



The Owl's Hoot

Sol Feinstone
Elementary School
PTO Newsletter

March 2009

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

February was another fun-filled month. We held one of our favorite family activities, the father-daughter dance. It was wonderful; all the girls looked beautiful and the dads looked pretty sharp too! Thanks to our family activities committee for running this fabulous event. Cari Grundman and the fundraising committee were busy with our Valentine's Day lollipop sale, which proved to be very successful and well-received again this year.

Another awesome event was the 5th and 6th grade production of "Alice in Wonderland." Special thanks to Mrs. Leigh, Mrs. Fanning and Mrs. Stoudt for countless hours of hard work. The kids were fabulous; all

those practices sure did pay off!! Special thanks to all the parents who helped behind the scenes to make this show a success!

March will be another fun month. We will be having an exciting assembly presented by Slim Goodbody on March 13th. On March 13th, we will also hold our annual K-3rd grade Bingo Night!! March 26th will be our Family Roller Skating night. We hope to see everyone there!

There will also be several important meetings for parents in March. First, on March 5 at 9:15 we will have our next PTO meeting. For all sixth grade parents, there will be a planning

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Reminders

3/5	PTO Meeting
3/7	Daylight savings time
3/11	6th Grade Planning Mtg @NMS
3/12	PTO 2009-2010 Budget Mtg
3/13	Early dismissal
3/16-27	PSSAs for 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders
3/23	CRSD Finance Mtg @ NMS

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: JOHN HARLAN

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,
Spring is right around the corner and with it brings the reading and math portions of the PSSA Assessments for our third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. The PSSA's start on Monday, March 16th and students will take a total of six tests: three reading and three math. The assessments will be completed

on Monday, March 23rd with the remaining days used for make-ups. The last day for make-ups is Friday, March 27th. During the two weeks of testing, I am planning some special surprises to motivate our students and boost their spirits. Yes, it is a stressful two weeks, but who says we can't have a little fun along the way!

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March's Words to Learn by:
Cooperate, Discuss, and Be Positive

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FROM OUR PRESIDENTS (continued)

March 2009

meeting at Newtown Middle School on March 11 at 7:00. There will be PTO budget meeting on March 12th at 9:15 in the all purpose room. Finally, on March 23rd at Newtown Middle School, our Superintendent, Mark Klein will be discussing the finances of Council Rock School District for the upcoming school year.

Enjoy the month of March and relax while you can, spring is right around the corner, bringing us a whole new batch of activities!

Sincerely,

Kim Gibbons and Deb Emery

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL (continued)

Finally, if you haven't done so already, please sign up to be included in our PTO's e-mail distribution list. Not only do you receive important information from our PTO, but you can also get my weekly newsletter. My newsletter consists of a week in review, the upcoming weekly schedule, Unity Linkers,

newsworthy notes/items, and a quote for the week. So please sign up so you can be connected to what's going on at SFE!

Let's have a magnificent March and welcome in spring with open arms,

Mr. Harlan



To all parent volunteers who helped out during Council Rock Education Week.

Danielle M. Portnoy
The Hospitality Committee

Anxiety in Children

All children experience anxiety from time to time. Occasional worrying and fleeting anxieties will often occur when a child is faced with an unfamiliar or especially stressful situation. It can be an important signal for caution in certain situations. Anxiety becomes a disorder when worry is impacting a child's functioning.

Listed below are common red flags that a child's anxiety may be a disorder requiring professional help:

- ◆ Easily distressed or agitated when experiencing a stressful situation
- ◆ Asking repetitive reassurance questions, "what if" concerns, inconsolable, unresponsive to logical arguments
- ◆ Headaches, stomachaches, often too sick to go to school
- ◆ Anticipatory anxiety: child is worrying hours, days, weeks ahead
- ◆ Sleep disruptions, which includes difficulty falling asleep, frequent nightmares, and having difficulty sleeping alone
- ◆ Perfectionism, self-critical, impossibly high standards that cannot be met
- ◆ Overly-responsible, wanting to always please others, excessive concern that others may be upset with him or her, apologizing when its not necessary
- ◆ Avoids people and activities excessively, refuses to participate in expected activities, refusal to attend school
- ◆ Disruption of child or family functioning, difficulty with going to school, friend's houses, religious activities, family gatherings, errands, vacations

If you have concerns that your child may be experiencing an anxiety disorder, you can consult with your pediatrician for treatment options. Anxiety disorders are highly treatable with cognitive behavioral therapy. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact your school counselor.

March Madness Box Top Contest

What would make Mr. Harlan's hair turn blue?

Lots of **Box Tops**!!



Our goal is set at \$786, which is only 10 Box Tops per student. Mr. Harlan has agreed to dye his hair **blue** if we reach this goal by March 31st. Does he really think we can't accomplish our goal?

So, get ready for the March Madness Contest, and start collecting those Box Tops – as many as you can. Box Tops are found on General Mills products. Put the Box Tops in an envelope marked SFPTO-Cash Back Program. 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 continue to send in 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 Genuardis 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!

Market Day **Clancy Strobel (msclancy@comcast.net)**

Market Day is having a dessert sale for the month of March. There are 10 desserts perfect for your upcoming Holiday table. Support our SFE children through this lucrative fundraiser. Please complete the order form that came home in book bags and return to school, or you can go online to **marketday.com** to place your order. Orders are due on Friday, March 13th. Payment can be made when you pick up your order on Monday, March 23rd from 3:30-4:30 in the all purpose room at school. Please make checks payable to Market Day. Contact Clancy Strobel if you need assistance. Thank you!

Transition to Newtown Middle School

Ellen Petri
SFE PTO Middle School Liaison
215-598-8254

To make the transition to Newtown Middle School a smooth and enjoyable experience for parents and students, upcoming events are being offered to SFE 6th grade families. You have received a letter from Newtown Middle School Principal Hollahan, along with a Program Planning Guide for the 2009-2010 academic year. If you have not received this info, please contact me and I will provide you with the letter and booklet.

The next step in this transition process is a **parents' meeting** on **Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the NMS auditorium**. This meeting will provide information regarding the middle school day, next year's course selection, co-curricular activities, and other items of interest. It is highly informative and beneficial, especially for those of us who are about to have a child in *middle school* for the first time. Additionally, parent volunteer sign-up sheets will be available (Note that the *only* other opportunity for sign-up will be at Back to School night in September). If you cannot attend, please make arrangements to get the information from someone who will be there or call me.

Plan to arrive early and/or carpool. Parking is limited!

Please mark your calendars. If you have questions, please feel free to call me.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

MARCH 7TH

**REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCK
AHEAD 1 HOUR**

PTO BULLETINS

March 2009

**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:

Sean Condon	Kaylee Heese	Max Herlan
Annabeth Mann	Holly Mann	Sarah Mastrocola
Kaelin Mealey	Sean Mealey	Matthew Nenner
Jimmy O'Donnell	Maggie Tolkach	Ellie Tushar
Jacklyn Walstrum		

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

Artists In Residence
Alison Elder
(raelder5@verizon.net)

The A.I.R. program is in full swing at Sol Feinstone, bringing students a wide variety of art-based enrichment programs. The A.I.R. residencies at our school are funded by both PTO and AIR funds. A.I.R. is the area's only non-profit organization dedicated to placing professional visual, performing, and literary artists into area schools. These residencies offer students a unique opportunity to interact with professional artists in a supportive learning environment.

The following residencies are taking place at SFE:

Kindergarten:	Paste Paper Collage with Terri Herring	February 25, 26 & March 4, 6
First Grade:	Yoga in Motion with Hoagy Wing	February 27
Second Grade:	Metamorphosis with Melissa Roxey	April 27, 28 & May 5, 8
Third Grade & Fourth Grade	U.S.A. Mosaic Mural with Terri Herring	Feb 17-March 27 tile-making April 28-May 1 installation
Fifth Grade	Yoga in Motion with Hoagy Wing	March 6
Sixth Grade	Pinhole Cameras with Gabrielle Kanter	April 1, 2, 16, 17

Be sure to ask your child about their residency – we're sure they'll be excited to share their experience with you!