



SOUTHEAST NEWS

October - November 2011

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

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back to another fabulous year at Southeast Elementary School. Once again, this year's schoolwide theme is T.E.A.M. - *Together Everyone Achieves More*.



One of our continued district goals for this school year is to increase effective communication between parents, community and staff. There are several ways in which we can achieve this goal. The PTO will meet monthly. Parents' Hour will also meet throughout the year for the purpose of presenting curriculum information, schoolwide programs, and to address many of the interesting topics submitted by parents and staff. This month's Parents' Hour presentation was about the Enrichment Program. Our Enrichment Team which is comprised of parents and teachers will meet monthly to review innovative schoolwide enrichment activities and several new ways to enhance our school. Please feel free to join our team and share your ideas.

As always, we welcome your input and involvement within our school and programs.

Norma Fisher-Doiron
Principal

Calendar of Events

October

- Oct. 26.... 1:15 Enrichment Clusters
3:30 Science Sampler, Gr. 1 & 2 LAST DAY
- Oct. 28.... 3:30-4:45 Running Club
- Oct. 31.... Halloween 

November

- Nov. 2..... 1:15-2:30 Enrichment Clusters
3:30 Science Sampler Gr. 3 & 4 FIRST DAY
- Nov. 6..... Daylight Savings Time Ends 
turn clocks back one hour
CHANGE YOUR CLOCK
CHANGE YOUR BATTERY
- Nov. 7..... 6:00 Parents' Hour- Mansfield League of Women Voters
7:00 PTO Meeting
- Nov. 9..... 1:15-2:30 Enrichment Clusters
- Nov. 10.... **NO SCHOOL** - Professional Development Day For Teachers
- Nov. 11.... **NO SCHOOL** - Veterans' Day 
- Nov. 15.... 8:15 am Schoolwide Enrichment Team Mtg.
- Nov. 16.... 1:15-2:30 Enrichment Clusters
- Nov. 18.... Progress Reports go home
3:30 Running Club- LAST DAY
- Nov. 21.... 12:45 Early Closing- Grades K-4 
PRESCHOOL CANCELLED
Parent-Teacher conferences by appointment
- Nov. 22.... 12:45 Early Closing- Grades K-4
PRESCHOOL CANCELLED
Parent-Teacher conferences by appointment
- Nov. 23.... 12:45 Early Closing- Grades K-4
PRESCHOOL CANCELLED
- Nov. 24.... **NO SCHOOL** - Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 25.... **NO SCHOOL** - Thanksgiving Holiday 
- Nov. 30.... 1:15-2:30 Enrichment Clusters



Opening Day Ceremony

On the first day of school Southeast had its Annual Opening Day Ceremony. Due to the rain (the ceremony is usually outdoors in front of the school), all of our K-4 students joined their teachers and classmates in the multi-purpose room before the celebration began. The Celebration began with a welcome back message from the principal. We then were lead by our music teacher in the Pledge of Allegiance. Joan Carr also had the students sing our School Song along with a first day school song. To introduce our schoolwide theme - Together Everyone Achieves More, some of our teachers had a mini skit which involved the message of how people in our school and town worked together during Storm Irene. Students proceeded to their classrooms with their teachers immediately following the ceremony while our Southeast parents and guardians were invited to for refreshments in the multi-purpose room.

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

PICKING CHILDREN UP FROM SCHOOL



Please remember to send a written 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.

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.



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:

- **Little Pink Pup**For Maya Wells, Happy 6th Birthday! Love, Mom and Dad
- **What in the Wild?**....For Emily Wells, Happy 8th Birthday! Love, Mom and Dad
- **Spaceheadz**....For Ross Lennon and his fourth grade buddies in honor of them moving on to MMS. From The Lennon Family
- **Sophie Simon Solves Them All**..... For Mrs. Villar's 2010/2011 fourth Grade class in honor of them moving on to MMS. From The Southeast PTO.
- **Pippy Longstocking**....For Mr. Warinsky's 2010/2011 fourth Grade Class in honor of them moving on to MMS. From The Southeast PTO.
- **Elsie's Bird**....For Mrs. Sangree's 2010/2011 Fourth Grade Class in honor of them moving on to MMS. From The Southeast PTO.
- **Silence And Stone**.... To Julie Brown with deep appreciation for her years serving as the Southeast PTO President. From The Southeast PTO.
- **Sneaky Sheep**.... To Julie Brown with deep appreciation for her years serving as the Southeast PTO President. From The Southeast PTO.
- **The Firehouse Light**.... To Julie Brown with deep appreciation for her years serving as the Southeast PTO President. From The Southeast PTO.
- **Olivia Goes to Venice**.... For the children and families at Southeast Elementary. Thank you for the many wonderful adventures we've shared. From The Strimples.
- **No More Por Favor**....For the teachers and staff at Southeast Elementary. Thank you for the countless ways you've touched our family over the years. From The Strimples.
- **Art and Max**.... For the teachers and staff at Southeast Elementary. Thank you for teaching us and making elementary school fun! From Amelia and Sophie Strimple
- **The Pup Who Cried Wolf**....For Carly Schaefer for moving on to the fifth grade! From Mom.

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.



Enrichment Clusters

All Southeast students in kindergarten through grade 4 have the exciting opportunity to attend an enrichment cluster in October and November. Enrichment Clusters will be held from 1:15 to 2:30 on Oct. 26th and Nov. 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th. Students will remain in the same cluster each week and participate in hands-on, interactive activities.

Each cluster is comprised of small groups of students from various grades who share a common interest. We have many fun and interesting choices this fall that are facilitated by teachers, staff, parents and community volunteers. There's always something for everyone!

We are always looking for parents to help during clusters; as greeters to help people new to the Southeast community, to check in with each cluster in case anyone needs anything, to take pictures or to provide an extra hand.

If you have any questions or if you'd like to lend a helping hand, please contact Sue Irvine at sue.irvine@mansfieldct.org or 423-1611 ext. 122.



Southeast Garden Visitors From Africa

On Thursday, June 30, 2011, ten students from Sub-Saharan Africa travelled to Southeast Elementary School to learn about composting first-hand. The students are part of a five-week program called Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on Social Entrepreneurship, run through UConn's Global Training and Development Institute. After learning about the importance of composting as a waste alternative and how the school has been using the finished compost in its greenhouse and school garden, the students immediately set to work. They weeded the garden, screened the finished compost and then used it in the garden as nutrient-rich mulch. The group worked with Virginia Walton, the Mansfield Recycling Coordinator, who talked about the connection between composting, gardening and healthy eating.





Notes From the Health Room

Guidelines for when to keep a child home:

In an attempt to keep all the children at our school healthy, we ask that you take these guidelines into consideration when deciding whether or not to send your child to school.

- Fever: any child with a fever should not return to school until they are fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications
- Gastrointestinal symptoms: any child with vomiting or diarrhea should not return to school until they are without these symptoms for at least 24 hours
- Runny noses with copious drainage or excessive coughing: children should not return until these symptoms have diminished greatly or resolved.



Please refer to the parent handbook which can also be found online for a more extensive list of communicable diseases and conditions which would warrant your child's absence from school.

A final note, please call the attendance line by 9:00 am any time that your child will be absent, 860-423-2793.

Feel free to call me any time with any question.

Ingrid Hanka, RN
860-423-2793
Southeast School Nurse

Green Thumbs Club

This year's first Green Thumbs Club activity began on Tuesday, September 27th. During this afterschool club, the students and their families got pretty dirty screening compost and weeding some of our school gardens. The Green Thumbs Club devotes a good deal of its energy to maintaining the school's composter, greenhouse and gardens. Mickey Maheu who is a classroom teacher and founder of the Green Thumbs Club along with Recycling Agent Ginny Walton and The "Good Earth" UConn 5th Year Interns, John Hoey and Michael Badulak, have planned some exciting activities which will be devoted to learning more about the environment, plants and nature in general.



Parents Bringing Children to School



To foster independence, we ask that you encourage your child to walk to the classroom unescorted in the morning. Classrooms will be open to accept children starting at 8:45 am.

If you wish to meet with your child's teacher please send a note, email or leave a voicemail and the teacher will be happy to arrange conferences in person or on the telephone.



For Children Learning to COPE with Loss, Divorce, & Other Stressful Changes

Has your child experienced a loss, divorce, or other stressful change to his/her family structure? Could he/she gain from a positive experience in the school-setting with other children who have had similar experiences?

If the answer is yes, we would like to invite your child to participate in COPE at your child's school.

What is COPE?

Cope is a skill-building program, which has been available and successful to students of our community for over 20 years. During our once-a-week meetings, your child will join us during regularly scheduled lunch-time throughout the school year.

- COPE fosters a supportive environment where your child will have fun and at the same time learn new coping skills.
- COPE offers your child a chance to make new friends.
- COPE will help your child understand there are many types of families.
- More importantly, COPE is about helping your child build self esteem and positive communication skills.

If you are interested in having your child participate, please pick up a permission form from the school office. COPE will begin on October 20th.

If you would like more information about COPE, please contact: Kathy McNamara, at Mansfield Youth Services 429-3318.

A New PTO Committee has been formed! It's called SE Network



It has been brought to our attention that many families who are new (or not so new) to the community have questions about programs and events going on in our school and in our town. This includes people who come from other towns and states as well as other countries. It may also include families who have questions about events and offerings that change as children move from one grade to the next. The goal of SE Network is to connect and inform the SE community by collecting and responding to such questions and concerns so that resources that *already* exist can be better understood and enjoyed.

At our next PTO meeting on November 7th, our Committee Representatives, Diane Hutton, Margherita Balsamo and Suzanne Kelly will present a brief overview of how the committee plans to get underway. We will also introduce our first guest from UCANN who will start the ball rolling by letting us know about an organization in town that provides a forum for area people to obtain information while sharing experiences with people in our community. We hope to see you there!



PTO Corner:

PTO Officers 2011-2012

President.....Cyndi Wells
 Vice-President.....Jessica Higham
 Secretary.....Mike Kelly
 Treasurer.....Gwen Sgro

Welcome back Southeast families!

The SE PTO hopes that everyone is enjoying the first few months of school, and invites all families to attend events and meetings or contact an officer with any ideas, questions or comments. We have been off to a busy start of the year, and were so glad to meet some families at the Open House in September.

Please Join Us on Nov. 7th

The Southeast PTO invites you to join us for our November 7th meeting. We will hear a presentation from UCANN, with the purpose of learning more about how we can bring people together to develop a sense of belonging within the community. At the same time the Southeast Network, a committee of parents and staff, will present their goals and objectives at this meeting. You can read more about the Southeast Network in *this* newsletter.



The Fall Carnival Was Fun for All

The Fall Carnival was tons of fun! Special thanks to Karen Mitlitsky for organizing it. This is her last year at Southeast and we want to send a special thank you to her for planning the carnival for so many years, she will be missed. Also thanks to Erin Christopher, Julie Brown, Patty Braithwaite, Michele Boskovic, Celine Demers-Schiffler, Margherita Balsamo, Jean Johnson, Christaine Burkhard for your help with the event!

THANK YOU!



Thanks to Esther Soffer Roberts and Erin Ballou for coordinating the Spring Bulb and Jeannine Fundraiser. Like all of our fundraisers, the money raised goes toward school wide enrichment programs, field trips, quest speakers and many other events. Last year the PTO purchased three additional SMART Boards so that every classroom now has one.



We appreciate all of the support we have received from our families and community!



Silent Auction: A Great Success

In addition to the fun and games at the Carnival, the Silent Auction was also a great success. We made over \$6500 and we had 80 bidders. Look for more silent auctions throughout the year.

Thanks to all of the families and staff who donated items, and to the parents who helped collect donations (Cyndi Wells, Michele Boskovic, Erin Ballou, Maryann Olson, Sarah Kaufold, Julie Brown, Esther Soffer Roberts, Erin Christopher, Patty Braithwaite, Kristin Hempel, Tia Willour, Patti Jajliardo, Gwen Sgro). Also thanks to the parents who helped to work at the auction and/or put baskets together (Jean Johnson, Christiane Burkhard, Ana Maria Diaz, Art Engler, Nancy Gifford, Silvia Dorado, Karen Molloy, Suzanne Kelley, Kimberly Christenson and Anina Kamphuis). Many thanks to all of the families and teachers who donated items for the classroom baskets and for the enthusiasm shown by the SE staff in organizing the classroom and staff donations. And a special BIG thanks to Jessica Higham for coordinating the Silent Auction!

School Banking

Throughout the year, the Southeast PTO coordinates the *School Savings Program*. Students can deposit money into their own account and start saving.



Contact parent volunteer, Patti Jajliardo at 429-2166, for more information.



Box Tops for Education

Remember to return your Box Tops for Education sheets to the school office PTO Mailbox so we can redeem them for equipment for our school.



- * Parent's Hour is planned for Nov. 7th from 6-7 p.m. More details to follow.
- * Visit the Book Fair at Parent Teacher Conferences on November 21-23, 2011.
- * Around the Fall and Winter Holidays look for the Bake Sale and the Equal Exchange Fundraising Catalogs.
- * We will once again be participating in the Adopt-A-Family program in December.

The Southeast School PTO relies on its volunteers to help spread out the workload, please consider giving some of your time in the near future at an upcoming event.

