

Swasey Central School Family Newsletter

August 1, 2007

Joan Ostrowski, Principal

www.sau16.org

Janet Hart, Assistant Principal

Meet Janet Hart, Our Assistant Principal

It is exciting to welcome Mrs. Hart to our school community. She brings with her enthusiasm for learning, a varied background in education, a wealth of ideas about curriculum and programming, and knowledge regarding instruction, assessment and technology. Most importantly, Janet has a deep understanding of and investment in children. Her approach to educational decisions is based on what is best for them.

Mrs. Hart earned her Bachelor of Arts from Lesley College with a major in human development and a minor in education. She continued at Cambridge College to earn a Master's Degree in Education and then completed the requirements for her certification as a school principal at Plymouth State University. She has taught at both the elementary and middle school levels in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Her most recent position was at Timberlane Regional Middle School as a Curriculum Coordinator and member of the Administrative Team. The Brentwood community will benefit greatly from her contributions to their children's education.

Mrs. Hart will begin her new position in mid-August. She will work closely with the staff and administration to ensure that the school year is challenging and that each child receives the support s/he needs to reach his or her full potential. Janet looks forward to meeting every member of our school community and becoming familiar with the school system and the broader Brentwood community. Be sure welcome her when you visit school!

Important Dates for Your Calendar

- **Monday, August 27th** - 'Meet and Greet' teachers and classmates, 2:15-3:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, August 29th** - The first day of school for students in preschool and 1st-5th grades. This is the first day of school for half of the kindergartners; the other half will attend on Thursday, August 30th.
- **Friday, August 31st and Monday, September 3rd** - Labor Day weekend, no school.
- **Wednesday, September 5th** - 'Parent Back-to-School' night for the parents of those in kindergarten, 4th, and 5th grades, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, September 6th** - 'Parent Back-to-School' night for the parents of those in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Monday, September 10th** - Brentwood School Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., SCS library.
- **Tuesday, September 18th** - Parent Faculty Group (P.F.G.) meeting, 6:30 p.m., SCS library
- **Wednesday, September 19th** - School pictures.

Please check this monthly newsletter and the event calendar on the SAU website regularly for updates on happenings at the school. And, glance at the new marquee sign, generously donated by the P.F.G., when you drive by the school. We will make every effort to keep it current!



School Hours and Drop-off and Pick-up Routines

The school hours for 2007-2008 remain 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Students riding busses enter the school through the front doors. Those being dropped off by parents enter through the rear doors to the west of the library once supervising staff is present at 8:35 a.m. Before and after school child care is offered onsite to families through the *Y.M.C.A. School's Out* program. To get information about this program or enroll a child, please call the Southern District Y.M.C.A. at (603) 642-3361. Children may not arrive at school prior to 8:35 a.m. unless they are enrolled in the *School's Out* program or are invited to attend another before-school activity by their teacher. Students arriving between 8:35 and 8:45 may enter through the rear doors, go to the main lobby, and remain there until dismissed by a staff member at 8:45 a.m.

Please do not enter the bus area in the front of the building between 8:15 and 9:00 a.m. or between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. as this interferes with bus arrival and dismissal. The rear lot is blocked off between 8:50 a.m. and 3:10 p.m. so that the children may safely participate in outdoor P. E. and recess activities. Parents picking up children at the end of the day may enter the lot at 3:10 and wait by the library doors for dismissal.

Parents may park in the west parking lot when picking up a child at the end of the morning kindergarten or preschool session or dropping off a child for the afternoon kindergarten session. In this case, parents should meet the child at or escort the child to the west-end side entrance where staff will be supervising the process. If a child arrives after 8:45 a.m., s/he must report to the main office for a pass. Any parents who are dismissing a child prior to the end of the school day should send a note and meet him or her in the office.

The answer to 'Who Am I?' is 36.

Entering the Building During School Hours

Physical changes have been made to the front entry over the summer to make the building more secure and safe. When you come into the school, you now have to enter through the office, sign in, and get a badge before being admitted to the classroom areas. All other outside doors remain locked during the day unless supervised.

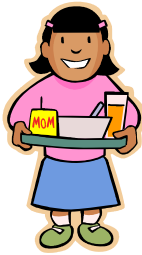
The 'Science Trivia' answer is: arm, ear, eye, gum, hip, jaw, leg, lip, rib, and toe.

Snack and Lunch Information

The Food Service Program has healthy snack items, milk, and juice available for purchase each morning. Lunch menus are sent home with students each month and are also available on the school website under the 'Current Events' tab. Student lunches must be paid for in advance. Weekly lunch money should be sent into school on Monday mornings.

The cost of purchasing items is:

Lunch (including milk)	\$2.00
Milk only	\$.40
Reduced lunch	\$.40
Snacks	\$.40



Forms to apply for free or reduced lunch may be requested at any time. Any information provided for this purpose is kept strictly confidential.

This is a good time to highlight the 'Wellness, nutrition, and Physical Activity Policy' that is in place due to federal government requirements. Students are presented with educational opportunities throughout the school year regarding healthy choices including formal instruction in health and physical education classes. School snacks and lunches will provide healthy choices for students. Although food brought from home by a child for his or her own consumption is excluded, any food provided to another student must meet or exceed the policy by being nutrient dense per calorie, low fat and low sugar, and of moderate portion size.

Although healthy snacks are always welcome for birthday or other celebrations, this is a good time to discuss alternatives with your child and his/her teacher. Most teachers would welcome you into their classrooms to read a story or share something special about your family or child. We continue to work together for a healthy learning environment. Please do not put the office staff or teachers in the uncomfortable position of having to tell a child that s/he cannot share the snack that you provided.

Guided Discovery

All of the boys and girls need time at school to socialize, eat a healthy lunch, get some exercise, and play safely. The essential question is "What must our students know in order to be a part of a cooperative and safe school community?" Research shows that children want a safe environment where they can have fun and learn. The social curriculum acts as a guide for student

behavior throughout the school day. Effective schools and teachers spend a great deal of time clarifying the expectations and rules for every situation.



This is the case at Swasey. The first weeks of the school year include instruction in the routines, expectations, and rules needed for success whether on an academic task or during more unstructured activities. Children at each grade level will review or learn the routines that are in place for the classroom, hallways, lunch room, and the playground. Each grade will view and discuss a PowerPoint presentation that was developed by one of our staff members with input from everyone who supervises any of these activities. The Guided Discovery takes a bit more time at the primary level than at the intermediate. Procedures, equipment, and games will be introduced, explored, and used. Once the children define and understand what is expected, they can and will be held accountable for their behavior. Ongoing exploration and review takes place throughout the school year.

Who Am I?

I am a two-digit number less than 84. The sum of my digits is 9. The ones digit is twice the tens digit. Who am I?

Source: www.whitehousekids.gov

Attention

Parent Notices and Important Information

Each week, students will bring home a 'Wednesday Folder'. This has proven to be an effective means of communication between school and home as it is routine and expected. These folders should be returned to the teacher the following day and may be used to send important information back to school.

Due to the rapid growth of our student population and the number of blended and dual families, only one folder per child will be provided and this will go home on Wednesday afternoon. Additional copies of notices are available in the school office. There are times when only one copy of something per family is sent with the youngest child attending Swasey.

Science Trivia

Name ten human body parts that are three letters long?

Source: www.google.com