

August/September 2013

Dear School of Engineering and Arts Families,

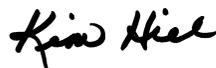
It is with pleasure that I welcome our new families and our returning families to the 2013-14 school year. The staff at SEA is excited and focused to provide your child with another year of exceptional learning and new experiences.

Our school is built on the idea of "What if?" We constantly research to see how we can think outside of the box and present our students with options that will increase their curiosity, problem solving skills and the opportunities for collaboration. It is critical to develop our students' innovative and entrepreneurial talents. By building an educational foundation on purpose and passion, we will be able to send our students from SEA with a creative mindset.

We thank you for your partnership in this journey. Allow your child to explore, discover and question. It is important to not always provide them with an answer right away. This will help promote an independent thinker who can think critically.

Thank you once again for sending your child to SEA. It is time for another great year.

Sincerely,



Kim Hiel

Principal

## SEA is Going Green!

You will notice a decrease in the amount of information that is included in your students' Thursday take home folder. Several items will be available on our web page at [www.sea.rdale.org](http://www.sea.rdale.org). You will receive an email notification when new items are posted online.

This will be the only Newsletter that will be printed as the remaining publications will be available under the Parent /Newsletter tab on the website. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the SEA monthly newsletter, please contact the SEA office at 763-504-7200.

You will also be receiving more information via our Messenger E-mail system. Please update your e-mail address with our office staff if a change is necessary.

## Change of Plans for your Child's End of Day?

As we begin the school year, we would like to remind parents and guardians to notify the school office by 2:45 p.m. of a change of a child's end of day plan. If we do not receive notification by 2:45p.m. the child will go to their typical end of day location whether that is the bus, parent pick up or Adventure Club.

## Birthdays

Robbinsdale Area Schools is committed to the health and wellness of its students. Birthday celebrations at school can provide a unique way to shift focus from unhealthy foods (cakes, candy, etc.) to celebrating the child. Therefore, Robbinsdale Area Schools discourages edible birthday treats.

**Students will not be allowed to bring treats from home to share with others due to an increase in food allergies and the negative effect of sugar on learning.** Thanks for your support on this policy change regarding birthday treats at SEA for the 2013-14 school year. We also ask to please not send birthday party invitations to be distributed at school.



## Using your Target RedCard to Donate Money to SEA

Are you a Target shopper? Do you have a Debit or Credit Target Red Card? If so, we'd like to encourage you to register that card with Target's *Take Charge of Education* program. In doing so, every time you make a purchase at Target not only will you continue to receive 5% off your total purchases, SEA will receive a donation of 1% from Target of your total purchases. We use these funds to decrease costs of field trips, purchase equipment for our E Lab, add more apps to our iPads, develop our school grounds for outdoor learning and so much more. Follow this link to register your card with the program and start helping SEA earn more donations - <http://goo.gl/STQR8a>

## How SEA Starts the School Year

We do things a bit differently at SEA and if this isn't obvious already, it will be a couple weeks into the school year. You might hear your student talking about his or her SEA Notebook, the World's Largest Classroom, the Wonder Wall, questions and observations, the E Lab and many other terms and ideas that may need deciphering by the classroom teacher. We teach with Divergent Thinking in mind allowing for more creativity and a focus on the process and not always the ONE answer to a problem. Mistakes are acknowledged. Questions are celebrated. Experiential learning happens.

You'll notice content specific themes emerging within the different grade levels throughout the school year. These themes coincide with the MN Department of Education state standards. By making them theme focused instead of lesson specific, we are able to utilize integrated instruction allowing for authentic learning. For example in Kindergarten, themes will focus on animals, plants, weather and seasons. In First Grade, the themes include animals and rocks and soil while in Second Grade the themes focus on plants, force and motion and weather. In Third Grade, themes emphasize mirrors, sound, animals and plants while in Fourth Grade themes concentrate on water, electricity, and the interaction between technology and humans. Finally in Fifth Grade, themes include habitats, simple machines, environments, and systems as a whole. Throughout their years at SEA, students will be exposed to many additional topics and processes that focus on engineering and art design and scientific processes.

## Welcome to the SEA-cret Forest!

We are excited to share that at the August 19th Robbinsdale school board meeting, SEA's school grounds became an official MN DNR School Forest. Our wooded areas will hence forth be known as the SEA-cret Forest. By partnering with the DNR through this program, we are eligible for a DNR Forester to assist our students and staff in creating a land management program for the area (aka ban the buckthorn!), grant opportunities, staff trainings, and equipment to enhance scientific understanding of the area. If you're interested in being a part of the School Forest Committee at SEA, please contact Cara Rieckenberg. Meetings will be held monthly at SEA before school. Dates to be determined. Learn more about the MN DNR school forest program - <http://goo.gl/DDvIUJ>

## Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Use of personal cell phones and personal electronic devices are not allowed during school hours by students. Bringing any of these devices to school is at the student's risk. The school personnel will not be responsible for investigating lost or stolen items. Misuse of any District owned electronic device may result in disciplinary action.

## Nitro gets his own e-mail address!

Students, do you have an idea you want to share? Did you think of something cool you'd like to try? Do you have any questions that you'd like to ask Nitro?

Here's your chance! You can send Nitro an e-mail at [Nitro\\_sea@rdale.org](mailto:Nitro_sea@rdale.org).

(Now this could be fun!)



## Volunteers Help SEA in Many Ways!

Our first year of existence certainly would not have been as successful without all of our volunteers. SEA volunteers assist with a variety of tasks from gardening to one-on-one reading with students to preparing materials for instruction to ... Last year, in addition to the numerous parent volunteers, we had ten VIP (Volunteers in Partnership) folks who are not parents of SEA students but include grandparents and neighbors of SEA who contributed 623 hours of volunteer service collectively. We also had just over 20 different speaker volunteers come share their STEAM-related jobs and passions with our students to show how STEAM is applicable to real-life situations. As we continue to expand our programs, we need volunteers now more than ever! Wondering how you can help out? There are many ways!

Do you have a STEAM-related job or passion? Would you be willing to share how you apply STEAM to real-life situations with students? If so, follow this link (<http://goo.gl/HFNb2K>) to complete a form. When the need arises for a speaker or demonstration with your knowledge and/or talents Cara will contact you.

As a new school with a unique focus, we need a lot of assistance in cutting, filing, and organizing items as we are creating a many field guides, lessons and activities to enhance instruction. This can be done at school or sent with your child to be done at home. If you can help fill that need, follow this link (<http://goo.gl/fLP3vh>) to complete a form and Cara will be in contact when assistance is needed.

Our PTA helps fill volunteer spots at SEA as well. You can utilize a web-based program, VolunteerSpot, to sign up for volunteer opportunities. These opportunities are kept up to date at <http://goo.gl/6sNMta>

If you are not a parent of a SEA student, but would like to volunteer or know someone who fits this bill, please encourage them to contact the VIP program so they can also be a part of the SEA Volunteer Crew. You can get a form at their main web page (<http://goo.gl/tU19DB>) or contact the Program Coordinator, Jill Kaufman at 763-504-6991.

## Native Garden Needs Plants

With the autumn season quickly approaching, it's almost that time to clean up your gardens and get them ready for the winter season. If you're going to be splitting plants or getting rid of some, we are hoping to add the following plants to our Native Garden along the front walk. If you have a good connection with a nursery, often times they will donate any of their unused smaller sized plants to schools as they usually just dump them at the end of the season. Please ask around. Plants can be brought to school at any time and left by the water drain near the front entrance. Our students will work on getting them in the ground. Here is the list of plants we need:

Asters  
Coneflowers  
Blazingstars  
Cup Plants  
Goldenrods  
Butterfly Flowers  
Lobelias  
Black-eyed Susans  
Bluestem  
Switchgrass  
Indian Grass  
Sideoats Grama  
Dropseed  
Swamp Milkweed  
Penstemons  
Columbines  
Sedums (all types)



## Infinite Campus Family Information Account Registration and Login

To register for an account go to: [www.rdale.org](http://www.rdale.org)

- Click on the Parents tab at the top of the page
- On the left menu bar click on "Family Information Access"
- Under the Infinite Campus portion of the page click on to "Request a Family Information Access Account"
- Fill out the form (completely) that appears

At the bottom of the page click on send message

You will then be set up with an account and emailed with your username and password, please allow one to two days to process your request.

### To log in to your Infinite Campus Family Information Account

Go to: [www.rdale.org](http://www.rdale.org)

- Click on the Parents tab at the top of the page
- On the left menu bar click on "Family Information Access " under the Infinite Campus portion of the page click on "To login to your family access Infinite Campus account"
- Then enter your username and password that has been emailed to you. Please note that usernames are not case sensitive and passwords are (lower case only, 6 to 12 characters, letters and numbers only).

To login to the teacher web pages follow the directions on the right side where it says Schoology.

\*\*Please note that your Schoology page will be active next day.

Schoology Teacher web pages use the same username and password, all passwords are lowercase. Read the Schoology portion on the Family Information Access page for how to log in to them. Your Schoology accounts will be active after the over night process.

The Family Information Access Accounts are available to all parents who have children in the district in grades K thru 12. Only one account is needed per family, all children in the district will appear on the same account.

Once you have received your Username and Password make sure and add the web address to your favorites and go to the "contact preferences" button and make sure that your current email address is in the system. To change your password click on "account management", you will then use your new password the next time you login.

We hope that you enjoy using your Family Information Access Account. Thank you

## School Patrols

School patrols will be on duty each morning from 8:55 to 9:15 a.m. at the corners of Olympia and Kelly and the school driveway and Kelly. Patrols will also be patrolling immediately after school at the same locations.

In the event of severe weather patrols will not be on duty.



## From the Media Center

Welcome back, returning SEA students and families; and Welcome to our new additions to SEA! I hope you all had an amazing summer and are ready to greet fall and the new school year with excitement and energy!

We have a change in the Media program this year. 1st-5th grade students will have Media for a 50-minute block instead of a 30-minute period each week. Additionally, all grade levels will continue to have the opportunity to check out books on a weekly basis. This will allow for more in-depth exploration into technology tools, media arts projects, book talks, read-alouds, etc.

Hopefully you have all been reading this summer and enjoying many good books!

Every year, many elementary MN libraries will host a Maud Hart Lovelace Award event. This year, we will kick off the Maud Hart Lovelace Awards early. This is an opportunity for students to read the nominated books and vote on their favorite. The results are calculated statewide and the winning author is selected by students. After Spring Break, the author is announced and a celebration is planned. We have not acquired all of the titles yet, but will do so throughout the year. You can also check them out at your local public library or search at Half Price Books. The contest has been traditionally for 3rd grade and up; however this year, there is an expanded contest, to include a Star of the North Award, which is for grades K-2 (see all titles below).

### Star of the North (grades K-2) [www.starofthenorthaward.org](http://www.starofthenorthaward.org)

- • • • Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man by Michael Chabon • • • • •
- Balloons Over Broadway by Melissa Sweet
- Bear Has a Story to Tell by Philip C. Snead
- Blackout by John Rocco
- Day Dirk Yeller Came to Town by Mary Casanova
- Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett
- It's a Tiger by David LaRochelle
- Neville by Norton Juster
- Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin
- Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps by Jeanette Winter



### Division One (grades 3-5) [www.maudhartlovelace.org](http://www.maudhartlovelace.org)

- Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea
- Cinderella Smith by Stephanie Barden
- • • • Close to Famous by Joan Bauer • • • • •
- Klipfish Code by Mary Casanova
- Mike Stellar: Nerves of Steel by K. A. Holt
- Milo: Sticky Notes and Brain Freeze by Alan Silberberg
- Night Fairy by Laura Amy Schlitz
- One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
- Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper
- Quarterback Season by Fred Bowen
- Trouble with Chickens by Doreen Cronin
- Turtle in Paradise) by Jennifer L. Holm

Looking forward to amazing year of exploration and discovery.

## News from the Kinesiology Lab

Mark your calendar for Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. SEA is having a **1 Mile Family Fun Run/Walk** and you are all invited! Starting the school year off with a sound body and mind is important. All family members (parents/guardians and siblings) are encouraged to come run/walk with us. There will be a short assembly at 2:00 PM in the kin lab followed by our run/walk. We will be running/walking on school grounds and possibly around the neighborhood. We hope that you will be able to come join us in this event. It is so important to educate our children about the importance of physical activity and what a great way to show them that by modeling it.

\*Mr. Luu is also looking for about 10 parent volunteers who will help with safety monitoring. You will be stationed around the 1 mile course to help with directing runners/walkers where to go. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please email me at [tom\\_luu@rdale.org](mailto:tom_luu@rdale.org) or call Mr. Luu at 763-504-7234.

We will also have a monthly school wide physical fitness goal this year and parents/guardians/staff are encouraged to also participate in those goals. Mr. Luu will post the monthly goals on his website and also send home a newsletter. Please encourage your child to work on those goals by doing it with them.

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### Here is September's Physical Fitness Goal :

Students/families/staff will be able to run a mile.

Challenge: Can you run/walk 1 mile or more 3 times a week?

Why running? Running is a great way to help improve your cardiovascular endurance (*I wonder what cardiovascular endurance is?*). It not only helps your heart and lungs become stronger but also has other benefits (*I wonder what other benefits can be get from running?*).

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### Proper footwear for PE class

An important reminder: Please have your child wear proper shoes for PE class. Please have them bring a pair and leave it in their locker at school. We will be doing a lot of physical activities and it is important that students are able to move around safely. Dress shoes, flip flops, crocs, sandals, hiking boots, boots, and any open toe footwear are not the best to wear while engaging in physical activity. Thank you for your help in making sure that your child comes to PE class prepared for learning.



Mr. Luu  
Kinesiology Lab

## Clip and Save Programs

Clip-and-save programs are school-corporate partnerships in which parents, students, staff redeem product labels or other proof of purchase for cash or products. SEA will be participating in 6 programs as we start the 2013-2014 school year. Many of you have already been collecting over the summer and are looking forward to dropping your items off at school. The collection bins will be located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor just outside the office. If you haven't been building your collection over the summer, play "I Spy" in your cupboards/pantries with your child to determine if you have any of the labels or proof of purchases needed for the 6 Clip-and-Save Programs. For more information on each of the programs a website has been provided in the information below or you may contact the SEA PTA Fundraising Committee at [SEAPTAFundraising@gmail.com](mailto:SEAPTAFundraising@gmail.com).



### **Box Tops for Education**

Be a Box Tops For Education HERO. Here are three easy, everyday ways you can help:

**Clip** – Clip the Box Top from hundreds of participating products and send them to school. Each is worth 10¢ when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education.

**Shop online** – Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace ([www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace](http://www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace)). Up to 15% of your purchase total is automatically donated to our school, at no additional cost to you. Plus, you'll get exclusive Box Tops deals and discounts!

**Sign up** – It's easy and free. Sign up to support our school at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com), where you can:

See how much our school is earning with Box Tops

Enter online promotions for chances to win Bonus Box Tops and other prizes



### **Campbell's – Labels for Education**

Our school can earn free educational merchandise by saving Campbell's – Labels for Education. All you have to do to participate is clip and save all UPC's from participating products. The UPC's are worth 1 point, 5 points or 10 points. Not all Labels for Education will show a points value. All Labels for Education that do not state a point value are worth 1 point each.

To view a full list of eligible products and point values visit [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com).

### **Tyson Project A+**

Each Tyson Project A+ label is worth 24¢ for our school. All you have to do to participate is clip and save the entire Project A+ label from participating Tyson products.

To view Full List of Tyson Project A+ Products visit -  
<http://www.tyson.com/projectaplus/products/default.aspx>

### **Loaves 4 Learning**

Each UPC from Country Hearth and Village Hearth UPCs are worth 5¢. All you have to do to participate is clip and save the UPC.

To view a full list of Loaves 4 Learning products -  
<http://www.loaves4learning.com/eligible-products/>

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### **My Coke Rewards**

Our school can earn free educational merchandise by donating My Coke Rewards points. There are two ways to earn: 1) Turn your My Coke Rewards in at school or 2) Enter your My Coke Rewards online, select School of Engineering and Arts and click Donate.

To view a full list of eligible products and points values visit  
<http://www.mycokerewards.com/participatingBrands.do?WT.ac=mnuHI>

### **Funding Factory**

Saving Ink Jet and Toner Cartridges at home and at work to be recycled? Bring the cartridges to school or register your business. By registering your business, your business will receive FREE prepaid UPS shipping labels so all you need to do is box up the ink jet and toner cartridges and leave them for the next UPS pick up. If you work for a company that may be interested in supporting SEA, please call FundingFactory at 1-888-883-8237. Give the customer service representative our school ID #314588 and they'll set you up to support our account. It's that easy!

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## Notes from the Health Office

We are excited to meet new families and see familiar faces at SEA. The coming school year brings excitement and new challenges for us. The health office has a nurse and a health assistant, the health assistant is at SEA all the time and I am also at Neill and Noble Schools. I am always available by phone and am in close proximity to come to SEA if needed.

All medication including over the counter medication require a health professional's authorization and guardian permission to be given at school. Occasionally we have found unidentified pills on the bus or at school and to keep everyone safe all medication should be dispensed through the health office. We also appreciate knowing if your child has a health condition or is on medication, since that helps us in providing quality service to your child. • • • • • • • • • •

Vision and hearing screening will be done on October 29 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. For children who do not pass this we will do a rescreen on December 17. Parents looking for a fun filled adventure are invited to help me at vision and hearing screening. Let me know if you are interested, you can reach me at 763-504-7205. Parents can work part of the day or a full day and rumor has it there will be treats.

In order to keep our community of learners as healthy as possible, children with diarrhea, vomiting, and fevers over a 100 should stay home. Children may return to school when they have not had diarrhea, vomiting and had a normal temperature for 24 hours. Throughout the school year we frequently see cases of strep throat; occasionally we see some lice and pink eye. Washing our hands is effective and relatively easy way to help keep us healthy.

I am looking forward to another school year with you.

Colleen Werdien, RN, LSN, MPH, SEA School Nurse

## Adventure Club

SEA Adventure Club is ready for another great year. Our experienced staff are excited to see both returning and new families. We look forward to providing fun, safe, and enriching care before and after school.

We provide care before school starting at 6:30 am and after school until 6:00 pm. We are also open winter break, spring break, any most non-school days. If you have any questions, contact the site at 763-504-7215.

Melissa, Nicole, Carrie, & Paul.

## Parking

Please use the south side lot. Drop off your student at the curb with the sign that states "drop off area" on the side of the building (by south lot). For safety reasons, all students should exit the car on the passenger side. Please DO NOT park in the lot by the fields during arrival and dismissal times – our buses park in this area. Safety is of utmost importance, so please use the designated crosswalks.

## Parent Handbook Error Correction:

The listing for our Kindergarten Teachers e-mail were not included in the Parent/Student handbook.

Here is contact information for these teachers.

Mary McLaughlin                      mary\_mclaughlin@rdale.org

Julie Pitkin                              Julie\_pitkin@rdale.org

## SEA PTA News & Events

We are very excited to kick-off our second year and see the many new faces at SEA. We have some fun events planned to make this another memorable year. To celebrate the first day of school, the PTA will be serving coffee and donuts at the playground north of SEA just after drop off on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### SEA PTA Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9:15am – Coffee and Donuts

Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Fall Fundraiser Kick-Off

Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – PTA Meeting – 6:30pm – 8pm

Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> – Fall Fundraiser Ends

Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Wear Sales Begin

Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – Dine Out Night – Dairy Queen (Plymouth) – 6pm – 8pm

### SEA PTA Membership

We are hoping that each and every parent will take the opportunity to join our PTA to support our efforts. Beyond the \$10 membership fee, when you involve yourself in your child's school, children have higher grades and standardized scores, improved behavior at home and school, and better social skills and adaption to school. The benefit to your child is only surpassed by the benefit to all the children in the school to see a community of parents and teachers who care about them and want to be involved in their education. The children in this school will be the future of our community, and there is nothing more important than giving them every opportunity to succeed. No one will be denied membership based on financial ability; request a membership confidentially via the SEA PTA email ([SEAparentteacher@gmail.com](mailto:SEAparentteacher@gmail.com)).

### SEA PTA Meetings

**Why attend meetings?** Come to meet other parents, to keep current on school issues and association planning and to contribute to PTA decisions. Paid member or not, we will always seek and value your input on decisions. Our meeting schedule is listed below and is posted on the website, and we ask that you attend at least two meetings this year.

#### PTA Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm – 8pm

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm – 8pm

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30pm – 8pm

Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm – 8pm

Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm – 8pm

All PTA meetings will be held in the Multipurpose Room at SEA. Childcare will be provided for all PTA Meetings, we look forward to seeing you there.

### Your 2013-2014 PTA Board Officers:

President: Rob Plahn ([rplahn@gmail.com](mailto:rplahn@gmail.com))      Vice President: Beth Karges ([eakarges@aol.com](mailto:eakarges@aol.com))

Treasurer: Holly Harms ([hharms82@gmail.com](mailto:hharms82@gmail.com))

Secretary: Tiffany Hendrickson ([Hendrickson.tiffany@gmail.com](mailto:Hendrickson.tiffany@gmail.com))

SEA PTA email: [SEAparentteacher@gmail.com](mailto:SEAparentteacher@gmail.com)