

THE EXPLORER

A Publication for the Simon Lake School Community



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From the Principal's Desk

The 2008-2009 school year will soon be drawing to a close. As we all begin to enjoy the summer months, it is important to remember that although the summer provides a break from school, children need to continue to discover new learning.

Summer should be a time to continue to celebrate and enjoy leisure reading. It has been found that there is a clear relationship between the amount of independent reading students do over the summer and their improved academic achievement. Reading will not only help your child retain the skills gained this year, but will also help develop a love for reading for enjoyment. Plan a time in your child's day for shared and independent reading. Read with your child and have your child read to you. Visit the Milford Public Library with your child and have conversations about the books selected to read. As a parent, you play an important role in your child's education.

Congratulations to Darlene Koosa, Grade 5 Teacher, for being selected as Simon Lake School's Teacher of the Year! Also, congratulations to Helen Harrington for being selected Simon Lake School's and Milford's Paraprofessional of the Year and to Sean Lawless for being selected as Simon Lake School's Parent of the Year. We are very grateful for all that these individuals have done for our school community. They were honored at an awards ceremony on June 8th at 5:00 in the Parson's Government Complex auditorium.

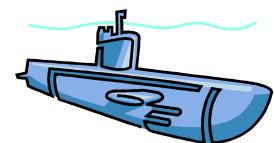
Our teachers and staff need to be commended for providing our students with the tools they will need to be successful next year. Thank you to Kim Roy and Darlene Koosa for their leadership with this publication. Congratulations to our fifth graders and good luck at the middle school. Thank you to the Simon Lake School community for all of your support during the year. I am looking forward to working together during the 2009-2010 school year, the 50th year that the Simon Lake Elementary School will be educating students! On behalf of the Simon Lake Elementary School staff, have an enjoyable summer.

Respectfully,

Donald Busca
Principal

Simon Lake Elementary School

Devonshire Road
Milford, CT 06460
203-783-3533



DATES OF NOTE

June 2009

Tue. Jun. 16
Kindergarten Celebration
(9:30am)

Wed. Jun. 17
"Read at the Beach" Day

Tue. Jun. 23
Early Dismissal

Wed. Jun. 24
Early Dismissal

Thu. Jun. 25
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! Early Dismissal

(First day of school:
Wed. Sep. 2 — full day)

The 2009-10 public school calendar can be found on the Milford Board of Ed website: www.milforded.org

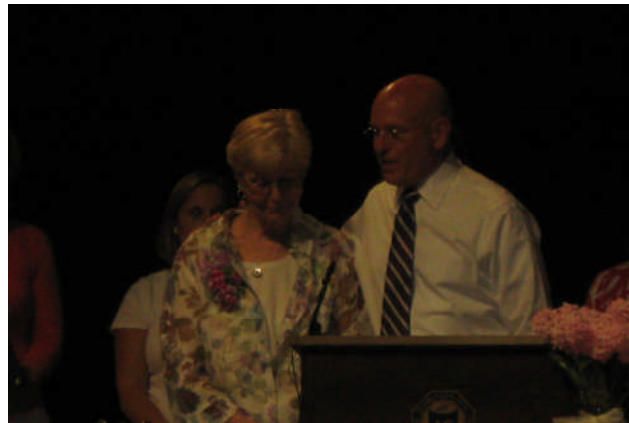
This is the last issue of The Explorer for this school year. Look for it next to appear in your email inbox in September. Have a great summer!

On Monday, June 8, 2009 the Milford Public Schools held its annual "End of the Year Celebration" at the Parsons Government Center to honor the Paraprofessionals, Parents and Teachers "of the Year" from each Milford public school. In addition, they held a special recognition for those who will be retiring at the end of this school year (including our own Mr. Stan) and bestowed a special "Partnership Award" to Mr. Dennis Guaglianone of the Milford Government Access Television. More than 200 people attended the event which was hosted by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Harvey Polansky and members of the Board of Education; Mayor Richitelli also spoke. Throughout the event, attendees were serenaded by music from the Jonathan Law High School Jazz Band.

This is usually the time of year when students and graduates are honored and it is a wonderful Milford tradition to also take time out to thank the educators and families who have encouraged and supported them along their way. Individually and collectively, these people make a difference in all of our lives.

**2009 Simon Lake School
AND City of Milford
Paraprofessional of the Year:
Mrs. Helen Harrington**

Right: Mrs. Harrington receives her District-wide Award from Simon Lake Principal Donald Busca who read a speech sharing with the others what we already know: how wonderful and dedicated Mrs. Harrington is!



**2009 Simon Lake School
Parent of the Year:
Mr. Sean Lawless (left).**

**2009 Simon Lake School
Teacher of the Year:
Mrs. Darlene Koosa (right)**



Statement of Compliance: The Milford Public School System does not knowingly condone discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in employment or assignments in programs or services provided by the Milford Board of Education. Dr. Harvey Polansky, Michael Cummings and Philip G. Russell are designated as the employees who will coordinate compliance with Title IX, Title VI and Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. They may be contacted by mail at the Milford Board of Education, 70 West River Street, Milford, CT 06460 or by phone at (203)783-3400. Questions, concerns or comments regarding possible discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should be made in person or in writing to the following: Regarding Facilities: Philip G. Russell, Deputy Superintendent of Operations; Regarding Employment: Wendy Kopazna, Director of Human Resources; Regarding Programs: Susan Kelleher, Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

PTA Corner

www.teacherweb.com/ct/simonlake/pta
email: simonlakepta@gmail.com

The PTA Board would like to thank the *countless volunteers* who helped make this year so successful! There are so many people to thank and not enough space on the page. Please know you have touched the lives of our children and the Simon Lake community is lucky to have you!

We would like to extend an extra big thank you to Heidi Rice for her valuable and outstanding commitment to our board over the last 2 years. Heidi will not be going far, as she will continue to organize our fall fundraiser and book fairs next year.

Meg Fiore has accepted the position of PTA Secretary. Congratulations Meg!

The PTA would like to send out a special acknowledgment to our Beautification Committee. The committee has spent many hours planting flowers on the school grounds and it looks wonderful! The extra flowers from the Mother's Day plant sale were donated to the Milford Animal Control.

On June 9, we held our annual Barnes & Noble night and again it was a lot of fun and a big success. We made close to \$600 for the school (on sales of nearly \$3000). If you read this before Tuesday June 16, you can still make a purchase and credit the school (just remember to tell them when you check out).

The membership voted in April to have a booth at Devon Day which is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th. We will need to plan for this event over the summer, if anyone is interested in helping, please send an email to simonlakepta@gmail.com.

NEXT PTA MEETING
Tuesday, September 8th at 7pm

Have a wonderful and safe summer vacation

From the Mind of Marchetti

I would like to give a great 'SHOUT OUT' to those volunteers who dedicated their morning on May 15th, 2009 to Jump Rope for Heart. This is a celebration that many students truly enjoy, and thanks to the time and energy of our volunteers, the event was a success yet again. The American Heart Association now has over \$2,000 that Simon Lake was able to raise to help fight heart disease and stroke. To the students at Simon Lake and all of their sponsors, thank you for the dedication and selflessness. And to the staff and teachers who adapted their morning schedules and were flexible enough to allow the event to run smoothly, thank you all.



A special OOOO-Vation is due to:

First to my Co-Chair from last year, Cheryl Lacadie - I cannot thank you enough for your time, effort, and organizational skills.

And to this year's 2009 volunteers: Tina Bowen, Sean Lawless, Karen Lubowicki, Heidi Rice, Michelle Scherback, Jane Twombly, and especially to my Co-Chair this year, Cynthia Trapp.

Have a happy, healthy and exercise-filled summer!

**With energy and enthusiasm from
your child's Physical Educator,**

Mr. Marchetti

Simon Lake School Turns 50!



Parents, we need your help in planning activities for Simon Lake's 50th anniversary next year. If you have an interest in landscaping, fund raising, event planning, art display, commemorative projects, etc., please email ccollins@milforded.org. We would especially like to hear from those of you who graduated from Simon Lake School, come and share your pride!

Guest Artist:

Author Tony Abbott

On Tuesday, June 2, the PTA hosted its last Cultural Arts event of the school year by bringing in prolific and award-winning children's author Tony Abbott. (In fact he just recently won another big national award two weeks before visiting with us.) Mr. Abbott gave three presentations that day — to kids in grades 5-4, 3-2 and 1-K — talking to each group about how he writes and what gives him inspiration. (At right Mr. Abbott shows the students an example of the kind of random photograph he comes across that triggers an idea for one of his stories). As part of his talk, he presented a slide show (below, left) illustrating aspects of his life and work and the craft of writing. He concluded each session with time for the students to ask him questions and also autographed copies of his books (below right) which the students had brought.

Mr. Abbott, who lives in nearby Trumbull, has only been writing professionally for 15 years and got the urge to do so while reading bedtime stories to his then small daughters. In this short time, he has published nearly 80 books — which have sold over 8 million copies worldwide and have been translated into Italian, Spanish, Korean, French, Japanese, Polish, Turkish, and Russian.

One thing which Mr. Abbott tried to impress on the students was that when they are hit with an idea at any time, they should write it down to use in a later story, because they might not remember it otherwise.

Hopefully, the excitement of meeting a real-life famous author will inspire some of our own students to continue reading and writing through the summer and beyond!

For more information about Tony Abbott, please visit his website at: www.tonyabbottbooks.com.

