



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

## May - June 2016

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-2793

### Last Day of School for Grades K-4

will be  
**Thursday, June 16th**  
School will dismiss at 12:45

### Last Day for Preschool

will be  
**Wednesday, June 15th**  
School dismisses at regular time

### Staffing changes for the 2016-2017 school year:



Congratulations to Mrs. Joan Carr, our talented music teacher, who will be retiring at the end of the school year. Mrs. Carr has 40 years of experience teaching, with 20 of those years being at Southeast. Thank you for your dedication over the years, Mrs. Carr! Southeast will miss you and your many talents that you brought to the school.

Next year, our second grade team will increase to three classes. I am happy to announce that the second grade team will now include Mrs. Kelly Villar. She is transferring from the third grade. Our third grade team will only be two classes next year.

In the next few weeks, we will be hiring 2 new staff members to join the Southeast team. We will be looking for a new special education teacher to replace Mrs. Denise Proffer, and a new music teacher to replace Mrs. Carr.

### Thank you.....



Thank you to our parents who volunteered and helped with so many projects during the school year. The generous gift of your time and energy is *greatly appreciated*.

And, of course, thank you to our PTO officers this year –

- President.....Erin Clark
- Vice-Presidents..... Lindy DeGennaro & Mel O'Donovan
- Co-Secretaries..... Jennifer Mott & Sheralyn Sibilia
- Treasurer.....Noreen Halbrooks

### Calendar of Events

- May 13..... 3:30-4:45 Running Club 
- May 17..... 2:00-3:15 Enrichment Clusters  
3:30-5:00 Science Sampler, Gr. 1-2
- May 19..... 3:30-5:00 Green Thumbs Club **LAST DAY**  
6:30-7:30 Kindergarten Parent Orientation
- May 20..... 3:30-4:45 Running Club 
- May 24..... 2:00-3:15 Enrichment Clusters
- May 25..... Gr. 3 Field Trip to CT Science Center 
- May 26..... Gr. 2 Field Trip to Sturbridge Village 
- May 27..... 3:30-4:45 Running Club
- May 30..... **NO SCHOOL** - Memorial Day 
- May 31..... Scholastic Book Fair  
9:30 Suzuki School Tour at Southeast
- June 1..... Scholastic Book Fair   
6:30 Ice Cream Social
- June 2..... Scholastic Book Fair  
7:00 4th Grade Moving On Ceremony
- June 3..... 3:30-4:45 Running Club   
4:30 Scholastic Book Fair
- June 4..... 9:00 KidsMarathon at E.O. Smith Track
- June 6..... 6:30 PTO Meeting
- June 10..... Fun In Our Own Backyard 
- June 11..... 8:00 Applebee's Pancake Breakfast
- June 13..... Rain date for Fun In Our Own Back Yard
- June 15..... **LAST DAY FOR PRESCHOOL**  
Regular dismissal time 
- June 16..... **LAST DAY FOR GR. K - 4**  
School dismisses at 12:45

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

Dear Families,

I wonder if you have been hearing about flower petals at home? No, not the beautiful ones growing around outside our school or at your homes. The ones growing INSIDE our school! We have embarked on our second school-wide PBIS challenge! You may remember the previous challenge back in September where students earned puzzle pieces? Those pieces resulted in an unveiling of a hand-painted picture of Southeast School. And immediately after the unveiling, the students voted to have a dance party to celebrate. What a great celebration, indeed! Well, we are just moments away from our classes each earning 20 flower petals! Classes can earn a flower petal in their classroom, hallway, recess or lunch for following Eagle Expectations. And some of our classes have already collected their 20 petals. Once ALL of the classes earn their petals, we will again have a school-wide vote to select how students want to be rewarded. Be sure to ask your child about their petals and the reward options over the next week. I imagine the excitement will be even greater this time around since the students know the group reward is their self-selected prize at the end. It's little things like these that we hope motivate our students to make good choices and to enjoy a regular day at school. We also hope by giving the students the chance to select their reward, they feel they are a part of the decision making here at Southeast.



I was once again reminded how fortunate I am to be able to guide our school on a daily basis. I had two poignant conversations in the past few weeks that I wanted to share with the school community. First, we were fortunate to have a visit from a researcher in Israel who is looking to open a school. He wanted to understand how our school uses interests to provide opportunities for learning. Mrs. Irvine and I shared some key aspects of our schedule and school. We also shared our brightest points – our students. Over the past year, we have had a number of student driven initiatives for fund raising and charitable giving. While the Israeli researcher was here, I asked each of the student leaders to meet briefly with him to share their work. His comment at the end to me was, “What you do here is a miracle. How do you do it? How do I replicate exactly what you are doing here in my country?” He was so moved by the students ownership of their projects and the opportunity that teachers have afforded these students to present ideas to other classes during class meeting time. And I was once again reminded how class meeting provides an even greater opportunity for students to take leadership roles on social justice issues. Both of these examples remind me how fortunate we are to have our school, our school district and our town which embrace this kind of learning. We couldn't do it alone! And our work is founded upon the philosophy of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model from UConn's Drs. Joe Renzulli and Sally Reis, respectfully. And I didn't even get to explain our upcoming May Enrichment Clusters! (But please be sure to ask your child what clusters they selected)!



A second conversation was with a family who is relocating to CT over the summer. She had many questions about our school day – but focusing on class size, academic questions, and our related arts. She was so excited about the fact that our budget has continued to support these areas. She was just about to jump on the plane to get here and see it herself. She stated that she wished that everyone knew that education wasn't like this in the Silicon Valley area. While I know this from my work in other states prior to my arrival at SE in 2013, it was an excellent reminder – and probably an important reason that many of you chose to continue to send your children to Mansfield Schools. So kudos to you for being so educationally savvy.

As this year begins to wind down, I want to take a moment to share that I'm already missing our families who are moving on to the middle school next year. It's always a bittersweet time, knowing that as children grow, they embark in new directions. We are also facing an unprecedented change with the number of our new Chinese students who are returning back to China over the next few weeks. Goodbyes are hard for me, I much prefer hellos! But please join me in a smile and warm farewell to people who will always be part of the fabric of Southeast School, regardless of their GPS coordinates.

WE WILL MISS YOU



With gratitude,  
Ms. Lauren Rodriguez





## No Freeze Shelter Drive was a Huge Success



Lila Gillon, Avia Hartman, and Allison Cheng with Leigh Duffy from the shelter and all the items we collected

Hurray for Southeast School! We collected lots of items for the Windham Region No Freeze shelter. During our drive, we collected 30 bottles of shampoo, 79 tubes of toothpaste, 52 toothbrushes, 3 rolls of dental floss, 18 containers of hot chocolate, 16 boxes of tissues, 32 tubes of lotion and 6 bars of soap. We also collected 60 containers of deodorant, 40 pairs of socks, 7 packs of napkins, 30 packs of toilet paper and paper towels. Teachers also collected money and gift cards. Thank you for being SO generous. Leigh Duffy from the No Freeze Shelter came to Southeast on February 19th to collect the items and visit classes. She was very pleased and she told us that the shelter might be able to stay open a bit longer in April this year since they didn't have to use their money to purchase these supplies.



## We need your help! Project Feeder Watch

Project Feeder Watch is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers, and community areas in North America. Our students and staff have been counting the birds they have seen at the multiple feeders in the garden at Southeast School since November. This data has helped scientists track movements of winter bird populations and long term trends in bird distribution. Any students interested in birds can participate.

In order for this project to be successful, we need to keep our feathered friends well fed. The feeders need to be filled at all times. **Our seed supply is running low.** If you are willing to donate a bag of bird seed, please drop it off in the office. All donations are greatly appreciated any time throughout the year.

Thank you, Mrs. Ziko and Mrs. Davidson

## Special Guest Comes to Southeast

As part of screen free week, Southeast hosted special musical guest George Dennehy on Wednesday evening, April 27th. George, who is originally from Romania, was born without arms and was adopted when he was 18 months old by a family now living in Virginia.

George, who lives with his wife and almost two year old son in Virginia, tours and plays guitar, sharing a message of hope to audiences everywhere. He spoke to and sang for students in the afternoon and performed for families in the evening.

George spoke of never giving up when something is difficult and of always being kind, even when people are different than you. His message of thankfulness for what one has dovetailed nicely with Southeast's theme of gratitude.

George delighted the students and families with his original music, as well as demonstrations and stories of how he uses his feet to carry out daily tasks such as opening a water bottle or driving a car. A big thank you and a "foot five" (George's version of a high five) to the PTO for supporting this worthwhile event that inspired the entire Southeast community!



## WAIM CLOTHING DRIVE May 9 to May 20

We are collecting gently-used CLEAN clothing to donate to WAIM. (Infant through adult sizes) Summer clothing if available! Also collecting- towels and sheets (not worn out!), disposable diapers, personal hygiene items, large trash bags. Donation box is in front of the school office. These items are provided free of charge to Windham-area families in need. Thank you!

## Parents of Incoming Kindergarteners

Kindergarten Parent Orientation will be held on Thursday, May 19th at 6:30. This night serves as an orientation for parents only. At this time you will be receiving all of the registration paperwork that is needed to register your child for kindergarten. You will also have a chance to meet the kindergarten teachers, as well as many other staff members. **If this will be the first year your child will be attending Southeast, it is very important that you attend our Parent Orientation Night.** We kindly ask that you leave prospective students and siblings at home with a care provider. We look forward to meeting your child at their screening appointment on June 1 or June 2, 2016.



### Suzuki Celebration of the Arts

These three Suzuki violin students were awarded an honor on Feb. 22nd at the Aqua Turf in Southington as they were selected for the Celebration of the Arts Award. They were selected due to their completion of Suzuki Book 4.

Congratulations to Allison Cheng, Katarina Boskovic, and Avia Hartman. We are proud of you!



Thank you to all families, students, and staff who continue to bring in the Box Tops & Labels for Education.

Our next submission is June 1st.  
Keep those labels coming!

### Staff Appreciation Luncheon



The Southeast Staff would like to thank the PTO for all their hard work organizing the annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the Staff Lounge. Staff was treated to an assortment of delicious entrees, salads and desserts. It was truly a pleasant and relaxing get-away with delicious food enjoyed by all.

We would like to thank all of the families for the delicious foods that they prepared and dropped off.

### Used Clothing Needed

We are always grateful for donations of elastic waist pants & shorts, short sleeve tops, underwear and socks. Sometimes a child may need a clean change of clothes during the day and we are running low. Thank you!!



### Getting Ready for Spring

Many thanks to Mrs. Ziko, Mrs. Davidson, Ms. Hathway, Mrs. Amber Johnston, and Tess & Ella Johnston for giving up their time after school to clean out our flower garden. There was a lot of hard work to do to get it ready for spring. Their hard work gave our spring bulbs a great start and many of our perennials are starting to bloom! Volunteers are still needed to do weeding and maintenance throughout the spring and summer.



We've set up a big table to display all of our Lost and Found items. Please ask your child to check the table near the office for missing items.



Labelling your child's belongings helps us return found items to their owners.

Any items not claimed will be donated.





## Summer Health and Safety

Ingrid Hanka, RN

As the warmer months approach, it's a great idea to start thinking about things to keep our kids healthy and safe this summer.

- \* Remind your children to drink plenty of fluids. Water is the best choice to keep all of us well hydrated and feeling our best. Children should drink approximately every 20 minutes if they are participating in activities outside during the warmer weather. (American Academy of Pediatrics)



- \* Sun screen is important if your child is going to be outside; 80% of lifetime sun damage occurs during childhood (melanomafoundation.org). This is why it's so important to protect your child's skin. If you expect them to be outside, you should apply sun screen lotion with an SPF rating of at least 15. Application should be liberal so that you are getting all the SPF benefits. \*Please keep in mind that sunscreen cannot be applied by school staff.

- \* Hornets, wasps, and other stinging insects are out again. If your child is stung, be sure to remove the stinger (the edge of a credit card can be used to scrape it out carefully). Apply ice and watch your child closely for one half hour. This is especially important if your child has never been stung before. Localized discomfort is normal. But be sure that no other symptoms such as shortness of breath, a weak rapid pulse, vomiting, or fainting occur. These may be symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and require immediate emergency medical attention. (mayoclinic.com)



- \* Water safety is important no matter what your age. Children should always be supervised during any water activities. And if they don't know how to swim, now is a great time to consider getting your child involved with swimming lessons. Lessons can be found through almost any town recreation program. They provide both you and your child with a sense of pride and safety. (Discoveryhealth.com)

### Want to be ready for the next school year? (Start planning in August)

All families tend to slide into new routines during the summer months. It's a more relaxing and slower pace for most families. Everyone tends to go to bed a little later, and sleep in a little longer. While this is certainly appropriate during the summer months, it can have a negative impact on the start of school if you don't plan ahead.



In general, you should start to prepare a back to school schedule at least one week in advance. This will help to give the child time to adjust to going to bed earlier and help to ensure that they are getting enough sleep. These routines should carry over into the weekend; otherwise it can have a negative effect on their wake and sleep phases. Weekend wake hours should not exceed past one hour of school day wake up times.

Bed time routines should be easy to manage and not exceed 30 minutes in duration. Extending the process can defeat the purpose of having a set bed time. As a child becomes older, they can become more independent with carrying out these routines themselves.

Following these easy steps can help to ensure a smoother transition when we all return in August. To learn more visit [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org).

### Veggies for Demi



For the past two summers, Mrs. Hanka and her family have been hosting a vegetable stand at their home. All donations go directly to Demi's family on a weekly basis to help offset to cost of her continued cancer cure. All produce is grown by Mr. Hanka. The stand should open around the end of June, mother nature dependent.

225 Mulberry Rd. Mansfield Center  
Sun-up to sun-down

### Family Fun in Connecticut

Connecticut is filled with opportunities for family fun all year long. For information and ideas on indoor and outdoor home activities and places to visit around the state, check out the website: [www.ctparenting.com](http://www.ctparenting.com) and click on Family Fun.

The Family Fun categories include:

- Camps & Campgrounds
- Children's Fun
- Sports
- Arts & History
- Parks



There's so much to do and see in Connecticut!

**Plan Ahead....** The first day of school for 2016-2017 School Year will be August 31st.

Visit our website: [Mansfieldct.gov/southeast](http://Mansfieldct.gov/southeast)