



Roger Sherman Elementary

April 2010

Principal's Corner

L. Moss

We are now nearing the end of the school year and getting ready to prepare for next year, the summer, and end of the year activities. There are many events set to take place at Sherman in the upcoming weeks, including preschool graduation, the third grade recorder concert, 5th grade promotion, DARE graduation, the TPT family picnic, and PBS Field Day. In order to help with many of these events you can help by volunteering, attending as many as you can, and by reading notices sent home.

The TPT needs your help. Please consider volunteering for the end of the year picnic on June 4th. We need many volunteers to make this end of the year event a success. Some of the activities you could help out with are: Cooking, Ticket Collection, and Field Games. You will hear shortly from your child's teacher and the TPT as to how you can help.



Recently, there has been a form sent home on pink copy paper requesting that you indicate what school your child will attend next year. It is important that you fill the form out and return it to the office so we can better prepare class lists for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year.

Lastly, please be considerate of the people living on Liberty Street, by keeping your car radios at a reasonable volume. Also, parents of walkers should reinforce to their children to respect the property of others by keeping off of the lawns and not to pick flowers. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Pre-K and Kindergarten

S. Conway, M. Rarey,
K. Nitkowski, R. Natcher

Thank you to everyone for their wonderful support with our Smencil sale as well as a generous field trip gift from the Teachers and Parents Together (TPT) organization, we were able to take all 4 APPLE preschool classes to an all day trip to Mystic Aquarium on April 6th and 7th. We had wonderful parent chaperones and, **thanks to them**, everyone was able to have a fun, safe, enjoyable, and educational time. Both days were absolutely

gorgeous weather, and the children were able to see all kinds of ocean creatures including clown fish, an octopus, all sorts of rainbow fish, fish that glowed in the dark, and many more. We were able to actually touch little brown sharks (rough skin), stingrays (smooth skin), sea stars (bumpy skin), and hermit crabs (shy).

We attended a sea lion show and got to see their brand new sea lion named Jetty. He is only 1 1/2 but he can already do some pretty amazing tricks for a baby! We sang our Baby Beluga song to the Beluga whales, and they smiled at us. The penguins were swimming around like crazy because it was such a warm day. In fact, we were wishing we had brought our bathing suits so that we could have joined them! What a perfect field trip we had!

Now that we are back from our field trip and spring is upon us, we will be getting outside more to look for signs of spring. In these last few months of preschool, we will be making the last push before kindergarten to learn all of our letters and letter sounds, our numbers, how to write our names, and all the other important skills we need to know for next year.

The preschool teachers would like to thank all the parents for attending the parent/teacher conferences and for supporting your child's learning at home. You really do make a difference!



Jiesalea and Maribel get up close and personal with the octopus"

Kindergarten students have been working diligently on improving their reading skills. They have been practicing short vowel sounds to help them decode unknown words, such as "crab" or "frog". They also have been practicing reading words that are difficult to decode. These words are known as sight words, since they need to be recognized by the way they look, not by "sounding them out". Some of these words include "what", "could", and "about". Many students have mastered the list of kindergarten sight words and are now working on reading the first grade list! In addition, students continue to improve comprehension skills by retelling a story in their own words. They pay careful attention to characters, setting, and the sequence of events in the story. The story becomes more meaningful to them if they are able to make

a connection to something in their own lives.

In mathematics, students are learning basic addition and subtraction. We are using tally marks, small objects, and even fingers to assist as we learn sums and differences. Students will also get more practice with addition and subtraction in their weekly homework assignments. Soon the end-of-the-year testing will measure how much the kindergarten students have learned. We hope the first grade teachers will be pleasantly surprised!

First Grade

**A. Weaver, W. McKay,
B. St. John, K. Kalber**

As we dive into third term we would like to celebrate all of the many successes that students have achieved! We had the opportunity to celebrate these successes by having a candy hunt to celebrate Spring! Students were able to hunt for treats out in our back field. They had a wonderful time working together and sharing their treasures. Hard work always pays off!

Returning from a beautiful vacation will be followed by having an "on-site" traveling farm show make an appearance during the week of April 19th. Students will learn about agriculture as they participate in games and hands on activities. Students will be involved in virtual farm products while they learn where their food comes from. This will lend itself nicely to learning about planting seeds

and Earth Day which is April 22nd!

The first grade students have been diligently focusing on reading fluently and making text to self, text to world and text to text connections. The DRA2 test will be coming up again and we really need your support in asking your child to read and retell text at home. To strengthen comprehension, it is also important to ask your child to reflect upon text by explaining their favorite part or the most important fact that they learned. Any additional support in meeting our reading goals will be very much appreciated by your child.

Math has been very exciting! We shared authentic connections to food and baking while learning about fractions. We also used number lines to add and subtract. Some classes even used a jumping number line to practice this strategy! As we move forward we need to be sure to practice our addition and subtraction facts as they are the foundation to many higher level skills to be mastered.



As the days seem to get sunnier and brighter we shall move toward the end of the school year on many positive notes. Our children have come so far and continue to move forward. Get outside and sit with your favorite book.

Take a walk to Les's and let your child count the money and receive their special sundae! As the flowers and trees begin to come to life again our children are the same, always growing and always learning.

Second Grade

K. Baransky, A. Jensen,
J. Crouse, A. Sharnick

The Second Graders surpassed our expectations of our author's message data goal. 84% of students are able to identify the author's message in a story and explain their thinking using evidence from the story. Our next goal is for students to be able to make a connection to a story by connecting to the character's feelings. You'll see what we expect in homework soon.

In Social Studies, students have been learning about our community - Meriden. Students have learned about Meriden from before it was a town, to the present. Students created a timeline of Meriden's history. Students also identified their favorite places in Meriden and described why these places were their favorites.



In Math students are able to add and count different coin combinations. Students need to continue to practice counting coins at home to further improve their

money skills. From money, we next went to fractions. Students were able to identify fractions such as one-half, one-third, and one-fourth. Students were able to create their own pizza fractions and fractions of sets. Students have recently begun to work on telling time. Students should practice telling time to the hour, half hour, and five minutes. You can help at home by asking students what time it is and having them tell time using an analog clock.

Third Grade

B. Higley, A. Bryers,
K. Wilson, B. Cabell

The third grade students have begun their last theme, Celebrate Our World, in their anthology. They have read a poem called I'm in Charge of Celebrations and Alejandro's Gift, a story about a lonely man living in the desert and how a water hole changes his life. The students will be reading three more nonfiction books in this theme. Students have been working on telling and writing summaries. When your child is reading at home, you can help your child's reading comprehension by asking them to summarize what they have read. Their summary should be about six sentences long. The summary should include information about the main character, the main events, and the problem and solution.

In math the students have completed a unit on problem solving. They used addition, subtraction, multiplication and

division to solve word problems. Remember to encourage your child to continue to practice addition, subtraction, as well as multiplication and division facts. Ordering numbers and place value up to 10,000 is the current focus in math.

In writing students are working on a nonfiction project about pioneers. They have been reading nonfiction articles about families moving west in the early 1800's. Students are paraphrasing facts, writing the information read in their own words, to create a research project. Ask your child what they have learned about life back in the early 1800's.



Because the students had read Balto, the Dog Who Saved Nome by Margaret Davidson earlier in the school year, they will be treated to a presentation by Ka-Bi's Siberian Huskies. Kathy and Bill will be visiting the third grades on Monday, May 3rd to teach students about Husky dogs and dog sledding. The program was originally scheduled for Friday, April 9th but had to be postponed due to rain. The students are very excited about the program and will learn much about the dogs and dog-sledding.

A great big **Thank You** to all who purchased "Candy-Grams"! Students at Roger Sherman enjoyed sending lollipops with messages to their friends. They also loved receiving them. The fundraiser was very successful and earned funds that will be used toward the third grade fieldtrip to the Norwalk Aquarium in June.

Fourth Grade

A. DiGennaro, K. Fedora, F. Wagner

With the return from April Break, we are now in the home stretch until the end of the school year. We have just begun our last theme, entitled "New Lands," in our Harcourt anthology book. The five selections in this theme all include people or characters that travel to new lands. This will be the most diverse theme of year, as far as genre is concerned. We will read an expository nonfiction selection, a tall tale, an informational narrative and two realistic fiction selections. When the theme is finished, we will have read thirty anthology stories in total this year. Wow! That's a lot of reading.

Our fourth grade focus is on connection questions. Good readers connect the stories and passages they are reading with things that have happened to themselves or others, to the world around them, and to other texts. We continue to work on having appropriate reactions after reading text and also to state what certain stories remind of us.

Before vacation we worked on a long division unit in math. Does McDonalds Sell Cheeseburgers? We learned that calculating carefully and repeating the process over and over again until arriving at an answer takes a lot of patience! It also requires one to know all of their math facts very well. It is important to stay on top of committing those to memory. The second half of the month has us working on word problems and multi-stepped problem solving, which will also take patience and careful planning.



Because of all our hard work in March on the Connecticut Mastery Tests, all of our classes have the opportunity to take part in a special reward - a school dance. In order to participate, our classes needed to earn at least 40 Golden Feathers for showing effort during testing. We are excited that we will be able to be rewarded for trying our best.

Fifth Grade

S. Owen, A. Abbott, R. Tellez

The fifth grade classes in Miss Abbott, Mrs. Owen and Mrs. Tellez's classes are looking forward to heading out to Mystic Seaport! We are going to be investigating the role Americans of African descent played in the maritime

industries throughout history. We will get the opportunity to experience the "Black Hands, Blue Seas" tour and how it chronicles the contributions of African-Americans to maritime history and tells the story of how seafaring has long been central to their economic survival and civil rights struggles. We will visit a whaling ship, *Charles W. Morgan*, and learn about the diverse demographics of a whaling crew. The students will discover what it is like to be a harpooner and actually use a harpoon. They will also get the chance to learn how a shipsmith works with metals by taking turns pulling a bellow and pounding on hot iron. This trip is a wonderful chance to make history come alive for the students! We look forward to sharing stories from our adventure in the next newsletter.

The grade five class would like to congratulate Maribel Salas for being Roger Sherman's annual spelling bee winner. We would also like to congratulate Chris Perez for being Roger Sherman's alternate winner. Maribel did an amazing job representing our school at the citywide spelling bee, held Monday, April 19, at Nathan Hale School. Maribel placed third in the entire city! We are so proud of the way she presented herself respectfully and for the hard work she put in while studying her words! Congratulations Maribel!

The end of the year is quickly approaching. There will be many activities at the end of

the year for the fifth grade classes. Please be on the lookout for upcoming notices about these activities.

We hope to see many parents, families, and friends at the Project Excel Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 6. The ceremony will be held at Maloney High School at 6:30 pm. Please come and support the 20 fifth grade students who have been chosen as Roger Sherman's Project Excel Recipients!

PBS
PBS Team



April's PBS activity is a Cinco de Mayo celebration, scheduled for April 30th, a week from the holiday. Students who choose to participate will pay 80 of their yellow tickets to attend. Students will listen to Mexican music, eat a Mexican snack, play themed games, and create crafts related to the holiday. This is a great way for students to learn about a new culture or celebrate what makes their culture great.

Last month, students in grades 3, 4, and 5 worked to earn gold feathers for their effort bird by showing effort during CMT testing. All classes earned their reward. Students will enjoy a CMT dance for working so hard and being motivated to do well on the CMT testing. Congratulations to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. You should be proud

of your effort and a job well done.

Remember our three main expectations: Respect for Self, Respect for Others, and Respect for School. Don't forget to review with your child how to show positive behaviors at school.

*MLT, Art, Music,
Media, PE*

M. Muir, M. Ferazzi, B. Kaplan,
B. Starrett, K. Davis, B. Poggio



Grade 1 recently read a story called Just Plain Fancy, about the Amish community and a peacock. After reading the story, we created our own fancy peacocks, complete with plenty of painted feathers. We then read Owl Moon, and created an owl using the collage technique, or gluing strips of paper to another piece of paper. We are now busy creating our own Busy Buzzy Bee.

Grade 2 studied the French artist Henri Rousseau, and realized that he liked to paint jungle scenes. We created our own jungle scene and then the students learned what **mixed media** means. **Mixed media** is when we use more than one type of art material in our art work. For our jungle scenes, we are using crayon, watercolor paint, cut paper, and crepe paper.

Grade 3 finally got the chance to glaze their clay

cave art. We also reviewed **Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears** from their anthology books, and we are creating characters from the tale.

Grade 4 is finishing up their chair sculptures and we started reviewing color. We reviewed **primary colors**, **secondary colors** and introduced **tertiary colors**. We are now creating our own color wheel, and mixing colors to make the **secondary** and **tertiary** colors.

Some students in **Grade 5** are still finishing up on the glazing of their clay sculptures. When finished, they are working on an independent lesson. Students had to pick a lesson from the following choice: collage, sculpture, weaving, creating a mandala, computer art or digital photography. Students are working on discovering what works best for themselves, with some guidance.



Now that our Kindergarteners are used to the keyboards, and some mouse skills, they are beginning to refine their skills by doing things like moving through the documents better, and changing the size of the font. First graders created a table to show their favorite pets in a pictograph. They made sure to use a key at the bottom so that everyone could understand the data.

Second graders are utilizing

the skills in PowerPoint that they learned through their last two projects in order to create a new slide show about places around Meriden. We talked about why Meriden is nicknamed The Silver City, and even looked at a silver coffee pot made in Meriden many years ago. The students looked at several pictures of Meriden, and decided which ones they wanted to use in their own representation of the city.

Third graders are creating a calendar for the month of May using Excel. They are learning the basics of this complex program and will be doing other interesting things in Excel as their comfort level increases.

Fourth graders are continuing with their pamphlet on rainforest animals. They are gaining a greater understanding of the unique qualities of many different animals, and how these features allow animals to survive in particular biomes.

Fifth graders are continuing their PowerPoint presentation on Colonial America. They are learning how to add hyperlinks, and how to record their own narration into the PowerPoint presentations.



Math Minute

The Roger Sherman Math Team

Spring is the time when most grades will begin their units of study on problem solving. This allows students to employ the skills and strategies they have been practicing all year. Through the months of April and May, fifth graders will study the properties of solid shapes, measuring volume and problem solving. Fourth grade will concentrate on long division, problem solving and comparing and ordering fractions. In third grade, students will work with higher levels of place value concepts, problem solving, and measurement of weight, area, and perimeter. Third grade will complete the month of May while studying algebraic and logical reasoning. Second graders finished their exploration and learning of fractions and are now moving into concepts of time and estimation. In May they will study probability and begin to explore concepts of multiplication. First grade will focus on time, estimation, and place value up to 100 through May. In Kindergarten, teachers will introduce concepts of addition and subtraction while also exploring estimating.

KEEP PRACTICING YOUR
BASIC ADDITION/
SUBTRACTION /
MULTIPLICATION/ and
DIVISION FACTS!!!

Volunteer Information

B. Higley, B. Poggio,
N. Murray, A. Edson

Any questions about the Volunteer Program can be

directed to Mrs. Edson at (203) 238 - 1286.

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2009 at Platt High School.



TPT

Sign up to be a member of the TPT. It is only \$3.00 per family. You can send in a note to your child's teacher to receive another form for membership.

Here is a list of the upcoming events at Roger Sherman.

Mother's Day Plant Sale



May 6th and 7th

End of the Year Picnic



June 4th



From the Nurse's Office

Please feel free to call the nurse's office with any questions. 639 - 5533.



This newsletter brought to you by the Public Relations Committee of Roger Sherman School.