

SES NEWSLETTER

Volume 9

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Celebrating Holidays Around the World - Ashes to ashes and dust to dust...

students, family members, alumni and many special guests enjoyed a celebration of holidays around the world with chimney sweeps and a broad cast of characters and chorus during the 2008 holiday musical, *Once On A Housetop*, on Tuesday, December 16th. "From the little baby born in a stable, to the Kwanzaa celebration of new ideas... from the beautiful candles of the Hanukkah season to the piñatas of Las Posadas..." this holiday program reminded everyone of the many ways to celebrate the holiday season.

As always, the SES community is appreciative for the time and effort put forth by all involved in the production, especially the following people: Christine Morton, music and band director; Kate Carey and Maria Garland, program directors; Melissa Knipes and Britt Crompton, choreographers; Kevin and Kris Margolin, lights; and Kotaro Nakayama, scenery.

SES Sings at Vermont Holiday Festival of Trees - Many Sherburne Elementary students participated in a holiday "sing" at the Vermont Holiday Festival of Trees on Thursday, December 18th. Students sang songs from around the world, and the SES band played traditional holiday tunes. We extend a special thanks to SES parent, Britt Crompton, for organizing this special night and to our music teacher, Christine Morton, for directing and accompanying students in song.

Earlier in the week, fifth graders from SES participated in the decorating of a 6' balsam fir, donated by Chalet Killington for the Festival of Trees. The theme chosen for the SES tree, "Christmas Around the World," emphasizes holidays around the world as in our musical production this week and our study of Japan throughout the winter months. We thank our art teacher, Finnie Trimpi, for helping students make interesting, global ornaments; our Japanese intern, Kotaro Nakayama, for instructing students in the process of origami, and our faculty, Amy Ladabouche and Patty MacLauchlan for overseeing the tree decorating extravaganza.

Four Winds Mini-Grant Awarded to SES - Sherburne Elementary School received a grant award of \$270 from Four Winds Nature Institute as part of a "Schoolyard Habitat Improvement" plan to improve outdoor learning for children in our communities. The funds awarded will enable us to continue progress on Sherburne Elementary School's Benjamin Maxham Nature Trail. With great appreciation, we thank Four Winds Nature Institute for this generous award, and we thank educator, Maria Garland, for submitting the original grant proposal.

The Giving Tree - The Giving Tree, adorned with loads of mittens, scarves and hats for the Rutland County Women's Shelter, is a welcome relief to families in need. We thank all of you for your generosity this holiday season, especially for helping your children realize that the best gift is in giving to others, whether it is a card, a gift, or a warm gesture.

We extend a special thank you to student council advisor, Amy Ladabouche and members of the SES Student Council for organizing the Giving Tree project.

Big Friend/Little Friend Breakfast with Frosty - Kindergarteners and their sixth grade "Big Friends" enjoyed a holiday breakfast on Thursday morning with special guest, "Frosty the Snowman." Students sang holiday songs together, and

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Dates to Remember

December 22-January 2
Holiday Recess/No Classes

January 5
Classes Resume

January 12
Trailblazer Instructor Training Session II

January 14
Japanese Luncheon for students

January 16
Second Marking Period Ends

January 19
No Classes/Martin Luther King Day

February 16-20
Winter Recess/No Classes

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE CHANGE: The **Active Parenting Now** workshop has changed its time back to Tuesdays, beginning January 6 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., in the SES cafeteria. If you have not yet signed up and would like to do so, please contact Mrs. Pepe or Mrs. Hoag on return to school, January 5. You may also send an e-mail to: m.mc.11@hotmail.com. Have a great vacation!

Happy "January" Birthday!

Gemma Fielder	1/20
Magnolia Rice	1/21

SES is looking for a large toolbox with many, many drawers or compartments to hold our new LEGO/Robotics materials.



Happy  New Year

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“Big Friends” presented “Little Friends” with their own copy of the *The Biggest Snowman Ever* by Steven Kroll. We greatly appreciate M.B. Neisner’s expertise in making a delicious breakfast for everyone to share and our mystery guest for his impersonation of “Frosty.”

Trailblazer Training - With new snow on the ground and a renewed force of volunteer instructors, we plan to continue the SES Trailblazer Program for the 2009 ski and snowboard season. Butch Findeisen, SES parent, and Greg LaBella, SES physical education teacher, trained volunteers in preparation for nine weeks of leading ski and snowboard groups. A second training will take place on Monday, January 12th @ 8:30 a.m. Please call SES and r.s.v.p. by January 7th. Thank you, thank you, thank you to Butch Findeisen, Greg LaBella and to all volunteer instructors to ensure that our Thursday ski and snowboard program remains intact.

Happy Holidays - All of us at SES extend warm wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Loren M. Pepe, Principal

News from SES’ Japanese Intern, Kotaro Nakayama

Hi everyone! I’m Kotaro Nakayama. How kind of you to remember! I found some interesting differences between the U.S. and Japan. Just to name a few: 1. I can’t find any vending machines on the road in the U.S. You can find vending machines everywhere in Japan, and they have cold drinks when it’s hot and hot drinks when it’s cold—very convenient. 2. Everything is big in the U.S. I have never seen a 1 gallon bottle of milk and orange juice. Usually, we can only see a 1litre carton of milk or juice in the Japanese supermarket. 3. Sales clerks and restaurant employees in the U.S. are very friendly. In Japan, I’ve never seen the clerk who talks closely to complete strangers.

I learned a lot about teaching from SES. Especially, I am impressed by “hands-on learning activities.” Students of SES enjoy those activities, like science experiments, by sharing opinions. Teachers give students the chance to think for themselves. The atmosphere of the classes is open and natural. Teachers in SES are very diligent and they make the best use of inventiveness. In Japan, getting overwhelmed with busy schedule at school has become a problem. Since we have the Education Ministry guidelines (EMG) in Japan, teachers have to follow the EMG, and it’s very easy for teachers to use the commercially available teaching materials that are based on it. Most classes are “classroom lectures.” Conversely, it’s very hard to create new teaching materials and activities. So some teachers do it only when they hold a workshop. Teachers are not lazy; there are 5 or 6 hours (periods) plus club activity and student council a day. In addition, there are lots of odd jobs, meetings, events and business trips. There are 40 students to a class.

I have to learn more from SES teachers. Then I’ll be able to teach students Japanese culture better than before. Thank you.

Parking Lot News - The red cones in the parking lot are set up to help us determine the feasibility of a future extension to the play area: from Kids’ Kingdom to Sugar Shack Island.

Health Room News

I would just like to remind parents about the new immunization requirements for school. These requirements apply to all kindergarteners, any student that is new to the school, and all students entering 7th grade. The newest Vermont immunization requirement is two doses of the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. This is the first year this has been required by our state. It is often difficult to schedule an appointment for this vaccine due to the large number of children who needed it for this school year. If your child has not had two doses of this vaccine, please make an appointment for them as soon as possible. If your child has had chickenpox, a form must be filled out to show that they are exempt from the vaccine. Once again, if your child is in 1st- 6th grade and is not a new student, they are not required to have this vaccine until 7th grade. I urge the parents of 6th graders not to wait until summer to schedule their child’s appointment because two visits will be necessary to acquire the two doses. Children entering 7th grade next year will also need a Tdap booster. If your child has had recent vaccinations, please send me proof so that I can update their health file. Immunizations are an important part of keeping our community healthy and safe! If you have any questions or need a copy of the complete Vermont School Entry Immunization Requirements, please give me a call at 422-3366 ext 212.

I hope your children enjoy the rest of the school year.

Jamie Sudol RN, School Nurse