

SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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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SEPTEMBER 28

2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL ~ Timothy Merritt~

Hello to all of our Sunderland School Community. I look forward to speaking to you on a regular basis through this continuing column in the Sunderland Sentinel. In it, I will try to present you with the latest and greatest from Swampfield Drive. At the same time, I recognize that the printed word has its limitations—nothing is a substitute for a face-to-face dialogue. So please read on but also feel free to contact me directly if there is anything you wish to discuss about your student's educational experience here at Sunderland Elementary.

And now.....

This may sound corny.....

Thanks so much to Mike Wissemann of Warner Farms for providing our children and some very hungry adults, with over 400 ears of corn.

Our students walked to Warner's with empty wagons and came back with a beautiful yellow bounty! All students then gave up part of the recess to shuck the corn. Deb Zimnowski and her cafeteria staff cleaned and cooked the corn. On Thursday all our students and some invited guest shared a wonderful meal that included whole ears and Mike's Corn Chowder. Thank you to Tom Fydenkevez from the Selectmen's Board, Fire Chief Ahearn and Firefighter and EMT Jim Tower, Town Administrator Margaret Nartowicz, Town Clerk Wendy Houle, Chief Gilbert, and Town Librarian Shiela McCormick all who stopped by to celebrate our Farm to Table initiative. Thanks to Superintendent Nash, Curriculum Director and Assistant to the Superintendent Louise Law and School Committee Chairperson Lynn Cook who visited with

students and shared in the celebration. Thanks to members of the PTO. Especially Sylvia Maes and Reka Peterson who spearheaded this effort. Thanks to PTO Chairman

Doug Fulton who lent a hand on both days as well. Finally, thank you to the students, whose enthusiasm and eagerness to learn made this nutritious for all of us at Sunderland Elementary School.

I look forward to sharing more moments of celebration with all of you in the near future.

~Tim Merritt, Principal~

**Special Thanks to
Laurenitis Farm Stand for
the beautiful Fall arrangement
in the front of our
school.**

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Upcoming Events

September

29 Volunteer Training

October

- 6** Picture Day
- 6-7** Kindergarten Screening
- 12** Columbus Day (no school)
- 16** Valley Light Opera Assembly
- 17** Fall Festival
- 19** PTO Meeting 6:30p
- 20** School Committee 7:00p
- 30** No School In-service

A great big thanks to Sustain Our Schools!

This group of parents has raised enough money to restore the Art and Music program to Sunderland Elementary. We are forever grateful to this hardworking group and all those who contributed.

www.so

For Medical Absences, please call the Nurse's Direct Line - 665-1451

The PTO will have a table, complete with awesome bake sale goodies, at the **Sunderland Fall Festival, Saturday October 17th**. Jen Quesnelle is coordinating the bake sale. Let her or a PTO officer know if you are available to bake and/or staff the table. And definitely come and visit us at the event!

The engines that make the PTO go are our many **project and fundraising groups**. Small chunks of time can go a long way. If you would like to join a group, sign up at the next meeting or get in touch with us, anytime.

The PTO sends a **big thank you to Sandy Randall** for her years of service as an officer and for her ongoing dedication to Sunderland Elementary and the PTO. Sandy resigned her position as President on September 12. Doug Fulton, formerly Vice President, has assumed duties as President. At our meeting this week, Lyn Roberts was nominated for the vacated Vice President position. We will continue to accept nominations for Vice President until our next meeting and then vote at that meeting.

Speaking of the **next meeting, its Monday October 19th in the school library at 6:30 pm**. We are planning to have childcare, again. Note: the meetings get shorter after the planning push at the beginning of the year-we aim to keep them to 1 hour.

Wishing us all another great, "made in New England" fall!

Doug Fulton, President, dougfulton@comcast.net

Aimee Smith-Zeoli, Secretary, asmithzeoli@comcast.net

Traci Sackery, Treasurer, TraciSackery@crocker.com

PTO Matters

President Doug Fulton

Greetings and Welcome Back to School!

The PTO had a well attended meeting this Monday —Thank You! There is much to plan at the beginning of the year and we are off to a good start. We passed the budget for this school year, including various fundraisers and the financial support that we plan to provide for the enrichment programs, field trips, playground equipment and special projects and events. Don't worry. if you still have ideas for the year, we still want to hear them!

The first enrichment program went off with the cooperation of a beautiful, sunny day. It was a "**Farm to Table**" affair involving corn donated by local farmer, Mike Wissemann (of Mike's Maze and a member of Sunderland's Board of Selectmen). Some kids went to the farm to fetch the goods and talk with Mike about the farm. Everyone shucked and partook in the bounty. Apparently elementary school *is* meant to be corny.

Catalogues are going home for the **Genevieve's fundraiser**. This is a big source of income for the PTO- we receive roughly 5% of sales. Please share the catalogue and website with family, friends and co-workers- great gifts (and gift wrap) for the holidays or anytime. Order forms are due back October 16th. For anyone not into shopping, the PTO is happy with straight donations, anytime. :~)