



**SHELTER
ROCK
NEWS**
A PARENT'S CONNECTION TO THE CLASSROOM

SUMMER 2008



Have a Happy and Safe
SUMMER

Letter from the Shelter Rock SCA President

Dear Parents,

As the school year comes to a close, I can't help but to look back at all of the excitement, fun, hard work and dedication that all of our parent volunteers have done throughout the year. All of the wonderful SCA sponsored events could not have been possible without your help. On behalf of the SCA and the entire Shelter Rock family, I would like to thank you.

I am so happy to have met and worked with so many new parents this year, while I am sad to say farewell to many of the parents I have known throughout the years. For those parents and students leaving Shelter Rock, I wish you well as you embark on your new journey in the Middle School.

It has been an honor to serve you as President. I look forward to yet another fruitful year.

I wish you and your families a healthy, happy and relaxing summer!

With fond memories and much gratitude,

Jennifer Villano

SCA President Shelter Rock

DIVERSITY DAY WAS CELEBRATED IN SHELTER ROCK ON APRIL 9TH

The third graders were treated to classroom presentations by third grade moms, Latha Desikan and Reena Gilja. The children learned about Indian art and culture. The moms demonstrated how the native Indian costume, a saree is worn. A few girls were able to try on a saree. Mrs. Paulette Williams was also sportive enough to try one on. She looked gorgeous! (as is evidenced in the photo seen here). The children were read a book on how the Indian festival of Diwali, (Festival of Lights) is celebrated. They were able to use their artistic skills by coloring in Rangoli sheets, which are traditional decorations that are made on the floor using colored powder. The third graders were shown various Indian costumes, jewelry, handbags and puppets. On the whole, the children thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.



SATURDAY SERIES

The Saturday Series had another great year. We hope to see a lot of you back in the fall....and we hope to see a few of the graduating 6th graders back as our student volunteers!

We are still looking for a Co-Chair. If you are interested, please contact satseries@aol.com. Planning is already in the works for the return of some of the old favorites and for the introduction of new exciting classes.

Some dates to keep in remember:

9/12: Theater Lottery

9/18: Final in person registration

9/20: Classes begin

Our brochure will be available on-line in September. We hope you all have a terrific and safe summer!


THE CEC THANKS YOU!


The Community Education Committee (CEC) of the SCA extends a gracious thank you to all of you who worked with us in getting out the vote for the School Budget and Board of Education Election. The best way to get people out to vote is to ask them personally and so many of you did just that. In your everyday discussions, at the ball field, or making reminder phone calls, you supported the CEC efforts for a great turnout on the day of the vote. There were 3119 votes counted for the budget. The CEC looks forward to working with you again next year to top that count. If you would like to work with CEC in the 2008-09 school year, please contact Margaret Minichini at mminichini@earthlink.net. Have a great summer!


A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR FOR PLANET MANHASSET


PLANET MANHASSET, the SCA's newly formed district-wide eco-committee, has accomplished quite a bit its first year out.


It has:

 Introduced re-usable stainless steel beverage bottles and recycled cotton snack sacks to reduce the use of plastic bottles and paper snack bags in the elementary schools. New additions include a larger bottle, reusable “wrap-n-mats” sandwich wrappers and totes. A MS/HS-specific bottle will be sold at the Outpost and Manhasset Sporting Goods in the fall.


 Worked with elementary school principals and SCA chairs to reduce paper use through a new online email system to replace the backpack express. This will be expanded and fine-tuned going forward.


 Generated a lot of press and provided a monthly eco-newsletter, “Simply Green”, available on the SCA website.


 Worked diligently toward introducing a recycling program for paper and plastics at the school. The Town of North Hempstead has presented a new school program which the Committee will help institute in the fall.


 Presented the Board with a no-idling policy for both buses and cars, for consid-


eration for adoption into our official by-laws.


 Introduced to the District Facilities Department low-VOC paints, which were immediately embraced.

 Secured a guest speaker from Al Gore's Climate Change Organization who showed a variation of “An Inconvenient Truth” to 8th-12th grade Earth Science, Living Environment and Environmental Science classes followed by simple action students could take to make a difference.

 Organized a special community Christmas tree recycling event, at which over 130 trees were brought in for recycling.

 Helped set up and execute recycling at large-scale school and community events such as International Night, Lacrosse Day of Champions and the SCA Fair.

 Will begin a student driven MS/HS “Green Club” in the fall.

 Is working with the District Purchasing Department to work toward more recycled papers and paper goods.

Manhasset SEPTA's Charter Year

This past October, Manhasset chartered the Special Education PTA (SEPTA) to support and empower Manhasset's special education community. As our first year comes to an end, we would like to thank everyone who made it such a great year!

Thank you to the Shelter Rock teachers, administrators, therapists and, of course, parents who supported our efforts, attended our presentations and workshops and generously gave to our fundraisers. With over 110 members and a core team of dedicated, driven SEPTA officials, we were able to bring to our community a new special needs parenting section to our Public Library, scholarships for graduating students, expert speakers on a wide range of learning disabilities and special education laws, the ManhassetSEPTA.org website for 24/7 access to special ed information and listings of local resources for special needs families.

A special thank you to Shelter Rock Principal, Robert Geczik for welcoming us into the Shelter Rock team to help staff and parents support the school's special education population. We look forward to a great 08-09 school year as SEPTA partners with the school on many exciting new efforts.

In the fall 2008, SEPTA is proud to offer the first-ever special needs program for the Saturday Series! Look for our new 'Sports Skills and Drills Boot camp' class—an adaptive sports program for special needs children—in the Saturday Series book. The pilot program has been partly funded by generous donations from our community, including the Munsey Park Women's Club.

Manhasset SEPTA would also like to thank the SCA for all its support this year. We are grateful for the chance to partner and learn from Manhasset's finest and largest parent group!

SEPTA is happy to serve the Manhasset special education community and special needs families, this past year and in the years ahead! Have a safe and fun summer!





The SCA Fair was a blast!



EXCITING NEW BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY PROGRAM

This year, we have worked with the staff at Shelter Rock to sign up with a great school supply program called Innisbrook.

Innisbrook is a school supply program that allows all parents to shop on their website or by phone to purchase the school supplies that the Shelter Rock teachers require for our next school year. These are complete lists that have been submitted by the teachers and listed by grade on the website.

Visit **www.innisbrook.com** and enter our school number **110798**. The website is easy to navigate. You can also call **800-334-8461**. All school supplies will be shipped directly to your home.

Our Shelter Rock, on-line Back-to-School Pack store will be open from Wednesday, June 11th to July 15th.

15% of all orders placed through this program are donated back to the SCA.

The supply list posted on the Innisbrook website is the final list for your child's grade/class. There will be no additional school supplies listed in the August mailing that includes the teacher placement letters.

Shop early so you can relax and enjoy your summer!!

Happy Shopping!!

HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDERS

FROM THE SHELTER ROCK HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- All new students, in addition to Kindergarten, 2nd and 4th graders must have an updated physical exam to attend school. Physicals are good for one year. A Body Mass Index (BMI) will also be reported on your children's fitness report cards. BMI is a measure of obesity risk.
- There are new immunization requirements for new 6th graders for TDAP and varicella. If the student has already had varicella (chicken pox), they can submit a letter showing proof. Immunization exemptions are only permitted for certain medical and religious reasons.
- All new entrants, 2nd and 4th graders, are required to submit a letter that they received a dental exam.
- Children with food allergies should not have to miss out on the fun events held at school during the year. A note goes out to parents of children with food allergies to let them know there is an event such as a bake sale occurring. People are asked not to use nuts in preparation. Parents are given the opportunity to give permission for their child to buy and/or consume baked goods from the sale. Parents may also send in appropriate foods for their children to eat. Some teachers have a bag of "safe snacks" for children with allergies.
- Children getting dropped off for early morning practices may not have a chance to have a good breakfast before leaving their house. They become incredibly hungry by 9:00-9:30. These children should bring an early morning snack with them to have if they get hungry. Parents could also try to have small but nutritious mini-breakfasts available for their children at home to eat before school if they are leaving the house early. Examples could be yogurt with a piece of fruit, cereal with yogurt, cheese in a tortilla wrap, toaster waffle and a glass of milk, shake made with fruit and yogurt or milk, hard boiled egg and toast.
- Following Shelter Rock's Field Day 2008, please consider the following in the warm weather:
 - Ensure your child has access to fluids throughout the day. The Health and Safety Committee recommended a Hydration Station for Field Day so that children remember to drink! This was done on a trial basis for 3rd and 4th graders with the help of SCA parent volunteers. If successful, it will be expanded next year.
 - Apply sunscreen if your child will be having gym class and recess.
 - Wear appropriate footwear (sneakers) for outdoor play.
- Activities for Indoor Lunch/Recess have been limited due to space constraints. In an effort to reduce the viewing of movies during recess, games are available to play in the hallway and the gym is used when available. Kindergarteners are able to use the Little Gym or go back to their individual classrooms due to aides assigned to each class. 5th and 6th graders have use of the Big Gym during their recess. Discussions have begun to find alternative activities to do so that recess is a more active social experience for all students. Plans continue through the summer so that this may occur in the fall. If you are interested in participating to make recess more active, please let Mrs. Williams know.

(Health and Safety Reminders Continued)

- The Shelter Rock parking lot continues to be a challenge due to the lack of parking spaces, as well as certain individuals not following the proper traffic patterns to ensure everyone's safety. When in the parking lot, you must drive all the way around the lot; yes, it will take you one minute more but it is for the safety of our children. In addition, there are cones to designate the student drop off area which is the only place a child should be dropped off. Some don't want to wait in line and pull up along the cones and let their children walk across the cars. A second drop off door is being considered to quicken the wait time at drop off. Again, for the safety of our children, please use the designated drop off area within the cones. Mr. Geczik is making additional parking stalls behind the fence in the back of the school. This will ease parking concerns when there are special events. Cars will need to be removed before 10:30am however due to the starting of recess.

- Given the growing concern for adequate security in schools, the district is looking at the side door entry to Shelter Rock and whether or not it is the most appropriate. This will be dealt with by a District committee and decided upon.

- In order to prevent a child having to be brought back to school if their parent/caregiver misses the bus, consider choosing an "emergency bus contact." This could be a neighbor who you would feel comfortable with having your child released to by the bus driver until you can get there, should you be running late. A name, address and phone number will need to be listed on your emergency contact form for the fall.

CLASSIFIEDS

Children's Theatre Needs 2 New Co-Chairs:

Children's Theatre is a wonderful committee where theatrical productions of cultural interest are coordinated and staged for our children. Professional playhouse companies present the finest in theatrical displays for the younger residents of our town and their families. This year's productions included Season's Greetings Magic Show and Cinderella. We are looking forward to presenting two selections for the 2008-2009 school year, Nate the Great and Alice in Wonderland. This committee is truly representative of the pursuit for educational and engaging activities continuously sought after by the Manhasset SCA. If you are interested, please contact Sandy Demitroff <mailto:sdemitroff@aol.com>

Saturday Series Needs 1 New Co-Chair:

Saturday Series is an enrichment program presented for children in grades K-6 living in the Manhasset School District. There are two 8-week educational and recreational sessions offered on Saturday mornings at Shelter Rock Elementary School. Nearly 500 children combined attended Saturday Series! Some of the staple classes are Acrobatics, Model Building, Woodworking, Taekwondo, Junior Chefs, Chess, Spanish, Fencing, Cake Decorating, The Actor's Garage, Manhasset Idol and All Sports. With much success, new classes introduced this past year were Cheerleading and CSI Manhasset. If you are interested, please contact Sandy Demitroff <mailto:sdemitroff@aol.com>

STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

Teachers, administrators, staff and parent volunteers gathered for a terrific luncheon celebrating the SCA's appreciation for the wonderful staff at Shelter Rock!



FIELD DAY!

The First through Fourth Grades scored beautiful, sunny skies and perfect temperatures for their Field Days on May 28th and 29th.

The athletic events commenced at 8:45 a.m. and ran until about 11:00 a.m. The children competed in six events: four base kickball, never out kickball, basketball foul shooting, super hooper, beachball volleyball, triple crown kickball and crab soccer. Each child is assigned to either the blue team or the orange team. There is a winning team for each grade as well as an overall winning team. This year, the blue team was the overall winner.

Congratulations to all on another fun week!



CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR

4TH GRADE

GRADUATES!