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# SES NEWSLETTER

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Volume 12

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February 5, 2010

**NECAP Results** - The New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), administered statewide 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 96th percentile and math scores in the 94th percentile. The writing assessment this year is under a pilot program; therefore, results will not be announced in this area. 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. Furthermore, 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.

**Haiti Relief Efforts** - Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, students at SES wish to make a difference. Student Council recently sponsored "Movie Night," raising close to \$100! This week Student Council is sponsoring a coin drive competition among classes. Mrs. Simonds and the Student Council will tally coins, graph fundraising efforts across the grades, and keep all of us posted. As of 2/5, SES students have collected \$1002.56 in coins! Funds will be donated to the Pure Water for the World effort.

**Cross That River** - Students and teachers in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades attended an informative and exciting show at Castleton State College entitled, *Allan Harris' Cross That River*. *Cross That River* is a story, told in song cycle, of the African American cowboy in the 19th century. Interweaving fiction with historical fact, each of the ten songs in the cycle presented a different page in this complicated chapter of American history.

**Checkmate, Everyone Wins!** - Chess anyone? Pawns, bishops, knights, kings and queens move purposefully about the chess boards as children develop critical thinking skills and more in the SES cafeteria each Tuesday afternoon. SES alum and present individual aide, Whitney Willis, fondly remembers Chess Club at SES years ago under the tutelage of Peter Hike, and now Whitney has chosen to act as Chess Club advisor. Stop by and visit SES students as they play chess each Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

**Project Groundhog** - Is a groundhog truly an accurate weather predictor? Some of the children at Sherburne Elementary School are participating in Project Groundhog to determine if this is fact or fiction.

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## Dates to Remember

### February 12

School Board Meets @SES@8:15 am

### February 15—19

Winter Recess/ No Classes

### February 23

SES Band Practice w/Ben Potvin  
@SES @8 am

### February 26

Basketball Banquet@5:30 pm

### March 2

Town Meeting/No Classes

### March 9

SES School Board Meets @4:00 pm

### March 31

Band Rehearsal @WUHS @3:30 pm

### April 1

WCSU Music Festival w/SES Band  
Grades K-6 @

### April 9

Teacher Inservice Day/ No classes

## Attitude Counts!

Hats off to the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade girls' basketball team for a season filled with perseverance and positive attitude. Team members, Jordan Stevens, Mimi Templeton, Rory Haff, Rosie O'Brien, and Sarah Findeisen display a positive attitude, team spirit and perseverance in every game they play. With only five girls on the roster, these girls rally on from one game to the next, smiling and high-spirited all the time. Coach Haff recently shared the great pride he has in his team, and all of the teachers at SES feel that same sense of pride. Best wishes, girls!

Attitude counts!

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For the six weeks following Groundhog Day, February 2nd, students monitor and record daily temperature, sky conditions and how often school closes due to weather. The information collected is shared weekly with participating schools in the Northern Hemisphere via the Internet and the Project Groundhog website.

Project Groundhog is designed to introduce young learners to the possibilities of telecommunications technology through a meaningful, curriculum-based inquiry. It allows teachers to cover specific objectives in science, math, social studies, and language arts, and is available to students and teachers throughout the world.

**Technicool, A Technology Safety Program** - Are you anxious about your child's access to the world using today's technology? If so, you are not alone. It is a different world for our children today, and it is best to be knowledgeable. Parents and caregivers are invited to attend a special event on Monday, February 8, 2010, 7 pm at WUMS Library.

Technicool is a program sponsored by PCAVT and the Vermont Family Network. Topics to be covered include: social networking sites, cyber-bullying, cell phones and texting, email and instant messaging, sexting, on line gaming, and more. See the flier sent in parent emails for additional information.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal

**Spanish News**

Students recently participated in a school wide contest to determine where Señora Elena went over Christmas vacation. Students were able to view a poster containing a number of visual and written (in Spanish) clues. Contestants were encouraged to use research tools such as a Spanish-English dictionary, our school library, or the internet in their detective work. Questions for each grade level and Spanish club were a part of the display; the questions also provided some direction for students to follow in their research.

Sixth grader Amelia Travers' name was selected from the correct entries. Amelia correctly determined that Señora went to Miami, Florida over Christmas, and she is now the proud owner of a Spanish-English dictionary. ¡Felicidades, Amalia!

Señora Elena

**Hearts for Haiti pins for sale in the Art room.**

Artists from left to right: Alden Cloutier, Aili Johnstone, Lilly Holding, Maggie Rice, Margaret O'Neill and Maddie Rieger.

**Knitting Club**

The SES knitting club meets on Fridays (in lieu of outdoor recess) in the Art Room. Students need to purchase their own yarn for knitting club. If a trip to the store is not in your future plans, yarn is available for \$3.00 a skein from Art teacher, Mrs. Trimpi.

**Hearts for Haiti**

Art classes are making heart pins for a donation of a dollar or more. Proceeds go to Haitian Relief Medical Fund.

If you'd like to make a purchase, please have your child bring in a cash donation on a Friday, art day, at SES.

**Weather Information Updates**

Planning a trip and want to know the condition of the roads? Visit this website: <http://511.vermont.gov/main.jsf>