



The Owl's Hoot

Sol Feinstone
Elementary School
PTO Newsletter

March 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February was another fun-filled month. We held one of our favorite family activities, the Father-Daughter Dance and what a wonderful Winter Ball it was! The girls looked beautiful and the Dads looked pretty sharp too! Thanks to Denise Michalowski, Randi Bauernshub and the rest of the Family Activities Committee for running this fabulous event. Our Fund-raising Committee was busy with our Valentine's Day lollipop sale, which proved to be very successful despite Mother Nature's challenges on the schedule! February also brought us the Artmobile and our "Hoops for Heart" fundraiser led by Mr. Oldfield. Another fantastic event was the 5th and

6th grade production of "Seussical." Special thanks to Mrs. Leigh, Mrs. Fanning and Mrs. Petravage 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 and to the performers who did a wonderful job!

March brings us the SPRING FAIR! Feinstone's Fantastic Circus will be held on Saturday, March 13th from 10:00 - 3:00 and will feature all of our favorite games, raffles, food and some fun surprises! Our PTO Meeting will be held on Friday,

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Reminders

3/5	PTO Meeting
3/12	Early dismissal
3/13	Spring Fair
3/29- 4/2	Spring Break
4/5	School reopens

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

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: JOHN HARLAN

Dear SFE Parents,

Do I dare say the words...spring is here? Well the calendar says it is March and along with spring comes with it so many exciting events for our students and school community. First, our 6th graders will be involved with the Elementary Performance Assessment. Next, the Spring Fair is

back from a 2-year hiatus. This year's version is called Feinstone's Fantastic Circus and it will be held on Saturday, March 13th from 10:00 to 3:00. It will be so much fun for the entire family so don't miss it. On March 12th, it is a half-day of school and we welcome back to SFE Mr. Jonathan Sprout. He is

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT (continued)

March 2010

March 5th so please join us at 9:15 for our GREEN PTO meeting. We will review our new Math curriculum during this meeting as well as an update on our 2010/2011 PTO slate. There will be PTO budget meeting on March 18th at 9:15 in the APR, so if you are interested in sharing your POV on our budget, please attend. March also brings us Spring

Break so enjoy the rest this month knowing that we have a nice break waiting for us at the end. Please, NO MORE SNOW!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ceslak
PTO President

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL (continued)

an American Folk singer who performs for children all across the country. As the month draws to a close, if you can believe it, it is the end of the 3rd marking period and Spring Break starts on Friday, March 26th. Finally, upon our return from Spring Break, we are greeted by the reading and math portions of the

PSSA. Let's hope spring is really here and March provides us with a month full of great memories!!!

Regards,
Mr. Harlan



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:

Maggie Heubeck

Hanna McNinch

Sarah Mastrocola

Mason Luff

Jimmy O'Donnell

Austin Pietrak

Jay Raics

Ellie Tushar

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

Want Passionate Kids? Leave 'em Alone

Parents who want their children to discover a passion for music, sports, or other hobbies should follow a simple plan: Don't pressure them.

By allowing kids to explore activities on their own, parents not only help children pinpoint the pursuit that fits them best, but they can also prevent young minds from obsessing over an activity, a new study finds.

"Passion comes from a special fit between an activity and a person," said Geneviève Mageau, a psychology professor at the University of Montreal. "You can't force that fit; it has to be found."

The study focused on what psychologists call autonomy, the basic need to feel like you're acting based on your own values and desires, not those of others. Controlling parents chip away at their child's autonomy, by pushing them into a hobby, the researchers say. So when the kid picks up his clarinet it's not out of a desire to play music, but due to a sense of obligation or a fear of disappointing his parents, according to Mageau.

To connect passion to autonomy, Mageau and colleagues performed three studies in which they surveyed hundreds of athletes and musicians ages 6 to 38 with different skill levels.

The surveys asked questions about the subjects' level of passion, such as how often they practiced a hobby or how much they loved it. The psychologists then measured how much volunteers agreed with statements such as, "I have a tough time controlling my need to do this activity" to determine if their passion was obsessive and interfering with other aspects of their lives. To measure autonomy, the researchers also asked participants whether they agreed with statements such as, "I have a say in what happens and can voice my opinions regarding my activity."

In one study, the researchers followed 196 middle-school students as they picked up a musical instrument for the first time. After five months, the psychologists found that one major variable that predicted whether children developed a passion for music was if their parents allowed them the freedom to practice on their own schedule. The passionate kids on average scored 9 percent greater on the autonomy scale than the non-passionate kids, which is a big effect in a psychology study.

The two other studies also showed that children who had little autonomy but did develop a passion for an activity were more likely than others to take it too far, becoming obsessed with the hobby.

Not only could these children miss out on truly enjoying their hobby, the result could grate on their self-esteem, according to the researchers. Obsessively passionate people attach their self-esteem to the pastime: If they play the clarinet flawlessly one night, they feel great, but if they miss a note, they can get depressed.

One of the three studies involved swimmers, skiers and musicians performing at a national level. Results showed that the participants' level of autonomy best predicted if they had an obsessive passion compared to a harmonious one, with higher autonomy linked with harmonious passions. This freedom mattered more than the child's own desire to specialize in their hobby.

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COUNSELOR'S CORNER WITH CRAIG MILLER

March 2010

The difference between forming a healthy and an unhealthy passion is to strike a balance between, say, the clarinet and hanging out with friends. "They don't see [the activity] as defining their whole self," Mageau said. "It's a big part of who they are, but they have other interests too."

But the study's results don't mean parents should let their kids run wild.

"I'm not telling parents to let their kids do whatever they want without limits," Mageau said. "The most important message is to focus on the child's interests and not to impose one's own on them."

Original Source: Livescience.com

SFE Spring Fair - Feinstone's Fantastic Circus

March 13, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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. Please consider volunteering your time to help with tickets, raffle baskets, or during the event. We are also collecting treasure jars (no glass please) and cake donations. Spring Fair is the school's largest fundraiser.

We need you!



NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

March 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of the wellness initiative at Sol Feinstone, we are pleased to announce the annual observance of 'Go for the Greens' day. Schools across Pennsylvania are using this day as a way to positively influence children in healthy food choices. This year, the day happens to fall on Wednesday March 17th-that 'other' green day, St. Patrick's Day!

On March 17th, we will be encouraging all students to 'wear' their favorite shade of green. Mr. Oldfield will have special activities in gym class, Mrs. Baumbach will have a variety of healthy green foods on the lunch menu, and teachers have been asked to weave a 'healthy green food message' into their lessons that day. And, please remember the trays of healthy fruits and veggies available from the cafeteria—extension 2411.

So, to follow the theme, we would also like to encourage you to send in 'healthy green foods' for your child's snack or lunch, or for parties on March 17th. Some possibilities might include: fresh veggies with a healthy dip, Granny Smith apples, celery, kiwi, broccoli, honey dew melon, avocado, cucumbers, green grapes, zucchini, or sugar snap peas.

Thank you,

Mr. Harlan, Principal

Mrs. Daniels, School Nurse



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

Raise \$ for our school each time you shop at Genuardis using your store club card. Simply go to www.escrip.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 **ACME** & **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.

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.

Thank you very much for your continued support!

Artist in Residence (AIR Program)

Alison Elder (raedler5@verizon.net)

The AIR Program is in full swing at Sol Feinstone, bringing a variety of art enrichment experiences to our students. Some grades have already completed residencies and others are gearing up for their art residencies in the coming months.

During January, the third grade students learned about the history and purpose of gargoyles and created their own clay gargoyles.

During February, the kindergarteners explored texture and color and created Eric Carle inspired paste and paper collages based on the illustrations in the book, "The Mixed Up Chameleon."

Upcoming residencies include:

- Fifth Grade will be learning the Art of Papermaking on March 24th & 25th
- Fourth Grade will be learning about the history and techniques of Early American Basketweaving from April 19th through April 23rd
- Sixth Grade will learn about the cultural celebration "Mexico's Day of the Dead" on April 19 & 26th
- Second Grade will be making Clay Tiles based on the book "The Very Hungry Caterpillars" with the date to be determined.

Artists in Residence is a "not for profit" organization dedicated to exposing children to the arts by placing visual, performing, and literary artists in regional schools. These programs are funded by the PTO, and in prior years have been supplemented by AIR funds. To raise funds for future programs, AIR is joining with New Hope Arts, Inc and presenting an "**Auction for the Arts**" on **April 17th, 2010**. Look for more information about this big event in the coming weeks!



SFPTO Photo Fundraiser Website

Photos are ready to view and purchase for the following events:

- ◆ Mother/Son Sporting Event
- ◆ Seussical Jr. Play
- ◆ Welcome Back Picnic
- ◆ Breast Cancer Awareness Walk
- ◆ Bingo Night

To easily access the SFPTO Photo Fundraiser web site just click on the URL below or copy/paste the URL in your web browser.

- ◆ www.shutterfly.com/pro/SolFeinstonePhotoFundraiser001039760776/SFPTO
- ◆ The password is **SFPTO** and must be in capital letters.
- ◆ You DO NOT need to register to use the site
- ◆ The site and order process is **completely secured** by Shutterfly
- ◆ A portion of your purchase will go directly to the Sol Feinstone PTO
- ◆ Have fun ordering all types of products:
 - Photos
 - Mugs
 - Playing cards
 - Puzzles and more!

Thank you for supporting our community.

Note:

- ◆ All photos will be posted to the SFPTO Photo Fundraiser website as soon as possible after each school event is completed.
- ◆ In addition, photos will be removed from the site at the end of each school year.
- ◆ All questions can be directed to sfptoweb@yahoo.com

