



Roger Sherman Elementary

January 2010

Principal's Corner

L. Moss

Welcome back after a wonderful holiday season and restful vacation. The focus of this article is to review some school practices and to inform you about some worthwhile upcoming school events.

School arrival and Dismissal Procedures- Students should not arrive before 8:30 as teachers are not on duty and there is no one to monitor those early arriving students. At dismissal, if students are walkers they should exit the building by the designated route. Parents should set up a consistent meeting place (the big tree, the picnic table, or by the fence). If there is no other alternative to dismissing your student early please send in a note with your child. Upon arriving in the office, indicate to the secretary what child you are picking up and then sign out.



Safe buses- Recently we have had some bus riding issues. Some of our students are not staying in their seats, putting their hands on other students, and using unkind language. Breaking bus rules is a safety

issue. We want all our students to come to school safely and go home safely. At the beginning of the school year bus seats are assigned and we have numerous assemblies to talk about rules and safety. Please help us by reviewing appropriate bus riding expectations with your child (children).



CMT Circus- On March 3, our school will host our second annual CMT Circus. This is a family event where everyone can participate in Math, Language Arts, Science, and Physical education type activities as preparation for the Connecticut Mastery Test. A flyer will out soon detailing this fun event. The circus was well attended last year and we believe really helped us achieve higher levels on the CMT so we hope we will have more families attend this year. The event is chaired by Ms. Abbott (grade 5); if you have any questions or would like to help her please direct them to her at Roger Sherman School.



Snow Ball- Sherman's annual Snow Ball dance is in its last stages of preparation. Flyers will be out soon describing the evening. Our Ball is scheduled for January 29, 2010 from 6:00-8:00. We are selling a limited amount of tickets for the event. Tickets can be reserved ahead of time since we will not sell any at the door. Ticket price will be \$2.00 per person. Many grade levels and teachers will be in attendance and sponsoring a table. If you are able to help out please let Carrie Milsagle and Lori Davis know. We need volunteers for the ticket table, decorate, and clean up the gym after the dance is over.



Stop and Shop- Roger Sherman School is registered for Stop and Shop points. You can register your card on-line. The link is: https://www.stopandshop.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/designate_school.htm?execution=e2s1

Just designate Roger Sherman as a school you want to support and we earn money for our school. The program runs from October- March 25. By the end of the program and with the funds from Stop and Shop we should be able to provide students with more cultural enrichment activities.

Pre-K and Kindergarten

**S. Conway, M. Rarey,
K. Nitkowski, R. Nutcher**

The preschool classes have been busy studying about winter.

Mrs. Rarey's students have been focusing on snow and ice. We made snowflakes to hang on our windows, a snow mixture out of paper, soap and water, and a mitten full of animals to go along with our favorite story The Mitten. We even got to go outside when it snowed and look at snowflakes that we caught on black paper with our magnifiers! We did a lot of matching games with mittens and gloves. We learned a fun ice trick with ice cubes and salt. We made lots of observations at our water table that was full of ice of all sizes. We are really learning to be scientists.



Adrian and Ricky found lots of matching mittens.

Mrs. Conway's class discussed the weather and what kinds of clothes we wear in winter weather. We also went on a winter walk and talked about all the things we can do outside in wintry weather. We finished our third tree in a series of seasonal tree pictures. We now have a winter tree to add to our already completed summer and fall ones. Of course, winter holidays are fun to talk about. There is a wonderful display of the New Year's fireworks on our bulletin board in the hallway. Happy New Year!

First Grade

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

Happy New Year to all of our first grade parents! We are at the half way point in our school year and students are working quite hard. We have been busy reading and retelling books. When retelling, students including story elements such as character, setting, problem, solution, plot, sequence of events, and character feelings. We are also writing narrative stories that include those same elements. We will be assessing students in reading and writing over the next month. We have completed units in math involving subtraction, place value and money. You can stay involved by practicing addition and subtraction facts with your child at home, have your child read stories to you, ask him or her to tell you what

the stories are about when he or she is done reading, and reviewing grade level sight words. Be on the lookout for notices about the upcoming Snow Ball in January. Grade one is responsible for providing baked goods to sell. This is a big fundraiser for first grade and we will need many parents to provide baked goods or snacks for this event. Thank you in advance for your support.

Second Grade

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

Welcome back to school in 2010!

Students have gotten right back to work after our break and have been focusing on several different skills.

In Language Arts we are working on comparing and contrasting using a non-fiction passage. Students need to compare and contrast two things in the passage using a Venn diagram. Students need to put two reasons the things are alike and two reasons they are different. Students then have been working on writing the similarities and differences in a paragraph form.

In Science, students are focusing on the growth of a bean plant. This is a natural progression from learning about parts of plants and plant life from December. Each student is growing beans in a bag. Students are making a hypothesis about their bean plant and then observing the plant as it changes from just a seed to a plant. Students will be writing about the different

parts of the plant such as the seed, seed coat, roots, stem, and leaves.

In Math we have been working on using tally marks and data to create graphs. We have learned about how to create pictographs and bar graphs. Students have used data to create their own pictographs and bar graphs. Next, we are moving on to measurement. Students will be measuring objects using non-standard units. Then they will learn how to use an inch and centimeter ruler to measure objects around the classroom and lines. If you have a ruler at home, you can have your child measure objects around the house. Make sure that your child is also continuing to practice their math facts at home.



We were lucky enough to be able to watch ourselves on television on Thursday, January 21, 2010.

Third Grade

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

Grade 3 – On behalf of the third grade team, we wish everyone a Happy 2010. It may be cold outside, but things are heating up in third grade as we approach the CMT circus, which is just 25

school days away, and the Connecticut Mastery Tests.

In reading, the third grade is wrapping up a theme of stories titled "Friends to Grow With". These stories allowed our readers to continue to discover new personality traits as well as review how to make and confirm predictions. Another major focus has been reading and comprehending non-fiction text features. The students have studied table of contents, maps, diagrams, timelines, glossaries, and indexes. This focus allowed students to better navigate and summarize non-fiction texts.

In math, the third graders have been working with division and multiplication arrays. Students placed counters in rows and columns to show a pictorial representation of multiplication and division problems. The students have also spent time mastering how to write a clearly worded story problem.

We are also calling for assistants; the TPT is promoting a movie night on February 11th. The third grade will also use that evening as a fundraiser to help offset the costs of the end of year fieldtrip. Anyone interested in helping out can see your child's homeroom teacher. The third grade would also like to know if there is a parent in each classroom that would like the role of being the "room parent". There is so much to do and so little time. Each third grade teacher could use some extra help.

Warm wishes to all,

Fourth Grade

A. DiGennaro, K. Fedora, F. Wagner

In language arts the fourth grade recently began Theme 4 in our Harcourt Trophies anthology book, entitled "Creative Minds." In this theme students will read stories whose main characters overcome obstacles using problem solving strategies and their creativity. We encourage our own students to model this behavior as well. Coinciding with this theme, we continue to study character traits as our grade level focus. Students have done a fantastic job selecting appropriate character trait words to match character and even real life people. However, students should work to improve their ability to support these traits with evidence – how does the person's actions show that they are the way they are?

In math, we continue to review both multiplication and division facts as they are essential before moving on into more difficult, multi-stepped problems. We recently finished a unit on probability, which nicely transitioned into a unit on fractions. Remember that division, probability and fractions are all very much related. As the math topics and materials begin to pick up in intensity, students are encouraged to ask questions in class and participate as much as possible. It is also important that the students complete their math homework nightly, as it will reinforce the information that is taught in class.

We are very proud of the progress that the fourth graders have made up until this point and we hope that the year will continue to move along as well. Many students set academic and behavior goals when we returned after New Years and we hope that they strive to achieve these goals during the remaining half of the year.

Fifth Grade

S. Owen, A. Abbott, R. Tellez

The fifth grade classes are really looking forward to taking their first field trip on Thursday, January 28th! We will be going to the the Palace Theater in Waterbury to see CSI:Live. The students will get a chance to see (and become part of) the process scientists and forensic experts use to solve crimes and other investigations. We can't wait to see what kinds of clues we will need to discover in order to help solve the crimes.

In reading, we are beginning a new unit of study on making connections. The students will learn how to make connections to what they are reading, in 3 different areas. They will make connections from text to self by connecting to an emotion the character is experiencing that they have also experienced in their own lives. In the text to world connection the students connect to an event in the reading and something that has occurred in the world around them. And through text-to-text connections the students will learn to connect two separate literature pieces

together based on topic, events, or characterization. The students are excited to share about their own life through this reading skill. We previously worked on summarizing and text features and the students made significant gains in these areas. We are proud of the work they have accomplished!

In Math we are continuing our work with fractions. We are on to adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. The students are still working hard on mastering all of their basic facts. We look forward to moving into new subjects like measurement, graphing, probability and statistics. We are working hard to be prepared for the CMTs, which are coming in March. The time is going by so quickly!

DARE TO RESIST DRUGS AND VIOLENCE.

The students have almost completed all aspects of the DARE program. Officer Tom Cirillo has taught lessons on numerous topics over a 9-week schedule. We will be taking our final test soon. We will continue writing our DARE essays by discussing what we learned in DARE, what our feelings are about the DARE program, and how we will use the DARE program to help us stay drug and violence free! The students are looking forward to the DARE role models coming in. This is a part of the program where high school students will come in to the classrooms to answer questions about school, peer pressure, making respectful

decisions, managing time, etc. The students always enjoy getting this first hand knowledge from older students who are going through these processes themselves.

The grade five team is looking forward to seeing you at some upcoming events. We will be selling glow sticks at the Snowball Dance on Friday, January 29th. We will also be actively participating in the CMT Circus, which will be taking place in March. We are hoping to see many families at these events!

PBS

PBS Team



Thanks to everyone who donated items for the PBS Holiday Store in December. It was a huge success! Students were able to purchase many items and have them wrapped to take home to family members. We really appreciate all of your generous donations!

January's PBS activity is a Hawaiian Luau! Students who choose to participate will pay 50 of their yellow tickets to attend. Students will be able to participate in several different activities while they are there, such as making lei necklaces, learning to do the hula, decorating paper surfboards, doing the limbo, and much more!

We are really focusing on being respectful to others by using compliments not put-

downs. All classes had a lesson by a PBS team member about compliments and how compliments can make us shine. Students were given sentence starters on how to give good, specific compliments. Teachers will be listening for student compliments and rewarding students for being so respectful.

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



January 2010 – News from the Art Room – Ms. Ferrazzi

Grade 1 continues to work on color, creating a **landscape** to paint with **secondary colors**. We will then move on to discuss **warm and cool colors**.

Grade 2 has also been working on color, creating their own color wheel with both **primary** and **secondary colors**. Grade 2 will also be discussing **warm and cool colors**.

Grade 3 is finishing up their unit on color, creating **landscapes** in both **warm and cool colors**.

Next, Grade 3 will be ready to work with clay.

Grade 4 continues to work on their **sculpture** unit. Some classes are still working on clay sculptures and are beginning to glaze their completed piece. Other classes have begun a fantasy chair sculpture lesson that is a bit involved.

Grade 5 is also working on their **clay sculptures**, with one class ready to begin glazing!



Our Kindergarteners are gaining increasing mastery on the computer. We are reinforcing some classroom skills as they learn to type their first and last names using upper and lower case letters, and the spacebar. They are finding the letters of their names on the keyboard. In doing this, they are recognizing the upper case letter that matches the lower case letters in their names. They are also becoming better at sizing objects and using shapes and color. Second graders are supporting their classroom exploration into the life cycle of a Bean Plant. They are enjoying the ability to translate their knowledge into a PowerPoint presentation. The upper grades are continuing their exploration of their Social Studies themes in MLT. Third grade is creating a poster of state parks. In the

process, they are learning more about how to read a website. Before looking at the websites, they brainstormed about the sorts of information that they thought should be included on websites so that people could find out more about the services and activities in Connecticut State Parks. Maybe some of the students will be able to visit some of these nearby parks with their families!



Math Minute

The Roger Sherman Math Team

Students at Roger Sherman have been exploring and practicing many new math skills this past month. Students in grade 5 are finishing their study of fractions and moving into measurement. Fourth graders are completing their study of fractions too and also moving to measurement. Third graders are studying geometry and then will move on to fractions. These 3 grades are also preparing for the CMT by completing daily reviews that touch upon many concepts already taught. Second grade students worked on graphing and measurement through January and will turn their attention to subtraction with regrouping in February. Students in second grade will need home support as they begin this difficult process. First graders are discovering measurement with standard and non-standard units. In

February they will be learning geometry and fractions. Kindergarten students will continue to focus on patterns and the numbers 8, 9, 10, and 0 throughout February. Students in grades 1-5 are encouraged to practice their basic addition facts, while students in grades 3-5 are encouraged to practice all their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts in preparation of the Connecticut Mastery Test. In February, students in grades 3-5 will be given CMT Math Practice booklets to complete over the vacation.

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.



TPT

Executive Board

**Dawn McCarthy (President)
Ashley Ramos (Secretary)
Carrie Milslagle (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.

Snow Ball

Friday, January 29th, snow date of February 5th



Movie Night

February 11th,
3rd Grade Ice Cream Social



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

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.