January 1, 2008, please contact the school office at 423-1611. We are gathering all names and addresses in order to send out information to parents of incoming kindergarteners for next year.

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

Sincerely,  
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 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.

For more information about delays and emergency early closings, please log on to our website. The web address is at the bottom of this page.



## Calendar of Events

February 1-28.....	American Heart Month
2.....	Groundhog Day
1.....	7:30 BOE Mtg.
5.....	6:00 Parents' Hour
	7:00 PTO Mtg.
8.....	7:30 BOE Mtg.
12.....	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
14.....	3:30 Green Thumbs Mtg.
16.....	Trestle Tree Unit Ends
19.....	Presidents' Day/No School
19-25.....	February Break/No School
March 1-31.....	Nutrition Month
2.....	Dr. Seuss Celebration
5-16.....	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Gr. CMTs
	11:00 CT. Ballet
	6:00 Parents' Hour
	7:00 PTO Mtg.
8.....	7:30 BOE Mtg.
9.....	Progress Reports will be sent home
16.....	CT COLT Rhyme Celebration at MMS
21.....	Green Thumbs Mtg.
23.....	Profession Development Day
	No School for Students
28.....	9:00 Invention Convention/ Science Fair
	6:30 Invention Convention/ Science Fair

## DRESSING FOR WINTER

Now that cold weather is here, 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.



*Thank you for your extra effort .*

**Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793**

**Please visit our website [www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast](http://www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast)**

## The Annual Southeast Science Fair and Invention Convention

is scheduled for  
**Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
 from 6:30-7:30  
 in the Southeast Gym.

We hope all families consider doing a project for this fun and educational event. Think of something simple and interesting! The idea is for you and your family or friends to have fun with science. A great way to start is to visit the Southeast Web Page and click on the science link in the *What's New* section. You'll find a Science Fair packet and an Invention Convention packet with suggestions and guidelines as well as helpful science and invention links.

We would also like to recognize Holly Fitch Briere for doing a great kick-off for the Science Fair. Holly explained the scientific process to the students and then they helped her perform several simple experiments and surveys. Students left with excitement about science and interest in participating.

All families are welcome to attend the Science Fair and Invention Convention, even if they did not create a display. Come and see what it's all about.



## FEBRUARY IS 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.

## PARKING LOT

Our parking lot at Southeast is being reviewed for possible changes. As many of you know, we are having difficulties with adequate parking, flow of traffic within the parking lot, and monitoring the safety of your children during parent drop-off and pick-up times. Our Central Office Administration, Gordon Schimmel and Fred Baruzzi, Resident State Trooper Sean Cox, and Town Engineer Grant Meitzler, are reviewing the concerns and next steps. Safety and the best options for parking will be determined. A meeting with the Traffic Committee is scheduled for next Thursday at the Town Hall to review our current parking lot situation.

In the meantime, please make every effort to park your car in the designated areas and escort your child to and from the school. We need to work together to ensure the safety of all children and adults.

Thank you for your help.

Norma Fisher-Doiron

## FITNESS WEEK

Mark your calendars for April 2-5—Fitness Week at Southeast School. We will have teachers from England visiting our school to teach, learn and share their talents. We have also invited others to teach yoga, dance etc. Contact Susan Irvine if you would like to take part in activities this week.



## The Mansfield Clean Energy Team,

a task force made up of residents and Town employees, has arranged two opportunities for residents and businesses to save money on compact fluorescent bulbs, lamps and other fixtures. The lighting sale will be on **February 11, 2007 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Community Center**, in conjunction with Winter Fun Day. The second sale will be on **March 15, 2007 from 12 pm to 6:30 pm in the Town Hall Council Chambers**. All fixtures and bulbs are designed for energy conservation. Indoor and outdoor fixtures and bulbs of all shapes, sizes and designs will be available. Fluorescent bulbs will start at \$1.00.



Virginia Walton, Recycling Coordinator  
429-3333

## Mansfield Will Host the 16th Annual CT COLT Rhyme Celebration

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Mansfield School District will host a state-wide World Language event known as the CT COLT (Connecticut Organization of Language Teachers) Rhyme Celebration. It will be held in the auditorium at Mansfield Middle School. A group of approximately 600 students, faculty, families and dignitaries will attend. Well known author, Mary Ann Hoberman, whose poem, **A House is a House for Me**, was the inspiration for this year's theme, has also agreed to join us. Rumor has it, there's even a famous local canine who is trying to clear his schedule so he can make an appearance. (Can you guess who that may be?)

This annual program provides an opportunity for children up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, who study a second language or who speak a heritage language at home, to perform. Children sing authentic songs and recite authentic poetry to showcase the language and culture they have learned. This year, seven 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Southeast School have been selected to present a Spanish song. They are Maddie Briere, Grace Blanchard, Marysia Borucinska-Begg, Alexa Curtis, Bethie Charron, Madelyn Kruger and Katie Ouimette. We also have Priska Burkhard performing in German with her 5<sup>th</sup> grade brother, Jonas. Anysia Lee and Yuyeon Lee will recite poetry in Korean. They are all working very hard to get ready.

Every student who attends the Rhyme Celebration wears a button designed by a fellow student. There is a contest to decide which students' artwork best portrays the theme in a creative way. As luck would have it, the winner of the button contest is from Southeast! The button designed by 4<sup>th</sup> grader, Charles Cheong, will be worn by every performer!

We also have a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, Emily Sandall, who was a runner-up in the contest. Congratulations Charles and Emily. We're so proud of you!

The CT COLT Rhyme Celebration is truly a wonderful and unique experience for all who take part. Having the 16<sup>th</sup> annual event here in Mansfield is quite an honor. A good time will surely be had by all.

## 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:

•Henry and Mudge and the Big Sleepover... For Leah Newmyer on her 6<sup>th</sup> birthday... From Mom, Dad and Timothy.

•Gorilla, Gorilla ... Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Ms. Hathway and class.... From Travis, Hope and Tom Pearl

•Detective LaRue: Letters from the Investigation ...To all the teachers that taught our children so much! Merci! .... From The Goffinet Family

•Charlie and the Chocolate Factory ... To our great kids – Louis & Jeanne Goffinet ... From Papa & Mama

•Secrets of the Sphinx ... For Merce Tabor on his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday ... From Mom and Dad

•Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator ... For Southeast. Thanks... From Clayton Schroeder

If you are interested in purchasing a book for our library, please contact parent volunteer, Linda Sydie at 423-1282 for more information.

## CMTs

During the first two weeks of March, we will begin our testing sessions of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) for grades 3 and 4. Test sessions will include testing in the areas of math, reading/language arts and writing. We hope to have all testing sessions completed by March 16. Make-up dates will be given during the week of March 19.

We ask that you help us by seeing that your child has enough sleep each night, a good breakfast and that you provide support by realizing this is a somewhat stressful time for children. We will provide some practice tests in order to familiarize the children with the kinds of test questions and procedures used on the CMT.

If you have any questions regarding CMT testing, please feel free to call.

Norma Fisher-Doiron

## SCIENCE SAMPLER



Southeast is offering an exciting new Science Sampler program which allows students to explore different fields of science and the scientific process by conducting simple, hands-on experiments. Topics are geared to the interests of the children and may include: physics, life sciences, electricity, and geology. Students are polled to help decide the topics. The Science Samplers are taught by Sue Harrington, who holds a Master's degree in Biology and has been a Science Educator and Naturalist for over 30 years. Students sign up for a series of four classes and a fee of \$25 per student is collected, with scholarships available based on need. The program relies on a parent volunteer to assist with each class.

PTO members have coordinated these after-school classes. The first series of classes was coordinated by Kimberly Clark. It was offered to 1st and 2nd graders and filled quickly. The current series is being offered to 3rd and 4th graders and is being coordinated by Linda Blum. Space is limited to keep class sizes small, but it is hoped that this program can continue.

## MANY THANKS

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.....Edmond and Amy Chibeau  
 Vice President.....Ronald Baker  
 Secretary.....Monique Brown  
 Treasurer.....Lesley Sweeney



## SOUTHEAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS' HOUR



Monday, February 5, 2007 at 6:00 PM  
in Room 19

**"Supporting Your Child's Friendships and Social Interactions at School"**

Presented by  
Marie Liebman, School Psychologist

Childcare will be available in Room 18  
Refreshments will be served: Pizza & Juice  
Please call 423-1611 to arrange for childcare.

This presentation is open to all parents/guardians of the Southeast community.

## 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!

## **Hold the Date:**

Family Fun Day at UConn's ice rink is scheduled for Saturday, March 3 from 2:15-3:15pm.

