



# THE OWL'S HOOT

MARCH 2008

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

This past month was filled with fabulous experiences for our parents, teachers and children.

Our traditional annual lollipop sale was a huge success. It was joyful to see the smiling and excited faces at all grade levels as they entered the cafeteria and were greeted with both sweet and sour surprises!

The mother/son bowling event at the Brunswick Zone had the largest attendance ever. Everyone enjoyed bowling (some with bumpers, including myself!), pizza, laser tag and a photo op for that cherished photo key chain. Thanks to Marybeth Sullivan-Rose and her assistants for another successful year!

The father/daughter dance was a spectacular, fanciful evening. The girls looked lovely in their special party outfits and the fathers were dashing and full of fun for their special little ladies. Many thanks to Jennifer Ceslak, Jeannie Caola and all of the volunteers who transformed our school into such a magical night!

Reading for Ronald took front stage during the month of February. Ronald himself entertained the students with his antics and balancing acts. Thanks to the children for reading and helping support the Ronald McDonald houses. Special thanks to Aileen McQuarrie for organizing this event.

## ***FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: PATRICE PLADSEN***

Dear Parents,

With Spring break just around the corner, March will be a short month for our students. We will make the most of each day, focusing on our academic programs, while children will secretly wish for an occasional snow day as winter draws to a close. Or will they long for summer days as daylight savings time begins in early March this year?!!

Traditionally March is the month for kindergarten registration and this year is no different. New, however, is the scheduling of TWO evenings for this purpose. Registration will be held from 6-8 PM on Tuesday, March 4 and

Our zoo assembly was held and included visitors such as an armadillo, a large snake, a turtle and last but not least SFE's own mascot, an OWL – not Hootie, a live owl.

Thanks to our assembly chairperson, Kristin Meranda for organizing another great assembly.

### Special Note of Thanks

Holly Gross, our Spirit Shop co-chairperson is moving this month. We are very appreciative of all of her efforts and hard work. May you have a smooth transition to your new home and school. Great job, Holly!!!!

March promises to be a fun and busy month. The 5th and 6th graders kicked off the month at the district roller skating party on March 2nd. We look forward to Family Bingo Night on March 7<sup>th</sup>, the middle school transition meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> and:

### **SPRING BREAK – MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup> to MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>**

Our next PTO meeting is March 6<sup>th</sup>; I hope to see you there!

*Ellen Petri*

SFPTO President

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**Check out the  
PTO Website at  
[www.sfpto.com](http://www.sfpto.com)**

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### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

*Kindergarten Registration: 3/4 & 3/6 from 6pm—8pm*

*PTO Meeting: 3/6 @9:15am*

*Bingo Night for Gr. K-3: 3/7 @ 6:00 pm*

*NMS Program Planning: 3/11 @ 7pm*

*Operation Helping Hand Food Drive: 3/12 & 3/13*

*Spring Break: 3/17-21*

*PSSA Math & Reading Assessments begin for Gr. 3–8 & gr. 11: 3/31*

*Market Day Pickup: 3/31 3:30-4:30pm*

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## **March's Words to Learn By:**

*Cooperate,  
Discuss,  
Be Positive*

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***FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: PATRICE PLADSEN (CONTD.)***

Thursday, March 6 at the Sol Feinstone School Office. There is additional information on the Council Rock website or you can call our office at 215-944-2400 with your questions.

Also new to our school this month will be our debit system in the cafeteria. Children in grades 1-6 will need to learn a pin number for use when making any purchase. Even cash purchases will require a pin number! You should have received a letter about this program. You can find more details about this by checking out that letter again on the eFriday folder or contacting Ms. Baumbach in our cafeteria at 215-944-2411.

Think Spring!

Sincerely,

Patrice Pladsen

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***A NOTE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE***

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families a pleasant month of March. I know many are looking forward to the Spring Break! Would you kindly note the following reminders on 5<sup>th</sup> grade Settlement Camp forms, medications and physical and dental forms.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Settlement Camp Medication Forms**

5<sup>th</sup> graders are looking forward to the exciting April trip to the College Settlement Camp in Hatboro. 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents are kindly reminded that ALL medications and ALL medication forms for this trip must be received in the Health Office by Friday April 11<sup>th</sup>. Would you please see the instructions that are included in the packet of forms for Settlement Camp, and feel welcome to call the Health Office, if you have any questions.

**Medication Policy Reminder**

Please note that the district medication form, or a separate faxed order, signed by the parent AND a Doctor, or Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner, is required for anything other than the following list; Tylenol, Tums, Visine, Caladryl Lotion, Neosporin, Benadryl Cream, or Hydrocortisone Cream. And please note, at the elementary school level, parents are required to transport all medication to and from school. Lastly, all medication received, must be in the *original* labeled container.

**Physical and Dental Forms**

New last year and continuing, students without the state-required Physical and Dental forms may lose field trip privileges, and possible the withholding of report cards in June. Physical Forms are required for Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (the year of entry), for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and for out of state transfers. Dental forms are required for Kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (the year of entry) for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, and for out of state transfers. Reminder letters were sent last June, in the fall and again in January. If you have any questions, please feel welcome to call the Health Office.

Thanks very much,

Mrs. Daniels

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER WITH CRAIG MILLER

### Aggression in Kids

If we look under the surface of our children's behavior, at how they might be feeling, we are often in a better position to get things back on track. How have you nurtured that talent of looking deep inside, understanding where a child's behavior is coming from and seeing the pain behind the problems?

If you are concerned over your child's aggressive behavior, experts suggest that you...

- **Pay attention.** "Kids do notice whether or not adults seem to care about teasing and bullying. If adults don't seem to care, bullying increases," says psychologist Michael Thompson, Ph.D., a best-selling author on the social lives of children.
- **Show your concern.** Let kids know what you're observing, ask questions, respond to changes in behavior and point out inappropriately aggressive talk and behavior.
- **Consider the motivation.** "What purpose is the bullying serving?" asks psychologist Robert Brooks, Ph.D., an authority on childhood resilience. Is this about insecurity? Overexposure to aggressive influences? Are parents or others showing nonverbal approval of this child's "toughness"?
- **Model the values you want to see in your kids.** "One of the most powerful and consistent findings in psychology is that children imitate adult role models," Thompson says. What are your children learning from the way *you* resolve differences with other adults or with kids? Is your tone bullying when you are mad? Alternatively, do your kids get to see you interact warmly in adult friendships?

**Foster compassion.** Give children opportunities to express their inborn need to help, to express sensitivity, and to make a difference in caring ways, Brooks suggests in his books on self-esteem and resilience. Volunteer at a soup kitchen together, participate in a fund-raising walk for charity or assist an elderly neighbor.

Original source: [www.parenthood.com](http://www.parenthood.com)



### BIRTHDAY BOOKS

Karen Mealey 215-493-8658 & Liz Tolkach 215-579-4948



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

Sean Condon	Jimmy O'Donnell
Emily Coulazian	Austin Pietrak
Connor Gromlich	Alex Rakestraw
Nolan Gromlich	Amanda Snyder
Ben Hoefler	Maggie Tolkach
Daniel Kovacevich	Ellie Tushar
Sarah Mastrocola	Jacklyn Walstrum

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

## YOUR PTO AT WORK

### PTO BULLETINS

#### **Fundraising:**

Please be on the lookout in your child's backpack for an *Artware for You* packet. This will contain a piece of your child's ORIGINAL artwork, and details on how to turn it into a keepsake (stationery, bookbag, luggage tag, etc.). If you are interested, follow the directions for ordering, and return to SFE PTO Fundraising, NO LATER THAN MONDAY, MARCH 31! We will have the orders for Mother's Day. Call Heather Lyon at 215-598-8712 if you have any questions.

#### **Welcome Committee:**

The Welcome Committee is looking for members. The Welcome Committee prepares and helps with the New Family and Kindergarten Orientations in August. The Committee also hosts the New Family Tea in October. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact Tanja Sendak at [sendakfamily@comcast.net](mailto:sendakfamily@comcast.net) or 215 862-0271.

#### **Newtown Middle School Program Planning:**

The Planning meeting for parents of current 6th and 7th graders has been changed to Tuesday, March 11th @7:00 pm. This meeting will provide lots of information including course options and will help explain decisions you and your child will face as you begin course selection for the 2008/2009 school year. It is strongly recommended that all parents of current 6th graders attend this meeting. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kim Earley at 215-862-6587, [kimberlyearly@aol.com](mailto:kimberlyearly@aol.com)

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#### **Open Positions for the 2008/2009 Sol Feinstone PTO Board**

Lisa Gunshenan, [lgunshenan@verizon.net](mailto:lgunshenan@verizon.net); Nancy Heyrich, [naheyrich@aol.com](mailto:naheyrich@aol.com);  
Aileen McQuarrie, [aileen.mcquarrie@comcast.net](mailto:aileen.mcquarrie@comcast.net)

Listed below are open positions for next year's PTO. If you are interested in any of these positions, or have questions, please contact one of the recruiting committee members. All positions are for 2 years unless otherwise noted. Thank you for your support of the PTO!

#### **Officers**

President Elect – one year, become President the second year

#### **Ways and Means**

School Spirit

Silent Auction (**two positions available immediately for auction in Fall '08**)

#### **Programs**

Art Goes to School

Family Activities Chair

#### **Liaison Roles**

Publicity

Technology Liaison

Diversity

Owl's Hoot Editor

Recycling

Sunshine

Yearbook - **this is a one year position**