



Roger Sherman Elementary

February 2010

Principal's Corner

L. Moss



BEHAVIOR WHILE WAITING TO BOARD THE BUS

- Students will :
Be at the bus stop on time.

Wait for the bus on the sidewalk.

Respect private property.

Not throw articles at passing cars.

Wait for the bus to come to a full stop before boarding or exiting.

Keep bus passes available at all times.

BEHAVIOR WHILE RIDING THE BUS TO OR FROM SCHOOL

- Students will:
Be seated as soon as possible.
Follow the directions of the bus driver.

Remain in their seats while the bus is moving.

Keep aisles clear.

Talk quietly. No shouting.

No swearing or cursing.

Be kind to each other and the bus driver.

Keep windows closed unless the driver grants permission.

BEHAVIOR WHEN LEAVING THE BUS

- When arriving at school students will:
Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
Leave the bus in a single file line .

Get clear of the bus immediately.

BEHAVIOR WHEN LEAVING THE BUS

- Upon arriving at home students will:
Remain seated until the bus has fully stopped.

Leave the bus in an orderly manner.

Stand on the sidewalk until the bus has departed.

STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO OBEY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS WILL, AFTER NOTIFICATION BY THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, BE DENIED TRANSPORTATION.

Thank you for following the bus safety rules.

Pre-K and Kindergarten

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

We are delighted to have another set of twin girls join us. That totals 4 sets of twins shared by Mrs. Conway and Mrs. Rarey in our afternoon classes!

We are continuing discussing our Winter season and Colors! We have been talking about former Presidents Abraham Lincoln and George

Washington as well as our present President B. Obama. Wishing everyone a Happy Saint Valentine's Day and a wonderful Winter Vacation!



THE PRESCHOOL CLASSES WILL BE HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL SMENCIL (SMELLY PENCIL) FUNDRAISER STARTING MONDAY, MARCH 1-5.

This event is to raise funds for our annual trip to Mystic Aquarium in April. Please help us out by buying a Smencil. We will be selling them in the main corridor before school the whole first week of March. THANK YOU!

Mrs. Rarey's preschool class has been studying all about night. We have read many books, both fiction and non-fiction on the topic of stars and planets. We made some beautiful wishing star collages which are now sparkling from our ceiling. We have read books about being scared at night. We have talked about nightmares and different strategies to get rid of them. We made "No monsters allowed!" signs as well as Native American Indian

dream catchers. We are making our very own Goodnight Moon book filled with pictures of things we say goodnight to at night. We will be making a copy of this book for each member of our class. Our dress up corner has been changed into a rocket ship complete with a "mother board" and an engine for countdown. There are helmets and astronaut costumes as well as tethers for space walks. Friday before vacation we will end our night unit with a pajama party!

Kindergarten continues to work hard in all academic areas. We have completed the Phonemic Awareness Inventory, Dibels testing, and DRA testing. In reading, our students are working on their reading strategies to help them when they get stuck on a word. They are also working on "Getting their mouth ready" which means that they are using letter sounds to help them decode words. Students have had much practice with segmenting and blending words as well which will help them in their reading. We are beginning to work on the comprehension piece of reading. At home, you can help with this by asking your child who were the characters, where did the story take place, and what happened in the beginning, middle and end of the story. In math, we have been working on sequencing, graphs, numbers 1- 10, and complex patterns (AAB, ABB, ABC, etc.). These are fundamental skills that

students need as they move through the upper grades. We appreciate your continued help and support with homework, sight word contracts, and at home browser boxes!

First Grade

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

What was your Winter prediction? Can you believe it! 6 more weeks of Winter... thanks to Chuckles.

In math, the students continue to practice daily facts to increase speed and accuracy in addition and subtraction. We are now learning about measurement. Students have been measuring objects in class such as books, pencils, desks, floor tiles and even their arms, legs and their feet to compare the differences. To measure they have used paper clips, unifix cubes and rulers as tools.



In writing, we continue to develop narrative stories that include a beginning, middle, and an end. We just completed our second writing prompt about a class trip to the farm, and shared them with our classmates. Our teachers will share the stories

at conference time with parents.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL FAMILIES who donated bake goods for our Snowball Dance. They were delicious. All funds collected will go towards our end of the year field trip..

Happy 100th day to all! Grade 1 has been waiting to celebrate this day. We counted by 2's, 5's, and 10's, wrote stories like; if I was 100 years old, and if I had 100 dollars. We counted out 100 objects for class projects and 100 treats for our daily snack.

During February vacation, please have your child practice their math facts and read to build fluency and comprehension. Have a great time and stay warm!

Second Grade

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

The second graders have been very busy learning about comparing and contrasting and writing a written response to explain our Venn diagrams.

We have also learned how to use a rubric to score our own answers and we love to correct our responses. We are also busy learning about the differences between a mammal and other animals. Did you know that a mammal has hair or fur? We have learned that a whale is a mammal. We have been hard at work creating mental images and learning that you have to think a lot when you read.

We are working on elaboration in writing. Adding more details to your writing

can be difficult, but we are all doing our best to keep adding new details.

We would also like to thank everyone who helped support us at the Snowball by buying a hot chocolate.

Have a safe and enjoyable vacation and keep reading!

Third Grade

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

Wow! February is already here and before we know it, it will be March! We have been very busy in all of our subject areas! In reading, we have read stories under the theme *Tell Me A Story*, such as *Papa Tells Chita a Story* and *Lon Po Po*. Ask us what these stories have been about! We are working on the skills of summarizing and comparing & contrasting, among other skills. We know the differences between summarizing and retelling a story: ask if we remember the differences. March is right around the corner, which means the CMTs are right around the corner as well. We have been doing a lot of practice getting ready for the CMTs, such as focusing on writing answers to CMT-type questions in reading groups and practicing CLOZE passages. We feel confident and prepared to conquer this series of tests! During February vacation, students will bring home a packet to practice CMT skills for March. Those students who complete the packet will receive a reward

after vacation! Be sure your students are reading everyday during vacation and practicing their math facts to keep those skills fresh in their minds!

Through PBS, we have been practicing saying compliments to our peers on their academic abilities and their respectful behaviors. We are expanding our compliments to be more specific. Instead of saying "I like your shirt," we are using compliments such as, "You did a great job figuring out that math problem!"



Finally, thank you to everyone who donated ice cream supplies to assist our Ice Cream Social held on February 11th. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the event and support our future field trip! We are really looking forward to attending the Norwalk Aquarium in June to reinforce concepts we have learned about throughout the year! As it gets closer, look for more information regarding this trip.

Have a WONDERFUL and RELAXING vacation!

Fourth Grade

A. DiGennaro, K. Fedora, F. Wagner

The fourth grade students have been working hard answering open ended questions about characters' traits. The fourth grade team is pleased to announce that all that hard work has paid off and our students have MET their GOAL! Students are now able to successfully answer four different character trait questions. Because our goal was met, we will be moving on to making connections to what we read. Expect to hear students discussing how something they read is similar to something in their lives, something in the world, or something else they have read.

In Math, students have been working on fractions and measurement. They should be able to add and subtract fractions with like denominators as well as find equivalent fractions and find the simplest form. Students have learned to measure objects using benchmarks as well as inch and centimeter rulers. Next, we will begin studying geometry and time.

Fourth graders recently responded to their last narrative writing prompt. For the rest of the year, we will be focusing on expository writing. Expository writing is a type of writing that is used to explain, describe, give information, or inform. This will help students as they prepare for the upper grades, where they will frequently write research reports.

The Connecticut Mastery Tests are rapidly approaching. They will take place during the month of March, not long after vacation. Please make sure that students get plenty of sleep and eat a healthy breakfast each and every morning. It really does help them succeed. It is also very important that students arrive to school on time. Some days we begin testing first thing in the morning. If a student is tardy, they will have to make up the test on another day. To help prepare for the tests, students will be bringing home a CMT math packet that they should work on over vacation. Mr. Hutchinson prepared a packet that closely models the same types of questions that are asked on the CMTs. Spending a few minutes each day working on the packet will give students an opportunity to practice what they have already learned, rather than forget it over vacation. We hope you have a safe and happy vacation!

Fifth Grade

S. Owen, A. Abbott, R. Tellez

The fifth grade students in Miss Abbott, Mrs. Owen and Mrs. Tellez's classes have been busy preparing for the upcoming CMT testing! We have been working hard on responding to open ended responses with our reading. We have been summarizing nonfiction texts and we have been identifying text features and their purposes. The students have enjoyed making connections

to their reading through text to self, text to world, and text to text. In writing we have been working on expository pieces about the DARE Program. The students have been writing about their thoughts and feelings about the program, what they learned in the program, and why it is important to avoid drugs and violence. All of the students have enjoyed being part of the DARE Program and having Officer Tom Cirillo come in to teach lessons! In math we have covered many topics to prepare for our upcoming testing. The students have mastered skills in geometry, fractions, and measurement. We have learned about the standard units of measurement and the metric system. We have learned to convert time and find area and perimeter of shapes. We are continuing to master all of our basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, and are continuing to increase speed and accuracy.

Unfortunately due to weather issues, we had to cancel our field trip to the Palace Theater in Waterbury on January 28th. We are already looking in to other field trips for the fifth graders to enjoy before the end of this year!

We look forward to seeing many families at the CMT CIRCUS which will be held on Wednesday, March 3rd. There will be many exciting activities and programs for the students and their families to enjoy. Please come out and join us on that night!

Enjoy your Winter vacation during the week of February 15th!

PBS

PBS Team



January's PBS activity was the Hawaiian Luau! Students enjoyed making lei necklaces, learning to do hula dancing, ring toss, learning about Hawaii, Limbo, and had a pineapple Hawaiian snack. February's PBS activity will be after vacation. It will be cookie decorating. Students who want to participate will need to use 60 of their yellow PBS tickets. Students will be able to decorate the cookie and bring it home.

We are really focusing on showing effort. All classes will have a lesson about how to persevere and show effort everyday at school and at home. Students will have a class bird that they will earn feathers for every time the class shows effort. Ask your child about the class bird and how many feathers they have earned so far!

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.



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MLI, Art, Music, Media, PE

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



Students were introduced to my student teacher, Ms. Stanziano. She is a student at Southern CT State University and will be here until mid-March. Along with my lessons, she will also be teaching lessons to the students in grades 1-5.

Grade 1 is finishing up working with color. We discussed warm colors (reds, yellows and oranges) and then created a sun using a coffee filter. Cool colors are blues, greens and violets and students created a fish.

Grade 2 reviewed warm and cool colors from last year, and created a four legged animal using paint and sponges. We also reviewed sculpture and students had the opportunity

to create a clay pinch pot. We are now creating clowns for the CMT Circus.

Grade 3 determined that the earliest art we know about was art that was drawn on caves oh so many years ago. We looked at some images and then students recreated their own version of cave art on a piece of clay. As we wait for our clay pieces to be ready to glaze, we are also creating art for the CMT Circus.

Grade 4 continues to work on their fantasy chair sculptures and many students have already taken home their clay sculptures. Ms. Stanziano is beginning to work with this grade level by introducing a lesson on the artist Faith Ringgold.

Grade 5 continues to work on creating and glazing their clay sculptures. Ms. Stanziano is also teaching lessons to this class, and has introduced the artist Marc Chagall.



Grade 5 students **Jayden Fuqua** and **Jasmine Taylor** were honored at the Elementary Arts Festival at the Aqua Turf for their excellence in the visual and performing arts. Ms. Ferrazzi, Mrs. Kaplan,

Mrs. Owen and Ms. Abbott were honored to attend along with Jayden and Jasmine's families.



Our Kindergarteners are becoming more comfortable on the computer. They are becoming more independent in completing the fundamental tasks of keyboarding and working with graphics. They have also spent some time on Phonics Express which supports and extends their knowledge of the relationship between letter name and letter sounds. First graders integrated curriculum skills and technology skills through working on color words, and by creating an array of 100 animals in Microsoft Excel for the 100th day of school. For Valentine's Day, they practiced manipulating shapes to make a design out of hearts. They used the math concepts of flipping, rotating and sliding shapes.

Second graders finished a PowerPoint presentation on the Life Cycle of a Bean Plant. Most students incorporated slide transitions, animations and sound into their projects. They will now be utilizing these skills to present what they are learning about Australian animals. Through the internet, they are developing a much fuller sense of these animals than mere pictures would provide!

Third graders have finished

making posters about local Connecticut State Parks, and are now finding out about their hometown of Meriden so that they can start a travel brochure for The Silver City.

Most fourth graders just finished their travel brochure of a New England state. They found out about how the states were named, some popular travel destinations and foods, and some of the history of these states.

Fifth graders created fraction bars in WORD, and reflected on what they could notice about the bars. They will be building on prior knowledge of Native Americans and Explorers, to now look at how our country developed through the Colonial period.



In music class, the second grade students are learning about the 4 families of instruments in an orchestra. We are comparing the visual differences between woodwind, string, brass and percussion instruments.

Grade 4 & Grade 5 students are practicing songs and dialogue for a Spring Concert called "Choices Count."

Grade 3 students are very excited about starting to learn to play the letter B on their recorders.



Math Minute

The Roger Sherman Math Team

In Kindergarten, students will be working with patterns of shapes. Students will identify and extend shape patterns. They will also be working with the numbers 0 and 10. Geometry will be the focus in the beginning of March. Kindergarteners should be able to recognize circles, squares and triangles after completing the Geometry unit. First graders will be studying geometry and fractions throughout February and March. Students will be expected to recognize halves, thirds and fourths at the end of the unit on Fractions. The second grade will turn their focus to 2-digit subtraction throughout February and March. This difficult concept will be practiced for several weeks. Parents are encouraged to work and support their students through this challenging skill. Grades 3, 4 and 5 are continuing with their daily math lessons while also practicing many skills tested on the Master Test in March. Students in grades 3-5 will be getting a Vacation Math Packet to work through and complete in preparation for the Connecticut Mastery Test.

The Vacation Math Packets will be on the school website.

Volunteer Information

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

Volunteers are needed!

If you would be interested in volunteering in a classroom please contact your child's teacher. Volunteers are always welcome! You are needed to work with students to review math skills, listen to children read or help students while working in centers. Volunteers are also needed to assist teachers with making copies or cutting things out. Your child's teacher may also like help with things that could be done at home. These are just a few ideas. Please do not hesitate! Talk to your child's teacher to see how you can get involved!

Volunteers are also needed for special events here at Roger Sherman School. Please see a TPT officer if you are interested!

When you do volunteer remember to "sign in" in the office and wear your visitors pass!

We look forward to seeing YOU!

Save the date- Thursday, April 26, 2010 for the volunteer dinner



TPT

Executive Board

Dawn McCarthy (President)
Ashley Ramos (Secretary)
Carrie Milsagle (Treasurer)

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. More information will follow for each of these events.

CMT Circus

March 3rd



Ethnic Potluck Dinner

April 8th



Mother's Day Plant Sale

May 6th and 7th



End of the Year Picnic

June 4th



From the Nurse's Office

Just a reminder, physicals done during the fifth grade year will be accepted for 6th grade entry. Please submit to the Nurse's office now and they will be forwarded to the middle schools in June. Also, any completed physicals for incoming preschool and kindergarten students also should be handed into the nurse. Call your doctors office for an appointment, please don't wait until the last minute. Physicals for preschool, kindergarten and 6th grade must be done BEFORE the first day of school.

Please call my office with any questions, 203.639.5533



Have a safe and enjoyable vacation from everyone at Roger Sherman School.

Check out the school website for CMT practice for your child over the vacation.

Work packets will be there for you to work on with your child.



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