



The Intermediary

March 2008 Issue

www.somersptacouncil.org

2007/2008 SIS PTA Officers

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Presidents' Report

Thank you for your support!!

We would like to thank all of you that took the time to sign and return the letters requesting the Governor not cut the School Resource Officer Program. From the "ton" of paper we received it is clear to us our community values the services of Officer Todd. Let's hope Albany listens to us. If you were unable to send in your letters by the March 14th deadline they are still posted on the PTA Council Website- click here (<http://www.somersptacouncil.org/COUNCIL/HOME.htm>). You can download them and mail them yourself.

We would like to thank our cultural affairs committee, chaired by Alice Shaw and Linda Verderame for arranging Theatreworks and their performance of "Anne of Green Gables". The Fourth Grade reviews are in and they had a wonderful time!!

This past month the PTA also sponsored the "Books & Beyond" program. We would like to thank all the committee members and volunteers who took time to support this wonderful program. We had a huge response from students and adults too. There was a lot of reading going on in Somers these past few weeks.

As promised last month, attached to this newsletter is the Nominating Committee form for next year's SIS PTA Executive Board and Committee Members. We urge you to consider volunteering. Working with the PTA has been a wonderfully rewarding experience for both of us. Come join us and be awed by all that goes on here.

(continued on page 2)

Entry deadline for the
April 2008 issue is
March 31st

Editors:

Christine Rewak-
Barankewicz
Gayle Mottola

Submit articles to:

ukrskier@optonline.net

gbdm@optonline.net



Presidents' Report (continued)

Please feel free to contact us with any of your questions or concerns. Just click on "Ask the Elephant" on our website and email your question or stop us in the halls.



See you in the hallways.....

Lynn Adams and Linda Graffitti
Co-Presidents

Fifth Grade Report

At this writing, the fifth grade is taking the NYS Math Test, thankfully it is the last state test for this year and we will now be able to turn our thoughts to spring. March and April will be a very busy time for our fifth graders, there are two really good programs coming to us from BOCES. The first will aide us with our goal of helping students with conservation, sustainability and the effects of our actions. It will include a hands-on activity and a kid-friendly power point presentation that will examine the way, through their choices, they can make a difference in how the earth's resources are used. The second program, Owl Pellet study, affords our students the opportunity to dissect an owl pellet and discover what their owl had for dinner as well as meet Suma, their resident ambassador owl.



March 20th will be our Freedom Train assembly from Theatreworks provided for us through the PTA. This program tells the story of Harriet Tubman – the Moses of her people – and her courage, dedication and survival against all odds.

April 1st the New Canaan Nature Center will be bringing their collection of birds of prey to our students. They will be able to observe several raptor species up close, while learning about their adaptations, behavior, ecological importance and natural history.

Just before Spring Recess, our students will have the opportunity to talk to and ask questions of the Middle School counselors as part of our program of helping to make the transition to SMS smoother and less traumatic.

Don't forget report cards will be going home on March 13th!

Julia Morreale and the Fifth Grade Teachers



Somers Education Foundation News



The 8th annual Somers Education Foundation Gala Dinner and Auction will be held at 7pm, April 12th, at Pinnacle Restaurant in Somers. We will induct the newest members of the SEF Hall of Fame! They are Lynn Adams, a school and community leader; SIS' own John Badini, a 4th grade teacher; and Richard Walker, a local business leader. They are being recognized for enriching the lives of our children through their service to the district and the town. There will be both a "live" auction and a silent auction with dozens of prizes! Tickets are \$100 per person and may be reserved by sending a check payable to SEF to Susan Kolar, 1 Titus Court, Katonah, NY 10536. Questions may be directed to Liz Olinto at 914-628-4290 or Kay Staplin at 914-666-8528.

SEF recently approved an Author's Day grant to fund the visit of an author to SIS.

Mark your calendar for the annual visit by the Harlem Wizards basketball team. The game will be held at 7:30 pm May 16 at SHS. Tickets will be available through the schools.

Please visit www.sefny.org for much more information on SEF and our activities.

Glenn R. Hintze

SIS Fixed Day Calendar

A, B, C, D, E, F? What "letter" day it is at SIS?!? Here's something to celebrate! You can find the answer by clicking on this link:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/siscalendar>

2007/2008 SIS Newsletter Deadlines

Are you a chairperson for an event that's coming up? Want to say a big "Thank You!" to your hardworking volunteers? Check out the deadline dates and send in a submission for *The Intermediary*!

Monday, March 31st

Friday, May 16

Please submit all entries in Word format - 200 words or less, to both of us.

Thank you!

Christine Rewak-Barankewicz ukrskier@optonline.net

Gayle Mottola gbdm@optonline.net

Newsletter Editors





THE PRIMROSE PTA

**PRESENTS, INVITES AND WELCOMES ALL TO A
CONCERT WITH:**

KEVIN BRIODY

WHEN: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

LOCATION: SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

The Primrose PTA has invited Singer/Songwriter, Kevin Briody to Somers to perform at Somers High School. This concert is open to any student from any of our schools – Primrose, SIS, SMS, and SHS and his/her family members.

Earlier this year, Mr. Briody came to Primrose to perform for and meet with the second grade classes. In meeting with the classes, Mr. Briody discussed with the students the art and craft of songwriting and how it relates to the writing process taught as part of the general curriculum.

Appointed by the Connecticut Commission on The Arts to promote literacy and the arts through music, Mr. Briody's songs focus on family values and finding the extraordinary in ordinary people and events. He is a National Endowment for the Arts grant recipient and has performed at The Kennedy Center, Fenway Park, as well as The Newport Folk Festival. His songs are singable and suitable for the whole family.

Please mark your calendars and join us for a **free** and fun evening of really cool songs.

In order to plan for this event, we are requesting that you complete the attached form below and return to the Primrose PTA Mailbox no later than March 28. Please mark your envelope: Primrose PTA/Kevin Briody Event.

Kevin Briody Concert, April 4, 2008

Name: _____

of people attending: _____

Ages of those attending: _____

Chair Join
Committee

- Bus Driver Appreciation** - Coordinate SIS flyers and collections for this event.

- Class Parent Coordinator** - Recruits class parents and grade level coordinators. (Forms are sent out in the fall)

- Council Delegate** – SIS representative to the PTA council; attends monthly council meetings

- Cultural Arts** — Arranges and implements a variety of cultural art programs and assemblies for all grades.

- Education Committee**- Meet with teachers to discuss any educational issues that may arise.

- Field Day**- Committee provides food and beverages to each grade on three different days.

- 5th grade T-Shirts**- Coordinates development, orders and distribution of T-Shirts for the Fifth grade class

- Gift Wrap**- Coordinates Fall fundraiser including collecting, placing and arranging pick up of the gift wrap orders.

- Health & Safety** - Promote, develop, and distribute information on health and safety as needed.

- Hospitality**- Arrange refreshments for the monthly PTA meetings.

- Legislation**- Reviews information from the State and Local PTA offices and reports to PTA unit.

- Membership** — Encourage parents, teachers, & staff to become PTA members; handle membership forms and distribute membership cards.

- Memory Book**- Coordinates publication of the SIS yearbook including photography, layout and printing.

- Mother/Daughter-Father/Son night**- puberty education activities for 5th graders and parents; committee provides refreshments and supplies for the evening.

- Mini-Grants** -Receives and evaluates teacher requests for Mini grants and presents them to the Executive Board.

- Newsletter** - Collect articles, creates and distributes monthly newsletter. The committee helps with copying and distribution.

- Note Cards**- Distribute blank note cards to students, collect finished art work, and distribute finished work.

- Parent Programs** — Arrange and publicize guest speakers to educate parents on topics of interest.

- Publication Center-** Coordinates volunteers to assist in publishing books for SIS student authors.
- Red Ribbon Week** — Represent SIS on this district-wide committee; coordinate and promote SIS Red Ribbon Week activities
- Reflections** -Coordinates Nation PTA arts program. Students are asked to create a work of “art” using predetermined theme.
- School Board Representative** — Attend monthly School Board meetings and prepare newsletter reports to the SIS community
- Site Based Team-** Meets as needed with administration to discuss any building related problems.
- SEPTA Rep.** - Liaison between the PTA and SEPTA
- Staff Appreciation Lunch-** Organizes food and volunteers for Spring event.
- Student Directory-** Compiles and distributes student directory in the fall.
- Student Pictures-** Coordinates student order forms, collection of money and day of the event activities.
- 4th Grade History Day-** Assists with 4th grade trip to Wright Reis homestead and distributes and collects costumes.
- Welcome Committee** — Welcomes new families to the SIS community

We look forward to working with you!