



The Owl's Hoot

Sol Feinstone
Elementary School
PTO Newsletter

February 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February is upon us and we have passed the halfway mark in our academic year. We certainly have accomplished a great deal in the first 100 days, including a busy January. First, our teachers hosted a very successful Council Rock Education week. It was obvious that they worked very hard to showcase their classroom activities and I was personally so happy to see how they utilized the Smart Boards consistently throughout the day. Thank you to all the teachers, staff and Mr. Harlan for creating such a rich learning environment for

our children. In addition, thanks to Betsy Kruse and the Hospitality team for all the treats throughout the week. Our Family Activities Committee delivered another successful Mother-Son Event at the NAC which was well attended and very fun! Thanks to Jeannie Palmieri and Chris Parker for all their hard work to bring us this fun night!

February promises to be just as action packed as we have several exciting PTO events to look forward to. First, we will have our annual Lollipop sale during lunch time on

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Reminders

2/4	PTO Meeting
2/5	Report cards distributed
2/12 2/15	School closed
2/26	Father/Daughter Dance

**February's
Words to
Learn by:
Care and
Be Kind**

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: JOHN HARLAN

February is here! Not only do we have the school play, Valentine's Day parties and the Father/Daughter Dance, our 6th Graders will experience the Elementary Performance Assessment at the end of the month. The EPA is a three-day event. The first

two days are in the library and the final day is their presentation to two staff members. The EPA is a wonderful opportunity for children to research a question, write a research paper, create a power point to support their research and

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT (continued)

February 2010

February 8th -11th. We will also be visited by the Artmobile which will set up shop near the playground on the black top area. Lastly, we have the much anticipated Father-Daughter Dance on February 26th. The theme for this event will be a "Winter Ball" and more details can be found on the PTO website. February is also the time when we begin to think about our slate for the 2010/2011 school year. Many exciting positions will become available, most notably President Elect, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer as well as a host of Committee Chair positions. Please contact Cari Grundman

if you are interested in a leadership role next year.

As a final note, please mark your calendars for March 13th which is when our biggest fundraiser will be held – Spring Fair! It takes many people to run such an event so if you are interested in playing a role, no matter how big or small, please contact either Beth Pomeroy or Karen Boyd. They would love to hear from you!

Have a great month!

Jennifer Ceslak
SFPTO President

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL (continued)

develop an oral presentation about their topic.

At this time, 6th Grade teachers are working feverishly to prepare the students for this activity. During the entire process, children learn how to pre-research and develop a research question, use outlines to synthesize information collected for their research paper, and generate a power point to assist with their oral presentation. After this is all said and done, we often see our 6th Graders wanting more independence and willing to accept greater responsibility with their academic studies. We

have found throughout the years this is yet another excellent vehicle to prepare students for the challenges they will face as they inch closer to life at Newtown Middle School. If you have any questions about the EPA, please contact your child's 6th Grade teacher.

I hope you enjoy all the wonderful activities in the month of February!!!

Stay warm,

Mr. Harlan

Raising Confident Kids

It takes confidence to be a kid. Whether going to a new school or stepping up to bat for the first time, kids face a lot of uncharted territory.

Naturally, parents want to instill a can-do attitude in their kids so that they'll bravely take on new challenges and, over time, believe in themselves. While each child is a little different, parents can follow some general guidelines to build kids' confidence.

Self-confidence rises out of a sense of competence. In other words, kids develop confidence not because parents tell them they're great, but because of their achievements, big and small. Sure, it's good to hear encouraging words from mom or dad. But words of praise mean more when they refer to a child's specific efforts or new abilities.

When kids achieve something, whether it's brushing their own teeth or riding a bike, they get a sense of themselves as able and capable, and tap into that high-octane fuel of confidence.

Building self-confidence can begin very early. When babies learn to turn the pages of a book or toddlers learn to walk, they are getting the idea "I can do it!" With each new skill and milestone, kids can develop increasing confidence.

Parents can help by giving kids lots of opportunities to practice and master their skills, letting kids make mistakes and being there to boost their spirits so they keep trying. Respond with interest and excitement when kids show off a new skill, and reward them with praise when they achieve a goal or make a good effort.

With plentiful opportunities, good instruction, and lots of patience from parents, kids can master basic skills — like tying their shoes and making the bed. Then, when other important challenges present themselves, kids can approach them knowing that they have already been successful in other areas.

Stay on the Sidelines

Of course, supervision is important to ensure that kids stay safe. But to help them really learn a new skill, it's also important not to hover. Give kids the opportunity to try something new, make mistakes, and learn from them.

For instance, if your son wants to learn how to make a peanut butter sandwich, demonstrate, set up the ingredients, and let him give it a try. Will he make a bit of a mess? Almost certainly. But don't swoop in the second some jelly hits the countertop. In fact, avoid any criticism that could discourage him from trying again. If you step in to finish the sandwich, your son will think, "Oh well, I guess I can't make sandwiches."

But if you have patience for the mess and the time it takes to learn, the payoff will be real. Someday soon he'll be able to say, "I'm hungry for lunch, so I'm going to make my own sandwich." You might even reply, "Great, can you make me one, too?" What a clear sign of your faith in his abilities!

Offer Encouragement and Praise

Sometimes, it won't be you swooping in when your child falters, but your child giving up. Help by encouraging persistence in the midst of frustration. By trying again, kids learn that obstacles can be overcome.

Once kids reach a goal, you'll want to praise not only the end result but also their willingness to stick with it. For instance, after your son has mastered making that peanut butter sandwich you might show your confidence by saying, "Next time, want to learn how to crack an egg?" Sandwich-fixing and egg-cracking might not seem like huge achievements, but they're important steps in the right direction — toward your child's independence.

Throughout childhood, parents have chances to prepare kids to take care of themselves. Sure, it's great to feel needed, but as kids steadily gain confidence and independence, their relationship with you can be even richer. You can be bonded, not just by dependence, but by love and shared pride in all they've achieved. Eventually, your grown-up kids just might say thanks for how prepared they feel for the road ahead — a road they can take with confidence.

Reviewed by: D'Arcy Lyness, PhD
Original Source: kidshealth.org

Save the date - March 13, 2010, 10:00 - 3:00

SFE Spring Fair

Karen Boyd - theboyd6@comcast.net (215) 860-3290
Beth Pomeroy - brpomeroy@hotmail.com (215) 968-2828

Back by popular demand, the fair will be held indoors this year. Please look for a volunteer packet coming home soon highlighting ways you can help, such as cakes and treasure jar donations and ticket pre-sales. The Spring Fair is the school's largest fundraiser.

We need you!



NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

February 2010

Dear Parents,

As you know, cold and flu season is not yet over. And, health experts feel we are very likely to see many additional cases of H1N1 this season. As of this date, the Bucks County Department of Health has *not* notified us of plans for any additional H1N1 *school* clinics. Parents interested in obtaining the H1N1 immunization for their children, or adult family members, are strongly encouraged to call their family doctor, or call the Department of Health (877-477-4492) for information on immunizations at their three Bucks County locations. Also, several pharmacy chains have begun to advertise availability of H1N1 immunizations.

At school, staff are asked to remind students frequently to wash hands, cover coughs, and promptly dispose of tissues, etc. We hope that you will continue to do the same at home. The more often youngsters hear the message on these health and hygiene habits, the better. Although hand washing facilities and hand sanitizers, such as Purell, are available at the cafeteria, perhaps you might consider packing a disposable hand wipe with your child's lunch, so they may use it before they eat.

For other common sense wellness measures known to support the immune system, I hope you'll also consider; adequate sleep, good nutrition, good hydration, not 'over scheduling,' and adequate recovery time after illness. By Department of Health policy, and by school district policy, you are asked to keep children home until they have been free of fever for 24 hours, *without* Tylenol or Motrin in that 24-hour period. And, beyond the policy, if your child has a heavy cold or very persistent or productive cough, please consider giving them the recovery time they need to decrease illness being introduced back into the school.

Thanks very much,

Mrs. Daniels

Cash Back ProgramBeth Mullen (brmullen@yahoo.com)Marie Kiefer (kieferfamily9@comcast.net)**Attention ACME shoppers**

SFPTO has earned over \$1,000 this year from ACME receipts. So, please keep saving and sending in the receipts. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Have you registered your Genuardis Club Card at eScrip?

Raise \$ for our school each time you shop at Genuardis using your store club card. Simply go to www.ecrip.com, click on "sign up", enter your Genuardi Club Card # and the Sol Feinstone Group # ID 6630629. Spend a few minutes to register now, and you will earn \$ for your child's school all year long while you shop! Those who have participated in previous years will be automatically renewed so you can continue supporting SFE.

Register your **Target** card at www.target.com with their Take Charge of Education Program. Use the Sol Feinstone ID# 893453.33.

Please continue to send in McCaffrey receipts and Campbell Labels for Education.

Please put the store receipts and labels in an envelope marked Cash Back Program. Send the envelope into the school or drop the envelope in the Cash Back collection box located in the foyer of the school.

Thank you very much for your continued support!

PTO BULLETINS

February 2010



Birthday Books

Jeanne Markey 215-321-5017

Karen Mealey 215-493-8658



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

Lauren DeMicoli

Tia Farese

Thomas J. Geiger

Marissa Hsu

Thommy Kelly

Mia Mastrocola

William Newman

Keegan Pietrak

Henry Polli

Andrew Thomas

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

March Madness Box Top Contest



The Prize: Special Gym Class with Principal Harlan and Mr. Oldfield for the grade that submits the most Box Tops!

Contest Starts: February 1st

Contest Ends: March 26th

Box Tops are found on General Mills, Ziploc, Hefty, Juicy Juice, YoPlait, Viva, Cottenelle, Kleenex, Green Giant, Betty Crocker, Old El Paso, Pillsbury, and Kimberly-Clark products, as well as many other products that are listed on the Box Top website at www.boxtops4education.com. Grandparents, neighbors, and teachers are welcome to donate too.

Put the Box Tops in an envelope marked SFPTO-Cash Back Program. **Please also write the student's grade level on the envelope.** Either drop the envelope in the Cash Back Program collection box in the foyer of the school or send it into your child's classroom.

Please contact Marie Kiefer at kieferfamily9@verizon.net or Beth Mullen at brmullen@yahoo.net with any questions. Thank you for your support!!