

SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

<http://www.ses.sunderland.ma.us>

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.

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FEBRUARY 26, 2010

Principal's Message ~ Timothy Merritt

Hello Sunderland School Community:

Whew! You know you're living in New England when you have to start your shoveling as soon as you step out of bed just to get to the front door!! Winter is upon us and we are braving up as we always do. I hope the February break was a nice time to spend with family and friends. As we head into a long stretch of school days with no breaks between now and the April break (April 19-23), we want to encourage you to let us know if there is anything we can do here at school to support your students. Many events are on the books in the meantime:

Sixth Grade Reverse Raffle: Saturday, February 27, Deerfield Polish Club

Read-a-thon Kick Off: March 1 - Take a look at the readers who will be with us on that day:

Pre-K Mary Ellen Ahearn-Nurse from Franklin Medical

KB Sheila McCormick-Sunderland Public Library Director

1W Margaret Nartowicz-Town Administrator

1Z Wendy Houle-Town Clerk

2W Louise Law-District Coordinator

3E Robert Ahearn-Fire Chief

4W Jeff Gilbert-Chief of Police

5K Lynn Cook-Chair of School Committee

6V Tom Fydenkevez-Selectman

We thank them all and we thank Moira Cranshaw for once again spearheading this important literacy effort.

(continued next page)

Inside this issue:

Principal's Message	1
Guidance News	3
PTO	4
Sunderland Public Lib	6
SES Library	7

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 1 **Dr. Seuss Day Read-A-Thon @ 2:10P**
- 4 **School Committee 7P**
- 10, 17, 24 31: **Chess Club @ 3:15P**
- 26 **GR 6 Movie Night 6P**

TRACK & FIELD DAYS:

MARK YOUR

CALENDARS:

JUNE 7: GR 5 & 6

JUNE 8: GR 3 & 4

JUNE 9: RAINDATE

Parent Teacher Conferences: April 7-9 (Students dismissed @ 12 noon)

Arts Night: Thursday, April 15, 6:30pm start

We have been blessed with a terrific year so far and I have my teachers and instructional assistants and all of my staff to thank for creating a warm and friendly setting for our kids to learn. We are lucky to have such a fine group of professionals who come to school each day determined to do the best they can to educate your youngsters. Take a moment to thank them if you are so inclined. There's nothing like a kind word from a parent to inspire us towards greatness. During these cold days I encourage you to take a moment to stop by and let us know how we're doing. If we haven't met, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself to me. In the short time that I have been here in Sunderland, I have had the opportunity to meet so many of you, but I know there are still a few parents and family members that I haven't met.

At its recent meeting our School Committee approved our proposed 2011 budget. Now it rests in the hands of the entire Sunderland community. If you think we are doing a good job, please don't hesitate to tell a friend who might not have a student in the building and might not be aware of the effort we are making here on Swampfield Drive. We sure would appreciate your endorsement as we head towards a Town Meeting and Election Day on April 30 and May 1st.

I wish you and your family all the best.

Timothy Merritt

Interim Principal

Sunderland Elementary School



Pre-School Registration

To receive an application, please call Brenda at the Superintendent's Office, 665-8928.

Applications will be mailed and are due no later than Friday, March 5, 2010.

Age Requirement: 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2010

News from the Guidance Office

Effective parenting involves consistent application of clear expectations. Consistency means safety to children since they are able to predict and 'know' how an adult near to them will respond. When adults demonstrate regular, uniform and reliable ways of practicing what they preach, children feel more content and comfortable, leading to stronger academic achievement. Establishing clear family rules and values is good parenting!

Very often parents believe children should know how to act without the rules being clearly communicated to them. I encourage parents to create and post family rules in a common area at home. Children are usually rule-oriented and rules provide direction and reminders. Written rules have power; they provide a basis for visual reinforcement. Furthermore, they provide a foundation for clear, unemotional consequences.

Here are a few suggestions you may want to try at home, or you may decide to craft your own list based on your family values. Be creative—ask your children to contribute to the list, make designs and visual reminders (images from magazines, personal photos, items from the web). Discuss hidden meanings within the text to avoid confusion. The more involved your children are in the list's creation the more invested they will be in the ownership and application.

Family Rules

Tell the Truth

Treat each other with Respect

No Arguing with Parents

Respect each other's Property

Do what (*the parent listed here such as Mom, Dad, Aunt, etc.*) say the first time

Ask Permission before you go somewhere

Put things away you take out

As a family, we care for and about one another. We look for ways to help and support each other.

Vicki Palmer, Guidance Office

NEWS FROM THE PTO

Greetings All,

We hope you are weathering the deluge of slush. It's been quite the winter. Fortunately, the PTO has just the thing to take your thoughts to a better place -- the **SPRING** basket raffle. Next week is the home stretch for getting the baskets ready. You've probably heard from your room parent(s) already. Please pitch in any way that you can.



Area merchants have made generous donations in the past, so being willing to talk to them can be just as helpful as chipping in cash or goods.

Please be in touch with your room parent to coordinate, or let us know if you're not sure who to contact. Baskets will be displayed and tickets sold at the basketball tournament, March 19, 20 and 21; and again at Arts' Night on April 15 -- the winners will be drawn that night.

The next PTO meeting is Monday, March 15 at 6:30 pm, in the School Library. Free childcare, as usual.

All the best,

Doug, Lyn, Aimee and Traci

FAMILY MUSIC CONCERT FOR ALL AGES
Jammin' In Your Jammies
A Concert with Roger Tincknell

Kids come in your pajamas!

When: Friday, March 19, 2010

(Listen to radio stations WHAI, WRSI, WPVQ for cancellation)

Where: Deerfield Elementary School Cafetorium
21 Pleasant St.

Time: 7:00- 8:15 PM

Donation: \$5 suggested donation for families of 1-2

\$10 suggested donation for families of 3 or more

*Co-sponsored by the Union #38 Community Partnership for Children and
Community Actions' Southern Franklin County Family Network.*

*For information about this program and the Union #38 CPC call Karen
Green, CPC Coordinator at 665-8928.*



Sunderland Public Library

The Sunderland Public Library wants your input! Please aid us in our long range planning by filling out a survey about library service. Even if you do not use the library, you can supply us with valuable information. We'd like as much community participation as possible. The survey is available in the library, or can be accessed online by visiting our website at www.sunderlandpubliclibrary.org.



What if everyone in ten Franklin County towns read the same book? ***A Tale for Ten Towns*** is a community book discussion program, this year focused on the book **Julie & Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously** by Julie Powell. Join in the fun by checking out a copy of the book from the Sunderland Public Library. The discussion is will take place Wednesday, March 10 at 7 pm. Everyone is invited! On Wednesday, March 3 at 7 pm we'll have a free screening of the movie **Julie & Julia**.

Other events include **Cooking, Provencal Style**, a cooking demonstration by Stockbridge Farm on Tuesday March 16 at 7 pm and "**If You Can't Take the Heat**", a talk by cookbook author and teacher, Betty Rosbottom on Wednesday, March 24 at 7 pm. There will be young adult programs on crepe making and caricatures. All events take place at the Sunderland Public Library, 20 School Street. For complete details, stop by the Library, or call 665-2642.

Sheila McCormick, Director
Sunderland Public Library
20 School ST
Sunderland, MA 01375
Phone 413-665-2642
Fax 413-665-1435

SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

~Moir Cranshaw, Librarian~



On Monday, March 1st, at around 2:10pm, I have organized a celebration of **Dr. Seuss B-Day/Read Across America/Kick Off** for the **READ-ATHON** event. Guest readers will be coming into the classrooms to share a favorite book with your students, I have invited different members of our community to participate. I have contacted room parents to provide a snack of some sort to enjoy with your guest readers. This will also be a **"Crazy Hat/Hair Day"** for everyone and the readers will also wear a hat. I think we will skip the parade this year.

Read Across America is a national program that runs every year to promote literacy in the schools and always coincides with **Dr. Seuss's Birthday**.

Last year, students in our school logged in with a grand total of 262,499 pages! Amazing! This includes pages they read and pages that were read to them. I will keep track of pages read in the Library, try to keep track of pages read in the classroom. I know this is a lot to ask, but do the best you can. if you need any help or have any question let me know.

This year I have added a new goal, since our population of students is smaller, I think we will challenge the students to try and read a total of 200,000 pages combined. If we meet this total, Tim (Thank you) will MC the assembly dressed as "The Cat in the Hat" outfit in April to announce the awards. We all would enjoy that!

Any money raised is shared between the school library and the public library. I will have donor pages attached for any pledges students may receive. It is always great to see the kids get revved up for this.

On March 22, also a Monday, John Steven Gurney, an author/illustrator will be presenting programs for the school in the library all day. He has written picture books, but is known for his illustration in the A to Z mystery series and Baily School Kids. Tim and I will work out a schedule of visits and let you know when it gets closer. Thanks and enjoy the weekend!