

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.*

Principal's Message ~ Timothy Merritt, Interim Principal

Hello Sunderland School Parents and Family Members:

This stretch between winter and spring is always a challenging time for school children and their families. We see the sun peeking through the clouds and yet on any given morning, we walk out into the briskness that reminds us that winter is still clinging. Now that the clocks have changed, some of us find ourselves in darkness as we leave to come to school each day.

Wouldn't it figure that MCAS testing comes right smack in the middle of all of this seasonal change? In addition to testing the skills of our youngsters, it truly tests the patience of our entire school community. Tensions seem to rise and we all hold our collective breath while we move through this period of mandated testing.

During this window of time, I want to encourage you to talk with your youngster about how they are feeling. Listen to their concerns. Make sure too that they are starting off with a good breakfast and getting enough rest each night. Consider putting the breaks on staying up too late or playing video games or watching too much television before bedtime. Studies report that the stimulation that occurs with video gaming and television viewing often lingers with a child as they attempt to fall asleep. At the same time, much data supports the practice that students in grades 3-6 ought to be getting nine or ten hours of sleep per night and certainly no less than eight. I recognize this isn't always possible but please consider this appeal, especially during weeks when you youngster is involved in MCAS testing.

I look forward to more sunshine and warmer temperature. As always consider stopping in to see us. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for April 7, 8 & 9. Please do your best to come in and discuss your child's progress with their teacher. A week later on Thursday the 15th of April, I hope to see you all at our annual Arts Night. Your child is already rehearsing for that event and it should be a lot of fun.

See you inside school and outside soon.

Timothy Merritt
Interim Principal

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MARCH 26, 2010

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

26: 6:30PM Gr 6 Movie Night

31: Chess Club @ 3:15P

Ahead in April....

7-9 12Noon dismissal - Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

Greetings All,

At our March meeting, Chiefs Gilbert and Ahearn generously donated back the money from the Sweetheart Polka that had been designated by the PTO to share with the Police and Fire departments. Their unwavering commitment to our town and to our kids is deeply appreciated.

Lest we forget that it's not all fundraising — we do it for a reason — the PTO has recently contributed to some exciting, upcoming field trips, including the annual third grade trip to the Pequot Museum and Mystic Aquarium; we are also supporting the school play (Seussical this year) - a signature event for the school and community.

So, back to raising money to support these opportunities for our kids (and having some fun in the process!): The basket raffle got off to a great start this past weekend at the basketball tournament -- sales are up 20% over last year through this point; we expect a strong finish on Art's Night when tickets will again be sold and the winners drawn toward the end of the night. A **BIG** thank you to all grades making donations to their basket themes, all room parents for managing the fundraiser for their classes, to the folks that worked the raffle table during the basketball tournament, to Brent Hale for fantastic Beatles-themed signage and tie in, and to Jen Quesnelle and Joanne Healey for wrapping the baskets so creatively. **HOORAY!!** Parents of Sunderland Elementary, in the words of the Beatles "Come Together"! **You rock!**

Another tradition was revived this past weekend—the Pancake (mancake) Breakfast on the Saturday morning of the tourney. Thanks to Mike Zeoli and his crew, this was a terrific, not to mention tasty, community event. Also, the kids got to see that nobody, not even their Principal, is above helping out with the dishwashing. (Sorry Charles Barkley, we are all role models!)

We'll see you around school and at our next meeting, April 12th.

Here comes the sun....

Doug, Lyn, Aimee and Traci



Café Sun Videos

DVDs of the January 26, 2010 **Café Sun for Kids** are available for \$8.00 each. Please make check payable to Sunderland Elementary School and give to the front office or Mr. Hines. Proceeds to benefit the Café Sun.



SUNDERLAND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for the 2010-2011 School Year

Kindergarten Registration will take place from April 1st 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.

