

# Deep River Elementary School

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

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## Principal's Corner by John F. Pietrick, Ph.D.

### Deep River Elementary School Welcomes New Teachers & Staff

As we begin a new school year, we have had only a few changes to our staff.

**Jill Shakun** is joining our sixth grade team. Last year, Mrs. Shakun was one of our first grade teachers. Due to the vacancy which occurred when Dr. Austen accepted the position of assistant principal in Ledyard an opening had to be filled on our sixth grade team. Mrs. Shakun previously taught fifth grade at the John Wallace Middle school in Newington, Connecticut. Her past experience in the upper grades made her the perfect choice for our sixth grade opening. Mrs. Shakun has experience using a variety of assessment data to analyze student understanding and target individualized instruction. She holds a B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and an M.A. in Elementary Education from Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Connecticut.

**Angela Fachini** is joining our second grade team. Last year, Miss Fachini was our Spanish teacher at DRES. Miss Fachini holds K-6 certification and our second grade position was a perfect fit for her. Miss Fachini previously taught at the J. Milton Jeffrey Elementary School and the Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School in Madison, Connecticut. Miss Fachini holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut.

**Jacquelyn Courtmanche** is our new reading consultant. Jackie is filling the position which was held by Kristin Menard who accepted a reading consultant position and her children's elementary school. Mrs. Courtmanche holds a BS in Education from C.C.S.U. and a MS & 6th Year Certificate from S.C.S.U. Her background includes classroom teaching experience in Wallingford & Guilford, CT. Currently, She has been serving as a Literacy Coach and Trainer in the New Haven Public Schools. Mrs. Courtmanche is a familiar face to our K-3 teachers. Last year, Jackie presented a three hour professional development workshop to our Region 4 primary teachers.

**Mallory Coleman** is our new school psychologist. Mallory is filling in for this school year as Kara McKenna is on leave completing her Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut. Ms. Coleman holds a BA in both psychology & Crime, Law, & Justice from Pennsylvania State University and a MA & 6th Year Certificate from the University of Connecticut. Ms. Coleman is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Connecticut.

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## SPECIAL THANK YOU!

A special thank you goes to our custodial team led by Mr. Peter Waz. The team included: Brad Hardy, & Thapkey Tsering. Summer help included: Oliver Gregan, Max Evarts, Brandon Woodcock, & Ryan Cope.

Thank you for a job well done!

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## NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

Mrs. Kalapos, R.N. is available to assist students and parents M-F from 8:05—3:20 p.m. The school health office telephone number is 526-5319 Ext. 1. Please call to report student absences. You are encouraged to call Mrs. Kalapos with any questions or concerns you might have regarding your child’s medical needs.

Remember: Medication including “over the counter” (i.e. non-aspirin preparations) are given only with written authorization of the parent and physician or dentist on a designated form. Medication must be delivered in and dispensed from the original container clearly labeled with the name of the student, physician, and medication with directions for dosage and date of original prescription. All medication must be delivered to the school nurse by the parent or other designated person. Students are never allowed to carry medications—this includes inhalers used for asthma. Students who bring cough drops to school must leave them with the school nurse. Parents must also send a written authorization to the nurse giving permission for the cough drops to be dispensed by the nurse or certified staff member.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 30 & 31.....Teachers Return
- August 30.....Kindergarten Visit & Bus Ride
- September 1.....School Begins
- September 5.....No School—Labor Day
- September 15.....BOE 7:00 p.m.
- September 20.....DRES PTO 7:00 p.m. Sch. Lib.
- September 20 & 21.....School Pictures
- September 29.....No School—Rosh Hashanah
- September 22.....Fall Parent Night
- October 7.....Professional Development Day—  
NO SCHOOL

## DRES Bell Schedule

- 7:55 a.m. Five minute warning for AM before school duty
- 8:18 a.m. First Bell – School Begins
- 8:25 a.m. Tardy Bell
- 12:25 p.m. First Recess Ends (Grades 3 & 5)
- 12:55 p.m. Second Recess Ends (Grades 2 & 6)
- 1:20 p.m. Third Recess Ends (Grade 1 & 4)
- 3:00 p.m. Dismissal

Note: Some lunch times changed for the 2011-2012 school year due to the scheduling of our FLES classes.

### LUNCH – RECESS SCHEDULE

#### Grades 3 & 5

- Lunch 1 11:35 – 12:00
- Recess 1 12:00 – 12:25

#### Grades 2 & 6

- Lunch 2 12:05 – 12:30
- Recess 2 12:30 – 12:55

#### Grade 1 & 4

- Lunch 3 12:30 – 12:55
- Recess 3 12:55 – 1:20

## D.R.E.S. School Pictures

DATE:  
September 20th & 21st  
SAVE THE DATE

THANK YOU

for

Sending Postcards!

All postcards are displayed on the two bulletin boards outside the main office. Check out the “Hot” vacation spots for the summer of 2011.

Thanks again, Dr. Pietrick

**We are on the web:**

**[www.dres.k12.ct.us](http://www.dres.k12.ct.us)**

### Just a Reminder:

Parents may leave messages for any staff member simply by dialing their extension number. Remember, as soon as the opening message begins, you may dial 0 for the office or 1 for the nurse. Mrs. Maikowski and Mrs. Zupan can connect you to the specific voice mailbox you need if that is easier for you. A list of voice mailboxes is attached to this newsletter.

### Mark Your Calendar:

**Annual Summer Reading Breakfast will be held on the following mornings:**

**Grs. 1&2 October 4**

**Grs. 3&4 October 5**

**Grs. 5&6 October 6**

**Invitations will be sent home to parents whose children will be participating in the breakfast.**

### Next PTO Meeting:

September 20, 2011 7:00 p.m.

**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

Fall Parent Night

Scheduled for

Thursday, September 22

Specific schedule will be announced

In September

# Suggested Student Supplies for the Start of School

## **Kindergarten:**

Backpack (large size), sneakers (for gym class), art smock, nutritious snack, a change of clothes to keep in the cubby and a box of tissues, 2 glue sticks, please put child's name on clothing & backpack. Homework items: items should be available at home: pencils, crayons, scissors, glue, and paper.

Reminder: Milk payment – Choice 1 - \$45.00 for ½ school year\*

Choice 2 - \$90.00 for entire school year\*

Choice 3 – bring a drink from home in a safe container

Make checks payable to **D.R.E.S. Cafeteria**

## **Grade 1:**

4 glue sticks, 2 boxes of tissues, pencils, set of 12 coloring pencils, markers & pencil box (Mrs. Marion's class only).

Please note: Mrs. Vancini and Mrs. Kauffman have tables not desks - No pencil box needed. Please send the supplies for your child's table to share.

## **Grade 2:**

Pencils, eraser, markers, colored index cards, crayons, glue sticks, 2 boxes of facial tissues, and a pencil box.

Home Items: lined notebook paper, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, eraser & glue stick.

## **Grade 3:**

Students should have colored pencils, eraser, 12 pencils, 3 glue sticks, highlighter, 2 boxes of facial tissue, and post-it-notes. Please bring items to school to be donated for class sets.

## **Grade 4:**

A three-ring binder, box of crayons, glue sticks, highlighter, 8 pack of colored markers, a box of sharpened colored pencils, two boxes of sharpened #2 w/erasers, 3 pens, 1 black fine-point sharpie, mini post-it-notes (1 3/8" X 1 7/8"), and at least 2 boxes of tissues.

## **Grade 5:**

Pen (blue or black), small pair of scissors, several erasers, highlighter, large glue stick, manual pencil sharpener w/cap to collect shavings, colored pencils, box of sharpened pencils, 2 marbled composition books (100 pages), 1" binder, 100 page spiral notebook, set of markers, independent reading book, pencil box or bag, 2" X 4" post-it-notes, box of tissue, and a smile.

## **Grade 6:**

5 marble composition books, one 3 ring 2" binder w/5 dividers and a soft pencil case, a package of colored pencils, 1 pad of graph paper, and a box of tissues.

## **Important Health Room Information**

Many parents ask each year about the requirements for physicals in the elementary school. The following is a list of the timing of required physicals and some specifics regarding each one:

Before entering kindergarten, a complete physical, performed no more than 1 year before date of entry, must be submitted for the student documenting that all the immunization requirements are fulfilled. A list of the necessary immunizations is included in the kindergarten packet given to parents of incoming students. In accordance with state law, any student arriving at school without the proper physical and immunizations will be sent home.

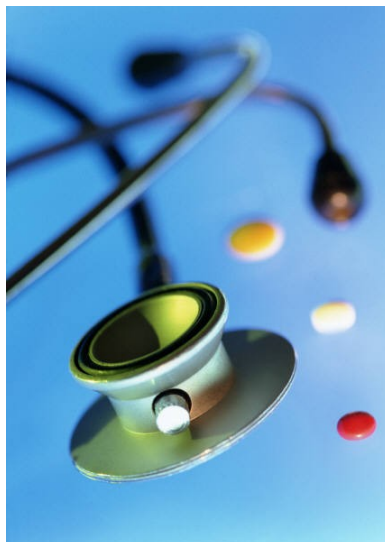
The Deep River Board of Education requires all students entering second and fifth grade to submit a physical dated within 1 year of submission.

Before entering 7th grade your student will need a new physical, and must show documented evidence of having had chicken pox or having had the chicken pox vaccine, 2 doses of MMR, and at least 1 dose of the Hepatitis B series.

Any student transferring from another school district must present a physical dated within a year of entry to D.R.E.S., and a record of required immunizations.

If you have any questions about the above information please call me at 860-526-5319 extension 1. You may leave a message on the answering machine and your call will be returned in a timely manner.

Mrs. Kathy Kalapos, R.N



**Central Connecticut Student Writing Project a Huge Success!**

This past summer (Monday, July 11—Friday, July 22) our school hosted the Central Connecticut Student Writing Project. Seven students in grades 4-6 participated in the project. Miss Brianne Oleksiw (Grade 5 DRES teacher) served as teacher and coordinator. The program was designed as a fun way to enable students to improve and expand their writing skills. From all accounts—the participating students had a great time. It is our hope that the program will be continued during the summer of 2012. If the program is a GO! - information will be sent home next spring. Thank you Miss Oleksiw for all of your efforts in getting the project started at DRES.

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**Cafeteria Floor Project Completed**

During the month of August, the DRES cafeteria floor was removed and replaced. The V and S Contracting Company from Hamden, CT completed the work in time for the start of school. The floor is applied in a liquid form. Our ocean theme now has a sand colored floor to represent sand on the ocean bottom. Plan to stop in and view the floor on your next visit to the school. A “HUGE” thank you goes to Dick Smith and the Town of Deep River for including this project as a capitol improvement for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

## Summer Reading Journals

Just a reminder! Don't forget to return your summer reading journals to Mrs. Schaedler in the library. Our goal was to increase the number of children participating in the Governor's Reading Challenge. During the summer of 2010, 75% of the students at the Deep River Elementary School participated in our summer reading program. Remember to return your forms ASAP. Our traditional Summer Reading Breakfasts will be held in early October. The sooner we can tally the numbers the sooner we can move ahead with plans for the breakfasts. Breakfast Dates: Grs. 1&2 Oct. 4, Grs. 3&4 Oct. 5, Grs. 5&6 Oct. 6.

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### CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Just a reminder!

Price Check— Milk 50 cents

Student Lunch \$2.75

Adult Lunch \$3.75

Free and reduced lunch forms are available in the school office. Parents requiring a form should call or stop into the school office and see Mrs. Zupan.

D.R.E.S. Cafeteria Update

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S CAFETERIA ACCOUNT

This is how to check your child's account:

1. Go into the school website: [www.dres.k12.ct.us](http://www.dres.k12.ct.us)
2. Click on Parent Resources
3. Click on Power School
4. Type in the User Name (sent to you in September).
5. Type in the Password (sent to you in September).
6. View your child's account

Any questions call our school office at 860-526-5319 Ext. 0

Reminder—Applications for Free or Reduced Lunches are available in the D.R.E.S. School Office.

The Deep River Elementary School offers a choice of healthy meals each school day. Children who qualify under U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines may get meals free or at a reduced price of \$.40 for lunch. All meals served meet nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**How do I get free or reduced price school meals for my child?** You can get benefits in one of two ways. You must either complete the free and reduced price school meal application and return it to the school, or bring in a letter from the Department of Social Services. If your total household income is the same or below the amount on the Reduced Price Chart (attached to this newsletter) your child may get either free meals or reduced meals.

Your child can get free school meals if you get food stamps, or a Temporary Family Assistance (TFA). The Department of Social Services may provide you with a letter that will automatically qualify your child for free meals. This letter must be brought to school, and can be substituted for completion of the application.

- **Households getting food stamps, or TFA.** You only have to include your child's name, case number and an adult household member must sign the application.
- **Households receiving medical benefits only:** You have to include the names of all household members, the amount of income each person received last month and where the income came from. An adult household member must sign the application and include his or her social security number.
- **Other Households:** If you DO NOT have a case number, you have to include the names of all household members, the amount of income each person received last month and where the income came from. An adult member must sign the application and include his or her social security number.
- **Household with children enrolled in the Head Start Program** should contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits.
- **Household with a foster child:** You must include the child's name, the amount of personal use income the child received last month and an adult must sign the application. Note: Subsidized adoptions and subsidized guardianships require the calculation of all household income plus the adoption / guardianship subsidy.
- **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. Citizen?** Yes, You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. Citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

**Can I apply for free and reduced price meals later?** You may apply for free and reduced price meals anytime during the school year. If you are not eligible now but have a change, such as a decrease in household income, an increase in household size, become unemployed or receive SNAP benefits or TFA, then you can choose to complete an application.

**ALL APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR SCHOOL OFFICE**

## Reduced Price Income Chart for School Year 2011-2012

Number in Family	Annual Gross Income	Monthly Gross Income	Every Two Weeks Gross Income	Weekly Gross Income
1	14,157	1,180	545	273
2	19,123	1,594	736	368
3	24,089	2,008	927	464
4	29,055	2,422	1,118	559
5	34,021	2,836	1,309	655
6	38,987	3,249	1,500	750
7	43,953	3,663	1,691	846
8	48,919	4,077	1,882	941
Each Add'l Family Member	+4,966	+414	+191	+96



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**Nicole Pollock** has been hired as our new .4 Occupational Therapist. Ms. Pollock holds a BFA from the University of Utah and a Masters in Occupational Therapy from Bay Path College in Longmeadow, MA. While at the University of Utah, Ms. Pollock studied abroad at the Institut de Touraine in Tours, France. Ms. Pollock is not a stranger to the Deep River Elementary School. Ms. Pollock completed her OT internship last year in our school with Mrs. Terry Tovey. She also is a graduate of the Deep River Elementary School and graduate of Valley Regional High School.

**Sara Benedetto** will be temporarily serving as our 3-6 FLES teacher. Our FLES teacher is scheduled to begin at our school in late September or early October. We are currently on hold until her completed paperwork arrives. Mrs. Benedetto is a retired FLES teacher from Madison. Last year, Mrs. Benedetto was a volunteer who assisted with some of our non-English speaking students. We appreciate her assistance and welcome her back to our school.

**Kerrie Gallant** has been hired as a para educator. Ms. Gallant has served as a reading interventionist in the Clinton Public Schools and a 1X1 instructional assistant with a 1X1 student in the LEARN program inn East Haddam. She holds a BA in Studio Art from E.C.S.U. and a M.Ed. In Elementary Education from the University of New Haven. Kerrie is replacing Jodi Azzinaro who returned to college to continue her education.

**Lynn Griffin** has been hired as our new cafeteria cashier. Mrs. Griffin has transferred to our school from her position at Valley Regional High School.

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A Special Welcome to our New Staff

New staff: Mrs. Jackie Courtmanche, Reading Consultant

Ms. Mallory Coleman, Psychologist

Ms. Nicole Pollock, Occupational Therapist

Mrs. Sara Benedetto—temporary FLES teacher

Mrs. Kerrie Gallant, Para Educator

Mrs. Lynn Griffin—Cashier / Cafeteria

**FALL OPEN HOUSE**

**Thursday**

**September 22**