



Roger Sherman Elementary

March 2010

Principal's Corner

L. Moss

The TPT (Teachers Parents Together) really needs your help to continue running special family events, fundraising to provide funds to off set student costs for fieldtrips, classroom supplies, and to provide multi-cultural events throughout the school year. This year it seems we have a very small core of parents who consistently attend the TPT meetings and run the family events. In a school our size we need more than 5 parents to help with extra curricular events.

After consulting with TPT members here are some suggestions as to how to get more involved in after school activities. First, make the commitment to become more involved in your child's school experience. Next, join the TPT, attend the monthly meetings, and see what you can do to help coordinate, plan, or participate in fun family events. TPT meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in the cafeteria.

There are so many reasons to help the TPT. The TPT is comprised of parents and teachers who work tirelessly together to provide students with enriching activities. This

year we have had guest readers, a magician, an anti-bullying program and a science presentation come in to the school to educate students on some of the most current issues to impact students. The TPT is an organization that fundraises and raises enough money to off-set expensive fieldtrips, contributes funds to teachers for supplies, and to schedule whole school assemblies to enhance our students' educations. Our TPT helps establish the strong bond between home and school. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please help our TPT continue a long tradition of making our school well-rounded and a successful elementary school.

Pre-K and Kindergarten

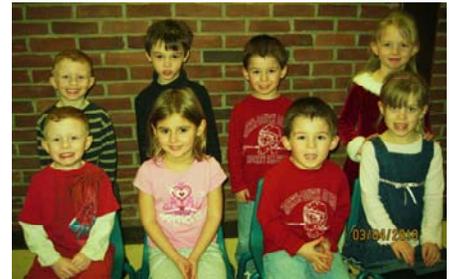
S. Conway, M. Rarey,
K. Nitkowski, R. Nutcher

On behalf of the preschool staff, Mrs. Rarey and Mrs. Conway, we would like send a sincere "Thank You!" to everyone who purchased S-M-E-N-C-I-L-S!

It was our biggest fund raiser yet. We raised over \$1,200. It will cover our expenses to take our four classes, on two separate days, to Mystic Aquarium for the whole day in April.

SPRING is right around the corner and we are looking forward to refreshing, outdoor, planned activities with the children.

We are so excited to introduce to you our four (4) sets of twins in our afternoon preschool classes.



They are: (left to right, front to back): Ricky Nicholas Liam Rachael Ryan Emily Aidan Ashley

Kindergarten has been moving right along in all areas of our curriculum. In reading, we are focusing our attention on the comprehension aspect of reading. At conferences we will distribute and explain the "retell hand" and "retell icons" that the students have been using in class. We will also give helpful ideas of how to help your student with reading comprehension at home.



Students have been working on the first 40 sight words since the beginning of the school year (as you have seen with their sight word contracts). As students master the first 40 sight words, they will begin to work on words 40- 80 (which are the first grade sight words)! In math we have been working on 3-D shapes, complex patterns, graphing review, and counting to 100. We encourage you to have your child count to you every night (to help them count to 100) to meet this Kindergarten goal. We look forward to meeting with all of our Kindergarten parents at conferences to inform you of your child's progress this year!

First Grade

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

As we complete our final parent-teacher conferences we would like to thank all the parents who kept their appointments and we hope that we did not keep you waiting too long. It is always nice to meet and discuss the students' successes and pass along any tips that will help them meet grade level goals.

The first grade intervention focus moves to retelling and making personal connections to text. Additional support by asking your child to retell a story read at home will help them be successful at meeting this important goal.



Michelle, Anthonie and Leo work carefully to line up the tiles to fill the area of the larger floor tile.

Math has been very active with measuring everything from paper clips to arms in both inches and centimeters. Students enjoyed working to measure the area of a classroom floor tile by using one inch square tiles. Lots of counting ensued as they discovered that it took 144 tiles to cover the area. Ask your child what the line of symmetry is, yes, that is also covered in first grade! Continued practice with addition and subtraction facts is needed to improve accuracy and speed of recognition.



Veron, Nathan and Dalia smile with success after counting their 144 tiles!

We are all excited about getting outside on these beautiful spring days. We have been inside too long and even fifteen minutes of

exercise seems like a wonderful touch of freedom. We hope our families are enjoying the wonderful parks and walkways that Meriden has to offer. It will soon be time for the Daffodil Festival, an event not to be missed! Enjoy the spring breezes but let's get to school on time to get the job done!

Second Grade

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

The Second Graders have been working on figuring out what the author is trying to tell us in a story. This is called the Author's Message. The Author's Message is an important lesson that the author wants you to learn. Then this lesson will help you make good choices in your own life. We started out with looking at pictures and figuring out what we should learn from the pictures, and then progressed to actual literature. Students really enjoyed listening to Anansi the Spider stories and figuring out the lesson that we should learn from them. Many students also connected this to our lesson on The Golden Rule from the beginning of the school year.

In Science, we have finished learning about whales. Now students are busy learning about penguins and their habitats. How many different types of penguins can your child name? The Emperor's Egg story in our anthology book also ties in to our Science unit.

In Math we have been working on subtracting two-

digit numbers. It can be challenging to remember when to regroup and when you do not need to regroup. Students will be moving on to money and will continue to use their two-digit adding and subtracting skills with money word problems. Can your child identify coins and how much each of them is worth? Practice counting change with your child at home to reinforce these lessons from school.

We would like to thank everyone who came to the CMT Circus and supported our school. We hope you enjoyed making pinwheels and racing cars while learning about force and motion!

Third Grade

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

Spring is in the air! The third grade teachers could not be more proud of the third grade students for their excellent efforts on the Connecticut Mastery Test. Following each exam, the students were rewarded with golden feathers for staying focused, using the entire period of time, using problem solving strategies, and attempting to try even the hardest of questions. The golden feathers were placed into a Styrofoam bird that hung in each classroom. Each classroom is pleased to announce that over the course of the eight days of testing, the students earned over 40 feathers, which will allow them to participate in a school dance. In reading,

we've continued to practice making connections to text orally and in a written format. Mr. Cabell's class has embarked on a unit of poetry. While the other third grade classrooms, a unit on the westward movement has begun. We also look forward to sharing with you some expanded science lessons on sound. In math, the students have completed a unit on visual and numeric patterns. Now the classes are on to counting money. As a PBS reward, we've arranged the Connecticut Sled Dog Team to visit us and share their dogs and experiences. If you have not yet returned your child's permission slip, please do so ASAP. We look forward to seeing all of you next week during report card conferences. Enjoy the weather!

Fourth Grade

A. DiGennaro, K. Fedora, F. Wagner

March is almost over, as is the school year. The fourth grade is still working hard and has a lot of exciting things going on as we approach the last term of the school year. In language arts, we are beginning our last theme for the year. This section will be dealing with nonfiction and informational texts. Continuing to read at home will help students comprehend this new genre. In math, we have recently completed multi-digit multiplication and will be moving on to multi-digit and long division. Math fact

memorization will be the key to mastering this concept. In science, we are in the process of studying electricity. This began with an exciting lesson on static electricity where students used a balloon to see the effects of static electricity. The results were "shocking." Once we finish this unit, we will be studying levers and pulleys. We would like to congratulate all the fourth graders, and other grades that showed such amazing effort on the CMT's. We are all extremely proud of you. Enjoy the rest of your month and a well deserved April vacation.



Nicholas Milsagle learning about static electricity.

Fifth Grade

S. Owen, A. Abbott, R. Tellez

The fifth grade students in Miss Abbott, Mrs. Owen and Mrs. Tellez's class are so excited that CMTs are finally over! All 3 classes put in excellent effort over the 10 days of testing! The students utilized all skills and strategies they have been taught in order to succeed on tests in writing,

reading, math and science. The fifth grade teachers are so proud of all of their students and their hard work!

The fifth grade teachers are also proud to announce that this year, 20 fifth grade students will be receiving bonds from Project Excel! These students were chosen based on their outstanding school citizenship as exemplified by his/her strong character and integrity, for displaying a cooperative attitude, and for being a conscientious student who has produced acceptable work for his/her ability. We are pleased to announce the following students are the 2010 recipients of the Project Excel Award: Tamra Gonyea, Brenda Matos, Ephriam Myles, Cristaly Rodriguez, Jasmine Taylor, Shaun Thompson, Jacquelyn Boucher, Noelle Couture, Isaiah Davis, Kiara Harris, Jalen Malone, Alex Oquendo, Marc Rao, Ashley Rivera, Chris Valentin, Jeanette Archambeault, Sabrina DeJesus, Nathan Flis, Christopher Perez, and Victorya Vallejo. Congratualtions to those students for putting forth excellent effort and attitude!

We look forward to seeing parents at the upcoming report card conferences on Tuesday, March 23rd, Wednesday, March 24th, and Thursday, March 25th. We can't wait to share the accomplishments and achievements your children have made this term! Please also remember the Book Fair will take place on March 24th

and March 25th. Stop in and buy your child a book to encourage their reading!

Happy Spring!

PBS
PBS Team



March's PBS activity is an ice cream social! Students who choose to participate will pay 70 of their yellow tickets to attend. Students will be able to choose the type of ice cream they would like and make their own sundaes. As the activities continue throughout the rest of the year keep reminding your student to be respectful at school. The activities get more expensive each month and we want students to be able to participate.

For CMT's students in grades 3, 4, and 5 were working to earn gold feathers for their effort bird. Every time the entire class shows effort the class earns a feather for their bird. If the class shows effort during the CMT testing, the class will earn a gold feather for each way they show effort. Students will be rewarded based on their effort during the CMT testing.

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



My name is Ms. Stanziano and I am a student teacher here at Roger Sherman Elementary. I started teaching lessons on February 5th, starting with the 5th graders and adding a lower grade every week and now I am teaching all the grades. This is what we have accomplished since I have been here:

Grade 1 is finishing up their crayon batik crinkled paper designs where the students draw designs like lines, shapes and symbols in crayon, crumple the paper, smooth it out and finish by painting the front and back with watercolor for a colorful design.

Grade 2 is finishing up their expressive faces projects where they draw a face

showing a certain chosen expression and design the hair with the different lines they have learned. The students color the face and neck with crayon and the shirt and hair in watercolor.



Front Office Bulletin Board

Grade 3 is mostly finished with their works in the style of artist Wassily Kandinsky, where they drew geometric and organic shapes including overlapping, along with instruments and music notes. They used marker, crayon and watercolor to create their works of art. I just recently introduced a new lesson to them on the contemporary artist Jesse Reno. They are drawing animals, Native Americans and trees as well as other nature objects and symbols. They are using colored pencils, crayons and watercolors in this project.

Grade 4 is finishing up with their Faith Ringgold projects where they drew a happy memory with the option of putting a fantasy twist on it, coloring it in with colored pencil and outlining in marker. They started by measuring a 1 inch frame around the whole paper and measuring a 1 inch block on top and bottom.

The block is where the students wrote what the memory was and the frame is where they glued different kinds of fabric, like Faith Ringgold. They learned about quilts, fabric and frames in this lesson, as well as the artist and measuring.

Grade 5 is mostly done with their Marc Chagall projects. They learned about the artist Marc Chagall and his fantasy and dream-like paintings. They had a criteria list they filled out before they worked on their own fantasy place. They incorporated people, animals (real or fiction), and an unrelated object and came up with a certain place and feeling of their artwork. Most students started with my newer lesson, which is forest scenes using complementary colors. The students were taught what complementary colors are and reviewed forests and what is in them and started drawing their scenes with animals and nature. Some of them have started coloring them in with the complementary color combo of their choice in paint and/or other art materials.



Our **Kindergarteners** are extending their skills on the computer. They are creating more complex documents with a sentence and supporting documents. They also explored a website with Math activities.

First graders created a sorting table to reinforce math skills, and to learn some new computer skills. They are now exploring the concepts of compass points, and utilizing Google maps to get a better sense of the placement of their home, city and state within a larger world.

Second graders are completing a PowerPoint presentation of Australian Animals. They have learned more about the diversity of life on our planet, and are becoming more confident in using the internet to obtain needed graphics. They are doing a great job of utilizing the skills learned in their prior PowerPoint presentation to independently incorporate slide transitions and animations, and to import sounds.

Third graders are learning more about their own city of Meriden and incorporating that information into a travel brochure.

Fourth graders are starting a new unit on rainforest animals. Through their exploration, they are gaining a greater understanding of the importance of the rainforest biome on the ecology of the Earth.

Fifth graders are doing research, and creating a PowerPoint presentation on Colonial America. The fourth and fifth graders are also utilizing a new way of recording information from the internet. In using this new method, they are rewriting the

information in their own words, are learning more about not committing plagiarism, as well as the need to cite sources when doing research. The benefit, from their standpoint, is that they also do not have to handwrite notes! So, while this new method is using more sophisticated navigation skills, the students are enjoying the new process.



The Spring Concert, "Choices Count" will be performed by the 4th and 5th grade classes on Wednesday, April 7 at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Parents and guests may attend either performance.



Please contact Mrs. Kaplan if you would be willing to videotape the concert either in the morning or afternoon.



Math Minute

The Roger Sherman Math Team

Students in grades 3, 4 & 5 completed their math sections on the CMT during the week of March 15th.

Students were positive and anxious to show off their math skills during the testing window. Grade 5 will continue with the curriculum and practice skills for probability, ratios, percents, and proportions through March and into April. Fourth graders will continue learning multiplication with multi-digit numbers followed by long division. These students will need support for home during this very difficult concept of study. In third grade, students will focus on money and problem solving through the month of April. The second grade will be practicing money and fractions in the next month while first grade looks at subtraction and time. In Kindergarten, students will be comparing volume and weight and then begin estimation. Students in all grades should be practicing their basic facts. Parents are encouraged to spend some a few minutes each day with their child to review simple addition or subtraction facts. Some great websites for fact practice include:

<http://www.aplusmath.com/>,
<http://www.factmonster.com/math/flashcards.html>, and
<http://math.about.com/library/blmathfacts.htm>.

Volunteer Information

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

Any questions about the Volunteer Program can be directed to anyone on the volunteer committee at (203) 238 – 1286.

Save the date! Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2009. This event will be held at Platt High School in the cafeteria, 220 Coe Avenue. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by April 5, 2010 to your child's teacher. You may also contact the school at (203) 238 – 1286 and leave a message for the volunteer committee.



TPT

TPT meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 in the cafeteria.

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.

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.

Saturday Academy



Students enjoy making bubbles at the Discovery Museum on Saturday, March 13.



Mrs. Tellez makes a huge bubble using her hands as a wand.



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



Students Isaac Laderoute, Jalen Malone, Javon Malone and Jordan (Jo Jo) Malone enjoy the CMT Circus Tunnel.