



SOUTHEAST NEWS

April - May 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. 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 will be gathering all names and addresses in order to send out invitations to the functions 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.

Sincerely,
Norma Fisher-Doiron

Attendance

The importance of regular, daily attendance as a basis for academic achievement cannot be overemphasized. It is equally important that the student arrives on time and prepared for the day.

The regular interaction of students with one another in the classroom and their participation in a well-planned instructional activity is vital to their academic success.

We encourage you to examine your child's attendance and tardy record. If you have any concerns, the student attendance procedures are on page 5 of the Parent Handbook or you may call 423-2793 with questions.

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

Calling all typists!!



Can you help us out? The 50th Committee is looking for people to type up interviews. If you can donate just 35 minutes, please contact Beth Latino or Monique Brown.

Many Thanks!!!

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Please drop off and pick up your children through the Fine Arts entrance near the kitchen and gym. It is important for the safety of your children that you escort them into the school and sign them in, if necessary. We have reserved all of the parking spaces near the Fine Arts entrance for you to do this. Please do not park in the front circle.

• On behalf of the Southeast students, we would like to thank Kim O'Keefe for her informative Dental Health presentations during Dental Health Month in February. We are very fortunate to have generous, knowledgeable parents at Southeast.

• If you have noticed the colorful Health bulletin boards during the past few months, and the festive Birthday bulletin board, they are due to the gracious efforts of Linda Sydie.

Our thanks to Kim and Linda.



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The school year has been extended to make up for 3 snow days. The last day of school will be a half day on Friday, June 22nd.



PTO SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

The PTO's Sunshine Committee would like to thank all the wonderful families and staff members who brought dinners and good wishes to the several Southeast families who were temporarily experiencing cloudy days. Richelle Strimple committee chairperson is taking names of volunteers who could continue contributing dinners at this time and/or would like to go on the yearly list for future times when dinners for SE families might be needed.

Our committee strongly believes that it takes a village to raise a child as well as to bring a little more sunshine into all our lives. Thank you for your assistance!

Richelle's phone number is 429-7022 or email her at Strimple4@charter.net. (after Apr. 2nd)

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

Please visit our website www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast

Calendar of Events

April

Nutrition Month

April 2 - 5.....	Fitness Week
April 2.....	3:45- Expanding Horizons
	6:00- Parents' Hour
	7:00- PTO Meeting
	Passover begins at sunset
April 3.....	8:15- Schoolwide Enrichment Team Meeting
April 5.....	3:45- Expanding Horizons
April 6.....	Good Friday - NO SCHOOL
April 8.....	Easter
April 9.....	3:45- Expanding Horizons
April 10.....	Passover ends at nightfall
April 11.....	6:30- Sox Hop w/ Brian Gillie ---PTO function
April 12.....	3:45- Expanding Horizons
	7:30- BOE Meeting
April 16-20.....	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
April 25.....	3:30- Green Thumbs Meeting
April 30 - May 1.....	Special Person's Week

May

May 4.....	9:00- 3rd Grade Bowling Trip
	1:00-3rd Grade Bowling Trip
May 5.....	Cinco de Mayo
May 7.....	6:00- Parents' Hour
	7:00- PTO Meeting
May 8.....	Author Visit: Barbara McClintock
May 10.....	7:30- BOE Meeting
May 13.....	Mother's Day
May 15.....	8:15- Schoolwide Enrichment Team Meeting
May 19.....	8:00-3:00 SE Tag Sale
May 21 - 25.....	TV Turn-off Week
May 28.....	Memorial Day- NO SCHOOL

MANY THANKS...

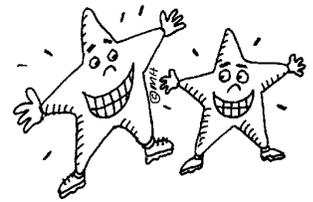
to our parents who volunteer to help during these busy school days. And, of course, thank you to our PTO officers this year—



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

Math & Writing Academies

Congratulations to all those students who participated in the Math and Writing Academies. They did an outstanding job working on stories and sharpening their math skills. These students (and parents) deserve recognition for going "above-and-beyond" the regular school day. Some students even attended both academies. We understand how hectic our lives can be, so kudos for a great job!



Enrichment

Southeast School is pleased to be hosting three teachers from Whitegrove School in Bracknell, England during the first week of April. Colin Sambrook, Paul Barker and Julie Parsons will arrive in Manfield on March 31st and will stay until April 6th. We met Colin last year when he visited Southeast to learn about our Enrichment Program. Their town of Bracknell is about 20 miles southwest of London in the county of Berkshire, near Windsor Castle.

This dynamic team of teachers will observe and teach in the PE, Music, Enrichment and grade-level classes throughout the week. Students and teachers will learn some new dances and sports activities including cricket and (non-contact) rugby.

The Southeast Enrichment Team is arranging for other fitness experts to come to Southeast during Fitness Week to offer yoga and dance classes and other ways of keeping fit. If you are interested in participating in Fitness Week events or have some ideas of ways to make our guests feel welcome, please contact Susan Irvine at 423-1611.

Handling Peer Pressure

Q: My child recently decided to stop being friends with a classmate because other kids said, "We don't like him." How can I teach my youngster to think for himself?



A: It's important to give your child the tools he needs to stand up for himself—especially now, before he faces peer pressure about things like drugs and alcohol. Talk to your youngster about choosing friends who share his interests and values. Kids often give in to peer pressure because they want other kids to like them. If your son has good friends on his side, he won't be as likely to go along with the crowd. Also, teach him to walk away from uncomfortable situations. For example, if the boys playing basketball are being mean to others, your child could go to another part of the playground to play.

Kids Helping Kids

Our annual Southeast Math-a-Thon to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital is back! It's time to use our brains, math skills, and positive attitudes to help other children. Students can earn money for this great charity simply by exercising their math skills and obtaining donations for their efforts.

Our kick-off ceremony will be held at school on March 29th. Students can then sign up to be participants in this exciting event. Math funbooks will be given to your child after he/she signs up to participate. Instead of completing a math funbook, children may choose to complete their math work on a CD. Be sure to indicate which one they would like when you sign up.

We are extremely happy to be part of this unique "fun"raiser that is in its 28th year and involves more than 53,000 schools. It's a fun way for OUR children to make a difference in OTHER children's lives. There are also some fun prizes they can win for their charitable efforts. Please let us know if your company might be interested in matching donations raised for St. Jude's by our Southeast children or your child. Let the Math-a-Thon commence!

-Ms. Kamienski, Grade 3

www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast
Southeast Radio is back!
 check it out

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:

- ◆ The Owl and the Pussycat..... In Memory of "Mugga" From Kelsey Brandon (a former SE Student).
- ◆ A Million DotsTo My Dad, Dominic Piroli. I Love You! From Brandon.
- ◆ Rock, Brock, Savings Shock To Brandon Bidwell with All My Love, Hugs and Kisses xoxo, Mom.
- ◆ What Grandma's Can't Do Annalieze, Happy 6th Birthday!Love, Mom & Carlos.
- ◆ American Girl Changes for Felicity: A Winter Story For Jenise Crosthwaite on her 10th Birthday! From Mom and Dad.
- ◆ The Costume Party ...In Loving Memory of Carol Ann Gifford ... For her Grandchildren Kelly, Jesse & Grant.
- ◆ Skeleton Hiccups In Memory of Dominic Piroli, Loving Father of Brandon Bidwell.
- ◆ Miss Smith Reads Again In Memory of Dominic Piroli, Loving Father of Brandon Bidwell.
- ◆ What a Day It Was at School ... In Memory of Dominic Piroli, Loving Father of Brandon Bidwell.
- ◆ George's Marvelous Medicine... For Nicholas Porebski on his 9th Birthday...From Mom, Dad and Brother Martin.
- ◆ The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More For Nicholas Porebski on His 9th Birthday... From Mom, Dad and Brother Martin.

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

Snack

Please don't forget to pack a snack for your child.



Most teachers have set aside a few minutes for a mid-morning snack.

Eric Barrett and Joseph Phillips Finalists in Geo Bee

Fourth grade held their annual Geography Bee in January. All fourth graders participated in this four day event. There were seven rounds of questions using maps of the United States and of the world. At the end of the seven rounds, several students had earned enough points to participate in the final round of competition. All of the staff who assisted with the bee were impressed with the 4th graders enthusiasm, attention, and spirit of competition. Eric Barrett and Joseph Phillips were the last two finalists. Jo Jo went on to take a written test for the state competition. Congratulations to all 4th graders for their participation!



From the Green Thumbs Club

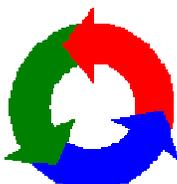
Are you tired of getting so much junk mail? Here are some tips from the Town of Mansfield that you could follow to reduce the amount of junk mail you receive: Send a letter to:

Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
PO Box 9008
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

State: "Please remove my name from your mailing list. Do not lend, sell or trade my name to any other organization." List all the various ways that your name and address typically appear on mailing labels.

Removing your name from catalog and credit card mailing lists takes more effort. Call each catalog or credit card company that you receive unwanted mail from and ask the customer service representative to remove your name from their mailing list and any lists that they sell.

Prevent junk mail before it starts. When you order by mail or make a contribution to an organization, let them know that you do not want your name traded or sold.



Recycle your junk mail with newspaper, magazines and cardboard. Remove all plastic wrap, stickers, product samples, and membership samples before recycling it.

Miranda Sommer, County Winner in CT Fire Prevention Poster Contest



The Connecticut Fire Prevention Contest is held each year. Last year approximately 30,000 fourth and fifth graders from more than 130 towns submitted posters. The contest theme is "Fire Prevention – Everyone/Everyday. A poster drawn by Miranda Sommer was selected as this year's winner for Tolland County. She will receive a Savings Bond and will attend a luncheon in Cromwell on Thursday, March 29, for all county winners, their parents, teacher, principal and local fire marshal. Congratulations to all fourth graders who submitted a poster. They all worked very hard during a two week period with first a rough draft and then their colorful final draft. We are so very proud of you Miranda!

Parents of Incoming Kindergarteners

Please remember to turn in your Physical forms to the nurse before the end of the school year.



Visiting Author

During the last full week of April, our school will be fortunate to host a visit from Andre Garant, a children's author from Tolland. Mr. Garant is the author of twelve fiction novels for boys and girls between the ages of eight and twelve. Although many of his titles revolve around sports themes and are geared to boys, he also has topics dealing with summer camp, a spy mystery, a school field trip, and a vacation to Florida. Mr. Garant published his first novel back in 1999 and loves to visit elementary schools where he can speak to students in third, fourth, and fifth grades about the books that he has written and what can be learned from them. His newest book will arrive on the scene this summer and will feature a real class of kids from Parker School in Tolland.

Mr. Garant will be visiting with our third and fourth graders on Monday and Tuesday, April 23 and 24. Students and parents alike are invited to view his website at www.authorguy.com in order to learn more about his books. The website features the cover of each book, a brief summary, and a free preview of the inside text. If anyone is interested in ordering some of Mr. Garant's books, please see Lisa Cackowski for details. We are excited about Mr. Garant's upcoming visit and thank you in advance for continually supporting our local authors.

LOST & FOUND

Please check the lost and found box for your child's missing items. The box is located in the Arts wing near the music and art room.

Three times a year, any unclaimed items are donated to Mansfield Youth Services.



SOUTHEAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENTS' HOUR

April 2, 2007

6:00 PM

In

Room 19

**Meet Our Visitors From England:
Colin Sambrook, Julie Parsons,
& Paul Barker**

We are hosting three teachers from Bracknell, England, as part of the Teachers' International Professional Development Programme, an International Partner Schools initiative.

As you know, Southeast is presenting a Fitness Week during the week of April 2-5. Our teachers plan to work with our visitors from England to provide "fitness" activities during the week. We look forward to learning more about each others' schools, teaching and educational programs.

Please come join us in learning more about our visitors and their schools.

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.

Spills Happen

We are accepting donations of gently used children's clothing to lend to children who need a clean, dry change of clothing during the day.

Donations can be brought to the office.

We thank you.

Invention Convention and Science Fair

The annual Southeast School Science Fair and Invention Convention was held on Wednesday, March 29th. Many families came to support our student scientists and inventors and to celebrate science and creativity!

We awarded more than 50 science fair certificates and ribbons and almost 20 convention certificates and ribbons.

Our judges selected three inventors to represent Southeast School at the Connecticut Invention Convention on April 28, 2007 at The University Of Connecticut.

They are:

Jed Zuraw-Friedland
Mrs. deVecchis' 4th grade
Med-minder

Maddie Briere
Mr. Warinsky's 4th grade
Maddie's Magic Mat

Eric Barrett
Mrs. Latino's 4th grade
Strap-on ice pack



Thank you to all families who helped their children with project's and to all the the teachers and staff who supported this event.

International Pot Luck Dinner

On March 22nd, the English as a Second Language Program hosted an International Potluck Dinner. Close to 50 people attended and brought a variety of delicious food from countries such as China, Korea, Poland, Turkey, Ireland and the U.S.A. It was fun to taste so many different foods. Thank you to all who attended and shared their food with us.

I would greatly appreciate it if those families can send in recipes since so many people do request them. I am considering putting together an international cookbook.

Thank you again for a wonderful turnout and great food.

Nancy Armstrong
ESL Teacher





Southeast Tag Sale

It's time to get ready for Spring time and clean out those closets! That's right— our very own SOUTHEAST TAG SALE is back.

Donations will be taken during the first week of April. We are also seeking many volunteers. Those interested in helping or that have large donations can call Kim O'Keefe @ 429-6711.

Table rentals available for \$10 each, event to take place rain or shine on Saturday, May 19th.

Donations, in good working and selling condition, should be brought to the shed in the back of the parking lot and put inside the door.

Harrison Hall and Marysia Borucinska-Begg Represent Southeast at Connecticut Loves To Read Event.

Connecticut Loves To Read is an annual event held at the East Brook Mall. Students from area towns submit stories which they have written at school. This year two students from Mrs. Latino's classroom were selected from hundreds of entries: Harrison Hall and Marysia Borucinska-Begg. They read their stories aloud at the mall on Saturday, Feb. 2nd. Both received a gift certificate which could be used at any store at the mall.

Congratulations to all fourth graders who participated in this event! You represent Southeast School so well.



Blood Drive

We had a great first time Blood Drive at Southeast School on Friday, March 23rd. The Girl Scouts sponsored and volunteered at the drive. There were 43 appointments with 52 people signing in and we collected 46 units of blood, which was 115% of goal.

We would like to thank all the faculty, staff and parents/relatives that helped make this drive such a success. Donors like you keep our 31 hospitals' blood inventory up to par. We would like to also thank the Girl Scouts for all their efforts to make this drive reach its goal.

Ann Harford
American Red Cross

TV -Turnoff Week

Southeast school will be participating in TV-Turnoff Week, April 23rd–29th. The week is a nationwide event sponsored by the TV-Turnoff Network and celebrated by schools, families, and other civic and community groups each year. All week long, millions of children and adults pledge to spend seven screen-free days. Instead of watching TV or playing computer games, children will have an opportunity to read, exercise, work in their communities, or spend time with family and friends.

Studies show that children who watch less TV are more likely to read well and to be physically fit. Turning off the TV also allows for more family time. In the course of a year, American children spend more time in front of the TV than at school. We think that TV-Turnoff week 2007 is a great way to jump-start our kids into more reading, learning, and active play. It's also a lot of fun!

During April 23rd–29th, we would like to ask for your support in our efforts. Many families choose to join their children by keeping the TV turned off all week long. This kind of support is the best thing you can do to ensure that your child will have a successful and beneficial experience. Families will also be able to take advantage of special opportunities provided by participating local businesses during this week.



Poster Contest

The theme for the poster contest is "What I'd Do When I'm Not Watching TV". Posters may be of any size and will be judged on their creativity and message. The posters are due April 10th and will be judged during that week. Prizes will be awarded to the poster contest winners.

Talent Show

A Talent Show will be held to support families who decide to commit to turning off their TV for a week. The Talent Show will be held on Wednesday, April 25th from 6:30-7:30 pm in the school gymnasium. Past performances have included karate demonstrations, dance routines, and magic tricks.