



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

## May - June 2015

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

Dear Parents,

Birds tweeting, flowers blooming, and warmer temperatures all point to the same fact - spring has finally arrived and we are ready to begin wrapping up another successful school year. The school is buzzing with exciting events and I hope you have the chance to come in and see first hand the fabulous celebrations we have planned for your child(ren)!



Our University of Connecticut student teachers and interns have completed their educational experiences at Southeast and are currently saying goodbye. They have had a tremendous impact on our small group and/or individualized instruction, and our enrichment program. This valued partnership brings vitality to our school, and our veteran staff provide structure and guidance to help their ideas come to life. It is a symbiotic relationship that we treasure and will continue to embrace with pre-service teachers again next year.

Spring is also a time for an increased focus on social relationships. I ask that you continue to talk about our school "Eagle Expectations" at home: to be safe, respectful and responsible. We continue to remind students what the behaviors look and sound like at school. Frequent compliments when you see excellent behavior goes a long way to encourage positive behavior choices. Our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) team has learned that for every negative comment that is made to a child, 4 positive comments should be made. It is easy to see the good choices once you start looking for it.

We look forward to ending our school year with a bang. To our fourth grade families who are leaving Southeast, thank you for your contributions for continuing the tradition of making our school such a dynamic place. Please keep us posted on your child's growth through the years. We will miss all of our students and families who have become like family to us.

Please see our calendar of events and we hope to see you soon.

Fondly,  
Mrs. Lauren Rodriguez  
Principal

### Calendar of Events

#### May

- May 10..... Mother's Day
- May 11..... SBAC Make-up Testing
- May 12..... SBAC Testing- LA Classroom Activity & Performance Task, Part 1
- May 13..... SBAC Testing- LA Classroom Activity & Performance Task, Part 2
- May 14..... SBAC Testing- Math Classroom Activity & Performance Task



May 18-22..... SBAC Make-up Testing

May 21..... 2:00-3:15 Enrichment Clusters

May 22..... 9:15 Bus Ride for future Kinders



May 25..... **NO SCHOOL** - Memorial Day

May 26..... 1st Grade Field Trip to Hyde Cultural Center  
2nd Grade Field Trip to Sturbridge Village

May 27, 28, 29.... Preschool Screening (by appointment only)

May 28..... 2:00-3:15 Enrichment Clusters

#### June

June 1..... 9:15 AM- PTO Meeting



June 2..... Book Fair  
1:30-3:30 PM- 4th Gr. Wax Museum

June 3..... Book Fair

June 4..... Book Fair  
2:00-3:15 Enrichment Clusters



June 5..... Book Fair  
Ice Cream Social

June 10..... 4th Gr. Moving-On Ceremony

June 11..... 2:00-3:15 Enrichment Clusters

June 17..... Fun In Our Own Backyard



June 21..... Father's Day

June 22..... **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** 12:45-Early Dismissal

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



**KINDERGARTEN 2015-2016**

We are asking your help in identifying all children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year. If you have a child or know of a child who will be 5 years old on or before January 2, 2016, please contact the school office at 423-1611. (Children who currently attend our Preschool Program will automatically be enrolled in kindergarten for next year.)

**PRESCHOOL SCREENING  
May 27, 28 & 29**

If you have a child who will be 3 yrs. old by Aug. 26th, please contact our school office at 423-1611 for an application, information, and appointment for Preschool Screening. Only children who go through the screening process will be considered for the Preschool Program.

**Enrichment Clusters**



Enrichment Clusters are coming to Southeast School! What are enrichment clusters? They are workshops held during the school day for multi-aged groups of students who share a common interest. All K-4 students and staff participate. Students will remain in the same cluster each week and participate in hands-on, interactive activities. Enrichment Clusters will be held on four consecutive Thursdays: **May 21, May 28, June 4, June 11 from 2:00-3:15 p.m.**

If you are able to participate in any way—to help a presenter, to take photographs or just to see what enrichment clusters are all about—please contact to Susan Irvine at [susan.irvine@mansfieldct.org](mailto:susan.irvine@mansfieldct.org) or call 423-1611 ext 7622.

**Math Lab**

Southeast School math lab was a great success! A Connecticut Common Core state grant helped fund this wonderful after school group for students. It ran for a full 10 weeks and we are so proud of all of the students who participated and made it a wonderful after school activity! Our culminating event will be the Southeast Math night on Tuesday April 28th, at 6:30pm and we welcome all students, families and friends to attend and share in the love of math!



**To the Many Volunteers  
Who Have Helped Us:**

*You've been so very good to us; you've been kind in every way. You've made us treats and helped us out 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.*

**WE APPRECIATE YOU!!!**



**1st Grade Writers' Celebration**

On April 9<sup>th</sup> the first grade classes invited parents and families to join them in celebrating their writing. The first grade has worked so hard this year and each student has grown as a writer. Students shared nonfiction, personal narratives, and opinion writing pieces that showcased all of their newly learned skills. Each first grader shared two pieces of published writing that they took the time to revise and edit. Parents and families were entertained by stories about cats, Lego video games, what it would be like to be 100 years old, and a "how-to" book on drawing; just to name just a few. Thank you to all who attended and made this day so special.



## Screen Free Week

April 20-24 was Screen Free Week at Southeast Elementary. Students started the week off by signing pledges to go screen free and even suggested alternative activities that they could do instead! Students spent the week baking, writing, playing outside, riding their bikes and reading instead of spending their afternoons watching TV and playing video games. We were so impressed by students' commitment to staying screen free and their creativity in thinking of new ways to pass the time.



The highlight of the week was--without a doubt--the annual Southeast Talent Show on Wednesday night. The turnout was incredible! We had more than 20 different performances and all of them were spectacular. Students jump roped, performed gymnastics, sang, danced, played musical instruments and even told jokes. Additionally students showed off their school pride by dressing up for Wacky Wednesday and Pajama Day.



The PTO sponsored two great family events—The Three School Basketball Game on Tuesday and a Family Hike on Friday. All in all, it was a fun week for everyone and a great reminder of how much fun we can have when we turn off the screens!



## Science Fair and Invention Convention



The annual Southeast School Science Fair and Invention Convention was held on Wednesday, March 25th. We were so pleased to see so many Southeast families came to support almost 80 student scientists and inventors and to celebrate their hard work and creativity!

Each student who participated received a ribbon and a certificate at the end of the evening. Our judges selected four inventors to represent Southeast School at the Connecticut Invention Convention on Saturday, May 2nd at the University of Connecticut.

They are:

**Athavan Balakumar** in Mr. Warinsky's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class for his "Violin Shoulder Rest for Beginners" invention—a foam chin rest that helps beginners have the correct position when they hold the violin.

**Henry Christenson** in Mr. Warinsky's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class for his "Taste Blockers" invention that helps to block the flavor of things you don't want to taste.

**Akosua Hansen** in Mrs. Bayard's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class for her "Don't Spill, Just Pour" invention that helps people of all ages pour large containers without spilling.

**Onalysse Behan** in Mrs. Sangree's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class for her "Glove-Lits" invention—a pair of gloves with attached lights that turn on when you close your hand.

Congratulations to these students and all who participated at Science Night! Thank you to all families who helped their children with their projects and to all the teachers and staff who supported this event.

### Plan Ahead...

First day of 2015-2016 School Year

Wednesday, August 26th (K-4)

Thursday, August 27th (PreK)



For a copy of the 2015-2016 school year calendar, log on to our website at: [Mansfieldct.gov/southeast](http://Mansfieldct.gov/southeast)

## Tri-school Basketball Game

What a fabulous night we had celebrating our three Mansfield elementary schools. While Southeast didn't win the golden shoe, we went 1-1 and had 31 points total and looked really good! But, the showstopper was the Southeast Drum Line! So much hard work went into the performance. Great job to everyone involved in making the game such a huge success.



### Labels for Education & Box Tops for Education



Hi Southeast Families! Keep collecting Labels for Education & Box Tops for Education. We are having a great year so far & have earned a lot of cash & merchandise credits. Lets make the end of the year the best ever!

Thank you! -Patti Jajliardo



### Mansfield Rid Litter Day Saturday, May 2, 2015 Let's Clean Up Our Town

Rid your neighborhood of litter by getting a few of your neighbors together on Saturday, May 2, 2015 to pick up litter. Roadside wooded areas and wetlands collect a lot of debris. Not only is litter unsightly, plastic litter can be harmful to wildlife.

Littered cans, glass and plastic bottles can be recycled and you are encouraged to keep them separate from other roadside litter. If you have bags of litter that exceed your household trash collection service, please contact the number below. You may take bags of litter to the Mansfield transfer station for no charge. The transfer station is located on Route 89, one mile from the intersection of Routes 195 and 89 in Mansfield Center.

For more information about Rid Litter Day or the Adopt-A-Road program, call the Public Works Office at 860-429-3333.

#### Methods of Disposal:

If you have household trash service—arrange for additional bags of litter to be collected by calling 860-429-3333.

If you use the Mansfield Transfer Station on Rte 89—no charge. The Transfer Station hours are Tuesdays & Saturdays 8:30 am to 4:00 pm; Thursdays 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.



### May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month

*Tick Bourne Prevention Program*

- B**athe or shower soon after coming indoors.
- L**ook for ticks and remove with fine tipped tweezers.
- A**pply repellents to skin and/or clothing.\*
- S**pray the perimeter of yard for ticks.\*
- T**reat pets with a product recommended by a vet.\*

Lyme Disease is a bacterial infection caused by the bite of an infected tick. This month CT's tick exposure rate is already listed as HIGH. Your student may be outside during or after-school. Check your child daily for ticks. Local nymph ticks can be as small as the tip of a pin.. Invest in a tick removal device to have on hand. **Save any ticks** and see the **Eastern Highland's Health District** webpage for forms for Free Tick Testing [www.ehhd.org/content/103/239/default.aspx](http://www.ehhd.org/content/103/239/default.aspx)

Often a tick bite can also transmit other agents. Local deer ticks can carry: Lyme, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis & Bartonellosis. The Dog, Wood and Lone Star Ticks may have Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia, Ehrlichiosis & Heartland. Visit [lymediseaseassociation.org](http://lymediseaseassociation.org) or [ILADS.org](http://ILADS.org) to learn about lyme disease and other co-infections.

Take early signs & symptoms seriously and consult a healthcare professional if you experience these early symptoms: Expanding rash, Fatigue, Headache, Stiff Neck, Fever and/or Chills, Muscle &/or Joint Pain. Left untreated tick borne illnesses can worsen and lead to serious joint, neurological and cardiac complications.

For local support email the Mansfield Storrs CT Lyme & Associated Diseases Support Group at: [MansfieldCTLyme@gmail.com](mailto:MansfieldCTLyme@gmail.com)

\*Using repellants & pesticides, while proven effective, is a personal decision.

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

## Upcoming Events

### Monday, May 4th- PTO Meeting at 6:30

Please join us! On a tight schedule that night? Childcare and pizza are provided to make it easier to attend on a busy Monday evening! We will be voting on next years budget and for the 2015-16 PTO officers.

### May 4th- 8th Teacher Appreciation Week

The PTO will provide bagels, juice, and coffee for our teachers on Monday in recognition of their tremendous dedication to our Southeast students! Perhaps a personal note of thanks to your child's teacher could be sent?

### Friday May 15th- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

The PTO provides a luncheon every May to honor our Southeast Staff. A sign-up will be sent out closer to the date so that families can sign-up to help with set-up, food donations, and clean-up.

### June 3rd-5th 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 5th- Ice Cream Social

Families are invited to the Southeast playground for ice cream and play-time! The book fair will also be open for purchasing items.

### June 10th- 4th grade Moving on Ceremony

### DID YOU KNOW...

that your fundraising dollars support March's Healthy Snacks, Running Club Snacks, and the upcoming Science Enrichment?

### TRI-SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAME

Thank you to all players, volunteers, and attendees! You were inspiring with your enthusiasm and a fun time was had by all! A big thank you to Mrs. Rodriguez for being our team coach and to Miss Parker for her ref duties and her dedication to preparing our students for the drum line and intermission activities.

See the bulletin board in May for updates on how much we raised from this event.

### RESTAURANT FUNDRAISING NIGHT

Thank you to MOES, MOOYAH, Dog Lane Cafe, and Insomnia Cookies for supporting our Mansfield Elementary Schools on March 20th! Thank you to families who ate at these participating establishments on March 20th!

Tired of your kids losing their stuff? Order personalized labels for school supplies, shoes, sports gear, clothes bag and more. Just visit [www.mabels-fundraising.com](http://www.mabels-fundraising.com) and search for Southeast Elementary School to place your order. A percentage of the sales go to our PTO.



mabel's labels

As we look forward to the 2015-16 year, we are aware of the need for PTO officers and event coordinators/chairs. Please consider this need and how you might be able to serve our Southeast teachers and families. Ask a friend to co-chair with you! Below is a list of roles with a description.

**Co- President:** - helps co-president facilitate and prepare PTO meetings (babysitter, food, agenda, guest speakers); assist with coordination of events, volunteers, and fundraiser; collaborate with Principal on events and funding requests; assist with publicity; attend BOE meetings as necessary; report out once per year

**Special Events Coordinator:** -helps organize events with Committee Chairs and Co-Presidents: Ex. Carnival, Moving On Ceremony, Ice Cream Socials and other events; publicize events (on board, web site and newsletter)

**Teacher Appreciation Chair:** plans ways to show appreciation for our SE staff throughout the year, organizes volunteers for occasions that honor our Southeast teachers, co-coordinates with officers to plan these events.

**Demi Grace2 Relay for Life Committee:** We need several people to be part of this Oct. 18th event. It will be held locally and our SE team is participating in honor of the Fisher Family.

E-mail us at [souteastschool.pto@gmail.com](mailto:souteastschool.pto@gmail.com) and we would be happy to answer any questions about these opportunities. Check out the PTO bulletin board for other opportunities as well.

## 2016 SOUTHEAST EVENT NEEDS HELP!

### Fall Carnival and Silent Auction Volunteers Needed

Do you love the programs provided for your children at Southeast?

Want to help the PTO but don't have much free time?

Our largest fundraiser for the year is our silent auction and fall carnival in September.

Please consider soliciting 2 or 3 donations for our silent auction. A list of potential donors will be sent out soon so that donations can begin to come in now and throughout the summer. Many solicitations can be done via email and take less than 10 minutes. This event pays for many of our school-wide enrichment programs for the year!

We are also forming a Southeast Fall Carnival committee. Please feel free to email your ideas! Maybe you have a new carnival game or activity to share?