

SUNDERLAND SENTINEL

Mission: To ensure a positive, safe and respectful environment that inspires our children to realize, develop and attain their full potential in a school that values diversity and individual needs.



APRIL 9TH, 2010

Principal's Message ~ Timothy Merritt, Interim Principal

Dear Sunderland School Community Members:

I wanted to share some recent happenings with you all. Much of the material I presented at the most recent School Committee meeting. I thought you might be interested.

Training - We continue to address the difficult issue of peer to peer respect, values training, and bullying with our professional development.

Sunderland has done much work on this as a school community and with the help of our Guidance Director and School Psychologist Vicki Palmer, students and adults continue to discuss the harmful effects of negative behavior within our classrooms and on our playgrounds.

This week all non-classroom teachers will receive training in the ways to identify and to respond to bullying type behavior. The personnel within our district will include classroom assistants, cafeteria workers, recess monitors and all other employees that regularly interact with our children.

Classroom teachers will be offered refresher training in two curriculum-based programs (Steps to Respect Grades 3-6 and Second Step (PK-2). Finally, a session of training based in role playing and coaching students toward positive behaviors will be offered at each school in the district.

Many Sunderland teachers continue to use the Responsive Classroom as a way to discuss tolerance, value, and respect in a natural non-threatening way with our youngsters throughout the school year. They include morning meetings and creative ways of dealing with negative behavior within the classrooms and on the playgrounds that help our students to understand the modes of positive behavior that are expected of them. It would be my intent to see these fundamental strategies continue here in Sunderland.

Please take a moment to look at some of the material that discusses bullying that I've included in this edition of the Sentinel. Perhaps you should consider discussing your response to it with your student.

Shortly, I will be announcing an evening event to take place here at the school. My goal will be to hold an open forum to discuss issues around bully behavior, some of the protocols we've established here in school, and some of the intensive training and strategies that our staff employs on a consistent basis when faced with this complex issue.

MCAS Round One - We are just concluding our first leg of MCAS testing. By the end of the week students in Grades 3-6 will have completed the ELA portion of the test. We will begin the Math

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 15: 6:30 PM ARTS Night
- 19-23 Spring Recess-No School
- 29: 9:00A Eth Noh Tech Performance
- 30: Annual Town Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

TRACK & FIELD DAYS:

JUNE 7: GR 5 & 6

JUNE 8: GR 3 & 4

JUNE 9: RAINDATE

Sunderland PTO News



ARTS NIGHT BAKE SALE– We need your help!

The PTO will host a bake sale/snack for **Art's Night on April 15th**. We are looking for SES families to donate baked goods, snacks, and drinks for this event.

Please call Shana Deane @ 665-6616 or email shana@dzone.com to let us know what you can bring. Donated baked goods, snacks and drinks may be brought to the SES Cafeteria on April 15th anytime after school before the start of Arts night @ 6:30.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DELICIOUS HELP!

ARTS NIGHT
BEATLES FEST!
APRIL 15, 2010
6:30 PM
SES GYM

DATE: Thursday, April 15, 2010

ART OPENING TIME:

LOCATION: Cafeteria

MUSIC PERFORMANCE: 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Gym

STUDENTS REPORT TO CLASS-ROOMS: 6:10 PM

DRESS: retro 60's look is great, but normal street clothes are good too. Jeans, sneakers, tie-dye shirts, beads etc. Sports shirts or your favorite look is fine. Please no sunglasses and PLEASE DON'T FEEL THE NEED TO BUY ANYTHING SPECIAL!

END TIME: 7:30-7:45 PM

portion during the second week of May. Grade 5 will also complete the Science and Technology portion during May. Thanks to all of the families and PTO members who have brought in pre and post testing snacks for our students. They sure do appreciate it.

Destination Imagination - Four students from Sunderland School were part of a team of youngsters competing in a world-wide academic problem-solving competition called Destination Imagination. These students largely culled from our classrooms, came together and were tasked to solve a certain environmental problem. Once they had arrived at a solution, they were forced to illustrate it through a play script. The result was a completely student created, student directed and students performed piece of environmental theater. The group performed for us last Friday as practice for their Saturday competition. Our kids loved them!

The group went on to compete against 102 teams from throughout Massachusetts (and largely the Boston city and suburban schools). In the end, the team that hailed from Sunderland took 2nd place and is traveling to Tennessee in late May to compete in the global competition. This is an example of a creative initiative that pits academic challenge together with imagination and creativity. We applaud the work of these students and wish them much luck as they go global.

Singing for Their Food - On Saturday March 28, members of Mrs. Williams Grade 4 class were invited to sing at the Seniors' Lunch hosted by the Sunderland Men's and Women's' Club. The youngsters sang a total of four patriotic songs. Then, Music Director Ed Hines sang a rendition of Daisy to a crooning crowd.

Our invitation to sing at this event brought young and old together. It also spawned a new initiative that may take place this fall. We would like to invite community seniors into the school to participate in an oral history project. I imagine the seniors visiting classroom, being interviewed by students. I imagine student writing to pour forth, student artists drawing portraits of our guest. I imagine seniors reading to students and students reading to seniors.

This is what percolated at the Senior Lunch.

I have to thank Tom Fydenkieviech and Wendy Houle for inviting our kids to sing for their supper. It was nourishing indeed.

Timothy P. Merritt
Interim Principal
Sunderland Elementary School

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Our Lost and Found Box is Heaping Full!

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With so many people using our building, we have several articles both adult and children's that are filling the box to the brim!

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Please check the Lost & Found box locate outside the Art room door for any misplaced articles.

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What has not been claimed will be collected for donation the week of Spring break.

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Pre-K and Kindergarten will be selling containers of rich vermicompost for your plants at **Art's Night**. The compost will be in sealed plastic bags and will come in a useable cup. Profits will be sent to an orphanage in Haiti. The cost is \$3.00 per container.

SUNDERLAND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION CONTINUES!

2010-2011 School Year

Kindergarten Registration will continue to take place through April 16th during school hours. Children who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2010 are eligible for Kindergarten in School Union #38. Please bring with you a copy of your child's original birth certificate and current immunization record. You will be given a registration packet which should be *returned no later than May 3rd*.

Visiting Day for Sunderland Elementary School is scheduled for June 3, 2010 from 9:30-11:00 AM. If you have any questions about Kindergarten registration, please call the office at 665-1151.

Suessical Jr. T-Shirt Order Form

Sizes available are child medium, large, adult small, medium & large

Cost \$14

Name & Grade

Size

Quantity



Please make checks payable to **Sunderland Student Activity Fund**

Orders are due by April, 20, 2010

T-Shirts are black with bright green Suessical and Red and White cat in hat

Return Attention to Justine Rosewarne

