



THE OWL'S HOOT

APRIL 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back from Spring Break!

Our hallways are once again bustling with excitement as Mrs. Stoudt and Mrs. Leigh prepare our 5th and 6th grade actors for the upcoming performances of "Willy Wonka".

This year's play will be enhanced by the installation of stage lighting that was sponsored by the SFPTO. This addition to the stage area will be very useful for the many performances we hold in the All Purpose Room. The "Bugs" will be aglow next year, the "Fifty Nifty" will shine from sea to shining sea, and the winter and spring concerts will take on an air of professional elegance! Thanks to Dale Van Aken for helping with the installation of the lighting.

Our Welcome Committee, chaired by Tanja Sendak, is seeking more volunteers. Please consider joining this great group for an opportunity to greet new SFE families and have some fun!

The Nominating Committee, led by Lisa Gunshenan, has done a fabulous job of recruiting volunteers for the open committee positions. There are a few spots remaining, so don't hesitate! For information on our open positions and descriptions of the committees, please log onto our website www.sfpto.com.

At the last PTO meeting, we discussed the importance of parking lot safety. As a result of this dialogue, we have developed an ad-hoc parking lot committee. This group will review parking lot procedures and develop communication channels for these procedures. They will also develop creative ways in which to ensure our children arrive and leave SFE in a safe manner.

If you would like to join this advisory group, please contact Kristin Meranda or come to the first committee meeting on April 14th at 11am.

Our Market Day pick up date is April 28th. Thanks to all who support this fundraising activity and to Clancy Strobel for her continued efforts. If anyone would like to volunteer to sort the food on the 28th, please arrive at 2:30 p.m. in the all purpose room (cafeteria).

The Book Fair is coming! Our annual book fair is being held from April 28th to May 2nd. Check the website or contact Alexis Hartman or Debbie VanAken for information.

Our next PTO meeting is on Thursday, April 3rd, at 9:30am in the all purpose room. Hope to see you there!

In closing, on behalf of the SFPTO, I'd like to extend our sincerest condolences to the Haug family on the passing of Vicki Haug, mother of Henry and Alex, wife of Hank.

The SFPTO board has approved a monetary gift to the Victoria Haug Memorial Fund. If any of our SFE families or faculty would like to contribute to this fund, please contact the Upper Makefield Township Administration office.

Take care,

Ellen Petri
SFPTO President

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PTO Meeting: 4/3 @9:15am

PSSA Math & Reading Assessments for Gr. 3- 8 & gr. 11: 3/31 though 4/11

School Play In School Perf.: 4/9 & 4/10 @ 9:30 am

School Play Evening Perf. : 4/11: Cast A @ 7 pm 4/12: Cast B @ 7 pm

Parking Lot Committee Meeting: 4/14 @ 11 am

Gr. 5 College Setmt: 4/16-18

District Art Show: 4/17-19

No School: 4/21 & 22

Portfolio Share: 4/21, Info to follow

Gr. 6 Blue & White Night: 4/24 @ 6:30 pm

Market Day Pickup: 4/28 3:30 - 4:30pm

Book Fair: 4/30-5/2

April's Words to Learn By:

Forgive

Be Considerate

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FROM OUR PRINCIPAL: PATRICE PLADSEN

Dear Parents,

Tis the season, the testing season, that is. As the calendar turns to April, we begin a series of important assessment of our students, the PSSA tests. The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) measures a student's attainment of the academic standards and provides schools with data to review the impact of our educational programs.

Children in grades 3-6 will be tested in both reading and math. Fifth graders already were given the writing assessment this year in February and in late April – early May, our fourth grade students will participate in a PSSA Science assessment.

Parents will often ask, “How can I/we help? Perhaps the most important thing you can do is to make sure that your child is in school. The amount of learning that takes place in a school day is significant. Missing time from school is never easily made up. Neither is the testing. While there are testing makeup days, often children find it more difficult when they are in a different setting, away from their peers, when being tested.

Further, spring is a busy time. The days are longer, the weather is warmer, and commitments seem to multiply. These realities can often steal time from sleep, yet the value of a good night’s sleep, *and* a good breakfast on testing mornings, cannot be overstated. These efforts, and some good, encouraging words of parental support will help our students achieve their best during this testing season!

While thinking about testing, please be sure to mark your calendars with next year’s PSSA dates. Grade 5 Writing will be February 9-20; Grades 3-6 Reading and Math will be March 16-27 ; Grade 4 Science will be April 27-30 and May 1-8. When making your travel plans for next year, it may be helpful to have this information handy. For a more complete listing of our calendar dates, please look on the Council Rock website (www.crsd.org) for the district’s **2008-2009 approved calendar**.

Finally, many thanks for all of your help with the launch of our new debit system in our cafeteria. Our children have mastered their PIN numbers already! Well done, everyone! We will keep the letter describing this system on our website in the eFriday folder for your handy reference.

Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Patrice Pladsen

Principal



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.



Giuliana Adams	Ryan Hanrahan	Alec Roda
Sierra Brown	Anna Kovacevich	Sophia Sansone
Jason Elder	Holly Mann	Chelsey Seigal
Connor French	Annabeth Mann	Dylan Silver
Max Goulazian	Eddie Mancinelli	Megan Stanley
Lindsay Gromlich	Sean Mealey	Emily Watkins
Jake Haldeman	Kaelin Mealey	Madeleine Young

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

COUNSELOR'S CORNER WITH CRAIG MILLER**HELPING KIDS HANDLE WORRY**

It is natural for all kids to worry at times, and some may worry more than others depending on personality and temperament. What kids worry about is often related to the age and stage they are in. Kids and preteens typically worry about things like tests, grades, fitting in with friends or whether they will make the team. They may also worry about social troubles like cliques, peer pressure, or whether they will be bullied, teased or left out.

As parents, there are ways you can help kids manage their worries. Here are a few suggestions:

1. **Find out what is on their minds.** Be available and take an interest in what is happening at school, with their friends, and with their after school activities. If your child seems worried about something, ask about it.
2. **Guide kids to solutions.** When your child tells you about a problem, offer to help come up with a solution together. Try to resist fixing the problem for your child, and try to brainstorm solutions together.
3. **Keep things in perspective.** Kids will sometimes worry about things that have already happened. Without minimizing a child's feelings, point out that many problems are temporary and solvable, and that there will be other opportunities to try again.
4. **Offer reassurance and comfort.** Sometimes when kids are worried, they need comfort from a parent more than anything. Comfort can come in the form of a hug, some heartfelt words, or time spent together.

Be a good role model. Your response to your own worries teaches your children how to deal with stressful situations. If you are rattled or angry when dealing with stressors, your child will learn that its an appropriate response to stress. Set a good example with your reactions to problems and setbacks, and maintain a positive attitude.

Adapted from kidshealth.org

YOUR PTO AT WORK - PTO BULLETINS

PTO Budget Requests

Attention all SFPTO Committee Chairs! It is now time to prepare the 2008-2009 SFPTO Budget. Our PTO Treasurer, Mary Copperthwaite, needs your budget information **by April 11th.**

If your committee falls under the Income category, please provide committee income expectations for next year. If your committee falls under the Expense category, please provide your anticipated budgetary requirements.

All information should be e-mailed to :
marycopperthwaite@hughes.net by April 11th.

SFE BOOK FAIR

Alexis Hartman & Debbie VanAken

Mark your calendars for the annual book fair to be held April 30th through May 2nd. Please check the e-Friday folder in the coming weeks for more information and volunteer sign up info.

Newtown Middle School PTA Board

The Newtown Middle School PTA is still looking for a few individuals to serve on the PTA board for the next academic year. This is a great way to stay involved in your child's education once they move on from SFE to Middle School.

If you or someone you know is a parent of a current 6th or 7th grader and is interested in being a part of the board, please contact one of the nominating committee members listed below. They can let you know what positions are open and what the duties involve. Available positions have a wide range of commitment requirements.

Contacts:

Michele Szarko shelery9396@verizon.net
215-504-2815

Debbie Van Aken drvanaken@comcast.net
215-862-3775

The Great American Fundraiser

SFE's Great American Fundraiser is going global this year. The GAF, an annual tradition our PTO actively supports, is run by Student Council, with Mr. John Harlan as faculty advisor. After raising money previously to help local residents, the fundraiser adopted a national charity last year—Alex's Lemonade Stand—and **raised nearly \$5,000** for pediatric cancer research.

The African nation of Zambia will benefit this year from our students' fundraising. Specifically, SFE's Walk for Water May 19-23 will collect donations to support the Lifegiving Water Fund (www.lifegivingwater.org), a locally connected non-profit that digs permanent wells for people in Zambia. And a special kick-off event the preceding weekend is being planned. See details in Owl's Hoot next month and your e-mail accounts. Inquiries: Ed Tate, PTO liaison for GAF, ed@kroegerpr.com.