



# THE OWL'S HOOT

FEBRUARY 2008

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

February will be a very busy and fun-filled month. Mother/Son bowling is being held on February 10<sup>th</sup>, half-day hoagie sale is February 15<sup>th</sup>, and the wonderful Father/Daughter dance is taking place on February 29<sup>th</sup>! Please check our website [www.sfeppto.com](http://www.sfeppto.com) for further information.

***This is your chance to be a part of our Sol Feinstone PTO!!!***

We have established a nominating committee (NC) to help fill the PTO board and committee openings for the 2008/2009 school year. The committee is comprised of Lisa Gunshenan (NC Chair), Nancy Heyrich, and Aileen McQuarrie.

Our website lists each committee sponsored by the PTO and describes the responsibility for that committee. The list of current board and committee chairpersons is accessible on the website, also. Please feel free to contact them and ask questions about their role and the committee's activities. **All committees are also looking for members. This is a fun way to meet new people**

**while supporting our children's education.**

The open positions will be posted by the Nominating Committee in the foyer of the school, on the website and in the E-News that is sent January 31<sup>st</sup>.

The slate of candidates for the SFPTO will be presented by the Nominating Committee at the April PTO meeting.

To qualify for a position on the board, a committee chair or a committee volunteer/member, you must have the following:

- \* A current PTO membership
- \* A child attending Sol Feinstone
- \* A strong interest in enhancing your child's education
- \* A desire to have fun and meet new people
- \* A smiling face

If you or anyone you know fits this job description, please contact the Nominating Committee. **We are an all inclusive organization and have opportunities that will suit your busy life schedules.**

Many thanks to the parent volunteers who assisted with Council Rock Education week this January. Our Hospitality Committee, chaired by Danielle Portnoy, did an excellent job of greeting parent visitors and providing refreshments in the foyer. We are also proud of our Student Council members who spent time at the volunteer table and garnered signatures on a thank you note to our school board representative, Dr. Aganastokas. Another job well done by our PTO Board and our Landscaping Committee (Nancy Heyrich and Karen Kownurko) during and after the services at SFE for Mr. Eric Young's Life Celebration. Kudos to our wonderful children who created beautiful butterfly wishes and to the teachers who so eloquently shared special memories.

I look forward to seeing you at the next PTO meeting on February 7th.

***Take care and have a great February, Ellen Petri, SFPTO President***

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

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

*Read For Ronald Throughout the Month of February*

*Superbowl Spirit Day: 2/1*

*PTO Meeting: 2/7 @9:15am*

*Report Cards Distributed: 2/8*

*Mother/Son Bowling: 2/10*

*Lollipop Sale: 2/11-15*

*PSSA Testing—Gr. 5 Writing: 2/11-21*

*Elementary Performance Assessment—Gr. 6: 2/11-29*

*Early Dismissal & Half Day Hoagie Sale: 2/15*

*President's Day Holiday (No School): 2/18*

*Market Day Pickup: 2/25 @ 3:30 pm in APR*

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

*Be Kind  
Care*

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

Dear Parents,

We marked January at SFE with what has become some of our traditional activities:

- ◆ **CR Cares campaign.** Throughout the months of December and early January, Sol Feinstone families donated lots of baby items such as bibs, diapers, formula and wipes. Then, on the Martin Luther King holiday, 8 of our 6th graders gave up their day off to prepare care packets of these items to be sent to area homeless shelters. Getting up early on a frigid day off is a sacrifice for anyone. Thanks to their parents for encouraging these efforts and transporting them to CR South. We also appreciate the support of our staff on this day of service. SFE was represented by 6 staff members!
- ◆ The **Reading for Ronald** program was launched again through an exciting assembly program conducted by Ronald McDonald. This is a voluntary reading program for children who wish to participate. Children are sponsored for the time they spend reading each day throughout the month of February. Monies raised through Reading for Ronald fund the Ronald McDonald House.
- ◆ **CR Education Week.** This year we hosted approximately 750 visitors to classrooms throughout the week. Over 50 parents attended our workshops, too. We appreciate your support!
- ◆ **Multi-Cultural Day.** Our PTO Diversity Committee sponsored this day with guest speakers presenting in grades 2 and 4. Our classrooms, cafeteria and special subject areas also joined in the fun with a focus on Mexico. Fun facts were displayed on our LED board, too, so that we could raise everyone's awareness to the cultural differences of our southern neighbors.

Other highlights of the month included the swing from 65 degree weather in early January to near zero temps at mid month. These fluctuations remind us of the importance of monitoring children's outdoor attire. Students in grades 1-6 have a 30 minute recess period each day. In addition, students in grades K-3 have a 15 minute recess either in the morning or the afternoon, depending upon their lunch schedule. **Recess** is held outside unless it is raining or the wind chill temperature is below 20. In the event of those two weather conditions, we conduct an indoor recess. Further, we may split the recess to ½ indoor, ½ outdoor time, if conditions warrant this.

Children are expected to go outside if there is outdoor recess. If you feel your child is unable to go outside for recess, perhaps they need an additional day of recuperation at home. Kindly note, a doctor's note is required for indoor recess. When dressed properly, playing outdoors in the fresh air will not be harmful or create an illness. Your cooperation with the proper dress code is appreciated.

Other items of interest: The **08-09 School Calendar** is now available for parent review. You will find it as a quick link on the front page of our website.

The SFE **Lost and Found**, originally located in the All-Purpose Room, is now located in the corridor between the Instrumental Music Room and the Gym.

Sincerely,

*Patrice Pladsen, Principal*

**COUNSELOR'S CORNER WITH CRAIG MILLER****Self-Determination**

By sticking with something to completion, we demonstrate that the task is a worthy investment. Parents and teachers continually remind students to take responsibility for chores and assignments, but ultimately, children need to recognize what needs to be done and develop the determination to stick with it.

A check-list toward self-determination:

- + Accomplishments in life require commitment. Sometimes, taking shortcuts and seeking immediate gratification is a trap we can fall into. Everyone, including children, needs to see the benefit of the time they put into something. At the end of a long task, talk to your child about the process and the benefits that resulted from his/her efforts. You can also ask what improvements s/he could make for the future.
- + Encouragement for their **efforts** along the way is essential to develop the drive to complete a task. Do not just focus on the end result, but also how they got to that point.
- + Encouragement does not mean fabricating compliments. Be sincere in your praise.
- + Our children also need our honest criticism from time to time. When we correct, it should be of things they have done, not them personally.
- + When we check homework and point out mistakes, we help them see how an error has arisen. When we let them correct errors themselves, we inspire self-confidence. It is also important for us to show them that we appreciate their efforts.

A determined attitude can also inspire people around you. Knowing this means that adults should be models of determination. Children who grasp this at a young age will be better prepared to handle the challenges of adulthood with confidence.

[Original source Melvin D. Levine, M.D., F.A.A.P.](#)

## YOUR PTO AT WORK

### PTO BULLETINS

Market Day: Clancy Stobel

February is Cookies and Milk month with Market Day. Order three boxes of cookie dough; get a 6-pack of Nesquick free! There are 7 really yummy Otis Spunkmeyer cookie flavors available, each containing 4 dozen pre-formed pieces of dough. Quick and delicious! Our Market Day sale will be on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-4:30 in the All-Purpose Room. You can place your order at MarketDay.com by Tuesday February 19<sup>th</sup>, or by returning your paper order to school by Monday February 18<sup>th</sup>. Questions, contact Clancy Strobel at [msclancy@comcast.net](mailto:msclancy@comcast.net) or 215.579.6368.

Landscaping Committee: Karen Kownurko & Nancy Heyrich

Due to the mild winter weather, the only snowmen you'll see at school are the ones on the banners and windsocks that decorate the school grounds. The lack of snow has given the Landscaping Committee time to attend to the greenery in the front entrance and courtyards. We have replaced the worn decorative flags and dead potted shrubbery and continue to make the lobby welcoming to students, staff and guests. You may notice our group filling the bird feeders in the main courtyard. We look forward to the moderate temperatures appropriate for additional planting in the "Caterpillar Garden" in the smaller courtyard. THINK SPRING!

Box Tops and Labels for Education: Dawn Mauro & Lyn Riley

Here's any easy way to earn money for our school! The PTO will continue collecting Box Tops for Education labels, Campbell's Soup labels, Tyson frozen chicken labels and receipts from Acme and McCaffreys. Please send them into school to be dropped off in the homeroom collection boxes.

Fall Festival Committee: Heather Vinglas, [HJVinglas@aol.com](mailto:HJVinglas@aol.com), 215-493-5596, Beth Wetterskog - [Basog24@comcast.net](mailto:Basog24@comcast.net), Lynn Riley, [lyn.riley@comcast.net](mailto:lyn.riley@comcast.net)

Even though the next school year seems so far away, the Fall Festival Committee, has already begun planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual, outdoor, fundraiser. The next Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> (Rain date the 19<sup>th</sup>), 2008 from 11-4pm, so please save the date. New coordinator volunteers are now needed to ensure the success of the event. If you would like to help the Committee this year, or be considered for a 2008-2009 Committee seat, please contact the PTO Board or the Fall Fest Committee directly. Back by popular demand... We would like to introduce a Spring Fair Favorite, *Treasure Jars*, into the Festival. If you have any plastic (no glass please) containers, of any size (that had NEVER contained peanut products) please bring them in (either empty OR filled with non-perishable trinkets or toys) to the PTO room. We would like to start this now so that we insure that we have enough containers of goodies for the Festival, while also making it one less thing for all of us to have to do/collect/remember at the beginning of the next school year! Thanks in advance for all of your efforts and support.

### *"Saturday Night Fever"*

The Neighborhood Outreach Foundation

Invites you to an evening of  
Dining and Dancing

Saturday, March 1, 2008  
Jericho National Golf Club  
250 Brownsburg Rd., New Hope, PA

7:00 pm—Midnight  
Cash Bar—Sitdown Dinner

Featuring  
Silent Auction and Raffle  
Black Jack, Craps, Roulette

R.S.V.P  
February 15, 2008

Cocktail or Vintage 70's Attire

For Information Call:  
215-862-6631 or 215-598-7784

Or

Get all the information off web by visiting the SFE E-Friday Folder—and locating the January 11th document

## YOUR PTO AT WORK

### Attention Parents of Sixth Graders

Mark your calendars for a Program Planning Meeting to be held at Newtown Middle School on Wednesday, March 12 @ 7:00pm, for parents of current 6th and 7th grade students. 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. Be on the lookout for a letter from Rich Hollahan, NMS Principal, inviting you to this meeting. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kim Earley at 215-862-6587, kimber-yearly@aol.com

Also, the NMS PTA is currently collecting names of individuals interested in serving on the board for the 2008/2009 academic school year. If interested please contact Debbie Van Aken, [drvanaken@comcast.net](mailto:drvanaken@comcast.net), 215-862-3775, or Michelle Szarko, [shelery9396@verizon.net](mailto:shelery9396@verizon.net), 215-504-2815, for more information and a list of available positions. Participation in the PTA at NMS is a great way to stay involved in your child's educational experience through the Middle School years. NMS principal, inviting you to this meeting.

### Lollipops are Coming!

Our annual Sweetheart Lollipop sale is almost here! We'll have swirl hearts and sour lips for sale in the all-purpose room during your child's lunch.

Time: 11 am – 2 pm

Date: The week of February 11

Place: Lunchroom

Cost: 50¢ per lollipop



**Check out the updated calendars! Log onto [www.CRSD.org](http://www.CRSD.org), click on the SFE webpage, then click on the calendars option on the top bar.**



### 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.

Olivia Anderson

Sarah Block

Lauren DeMicoli

Tia Farese

Molly Fitzgerald

Kiely French

Zoe Goldberg

Matthew Haldeman

Brandon Heese

Tommy Kelly

Juliano Kovalcik

Keegan Pietrak

Jenna Wagner

Chase Wilson