



THE OWL'S HOOT

JUNE 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the end of this school year draws near, I would like to highlight some of the wonderful opportunities that have been provided for our children by the PTO.

Our Welcome Back Picnic was a fabulously fun night for the students and parents. This year, we featured PTO committees and provided information and opportunities for parent volunteers to explore their interests.

The first annual Fall Festival kicked off in October. Games, rides, pumpkin painting, great food and the popular cake walk made this event a great success. The weather was glorious and the homeroom baskets were brimming over with treasures! During the summer, the 2008 Fall Festival committee will be hard at work. Please support this group by donating treasure jars and sending in donations to your homeroom in September for the theme baskets.

The district-wide growing greener initiative is in full swing. Our school participates at the district level and has initiated several efficiencies within our school to support a greener environment. Our website has been updated to include the Owl's Hoot online, along with forms, calendars, back pack flyers and many other informative communications. The website www.sfepto.com now provides a chronology of paperwork that can be easily accessed. If you aren't sure if you are receiving everything you need

via the back pack, simply check out the website!

The Recycling Club, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Loveless, continued their efforts this year. Containers for recycled cartridges and batteries are in the hallways at SFE. Please remember to send in your recyclables. Thanks to Mrs. Loveless for her continued awareness of the importance of our precious resources.

The E-Hoot has become the E-News. This weekly email is a collaborative effort between the PTO and the Principal. Important information for the week and the upcoming week is sent to our families each Thursday. The Owl's Hoot newsletter is a separate publication that is very comprehensive and includes information from the PTO, the Principal, Mr. Miller and several PTO committees.

The Secret Shop brought great enjoyment to the students this year. Profits from this event will help fund educational activities supported by the PTO. Thanks for your support!

When the PTO President's meeting with Mr. Klein was held at SFE, the attendees commented on how beautiful our grounds looked and on the decorations in the entryway. Many thanks to our Landscaping Committee who continually keeps the entryway, grounds and foyer fresh and seasonal during the school year.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PTO Meeting: 6/5 @ 9:15 am

Market Day Pick Up: 6/9, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm in APR

Sixth Grade Picnic: 6/12

Last Day of School for AM Kindergarten: 6/13

Last Day of School & Early Dismissal, (PM Kindergarten Attends): 6/16

June's Word to Learn By: Celebrate

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The Assemblies that our students attend during the school year are funded by the PTO. This year, the children enjoyed an Earth Balloon assembly, a Zoo assembly, a Jazz for Youth assembly and a Visiting Author assembly.

The Diversity Committee sponsored International Day. Classroom teachers, Mrs. Crooks, Mr. Oldfield, and Aramark (the cafeteria) all participated and cooperated with the theme. Thanks to the volunteers who visited with the children.

The Great American Fundraiser was also sponsored by the Diversity Committee, along with the Student Council. This year, the GAF supported the Life-giving Water project which sponsors the digging of wells in the African Nation of Zambia. Our children walked for water and your generous donations will provide a much needed well to a village in Zambia. Great job!

Our Reading for Ronald program and the annual Book Fair were fun and spurred our students into a reading frenzy. It is always a pleasure to see the children searching for their next reading adventure and sharing their favorite selections with their friends.

The Hospitality Committee has supported the Council Rock Education week, Teacher Appreciation Week, the Year-end Teacher Luncheon, and ongoing PTO meetings. The parent and student volunteers have helped to make all of these events a success!

Along with the learning experiences provided by the PTO, we also funded family activities, such as, Mother/Son Bowling, Father/Daughter Dance, Bingo Night and the Family Movie Night.

Fundraising activities such as the wrapping paper sale, coupon books, box tops, supermarket receipts, half-day hoagie sales, spirit shop and Market Day continue to generate income to fund our sponsored activities. Please take a moment to access the web-

site and review the annual budget. It is a very informative list of everything provided by the PTO.

Willy Wonka! Each year, the PTO supports the play by purchasing the scripts/music used by Mrs. Stoudt and Mrs. Leigh. This year, we were pleased to be able to purchase stage lighting, also. These lights will not only benefit the play, but will be used during assemblies like the Bug Show, Fifty Nifty, etc.

A new committee was formed this year. The Ad-Hoc Parking Lot Committee was created to review parking lot safety, develop/reinforce guidelines, and develop a communication plan for our parents and students on parking lot safety and protocol. We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we transition to a safer parking lot environment.

In February of this year, a Nominating Committee was formed to search for PTO Committee Chairpersons and for open Board Member positions. They have done a fabulous job. The final slate of candidates, along with our 2008/09 budget will be presented on June 5th.

With the help of parent volunteers, teachers and students, this has been a busy and exciting year! Thanks to our PTO Board: Melissa Wilson, Mary Copperthwaite, Kristin Meranda, and Aileen McQuarrie for all of their hard work and for their compassion and commitment during this year.

I would personally like to thank Mrs. Patrice Pladsen for her outstanding dedication to our children during this past school year. Thanks for greeting our children each morning as they arrived, for smiling and showing how much you care during the day, and for waving farewell as the buses leave at the end of the day.

May you all have a happy, healthy and safe summer !

Respectfully yours,

Ellen Petri, SFPTO President

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: PATRICE PLADSEN

Dear Parents,

Although hard to believe, this is the *last* edition of the newsletter for this school year. What a wonderful year it has been! Thank you for the many kindnesses you have extended to the teachers, staff and me throughout the school year. I will miss everyone next year, but I am confident that the 2008-09 school year will be another great year at Sol Feinstone under the competent leadership of Mr. John Harlan.

As we turn our thoughts to next year, I wish much success to our sixth grade students who are moving on to the middle level, and to any families relocating during the summer. For those returning, if you have a child currently in grades K-5, you will receive a *small* basic school supplies list with the final report card. This is intended to give you a list of the common materials that will be used at the grade level. Perhaps this early notification will allow you to cash in on those school supplies sales that seem to occur earlier and earlier each summer! NOTE: These lists will also be posted to our website for quick and easy reference over the summer.

In addition to this basic list, you will receive a list of specific materials from your child's teacher once the classroom assignments have been finalized. Some teachers will include this list with the assignment letters, other teachers prefer to do so in a separate mailing. These lists will not be duplicates of the June lists; they are complementary. We hope you will find this helpful.

We encourage you to mark your calendars now with these important dates:

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, August 27 th | New Family Orientation - 4:00-5:00pm |
| Thursday, August 28 th | Kindergarten Orientation |
| | AM attends 10:00-10:45 am |
| | PM attends 11:00-11:45 pm |
| Thursday, August 28 th | Meet & Greet for Grades 1-6 – 3:00-4:00pm |
| Tuesday, September 2nd | First day of school |

Our annual Meet & Greet is an opportunity for you and your child to visit the classroom prior to the first day of school to meet the teacher. Look for more information about this in our August mailing. Until then, may your summer be a healthy, happy and safe time for all!

Sincerely,

Patrice Pladsen
Principal

COUNSELOR'S CORNER WITH CRAIG MILLER

Positive Parenting Tips For Summer

For 180 days a year, school counselors work with students on how to express their feelings in appropriate ways, how to deal with their anger and how to cope with stressful situations. But what happens when school is not in session, especially during the extended summer break? As a parent, you are the most influential person in your children's lives, and how you work through family issues can have a positive influence on behavior throughout the family as well as the school. Following are some parenting tips to work on throughout the summer months.

Sibling conflicts: Stay on the sidelines of sibling arguments (unless there is bloodshed) and help your children learn to appropriately express their negative feelings. At my school, students learn to use the "I messages". The sentence includes phrases such as "I feel ... because," "I want you to..." and "I am willing to..." Example: "I feel angry because you called me a name and I want you to stop. I am willing to stop calling you names."

Using I messages requires practice and parental guidance. It may feel contrived at first, but if your children and you get into the habit of thinking and stating your feelings rather than acting out, you'll find it opens up the lines of communication and decreases outbursts.

Encourage your children to listen to other people's I messages and then repeat back to them what they understand they heard. If they think they heard, "You said you don't want me calling you a frog face – even though you really are one. And you want me to stop, but I won't until you do," then they may have to listen (or repeat it again) until they get it right.

Discipline: Children develop security, increased self-esteem and have fewer behavioral problems when in an environment that provides consistency, rules, consequences, praise and positive acclamations. Consistency means your behavior as a parent is absolutely predictable; this is key. To a child this means, "Every time I throw a fit in the store, Mom or Dad will leave the store" If you give in once, it's like a slot machine that pays off. Winning once is addicting. If the slot never paid, no one would ever put money in.

Having rules in print is important. When the child breaks a rule, the parent can point to a printed sheet and ask, "What is the rule?" This takes the heat off the parent as the bad guy and places it on the "rule." Rules must be clearly stated and reasonable for the child's age, developmental level and emotional stability. In some situations, the rules can be created with the child, which creates buy-in. For example: The rule might read: "Marie's bed time is 8 p.m." When Marie tries to negotiate for a later time, the parent asks the child, "What is the rule?" and the answer is clear.

Also choose consequences that fit when rules are broken. Coming home late from a friend's house should result in your child not being able to see the friend for a few days. Missing a trip to the amusement park as punishment does not fit this offense. Praise is also important. Look for the good in your child and praise it. Sometimes parents must look hard to find something to praise, but you still should look

COUNSELOR'S CORNER WITH CRAIG MILLER (CONTINUED)

for it. Also work to build your child's self-esteem through positive acclamations, such as "You know Billy, I love you because you're my son, but I really like you because you're you." Messages like these really help in building self-esteem, especially when they are unearned and spontaneous. Your child always will appreciate them.

Family meetings: At least one night a week should be set aside for family meetings. These should be open forum in that everyone should have an opportunity to tell how they feel. A family meeting isn't the time to punish or discipline but rather to listen to your children's feelings and concerns and to ask them to listen to yours. Only through open, honest communication can a family increase its positive relationships and grow together.

Parenting is hard work. There is no instruction manual for children when they are born. Therefore, we must try new things, hone our skills, learn from and support each other and give ourselves a break when we have rough days. It helps to have a positive attitude.

Original source *Trish Hatch, Ph.D., assistant principal, Moreno Valley High School, Calif.*
thatch@mvusd.k21.ca

SFE Great American Fundraiser Raises Over \$8000

The Great American Fundraiser "Walk for Water" took place the week of May 19th-23rd. Through this project, the students learned that the country of Zambia in Africa has been in a state of drought for a number of years and that most villages do not have access to clean water. Our purpose was to raise enough money to help drill a well in a remote village in Zambia to provide water for daily activities such as bathing, cooking, and drinking. This week long event had students walk laps during their Physical Education time while carrying jugs full of water to simulate the hardships the people of Zambia experience every single day. At this point, we have collected over \$8,000.00 and are still counting. Thanks for your help in making a difference and touching the lives of the Zambian villagers.

PTO BULLETINS

SFE Bookfair a Success!!

The Scholastic Bookfair was a great success with a profit of over \$4000 going to the PTO as well as vouchers for a few hundred dollars worth of books that have been donated to the library and to Mrs. Erickson's library. Thanks to all the students, faculty and parents who visited the fair and stocked up on some great summer reads. Enjoy!!! Thanks also to the many parents who volunteered their time to make the fair a success and to the supportive faculty who put up with the distractions that a book fair brings. Special thanks to Mr. Oldfield for sharing the gym with us! We will look forward to bringing another exciting bookfair to Sol Feinstone next year!

Debbie Van Aken and Alexis Hartman

Sunshine Committee

Janet Bogorowski, 215-493-2695

Sadly the Sunshine Committee honored the passing of two Sol Feinstone parents this month. A memorial gift of \$100 was contributed to the Vicki Haug Memorial Fund in honor of Alex and Henry's mother, and the American Legion Post 40 Boy Scout Troup was awarded \$100 in memory of Rachel Barlow's father Larry. The entire Sol Feinstone and Upper Makefield communities were so saddened by the passing of these wonderful parents.

In addition the Sunshine Committee sent flowers and well wishes to Mrs. Jankowitsch whom we have missed while she is out ill. Come back soon and well!

Fall Festival

Heather Vinglas and Beth Wetterskog

We want to thank everyone who participated in the Treasure Jar drive these past few weeks, and extend a big congratulations to the winning class. Mrs. Sabol's first grade took the win with their contribution of 66 Jars! An Ice Cream Sundae reward is planned to celebrate their success.

Spring is a busy time for us all and so we are especially grateful for all your efforts towards bringing this old favorite back. Without your support, these fun games would not be possible.

We look forward to the new school year and the second Fall Festival. With our supportive families, staff and faculty we are guaranteed another successful and fun event! More information will be sent home at the beginning of the next school year, but don't forget to save the date now for Saturday, October 18th, 2008!

Silent Auction

The SFE Silent Auction will be held during the Fall Festival on October 18th, 2008 from 11 am until 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: Debi Scot (lyricscott@comcast.net), Alison Roda (aroda@comcast.net), Lisa Gunshenan (lgunshenan@verizon.net), or Danielle Portnoy (danipet2@aol.com).

PTO BULLETINS (CONTINUED)

Family Activities Committee Update

If you are interested in joining the Family Activities Committee next year, please contact Jennifer Ceslak @ 215/504-5688.

We are looking for new ideas to keep our family events fresh and exciting! Thanks to everyone who participated on the committee this year and special thanks to all the volunteers who helped bring each event to life throughout the year.

Attention: Any reimbursement requests for the current school year must be submitted to PTO Treasurer, Mary Copperthwaite (marycopperthwaite@hughes.net) by June 20th, 2008

A Sneak Peak at 2008-2009!

Here's a look at some of the assemblies scheduled for next year.

October 8th: Prismatic Magic Laser Light Assembly
This science spectacular demonstrates American Pride while covering science, history and culture.

November 24th: Quiet Riot presents "Celebrations of Giving and Light"
This touches on multicultural awareness and the holidays

March 13th: Slim Goodbody presents "Lighten Up and The Musical Health Show" This assembly covers health topics and obesity prevention

May 12th: Freddy Fusion presents "Science Magic Show" This assembly covers science in the form of magic.

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.



Mark Anastasi

Dylan Ceslak

Charlie Haviken

Louis Bencardino

Sean Cuskley

Ryan Heese

Anthony Bencardino

Derek Czekaj

Ava Kripp

Ethan Blatz

Annika Davies

Chris Lewis

Samantha Bovino

Brielle Goldberg

Kate McQuarrie

Emma Bovee

Ben Green

Maxwell Newman

Anthony Bennett

Harry Green

Drew Palmieri

Alan Browning

Hadley Grundman

Annemarie Reardon

Erin Bandurick

Devon Reed

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