



# THE OWL'S HOOT

MAY 2008

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

April was a very busy month for our students and teachers. Our annual PTO Book Fair was held April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many thanks to Alexis Hartman, Deb VanAken and all of the volunteers who assisted our children with their book purchases.

This month will be filled with lots of excitement, fun and learning. This year's PTO Teacher Appreciation Week is being held May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup>. There are many opportunities—large and small—to participate in this worthwhile event. If you would like to volunteer to come to school that week or would like to send in a needed item, please contact Danielle Portnoy via e-mail at [danipet2@aol.com](mailto:danipet2@aol.com)

This year, our fundraising committee, headed by Cari Grundman, is planning a trip to see a Philadelphia Soul Football game. The Soul is owned by Jon Bon Jovi and he is offering us an excellent opportunity for fun! Please check out the website for more information by accessing [www.sfepeto.com](http://www.sfepeto.com).

Our PTO sponsored Zoo Assembly will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup>. This is always a very informative and exciting gathering for the students. Thanks to Kristin Meranda for her continued efforts on school assemblies.

You may be asking "Why did I receive a flyer about Treasure Jars in April?!" The answer is quite simple. Our fabulous fall festival committee is already planning for this 2008-2009 school

year event. If you would like to join in on the fun, please consider volunteering to serve on this committee by e-mailing Heather Vinglas at [auntder2@msn.com](mailto:auntder2@msn.com).

Our next half day hoagie sale is on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The hoagies are being wrapped in a special way so they are fresh and dry when you receive them at home. Please consider supporting our PTO by purchasing your favorite sandwich.

If you haven't had the chance to check out our PTO website, please do so. Log onto [www.sfepeto.com](http://www.sfepeto.com) or link to this site through the Council Rock website. Sol Feinstone's website contains a great deal of important information and also includes a calendar of upcoming events such as the Family Movie Night (May 16<sup>th</sup>), the Great American Fundraiser (May 19<sup>th</sup>– 23<sup>rd</sup>), Market Day (May 19<sup>th</sup>), and Field Day (May 30<sup>th</sup>).

Our next PTO meetings are Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am and Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. At these meetings, we will be presenting the slate of board members and committee chairpersons for the 2008/2009 SFE school year. Voting on these positions will occur at the June meeting.

I hope to see you at the next meeting. Have a great May!!

*Ellen Petri,*  
*SFPTO President*

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

*PTO Meeting: 5/8 @9:15am & 5/14 @ 7pm*

*Teacher Appreciation Week: 5/5-5/9*

*Spring Instrumental Concert: 5/7 @ 9:30 am & 7:30 pm*

*Spring Chorus Concert: 5/8 @ 9:30 am & 7:30 pm*

*Author Day: 5/8*

*Early Dismissal 5/13 @ 12:15 (K am attend)*

*Movie Night: 5/16*

*Market Day Pickup: 5/19, 3:30-4:30 pm in APR*

*SFE Student Council Great American Fundraiser : 5/19-5/23*

*Memorial Day, School Closed: 5/26*

*D.A.R.E. Graduation: 5/27 @ 7pm*

*6th Grade Track Meet @ CRHS N: 5/28 @3:15 pm , raindate 5/29*

*Field Day: 5/30, raindate 6/6*

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

***Be Fair***

***Think***

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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

Dear Parents,

Spring has been and will be full of celebrations of student learning. We have participated in the PA math league with distinction, the Reading Olympics with a strong performance, and, of course, our PSSA statewide testing. Many students have proudly displayed a portfolio of their classwork for friends and family to celebrate their achievements during the 2007-2008 school year. Student writers have blossomed as parent volunteers worked tirelessly to "publish" books for these budding authors. We have celebrated our arts with our Spring Concert to acknowledge student achievement in band, orchestra and chorus. Our physical strength was tested during the recent sixth grade "blue and white night" experience and we will cap off the physical fitness tribute with our annual field day. The visual arts were also celebrated as we displayed over 200 pieces of student work at the District Art Show at CRHS-South. Students joined in planting a tree to celebrate Earth Day, and we met in family groups to share ways that we can "Be Considerate" in order to protect and preserve our environment. Field trips to the district art show and to other cultural and educational sites in our area rounded out our celebration of learning at Sol Feinstone Elementary School.

It has been a busy, exciting and growth filled year at our school. We have seen our children grow academically, culturally, socially, emotionally and physically. We are proud of their accomplishments and their desire for continued learning. As we reflect upon these areas of growth, we are focused on the remaining weeks of the school year and the job that must be done to prepare our students for the next grade level. Let's take advantage of the many opportunities still before us to help our children make this their best year yet!

Sincerely,

Patrice Pladsen  
Principal

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**Student Council \* Great American Fundraiser**

Our Student Council is taking the Great American Fundraiser to another level this year, with a helping hand from the PTO's Diversity Committee.

The event will be held in school **May 19-23** and the theme is "**Walk for Water.**" With Mr. John Harlan as advisor, Student Council runs GAF, which last year raised nearly \$5,000 for pediatric cancer research. The African nation of Zambia will benefit this year. Specifically, the Walk for Water will collect donations to support the **Lifegiving Water Fund** ([www.lifegivingwater.org](http://www.lifegivingwater.org)), a locally connected non-profit that digs permanent wells for Zambian villages.

Our Diversity Committee has obtained "Walk for Water" wristbands and will give one of the blue-and-white, durable wristbands to every student who participates by turning in a pledge sheet. Members also will help student council with presentations about the fundraiser in every classroom two weeks before the walk. And the Diversity Committee is distributing a specially created reading list of books about drinking water and wells so that the Walk for Water will have even greater, lasting meaning for the students. If you have inquiries, please direct them to: **Debbie Van Aken, [DrVanAken@comcast.net](mailto:DrVanAken@comcast.net)**

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER WITH CRAIG MILLER

### Dealing With Change

Change is a natural part of life for everyone, and it is important for children and adults to find ways to cope with it. Whether it is moving to a new home, a divorce or death in the family, or even just a friend moving away, stress of a sudden change can be overwhelming for a child. However, there are many things families can do to help.

**Listen.** Sometimes children just need to talk about what is troubling them. You don't have to know all of the answers; what is important is that you allow them to express themselves and listen to them.

**Let outsiders in.** There are times, such as during a divorce, when children might feel more comfortable talking to someone other than their parents- a family friend, a trusted adult at school, or someone else they feel close to.

**Know that they know.** Many parents believe they can keep their children in the dark about changes such as job loss or illness, but children hear more and know more than parents expect. The best approach is to acknowledge that they have probably heard something and talk with them about it.

**Be aware of troubling behaviors.** If your child's behavior is suddenly different, it could be a sign that he/she is having difficulty coping. Some of the signs that your child needs extra help coping are changes in appetite, changes in sleep, aggressive behavior, nervous tics, and withdrawal from things he/she used to enjoy.

**Keep routines.** Children need to have routines in their life; they are comforted by them. Even if you are changing households, try to make sure your child gets to hold on to some familiar and loved objects- you might be surprised what they choose as a special memento.

**Information helps.** If your child is moving to a new school, house, or community, get as many photos and as much information as possible. Try to do walkthroughs ahead of time and keep your attitude positive, even if you, yourself, have secret concerns.

**Stay connected.** If the change involves a move, either within your family or by a close friend, make sure to assure your children that there are many ways to keep in touch, and that you'll help them stay close to people who are important to them.

Finally, remember that you can't protect a child from change. Coping with change is learning a skill that will help your child through life. By listening and giving your child information needed, and staying positive, you are helping your child to grow stronger and be better prepared for the future, whatever it may bring.

## NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Health Report Cards- annual Health Report Cards for your children will be mailed to your home shortly. Out of respect for privacy, the nurses of Council Rock have chosen to *mail* these home. Mandated Pennsylvania state requirements for health screenings are listed below. Vision, hearing, height, weight & BMI will be included in the mailing.

- Dental exam- K or 1 (the year of entry), 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Physical exam- K or 1 (the year of entry), 6<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Vision- Yearly K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Hearing- Yearly K through 3<sup>rd</sup>, in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Height, Weight, BMI- Yearly K through 12, mailed home. If you prefer to opt out of this notification, please send a note to the Health Office.

Dental and physical forms-new last year and continuing-students who have *not* handed in the required dental and physical exam forms to the Health Office, may face loss of field trip privileges and withholding of final report cards. Your assistance in the prompt return of these forms for your children is kindly requested.

Warm at Heart Coat Project, and Lions Club Glasses Project-thank you to all who donated to these two very worthy projects. Last November, 95 coats were received, and to date this year, 60 pair of glasses have been received. Thanks for your generosity!

Thanks very much,  
Mrs. Daniels



## 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.



Julianna Boyd

Richie Goulazian

Grace McDermott

Evan Bogle

Angelina Hachoose

Olivia Pinto

Devon Ceslak

Joseph John

Jonathan Pugh

Cara DePalo

Ari Kulka

John Roache

Christopher DiMedio

Melissa LaPierre

Samantha Schnell

Garrett Elder

Zara Tabackin

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

## YOUR PTO AT WORK - PTO BULLETINS

### SFE Night at the Philadelphia Soul

Come watch the **Philadelphia Soul** battle the Columbus Destroyers on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm! We have joined forces with Jon Bon Jovi's arena football team, the Philadelphia Soul, for an event you'll never forget. Sit with your friends in a **special SFE section**. See your name on the **Jumbotron**. Purchase **special food vouchers** for the kids (\$4 each) which will include a Hot Dog, Popcorn & Soda. All proceeds will benefit Sol Feinstone Elementary School. Tickets are \$28 each. Order forms were sent home in backpack mail, and can also be found in the E-Friday folder under *SFE Philadelphia Soul Fundraiser*. If you are interested in sitting with another family, please return all orders together in one envelope. Call Cari Grundman at 215.862.6816 with questions.



### SFE PTO MOVIE NIGHT

#### Featuring **THE BEE MOVIE**

**Arrive at 7:45  
for 8:15 showing**

**Bring Lawn Chairs,  
Blankets, Popcorn  
Bowls, Candy**

**PTO will provide  
water, juice & popcorn**

**Please Note:  
Unaccompanied children  
not permitted**

### Fall Festival : Heather Vinglas & Beth Wetterskog

Our seasoned Sol Feinstone students should be especially pleased to know that we are incorporating an old Spring Fair favorite at the Fall Festival this year. Treasure Jars are back!

Please help us by donating some Jars while also contributing to not only the Festival but to your child's class this school year, as well. An Ice Cream Sundae Party will be awarded to the classroom with the highest amount of Treasure Jars brought in by May 23rd. Just please remember to attach a filled out Treasure Jar label, provided to you by backpack mail and/or the PTO website, on your Jar. Your child can place the Jars in the marked container left in each of the classrooms.

**What are "Treasure Jars" for? :** Treasure Jars are prizes for a game that is played at the Fall Festival using dice. With the Festival being held at a very busy time of the year, we thought we would solicit your help with this now and just store them over the Summer in a safe location.

**What size should a "Treasure Jar" be? :** They can range as large as a pretzel container to as small as a sippy cup. They can be new store bought items (like a Dollar Store water bottle) or recycled items (such as a washed out, plastic mayonnaise jar, old wooden jewelry box or a zippered tote bag that contained something you had purchased such as makeup). The ideas are limitless!!! **Just remember that they should not be glass containers or containers that had once contained peanut products.**

**What do I fill them with? :** Basically anything child friendly goes. Some ideas like bouncy balls, plastic bugs, character figurines, Matchbox Cars, New and gently used Happy Meal Toys, notepads, hair accessories, leftover party favors, stuffed animals, cereal toys, pencils and stickers. Again LIMITLESS! **Just please remember that these will not be used until Fall so no food/candy should be used.**

Thank you for all your efforts and good luck classrooms!!!