



The Owl's Hoot

Sol Feinstone
Elementary School
PTO Newsletter

April 2009

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Spring has arrived with no slowdown in the pace of PTO activities. March was another fun-filled month. Thanks to the Family Activities Committee for organizing and running our annual K-3rd grade Bingo Night and our Family Roller Skating event. A great time was had by all in attendance. On March 13th, the students were treated to fun and educational health and fitness assemblies by Slim Goodbody compliments of the PTO. The Diversity Committee arranged for SAGE volunteers to visit the Kindergarten classrooms and read to the children. The students enjoyed the visit from these seniors. Thanks to everyone who turned in box tops as part of the "turn the principal's hair blue"

contest. We are very close to our goal and are looking forward to seeing Principal Harlan dye his hair blue for a day. Don't worry John, the dye will fade eventually. Passive fundraising such as box top collection is easy and really helps the PTO budget, reducing the amount of money we need to raise with more conventional fundraising methods.

April will be a busy month. The "Smiles for Miles" 5K will be held Saturday, April 18th. This event benefits Athletes Helping Athletes and will be held at Tyler State Park (rain or shine). The Book Fair will be held April 29th - 30th and May 1st. Volunteers are needed for both of these

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Reminders

4/2	PTO Meeting
4/6-10	Spring Break School closed
4/18	Smiles for Miles Great American Fundraiser @ Tyler Park
4/23-25	District Art Show
4/29-5/1	Book Fair

**April's
Words to
Learn by:
Forgive and
Be Considerate**

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: JOHN HARLAN

The month of April and spring have finally arrived!!! Can you believe we have three more months of school left? Time flies when you're having fun! April is especially exciting because of our Great American Fundraiser. This year our wonderful community event is called the **SFE 5K: Smiles for Miles**. The race/walk takes place on

Saturday, April 18th at Tyler State Park. Registration is between 7:00-8:00 a.m. The one mile fun run/walk begins at 8:30 a.m. and the 5K begins at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. The price includes a t-shirt and a donation to the organization *Athletes Helping Athletes*. It will be a fun day and I hope to

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FROM OUR PRESIDENTS (continued)

April 2009

events. More details can be found in this newsletter or on our website (www.sfpto.com).

As hard as it is to believe, the PTO Executive Board has been busy planning a slate and budget for the 2009-2010 school year. There are a few more open positions, so don't hesitate! For information on the open positions and job descriptions please log onto the PTO website. Please consider donating your time and talent to helping the PTO, the school and our kids. The PTO's proposed 2009-2010 budget and slate will be presented at our April meeting. We hope to see you there.

Finally, on behalf of the PTO, we would like to congratulate John Harlan on being appointed SFE's principal. We thank Pat Pladsen for her dedicated service to our school and wish her well in her retirement.

Respectfully,

Deb Emery and Kim Gibbons
PTO Co-Presidents

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL (continued)

see you there. I know I'm already getting in shape to keep up with Mr. Oldfield!!! I'll be ready!!!

Finally, Walking Wednesday is back and better than ever. However, in order to encourage more students to walk, we are adding an extra incentive. During the months of April and May, the grade level that accumulates the most laps will receive an extra recess with yours truly sometime in June. We hope this will

spark and maintain interest in the program for our students and help to continue promoting cardiovascular endurance and physical fitness.

Let's have an absolutely amazing April!!!

Regards,
Mr. Harlan

******NOTE**NOTE**NOTE**NOTE******

The Hospitality Committee is looking for VOLUNTEERS for various tasks for Staff Appreciation Week, May 4 - May 8".

Please contact Danielle M. Portnoy (DANIPET2@aol.com) if you are able to help out.

******FUNDRAISING**FUNDRAISING******

Look for the Artware by You packets coming home in March. This is a great opportunity for you to capture art created by your child into a precious keepsake. They make for terrific gifts too! Please contact Cari Grundman (215-862-6816) or Mary Copperthwaite (215-598-3373) if you have any questions.

The Best Way to TEACH Respect Is to SHOW Respect

When a child experiences respect, they know what it feels like and begin to understand how important it is.

Respecting your child

- ◆ Be honest. If you do something wrong, admit it and apologize.
- ◆ Be positive. Don't embarrass, insult or make fun of your child. Compliment him.
- ◆ Be trusting. Let your child make choices and take responsibility.
- ◆ Be careful. Using sarcasm or a raised voice can send the wrong message.
- ◆ Be fair. Listen to your child's side of the story before reaching a conclusion.
- ◆ Be polite. Use "please" and "thank you." Knock before entering your child's room.
- ◆ Be reliable. Keep promises. Show your child that you mean what you say.
- ◆ Be a good listener. Give your child your full attention.

Modeling good behavior

Children learn from everything we say and do. Make sure that you are modeling respectful behavior.

More respect tactics

- ◆ When you set rules at home, explain to your child why the rule is important.
- ◆ Teach your children to respect themselves. Self-respect is one of the most important forms of respect. Once we respect ourselves, it is easier to respect others.
- ◆ Build your child's independence. Give them responsibilities as soon as they can handle them. Middle schoolers and high schoolers should be allowed to show independence, such as in their clothing or hairstyles, but make sure you have guidelines. They will appreciate the respect you are showing them.
- ◆ Help them set and achieve goals. Their self-respect will skyrocket when they see themselves achieving those goals.
- ◆ Encourage honesty. Let your children know that they may be able to fool some people, but they can't fool themselves. There is no pride in stealing, cheating, or lying.
- ◆ Most importantly, show love! Say "I love you" often, and give plenty of hugs and kisses. If your child makes a mistake, remind them that they are still loved.

Schools teach children about respect, but parents have the most influence on how respectful children become. Until children show respect at home, it's unlikely they will show it anywhere else.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

April 2009

Physical and Dental Forms Due NOW!!

Dear Parents,

Please note that school physical and dental forms are due NOW for this school year. Several reminder letters have been sent, but still no response from many parents. If your child has had a physical or dental within the last year, you may submit a form dated from that appointment.

Parents are asked to remember, as in previous years, field trip privileges, and possibly final report cards, may be withheld if the required forms are not received in the Health Office. The Pennsylvania state requirements are the following:

- ◆ Physical Exam forms are required for ALL of the following:
 - ◆ K or 1st grade (the year of school entry)
 - ◆ 6th grade
 - ◆ out of state transfers this year
- ◆ Dental Exam forms are required for ALL of the following:
 - ◆ K or 1st grade (the year of school entry)
 - ◆ 3rd grade
 - ◆ out of state transfers this year

Once again, your prompt response to this reminder would be much appreciated. For your convenience, forms may be accessed and printed from the 'nurse' webpage on the SF school website, and may be faxed to school to #215 944 2497.

Thank you,

Mrs. Daniels



Multicultural Week at Sol Feinstone

May 18th – 22nd

Volunteers and Cultural Artifacts Needed!

Sol Feinstone will be celebrating Multicultural Week during the week of May 18th. Coordinated by the PTO's Diversity Committee, the goal of Multicultural Week is to expand students' knowledge and appreciation of diverse cultures in our community, nation, and world.

Multicultural Week activities will focus on a variety of cultures and will include:

- 1) our school's own cultural museum;
- 2) a school-wide focus on Peruvian culture, with related activities in gym, art, and library classes as well as the cafeteria; and
- 3) presentations about other cultures for the 2nd and 4th grade classes. Presentations are scheduled for the other grades throughout the spring.

PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE OF ANOTHER CULTURE WITH OUR STUDENTS!

Making this program come alive for our students requires volunteers—parents, relatives, staff, neighbors, or community members—who are willing to share their first-hand knowledge with 2nd or 4th grade classes and/or offer an artifact from a country to be displayed in the cultural museum. This is a great opportunity for grandparents to share their wealth of knowledge and experience! Class presentations might include showing students artifacts, handicrafts, dolls, photographs, etc., and should include time for discussion with the students to answer questions they might have. Artifacts offered for display in the museum will be stored in a secure place and returned by the end of the week.

If you are willing to present to one or more sections of 2nd or 4th grade, or know someone who is willing to do so, please contact Kathy Coolahan at kcoolahan@comcast.net. To share artifacts for display in the cultural museum, contact Robyn Johnson at rjpharm@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping us enhance our students' awareness of the diversity of our world.

Cash Back Program

Please continue to send Box Tops, ACME & McCaffrey receipts, Labels for Education, Tyson red ABC123 labels, and Market Day UPC codes. To earn \$ for our school while you shop, register your Genaurdis club card, as well as your Visa, Mastercard, Diners Club & American Express cards at www.escrip.com. Also, you can register your Target credit card at www.Target.com.

Confused? Please contact Beth Mullen (brmullen@yahoo.com) or Marie Kiefer (kieferfamily9@comcast.net) with any questions. Thanks for your support!

Great American Fundraiser

Ed Tate

HELP! We need you on April 18!

We need you on April 18 at Tyler State Park for this year's Great American Fundraiser. It's going to be a fun event in a beautiful setting in what we guarantee will be excellent weather.

Your options include volunteer, runner, walker, and spectator. The most important is VOLUNTEER! We'll need people to assist with logistics, such as registration and course guidance. And, please, encourage other parents, friends, and neighbors to register for the event, which centers on a 5K run/walk with a one-mile fun run for the youngest.

Proceeds this year will go to Athletes Helping Athletes, a program involving many CRSD students. It supports Special Olympics and Special Needs programs across Bucks County, plus "community support for the special athletes through their inclusion in local school athletic functions, including the opportunity to serve as Honorary Team Captains at home games."

GAF is held annually by our school's student council. Advisors this year are Ms. Potoka, Mr. Spack, and Mr. Oldfield. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact them or PTO liaison Ed Tate, ed@kroegerpr.com.

Sol Feinstone PTO Diversity Committee

Spring 2009 Update

The Diversity Committee meets monthly to plan and coordinate activities designed to enhance students' understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures in our school community and the world. Committee members include parents and staff members. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17th at 9:15. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Robyn Johnson (rjpharm@hotmail.com) or Kathy Coolahan (kcoolahan@comcast.net).

In addition to Multicultural Week, the Diversity Committee is coordinating several diversity-themed presentations for students this spring. They include visits from senior citizen guest readers who will share what life was like when they were children (grades K-1), a representative of the Special Olympics (3rd grade), an African American Revolutionary War soldier re-enactor (5th grade), and a Holocaust survivor (6th grade).



Birthday Books

Cassandra Lockett 215-369-0191
Karen Mealey 215-493-8658



The following students have recently celebrated their birthdays by donating books to the library:

Sierra Brown

Kevin Kiefer

Jessica Kusters

Dylan Silver

Edmund Mancinelli

Zara Tabackin

We thank these children and their families for their lasting gift to Sol Feinstone's library.

Lights! Camera! Book Fair!

Mark your calendars so you won't miss our school's Book Fair on Wednesday, April 29th to Friday, May 1st. Be sure to check out the PTO website for more information and to volunteer your time!

Reading makes kids stars by engaging their imaginations as they experience and share the joy of reading. Parents can play a starring role by volunteering your time and helping your child and other students choose from hundreds of popular books.

Top 5 Reasons To Get Excited About Lights! Camera! Book Fair!

- 5.** Families shop together in a fun-filled, safe environment.
- 4.** Scholastic delivers hundreds of quality books, suitable for every interest and reading level, right to our school.
- 3.** We offer exclusive editions of popular books at special low prices.
- 2.** Book Fair profits allow us to improve our library and expand classroom libraries. *AND finally...*
- 1.** We enjoy getting kids to associate reading with fun, not just homework.

The Book Fair is a great way for families to connect by reading together and sharing a love of books. We hope you join us in our celebration of **Lights! Camera! Book Fair!** Showing your child that reading really matters is one of the best examples you can possibly set.

Your Book Fair Co-Chairs,
Alexis Hartman
Debbie VanAken