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# SES NEWSLETTER

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Volume 11

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January 30, 2009

**Farewell to Mr. Nakayama** - Students and faculty bid farewell to Japanese intern, Kotaro Nakayama, on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The children enjoyed their time with Mr. Nakayama and benefited from all he taught about the culture and customs of Japan. Once again, we thank our host families, the Godfrey family and the VanHerwarde family for sharing their homes and their lives with Kotaro Nakayama and for making this school internship possible.

**WCSU Band and Chorus Festival Coming Soon** - Attention, all band and chorus students! The WCSU Band and Chorus Festival is coming up soon. Please sign-up with Mrs. Morton in order to participate in this exciting opportunity to share your musical talents and perform with students from eight nearby elementary schools.

**NECAP Results** - The New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), administered to students to measure individual school's progress under the federal No Child Left Behind law, indicates that SES students continue to perform well. SES students in third through sixth grades performed solidly in the range of proficient to proficient with distinction in all three areas assessed with reading scores in the 94th percentile, math scores in the 91st percentile, and writing scores in the 93rd percentile. Small schools must interpret scores from year to year with caution, as tests are statistically unreliable in small group administrations. The NECAP is one piece of data, among many, worthy of consideration when evaluating the success of a school. Evidence reinforces recognition of SES teachers' expertise and perseverance in providing a high quality education to all children. Additionally, we commend SES parents for providing a solid support system in the home environment.

Individual student results will be mailed home by mid-February. Please contact Mrs. Pepe if you have any questions.

**Geography Mini-Grant Awarded** - Congratulations to teachers, Mrs. Maria Garland and Mrs. Barbara Kahler, for earning approval for one of the first ever Vermont Geographic Alliance mini-grants! A mini-grant of \$250, newly awarded to Sherburne Elementary School, will enable the SES Geography Club to purchase new and exciting geography-related games. It's not too late to join the SES Geography Club! See Mrs. Kahler if you are interested!

**News for the 2009-2010 School Year** - At the end of this year, we shall recognize a teacher who owns our respect and our gratitude for her dedication to children and families at Sherburne Elementary School for the last 28 years. Sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Barbara Kahler, will retire in June. With Mrs. Kahler's retirement, Ms. Amy Ladabouche, currently a fifth grade teacher, will move into the sixth grade position, leaving school officials to seek a dynamic new fifth grade teacher for the students at Sherburne Elementary School.

Continued on page 2

Dates to Remember

January 30

Report Cards Go Home

February 16-20

Winter Recess/No Classes

February 27

Girls on the Run Registration  
SES Library@ 3:00 pm

March 2

Staff Development/No Classes

March 3

Town Meeting/No Classes

March 6

Girls on the Run 3-4:30

Drivers: Observe School Bus Safety in the Parking Lot

Please heed school bus warning lights; this includes time spent in the SES parking lot. **You are required by law to stop when the bus's red warning lights are flashing.** Do not pass the bus until the lights are off. School bus drivers are mandated by law to turn over the license plate number of individuals who do not comply. The penalty for passing a school bus with flashing red lights includes a substantial fine and five points on your driver's license. (Vermont Driver's Manual, 2007)

Parking on the far side of the parking lot is the best option for all of our parents and visitors. Please avoid parking directly in front of the school and along the sidewalk closest to grades 4,5,6, as this is where our school bus needs to park.

On Trailblazer afternoons, parking can be tricky. Mr. Haff needs to be able to pull his truck close to the front door area and 2 bus drivers must be able to park alongside the school.

Please share any concerns regarding the present traffic flow in our parking lot with Mrs. Pepe.



Happy "February" Birthday

Lilly Buker 2/1  
Alyssa Rivera 2/24

**Continued from page 1**

**Teacher Inservice Focuses on Technology** - The January 19<sup>th</sup> teacher inservice day focused on technology integration in the classroom. Teachers from around Windsor Central Supervisory Union joined forces to present technology integration opportunities that can be used by all. Several of Sherburne's faculty provided informative and useful presentations. We thank Kate Carey, Sandy Farbman, Eileen Vaughn, Maria Garland, and Patty Thomas for their efforts to make this inservice time beneficial to all and Rick Dustin-Eichler, WCSU Technology Integration Coordinator, for organizing the inservice and for offering guidance and learning opportunities to all of us along the way.

**Limiting Your Child's Online Access** - Parents, please be involved in your child's online experiences. In the old days, telephones centrally located in homes offered parents an opportunity to hear a bit of their child's conversations, providing some insight into the child's life. Today, many children keep private their cell phone calls, text messages, and online experiences, making it difficult for parents to gain the same insight into the child's life outside of the home. Parents, set the rules now. Be in control. Let your child know that it is your job to keep him/her safe. Check your child's online history, know his password(s), and use the parental controls on the computer to limit your child's access and time online. For more information, refer to the attached Report to Parents, *Limiting Your Child's Online Access With Parental Controls* from the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal

**Attention Four Winds Volunteers**

On Thursday, February 5th, from 9-11 in the SES Specials' Room, we will be meeting with Mike Clough. He will bring to us the program on Animal Tracks. Please wear tall boots for walking outside in the deeper snow and remind your classes to do the same when you teach this. Snacks are to be provided by Lori Weirether. See you all then.

I will only call you if a program needs to be postponed. We do not have Four Winds if school is cancelled.

The Hikes

**Health Room News**

The Vermont Department of Health recently released a notice regarding a program for Vermonters in need of assistance to heat their homes. Today's economic climate has made it difficult for many Vermonters to stay warm this winter. If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance, you can apply for the Citizens Energy Oil Heat Program. This program makes it possible for qualifying households to receive up to 100 gallons of free home heating oil. You can apply simply by calling 1-877-563-4645. Responses are sent by mail that may appear to be junk mail. If you apply, please check your mail carefully for several weeks to see if you qualified. If you have any questions or require assistance with the application process, please give me a call or leave me a message at school at extension 212. Have a warm and safe winter!

Many of you may have been hearing about Salmonella Outbreaks being reported across the country. Salmonella is bacteria that can cause an intestinal infection that may lead to diarrhea, fever, cramps, nausea or vomiting and occasionally blood or mucus in the stool. The most common way a Salmonella infection is acquired is by eating contaminated food. Recently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a recall of a variety of foods containing peanuts that they believe contain the Salmonella bacteria. This recall includes a lot of products that are popular with children. If you have any concerns, a complete list of the recalled products is available at the school. Please ask Mrs. Pilsmaker or myself for a copy. Remember that good hand washing and proper handling, washing and cooking of foods is the best line of defense against bacteria like Salmonella

Jamie Sudol RN, School Nurse

**GIRLS ON THE RUN (Grades 3-5)**

GOTR encourages positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual and physical development while training to run/walk 3.1 miles. The popular program will be available again this spring. Help to celebrate 10 years of GOTR here in Vermont! Our kick off registration day will be February 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm here at SES in the Library. Sessions will be on Tuesdays and Fridays from 3:00-4:30pm starting on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>. (No practice week of April vacation 4/20-24). Save Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> for our 5K event in Brattleboro. The cost is \$70 (scholarship funds and shoe vouchers available). Please bring health insurance information and payment to the registration day (2/27/09)! Your coaches Roger Stevens and Nancy Blessing look forward to your participation.