



# The Owl's Hoot

Sol Feinstone  
Elementary School  
PTO Newsletter

June 2009

## ***PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE***

The 2008-2009 school year is winding to a close, and while parents, students, and teachers are all eagerly looking forward to summer break, there has been no slowdown in activities at SFE. PTO funds were used to bring the Freddy Fusion assembly and author David Lubar to SFE. The Diversity Committee organized a celebration of the country of Peru and a multicultural museum with artifacts from countries around the world. They were also responsible for bringing a Holocaust survivor and black Civil War re-enactor to the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, respectively. The Publishing Committee has been busy binding the many books written by the students. The final PTO activity of the year is

Movie Night, which is scheduled for Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. The final Market Day will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> so don't forget to place your order. Thank you to all the many volunteers who have donated their time and energy over the past year. The children at SFE have benefited greatly from your efforts!

When the students return in the fall, an exciting addition will be waiting for them in their home-room. Over the summer PTO funds will be used to purchase 23 Smart Boards for our classrooms. (The remaining Smart Boards for the 1 Kindergarten and First Grade classrooms will be purchased by Mr. Harlan with his building funds.)

Continued on page 2

## ***Reminders***

6/4	PTO Meeting
6/5	Movie Night
6/15	Final Market Day
6/18	Last day of school—early dismissal

**June's  
Word to  
Learn by:  
Celebrate**

## ***FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: JOHN HARLAN***

Dear Parents:

As the school year quickly draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for a wonderful 2008-2009 school year. I enjoyed my first year as your principal and look forward to providing the best possible academic and social environment for your children in the years to come. Our students

have worked hard, and we have seen much growth in them this year. Growth that we hope will be sustained over the summer through the wonderful experiences you have planned for them.

Turning our sights to next school year, I have included a "Back to School Calendar" for

Continued on page 2

## ***Inside this issue:***

Counselor's Corner	3-4
Notes from the Health Office	4
PTO Bulletins	5-6

## ***FROM OUR PRESIDENTS (continued)***

June 2009

We wish those families and teachers who are leaving Sol Feinstone the best of luck at their new schools. We hope you leave with many fond memories of the school.

Have a wonderful summer!

Respectfully,

Deb Emery and Kim Gibbons  
PTO Co-Presidents

## ***FROM OUR PRINCIPAL (continued)***

your information at the end of this letter. I also encourage you to log onto our school website. Here you will find information about the beginning of the year activities and staffing. At the present time, we have several vacancies to fill. We will post this staffing information as soon as we receive school board approval for our teacher candidates.

Student assignments will be mailed home in early August. This is necessary because fluctuations in student enrollment impact the number of grade level sections. Accordingly, if you know any

families who intend to register their children for the end of August, please encourage them to call Central Administration at the Chancellor Center, 215-944-1000 for an appointment. Our SFE office is open 8 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Thursday this summer. We will not be open on Fridays.

Finally, parents have requested an earlier distribution of the supplies list. To accommodate this request, a suggested supply list is available on our website. Just click on a specific grade level and you will find a general list of supplies.

### **Back to School Calendar 2009-2010**

Aug 26	New Family Orientation		4:00 p.m.
Aug 27	AM Kindergarten Orientation		9:30 a.m.
	PM Kindergarten Orientation		10:45 a.m.
	Grades 1 - 6 Open House (Meet & Greet)		3:00 p.m.
Aug 31	First Day for K-6 Students		Full Day of School
Sept 14	Back to School Night	AM-Kindergarten	5:00 p.m.
		PM-Kindergarten	6:00 p.m.
		Humanities-Grade 2	6:00 p.m.
		Humanities-Grade 3	6:30 p.m.
		Grade 2	7:00 p.m.
		Grade 3	7:15 p.m.
Sept 15	Back to School Night	Humanities-Grade 4	6:30 p.m.
		Grade 1	7:00 p.m.
		Grade 4	7:15 p.m.
Sept 16	Back to School Night	Humanities-Grade 5	6:15 p.m.
		Humanities-Grade 6	6:45 p.m.
		Grade 5	7:00 p.m.
		Grade 6	7:15 p.m.

**On behalf of the Sol Feinstone Staff, our best wishes for a happy, safe, fun, and family filled summer.  
Enjoy, John**

## For the Summer

When the lazy days of summer arrive and the schedule is packed with swimming, camp, and family vacations, it can be a challenge to find time for learning. But kids' reading skills don't have to grow cold once school's out. Here are some ways to make reading a natural part of their summer fun:

**Explore your library.** Visit your local library to check out books and magazines that your kids haven't seen before. Many libraries have summer reading programs, book clubs, and reading contests for even the youngest borrowers. With a new library card, a child will feel extra grown-up checking out books.

**Read on the road.** Going on a long car trip? Make sure the back seat is stocked with favorite reads. When you're not at the wheel, read the books aloud. Get some audio books (many libraries have large selections) and listen to them together during drive time.

**Make your own books.** Pick one of your family's favorite parts of summer — whether it's baseball, ice cream, or the pool — and have your child draw pictures of it or cut out pictures from magazines and catalogs. Paste the pictures onto paper to make a booklet and write text for it. When you're done, read the book together.

**Keep in touch.** Kids don't have to go away to write about summer vacation. Even if your family stays home, they can send postcards to tell friends and relatives about their adventures. Ask a relative to be your child's pen pal and encourage them to write each week.

**Keep up the reading rituals.** Even if everything else changes during the summer, keep up the reading routines around your house. Read with your kids every day — whether it's just before bedtime or under a shady tree on a lazy afternoon. And don't forget to take a book to the beach!

## For the Transition to School in the Fall

**Encourage your child to discuss the transition** by asking questions such as, "What have you been thinking about your new school or grade?" Make a list of your child's concerns and together try to find answers to the questions

**Let your child know it is natural to feel apprehensive.** He or she may be fearful of not being accepted by peers or about mastering the logistics or academics of a new grade or school. Share childhood memories of times when you were worried about a new situation. Relate the good things that happened like how you met your best friend or that your new teacher was one of your favorites.

**Expect the transition to be ultimately successful.** Yet, remember that adjustments take time and the first days in a new school or grade are often overwhelming. Your attitude can help your child; let him or her know you are confident in his ability to adjust well.

**Attend the school's orientation, open house, and/or tour the school with your child.** Be involved by asking for a copy of the school's calendar and handbook. Join the Parent-Teacher Organization or parent advisory board. Get to know other parents, especially parents of your child's new friends.

Continued on page 4

## ***COUNSELOR'S CORNER (continued)***

June 2009

**Invite your child to express his or her emotions.** Even when a concern seems minor to you, be respectful and know that it can be a major crisis to your child. Ask open-ended questions like, "How's it going?" or make comments like, "You seem sad." Then listen carefully and avoid giving advice unless your child asks for it.

**Continue to foster your child's organizational skills.** Assist him or her in becoming responsible and independent. Stay interested and provide rules and structure. Yet, allow your child to have input into what the rules are.

**Keep the days leading up to the transition as positive as possible.** Stress that his or her class will offer many new experiences. The night before the first day, have your child lay out everything needed for school. The next morning allow time to get ready in a calm manner.

If after an adjustment period of time, your child is reluctant to go to school or seems truly unhappy, seek help. Identify your concerns and meet with your child's teacher and/or school counselor. Together work out a plan of action.

*Original sources: KidsHealth.org and KellyBear.com*

---

## ***NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE***

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

**I thought I would offer a few reminders as we near the end of the school year. Kindly stop in the Health Office to pick up any medications your child had on hand in the Health Office this school year. We will have new forms available to give you for next year, when you arrive.**

**In the next 2-3 weeks we will be sending home reminders for the 2009/2010 physical and dental forms that are due for specific grade levels next year. These forms are requested for September, if possible, please.**

**And lastly, this year, we are asking parents to stop in the Health Office to pick up their child's Health Report Card. You may recall that this was mailed home in previous years. However, the cost of this district-wide mailing has become very prohibitive, and we are hoping to redirect the funds saved, toward beneficial instructional use.**

**Wishing you and your families a restful and healthy summer!**

**Thanks very much,  
Mrs. Daniels, School Nurse**

## **Family Activities Committee**

Jennifer Ceslak  
(215-504-5688)

With the completion of Movie Night, the Family Activities Committee is done for the year! We are very proud of our SFE community of parents, teachers, and children who make each and every event a success. We brought some new thinking into the mix with our wildly successful "Mother Son Sports Night" and stayed with our tried and true events like the "Father Daughter Dance" and "Bingo Night." We also held the "Welcome Back Picnic," "Haunted Hayride," "Family Roller Skating Night," and "Movie Night" so it was a busy year!

I would like to thank our Family Activities Committee, which consists of the following fantastic people: Karen Boyd, Melissa Cohen, Diane Cozzarin, Deanna Goulazian, Violet Mazlin, Karen Mealey, Jeannie Palmieri, Chris Parker, Laura Rothstein, and Jane Willenbucher. Next year, this committee will be chaired by Denise Michalowski and Randi Bauernshub and I am confident that they will continue to enhance the activities that we have come to love so much and bring some new thinking into the group!

---

## **Cash Back Program**

Beth Mullen ([brmullen@yahoo.com](mailto:brmullen@yahoo.com))  
Marie Kiefer ([kieferfamily9@comcast.net](mailto:kieferfamily9@comcast.net))

Please save Box Tops, ACME & McCaffrey receipts, Labels for Education, Tyson red ABC123 labels, and Market Day UPC codes during the summer. There will be another Box Top Contest this coming fall.

Mark your calendars for the Escript Back to School Promotion, which allows our school to *earn 10% while we shop at Genuardis between August 12<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>*. If you have not already done so, you can register your Genuardis club card, as well as your Visa, Mastercard, Diners Club & American Express cards at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). Also, you can register your Target credit card at [www.Target.com](http://www.Target.com).

Confused? Please contact Beth Mullen ([brmullen@yahoo.com](mailto:brmullen@yahoo.com)) or Marie Kiefer ([kieferfamily9@comcast.net](mailto:kieferfamily9@comcast.net)) with any questions.

**Thank you very much for supporting the Cash Back Program this year.  
Have a great summer!**



## 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:

Madison Erman

Mason Ferrara

Benjamin Green

Harry Green

Sabrina Green

Ryan Heese

Dean Kardas

Jonathan Liu

Seth Mazlin

Katherine McQuarrie

Alexandra Newman

Dylan Pollard

Devon Reed

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

### The Hospitality Committee

The end of year luncheon for SFE Staff will be held on June 18, the last day, following dismissal. The Hospitality Committee would like to encourage as many graduating 6th graders and parents to volunteer for this last hurrah! It is a great way to send off!!

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

Mark Your Calendar:

**Welcome Back Picnic**

**Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at SFE**