

Sedgwick Elementary School

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Dear Parents,

School begins on Monday, August 31! That's only a week away.

Since our last newsletter the weather has turned to summer and the staff of the school has been hard at work.

There's a lot of exciting things in the works for next year, so make sure you read the newsletters that are coming out. There will be numerous meetings with classroom teachers, the PTF, and parent forums as we work our September calendar. Of course, there will be fundraisers for various causes. The eighth grade class is going to be creating a depository for bottles and cans in the parking lot and sponsoring a bottle drive early on in September. Proceeds for both will go to support their class trip at the end of the year.

The new computer lab is almost ready. Our technology consultant, Michaela Baldwin, has been hard at work getting new computers installed and our recently hired technology coordinator, Larry Cassis has been working with her to ensure a smooth transition. Larry, who lives in Brooksville, has been teaching at Camden Area High School and Deer Isle-Stonington High School. He brings many years of experience to our school and we look forward to his contribution on the two days a week he'll be in school. It's great to have a new computer lab and computer person on board. Many thanks to all those who have helped (and will be helping) raise the money for this.

Along these lines, tables are available for the Second Annual Craft Fair. Advertisements have run in both papers and we're looking for craftspeople who want to display their wares in a community setting. Again, contact the office for information. The money raised will be used to support the technology program.

Soccer will begin on Wednesday, September 2. Steve and Lisa Theoharidis will again serve as coaches and will get a schedule out as soon as possible. In order to participate in soccer, students must be in grades 5-8, have had a recent physical, and a signed parental permission form. Information will be sent home on the first day of school.

Peninsula Metamorphic Arts and Learning is very excited to announce a new arts and learning enrichment after school program. Beginning September 8th at the Blue Hill Town Hall, we will offer Arts Playhouse, an after school program for children in elementary and middle school with three components: a healthy snack, homework help from 3 pm-4 pm, and an arts curriculum from 4 pm-5 pm. The arts curriculum is as follows:

Monday - Dance

Tuesday - Drama

Wednesday - Visual Arts

Thursday - Music

Friday - Exploring the Arts

The cost for the program is \$10 per hour. PMAL also has a sliding scale for families in need. To register or for more information, please call Amy Grant 479-6382. Amy is very flexible with time and there are ways the school can help with the cost of attending if that is a problem. We are also looking at

ways to get kids there, too.

Baba Kevin Campbell is interested in teaching another after school program in drums and percussion. If you're interested, let us know. These sessions will culminate in a concert here at the school.

We still need a parent to take charge of fundraising for a re-done school sign. Taking pride in our school has to begin with our entrance and our sign looks shabby. Please call me if you can help.

There are numerous events and meetings planned for the month of September. We will send out a school calendar the first week. Right now, however, you can mark September 15 for a fun Open House here at the school. Anne Dentino has again arranged for a Bounce House and ice cream sundaes. This was a very popular event last year. Classroom teachers are scheduling class nights for early in the school year, so look for news on those from the teachers.

The Peninsula Early Childhood Education Center (PECEC) is now enrolling 3, 4, and 5 year olds for the Child Care and Head Start program. They offer USDA approved meals and snacks, parenting support, and health services, among other things. Child care subsidies are available and Head Start is free. Sedgwick children have priority over others for placement. Please visit the PECEC classroom or call them at 359-2464 for more information or to receive an application. You can also visit them online at www.childandfamilyopp.org.

Knowing how sometimes our newsletters get 'lost' somewhere between school and home, I'll remind you that we can send out .pdf newsletters on your request. Simply e-mail me at the dbuckingham@msln.net and I'll put you on the list.

I'll again remind parents of how important it is to have kids at school every day and on time. We will be finding ways to reward students for being on time and in school 100% of the time. We want all kids to learn well and they can't do so if they are not here. Late students disrupt not only their learning, but all other students, too.

With this newsletter, parents of students in last year's grades 3-8 will receive copies of the Maine Educational Assessment results for the 2008-2009 school year. These are the tests given in March of last year. If you have questions about these results, please contact me at the school. I'll be happy to sit down with you and go over the report with you.

**Remember: School begins on Monday, August 31! That's only a week away.
Enjoy what remains of the summer!**

Sincerely,

Don Buckingham