



The Owl's Hoot

Sol Feinstone
Elementary School
PTO Newsletter

September 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all students, faculty, and staff at Sol Feinstone. We have many new faces with us this year and are happy to have them join our Sol Feinstone family. The PTO is excited about the 2008-2009 school year and looks forward to many fun and enriching activities.

The PTO will use many avenues to keep all parents informed about upcoming events and school happenings. There are monthly PTO meetings, the PTO website (sfpto.com), and an email distribution list. All information sent home from the PTO will be easily recognizable because it will be printed on goldenrod paper.

Our hope this year is that everyone will become a member of the PTO and help support our many endeavors, some which are listed on pages 4-7 of this newsletter. The 2008-

2009 PTO board members are listed on page 8. We still have a few Board positions available including President-Elect, Yearbook Chairperson, Art Goes to School Volunteer, Flex Program Coordinator, and Recycling Coordinator. You could also join a committee or just volunteer to help out. We still have room for you!

We hope that everyone will become a member of the PTO and help support our many endeavors. We look forward to seeing you at the first PTO meeting on September 11 at 9:15 in the All-Purpose room or at our first nighttime meeting on September 10 at 7:00.

Sincerely,
Kim Gibbons and Deb Emery
SFPTO Co-Presidents

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: JOHN HARLAN

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! We are extremely excited to open our doors to another year full of learning and fun for our students. Our teachers are ready for your arrival and have many activities planned to enhance your child's academic and social experience.

I know this will be a wonderful year for all of us. Sol Feinstone is a special place and very dear to my heart. Throughout the years, I have found this school to be exceptional because of one main ingredient... the PEOPLE. We have the best students, teachers, and parents. As your principal, I will continue to cultivate this relationship and represent this school community in the finest manner.

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Reminders

- 10 Evening PTO Meeting
- 11 Daytime PTO Meeting
- 15-17 Back-to-School Nights (see pg 2)
- 22 Homeroom Parents Meeting
- 22 Market Day Pickup

**September's
Words to
Learn by:
Respect, Share,
Listen**

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FROM OUR PRINCIPAL (continued)

September 2008

As we soak in the excitement of a brand new year, I wanted to remind you of some important dates to keep on your calendar for the month of September.

- ◆ PTO Meeting—Wednesday, Sept. 10th at 7:00 pm
- ◆ PTO Meeting - Thursday, Sept. 11th at 9:15 am
- ◆ Back to School Nights:

Monday, September 15

- Gr. K AM @ 5:00 pm
- Gr. K PM @ 6:00 pm
- Gr. 2 @ 7:00 pm
- Gr. 3 @ 7:15 pm
- Gr. 2 Humanities @ 6:00 pm
- Gr. 3 Humanities @ 6:30 pm

Tuesday, September 16

- Gr. 1 @ 7:00 pm
- Gr. 4 @ 7:15 pm
- Gr. 4 Humanities @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 17

- Gr. 5 @ 7:00 pm
- Gr. 6 @ 7:15 pm
- Gr. 5 Humanities @ 6:15 pm
- Gr. 6 Humanities @ 6:45 pm

Let's have a great year together!!!

Regards,

Mr. John Harlan

Notes from the Health Office

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Welcome back to Sol Feinstone! I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer. Below is information on topics that I hope will be of interest and assistance to you as you return to school.

Physical and Dental Forms, and Immunization Dates—I have had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with many new and returning families this summer. Please remember to return Physical and Dental exam forms, and, if you have been contacted for immunization dates, these are needed as soon as possible, please. For information on which grade levels need PE and Dental forms, and for links to print the forms, please visit the 'Nurse' webpage on the SF website.

Emergency Forms- Emergency forms, with a hot pink letter attachment were sent home with students on the first day of school. Thank you for completing ALL the blanks on each form and returning them to school by Wednesday 9/3. If you have not returned the completed forms, please do so as soon as possible. Complete information is really vital if we need to contact you in the event your child is ill or injured at school.

Medications- If your child requires either a 'daily' or 'as needed' medication other than Tylenol, Tums, or various creams kept in stock at school, a doctor's order is needed. As a reminder, children are not permitted to carry any medication to or from school. An adult must do this, and they must have signed the permission form. Kindly visit the 'Nurse' webpage on the SF website for more specific information on the district medication policy and to print the medication form.

New Fax Number- Parents are kindly asked to note that in late July we received a new fax number. For your convenience, you are welcome to fax physical and dental forms, and medications forms to the new fax number: 215-944-2497.

Webpage- Please visit the 'Nurse' webpage on the SF website, which includes information on physical and dental exams, health screenings, medication policy, nut-safe snack suggestions, and also the printable Chartwell flyer for easy ordering of healthy trays of fruits and veggies for school parties.

Thanks very much and welcome back!!

Mrs. Daniels

The Basics -- Helping Your Child Succeed in School

If you think about it, although school is very important, it does not really take up very much of a child's time. Clearly, the hours and days that a child is not in school are important for learning, too. Here are some things that you can do to help your child to make the most of that time and be more successful in school:

Encourage Your Child to Be Responsible and to Work Independently

Taking responsibility and working independently are important qualities for school success. Here are some suggestions for helping your child to develop these qualities:

- ◆ Establish rules. Every home needs reasonable rules that children know and can depend on. Have your child help you to set rules, then make sure that you enforce the rules consistently.
- ◆ Make it clear to your child that he has to take responsibility for what he does, both at **home** and at **school**. For example, don't automatically defend your child if his teacher tells you that he is often late to class or is disruptive when he is in class. Ask for his side of the story. If a charge is true, let him take the consequences.
- ◆ Work with your child to develop a reasonable, consistent schedule of jobs to do around the house. List them on a calendar. Younger children can help set the table or put away their toys and clothes. Older children can help prepare meals and clean up afterwards.
- ◆ Show your child how to break a job down into small steps, then to do the job one step at a time. This works for everything—getting dressed, cleaning a room, or doing homework.
- ◆ Make your child responsible for getting ready to go to school each morning. If necessary, make a checklist to help him remember what he has to do.
- ◆ Monitor what your child does after school, in the evenings, and on weekends.

Talk with Your Child

Talking and listening play major roles in children's school success. It's through hearing parents and family members talk and through responding to that talk that young children begin to pick up the language skills they will need. For example, children who don't hear a lot of talk and who aren't encouraged to talk themselves often have problems learning to read, which can lead to other school problems. In addition, children who haven't learned to listen carefully often have trouble following directions and paying attention in class.

Think of talking with your child as being like a tennis game with words—instead of a ball—bouncing back and forth. Find time to talk any place, for example:

- ◆ As you walk with your child or ride with her in a car, talk with her about what she's doing at school. Ask her to tell you about a specific school activity. Point out and talk about things that you see as you walk—funny signs, new cars, interesting people.
- ◆ As you shop in a store, talk with your child about prices and how to pick out good vegetables and fruit. Give your child directions about where to find certain items, then have him go get them.
- ◆ As you fix dinner, ask your child to help you follow the steps in a recipe. Talk with him about what can happen if you miss a step or leave out an ingredient.
- ◆ As you watch TV together, talk with your child about the programs. If you're watching one of her favorite programs, encourage her to tell you about the background of the characters.
- ◆ As you read a book with your child, pause occasionally to talk to him about what's happening in the book. Help him to relate the events in the book to events in his life. Ask him to tell in his own words what the book was about.

Demonstrate how to be a good listener:

- ◆ When your child talks to you, pay attention. Look at him and ask questions to let him know that you've heard what he said: "So when are you going to help your granddad work on his car?"
- ◆ When your child tells you about something, occasionally repeat what he says to let him know that you're listening closely: "The school bus broke down twice!"

Original source: U.S. Dept of Education website: www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/succeed/part4.html



Fall Festival

Heather Vinglas (hjvinglas@aol.com)

New games, more inflatables, and Treasure Jars, oh my! This year's Fall Festival is going to be great! The Festival will be held on Saturday, October 18th (rain date the following day) from 11 am to 4 pm. Our theme is "Fall Into Fun" and that's what it will be - FUN! We are so excited about the many new additions to the Festival this year. The back of the school will be alive with pumpkins, races, games, friends, live music, and laughter!

It will all begin this September with our traditional Cover Art Contest for the students to submit a hand-drawn design to be on the front page of the Fall Festival's program. These designs must be submitted by Friday, September 12th. This program, unlike last year, will be sent home in your child's backpack and will contain all of the information and forms needed for the Festival in one convenient booklet!

We still have the option, this year, for you to buy a Wrist Band to have unlimited turns on the Inflatable Amusements, which will be an even better buy than last year with the newly added inflatables. But don't forget to still purchase 'Leaf' Tickets too! Leaf tickets will be used, once again, so that you can do things like clock your speed at pitching a baseball, or win a delicious cake at the Cake Walk, or do any of the other fun SFE games. A list of all the activities at the Festival will be included in the program.

A themed, long-sleeved, T-shirt will be available this year, which has a unique Fall Festival logo on the front. This shirt may be seen in the front lobby or visit the PTO website for a peek at www.sfpto.com/fallfestival2008.

Our Kid's Raffle Basket themes will surely be a big pleaser again this year. We have exciting, new themes for some of the baskets this year, such as Crocs, iPod, and American Girl Dolls, along with some previous pleasers! These Raffle Baskets can only be a success with your help. Contributions to your classrooms' basket can be made from September 8th until Monday, October 6th. Raffle Basket chances will be sold during the children's lunches the week October 13th.

This Festival is our PTO's biggest fundraiser of the year. The PTO uses these proceeds to provide our children's school with costly things, including assemblies, playground equipment, and field trip transportation, to name a few. We thank you in advance for all of your support!!!

The Fall Festival Committee

PTO BULLETINS (continued)

September 2008



New Family Tea

Tanja Sendak (215 862-0271)

Welcome to all new families. There will be a new family tea on October 15th at 9:30 am.



Back to School Nights

Hospitality Committee
Danielle Portnoy
(danipet2@aol.com)

The Hospitality Committee is looking for volunteers to provide homemade goodies for back-to-school nights.

Family Activities Committee

Jennifer Ceslak
(215-504-5688)

The Family Activities Committee is excited to announce dates for all of our fun-filled events for the 2008-2009 school year! Mark your calendar today!

- ◆ **Haunted Hayride**
(grades 4-6): 10/24/08
- ◆ **Family Roller Skating Night:** 1/15/09
- ◆ **Mother/Son Event:** 2/8/09
- ◆ **Father/Daughter Dance:** 2/27/09
- ◆ **Bingo Night**
(grades K-3): 3/20/09
- ◆ **Movie Night:** 5/15/09

Silent Auction

Debi Scot (lyricscott@comcast.net)
Allison Roda (aroda@comcast.net)
Lisa Gunshenan
(lgunshenan@verizon.net)

The SFE Silent Auction will be held during the Fall Festival on October 18th, 2008 from 11 am to 4 pm.

We need your help now with donation pledges. Here are some ideas for donations:

- ◆ Vacation Home Packages
- ◆ Sports Memorabilia and Tickets
- ◆ Certificates or Baskets from Local Businesses
- ◆ Antiques or Home Décor Items
- ◆ Portraits

Please contact any of the Silent Auction Committee members as listed above.

PTO BULLETINS (continued)

???? Did you know ????

- ◆ Through the Cash Back Program, approximately \$800 has been raised per year...
- ◆ That number could be multiplied 10-fold to \$8000 if every child brought in 50 box tops and labels.
- ◆ Remember to ask family and friends to collect for our school.

Cash Back Program

Beth Mullen (brmullen@yahoo.com)
Marie Kiefer (kieferfamily9@comast.net)

You can earn money for your child's school when you shop or make phone calls.

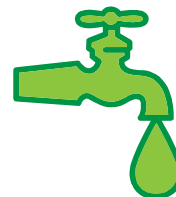
- ◆ The PTO will continue collecting receipts from Acme and McCaffreys. Please send them in to school with your child along with Box Tops for Education labels, Campbell's Soup labels and Tyson Frozen Chicken (redABC123) labels.
- ◆ **IMPORTANT:** If you participate in eScrip, please renew or register by the first week of November at www.escrip.com using the Sol Feinstone group ID #6630629. You may register your Genauardi's club card number, VISA, Mastercard, Diner's Club, and American Express cards as well.
- ◆ Register you Target credit card on Target.com and click on Stores and Services. Then click on Take Charge of Education and use the school ID# 893453.33.
- ◆ Verizon customers can call 1-877-X-CREDIT and register to earn dollars for your school. If you plan to become a new Verizon Long Distance caller, call 1-800-832-9061 and ask about the Extra Credit for Schools Program.
- ◆ Confused? Feel free to contact Beth or Marie.

Market Day

Clancy Strobel
(msclancy@comcast.net or
215-579-6368)

Market Day is back for another year! Please visit marketday.com and check out this program. Buy great food at reasonable prices, and support our SFE children all at the same time. Our first Market Day sale of the year will be on Monday, September 22nd from 3:30-4:30 in the All-Purpose Room. Orders for that sale are due online at marketday.com or into school (for paper orders) by Monday, September 15th.

Questions? Contact Clancy



2008 Walk for Water Update

The Directors of the Life Giving Water Fund would like to wholeheartedly thank the entire Sol Feinstone Community for organizing and participating in the Walk for Water last May. Together we raised close to **\$8500**, which met the goal of raising enough money to support an entire well in a remote village in Zambia!

The site of the well has recently been chosen! The recipient of the Sol Feinstone Well will be the Namiloli Settlement, which is near the Kafue River. The Kafue River is unclean and infested with crocodiles, so the nearest useable water is located 5 km away. The settlement has a population of about 1,700 people, and women and children are the members typically chosen to make the long walk for water.

Drilling will begin in late September once the water table hits the low point and before the rainy season begins. Stay tuned for updates as we proceed into the drilling season.

PTO BULLETINS (continued)

September 2008

Fundraising

Cari Grundman (215-862-6816)
Mary Copperthwaite (215-598-3373)

The Fundraising Committee welcomes you back with our two biggest money makers of the year, the **Sally Foster Giftwrap Sale** and the **Kidstuff Books**.

Your youngest child in school will receive a packet of information outlining the dates of the **Sally Foster** sale including a catalog featuring giftwrap, gift items, and chocolate. Last year we were just \$1800 short of our goal... so, please promote the sale to friends and family, and remember it's easy to purchase online as well!

A **Kidstuff** book will also be sent home in backpack mail. For only \$25 you receive coupons valued at hundreds of dollars! Don't like the pressure of a coupon book to use? Simply pull out the Acme, Genuardis, and Dicks coupons, and you've already covered the cost of the book! Use a few more and you're ahead of the game! Last year, we raised \$3800 in **Kidstuff** book sales alone. If you don't want to purchase it, please return the book in your child's backpack the next day.

Thank you for all your support. These fundraisers make our PTO-funded enhancements to Sol Feinstone possible (see below). Please contact Cari or Mary with questions.

How Do PTO Funds Benefit Your Child?

Every year, PTO money is used to fund:

- ◆ Directory
- ◆ Artist in Residence Program
- ◆ Art Goes To School
- ◆ Artmobile (every other year)
- ◆ A portion of field trip transportation
- ◆ Assemblies
- ◆ Student newspaper, *The Chronicle*
- ◆ Grade Level and Special Enhancements (\$250 for each grade level & special)
- ◆ Teacher Wish List (\$100 per teacher)
- ◆ A portion of the school play
- ◆ Recess supplies (indoor and outdoor)
- ◆ Publishing student books
- ◆ Visiting author
- ◆ New library books and materials
- ◆ Landscaping and decorating supplies for the school
- ◆ Staff gifts and luncheon during Teacher Appreciation Week

- ◆ Sol Feinstone Heritage Awards
- ◆ Sol Feinstone Scholarship
- ◆ 6th Grade graduation gifts
- ◆ Field Day treats

In addition, long-range planning funds have been used to purchase the following:

- ◆ Soundfield Systems for classrooms
- ◆ Sound and lighting equipment for assemblies and the school play
- ◆ TV/DVD/VCR
- ◆ Die-cut machine and supplies

| P T O F F I C E R S a n d B O A R D M E M B E R S | <u>Officers</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Telephone Number</u> | <u>E-mail Address</u> |
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| | Co-President | Deb Emery | 215-862-6631 | dafemery@comcast.net |
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| | Landscape Chair | Nancy Heyrich | 215-862-5045 | naheyrich@aol.com |
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| | Recycling | **Still Needed** | | |
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| | Yearbook | **Still Needed** | | |