



# Roger Sherman Elementary

May 2010

## Principal's Corner

L. Moss

On June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:20 school officially closes for summer vacation. Roger Sherman students have made academic and social growth over our ten months together. Students have learned to respect self, others, and the school. Our boys and girls have earned many Positive Behavior Supports' activities including: Holiday Store, Block Party, and a Dance Party. Academically, our Sherman students have made progress with reading comprehension, vocabulary usage, and mathematical thinking skills. We have been successful because every member of the Roger Sherman community saw the importance of helping each and every student achieve to his or her fullest.



As we head off into summer and go our separate ways it would be remiss of me not to ask parents to keep their children reading everyday by participating in the **Governor's Summer Reading Challenge**, writing about books or summer experiences, practicing math facts, and keeping students

safe when swimming or riding bikes. It has been a pleasure to serve as your principal and I am looking forward to continuing our important work in the fall.

Best wishes to all students and their families for a restful and enjoyable summer vacation.

## Pre-K and Kindergarten

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

Where has the time gone! Just over three weeks left of school classes.

So much has been accomplished over the school year. Your children have grown, matured, learned and developed. Ready to move up to Kindergarten. How wonderful.

Just a few reminders for the remaining time frame:

Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Preschool "Graduation." 9:45 - 11:45 am, for the morning session. 1:15 - 3:15 pm, for the afternoon session. It will be held in the school auditorium.



Family and friends welcome to attend. Refreshments will be provided.



Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Preschool "Beach Day!" Students will wear bathing suits for a fun-filled session of wet, outdoor activities. Family welcome to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Our final day of school. Sessions will be shortened. AM students will attend from 9:00 - 11:07. PM students will attend from 11:12 - 3:05.

We are so proud of the progress that our students have made this year in Kindergarten! We have just completed our DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) and are excited to report that our students have grown in their reading abilities. Students have learned and are using their reading strategies as well as comprehending what they have read as evident in their retelling of the stories. We have also seen growth in their recognition of sight words and their ability to decode

unknown words by using letter sounds.

In mathematics we have been working hard on addition and subtraction. Students have been given many opportunities to explore these concepts through the use of manipulatives and word problems to practice in these new areas. We will also review material that we covered throughout the year.

We would like to thank our parents for all of their support and help with student homework, sight word contracts, and at-home browser boxes. We could not have advanced the students as far without your help! As the school year winds down, we still encourage you to read with your child everyday!

### *First Grade*

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

The first graders have been working very hard this month. In reading, we focused on retelling stories, making connections, identifying main ideas and supporting details, and developing fluency. Students have also been busy in math adding, subtracting, and problem solving. Continue to practice math facts at home to develop automatic recall. We enjoyed an in school enrichment activity about farming called Farm Mobile. Students learned about what foods come from farms and the different food groups. In science, we have enjoyed the

magical journey of the butterfly. The children have watched as our caterpillars transformed into chrysalides and then butterflies. We will be releasing them into nature soon. June 4 is our school wide carnival. Our grade level will be looking for cake or cupcake donations for our scrumptious cakewalk. A notice will be coming home soon. Grade 1 is preparing for our field trip to Beardsley Park Zoo on June 9. Please be sure to send back permission slips. This is a fantastic experience for our students!



### *Second Grade*

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

The Second Graders have been working making connections to a character's feeling. Students have read stories and passages and made a connection to how any of the characters in the story are feeling. Students have been working on using more 'interesting' feeling words instead of 'boring' feeling words. Some 'boring' feeling words include: happy, sad, mad, surprised. Students have a Feeling Chart in their desk and a poster of the same chart on the wall to help them use a more 'interesting' feeling word instead.

In Science, we have been learning about Weather and the Water Cycle. In Second Grade we learn about Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation, and Collection, within the Water Cycle process. Students also should be able to describe to you about Cumulus, Cirrus, and Stratus clouds. Can your child name you the different types of precipitation?

In Math we have begun working on multiplying and dividing numbers using arrays and pictures. Students have worked with tiles and other math manipulatives to show their array on their desks. You have probably seen the arrays coming home as math homework. In Second Grade, multiplication is introduced as repeated addition. Make sure you keep practicing those Math facts at home, as students are expected to know all their addition and subtraction math facts up to 18 by the end of the year.

### *Third Grade*

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

**The 2009/10 school year is quickly coming to an end!** It's a time to think and reflect about your child's year in third grade. **Just think...** in 40 weeks or 180 school days or 900 school hours (that's taking out recess, lunch, and special), your child is leaving as a stronger reader, writer, and thinker. But let's not forget! With all our strengths... come weaknesses.

During the summer, make sure your child continues to read and write daily. Practice math facts and strengthen those problem solving skills.

Students are **reading** short biographies and learning to record journal entries as well as include ideas in a speech. During the past three weeks, students have been practicing these skills. In addition, many students have been working in small groups to increase **fluency** by using expression and paying attention to punctuation.

In **math**, students finished a unit on **place value**. Now, they are learning about **perimeter and area, capacity, and weight**. Ask your child to define these concepts for you.

In **writing**, we are reviewing how to write a **fictional narrative**. Remember...write a **Bang of a Beginning**, an **Action Packed Middle** and a **Strong Ending**. Our last prompt will be given in two weeks. **Keep Writing!**

On **May 28th**, the third grades are going to **Les'** for an ice cream celebration. We would like to thank **Miss Wilson** for planning and organizing the trip!

On **June 11th**, the third grades will be visiting the **Norwalk Maritime Center**. Students can't wait! We would like to thank **Mrs. Higley** for planning and organizing the trip to the aquarium!

## *Fourth Grade*

**A. DiGennaro, K. Fedora, F. Wagner**

The school year is now down to its final days. The fourth grade team is still going strong and has a full schedule for the remainder of the year. We are finishing up the final two selections in our Harcourt Anthologies and are reviewing the year's lessons from the reading program. We have completed the year's last MDA tests, and the students once again showed tremendous effort on all the tests. In Social Studies, we have been reviewing and testing how well the students have done learning their states and regions of the United States. Science will begin to pick up even more in our final month, including many more hands on experiments, and work on animal adaptations and biomes. Students are continuing to show respect for school, self, and others as they work to have 100 tickets for June's block party. With less than twenty days left, we would like to say thank you for all your support this year. Enjoy the remaining month.

## *Fifth Grade*

**S. Owen, A. Abbott, R. Tellez**

The grade 5 students in Miss Abbott, Mrs. Owen, and Mrs. Tellez's classes are looking forward to the end of the year and the end of their elementary years at Roger Sherman School. On Thursday, May 27th, the fifth grade students will be taking a

field trip to the middle school they will attend next year. The students will get the opportunity to meet the principal and some of the staff, ask questions about middle school, and take a tour. This trip allows the students to feel more comfortable about the transition they are about to face. The students will also be given information about summer reading work and the options for visiting the school during the summer time.

The fifth grade classes will also be preparing for their graduation from the DARE Program on Friday, June 4th at 1:00 in the Gym. Officer Tom Cirillo will be here to conduct the graduation where we will honor the students who have worked hard to make respectful choices throughout this year. The students have also completed many hours of class time lessons, homework assignments, and written an essay about what the DARE Program has meant to them. This ceremony is a huge honor for the students and we look forward to seeing family and friends there to support the achievements they have made!

There will be information forthcoming in the next few weeks about other end-of-the-year activities for our fifth graders. Please be sure to ask your child about any notices they have received regarding information on graduation, our fifth grade picnic, the TPT picnic, and other events. We look forward to seeing as



many of you at these events as possible!

Enjoy these final weeks of your child's elementary school experience. We have enjoyed having them here and they will be greatly missed when they go to the middle schools. We wish them the best of luck in their future academic careers!

**PBS**

PBS Team



Students continue to do an excellent job of showing respect for self, respect for others, and respect for school. Our May PBS Reward is planned for the end of May. Students who choose to participate with 90 yellow tickets will be able to dress up and attend the Prom, a school-wide dance. Please make sure these dress-up clothes are still following the school's dress code.

Make sure to keep saving up yellow tickets for June's PBS activity. Our final activity is a Block Party for 100 yellow tickets!! Make sure to remind your student to show respect for self, respect for others, and respect for school in order to continue earning blue tickets.

As you are doing your Spring Cleaning, don't forget to think of donating any gently used items to the PBS team for

future activities and next year's Holiday Store. These items can be sent in with your child or brought to the Office. We appreciate all of your continued support of positive behavior at school!



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



The following students enjoyed seeing their art work on display at the Augustus Curtis Cultural Center on Thursday, May 13, 2010:



Khalil Hissouf – Grade 3



Natasha Schweiger – Grade 3



Kimberly Arjona – Grade 2



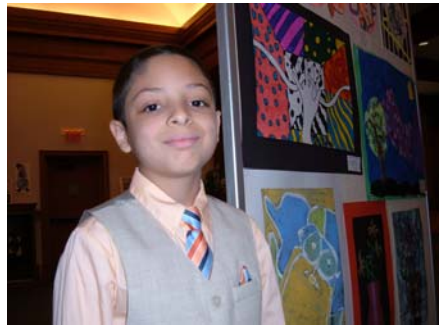
Jack Flores – Grade 3



Jocelyn Rosado – Grade 2  
and Rosa Rosado – Grade 5



Vanessa Dejesus – Grade 2



Sadiel Vega – Grade 3



Christina Meadows – Grade 2  
and Joseph Meadows –  
Grade 4



Kindergarteners are supporting some of their academic goals on the computer by learning more about color words, and the manipulation of shapes.

First graders extended this idea of the manipulation of shapes by exploring different triangles, and recognizing that because they still had 3 straight sides and 3 angles, they were still triangles! They also made some calendars.

Second graders finished their PowerPoint creations reflecting what they learned about their city of Meriden. They are also extending the idea that even though shapes can move through space by flipping, turning and sliding, they retain their shape identification and name.

Third graders learned that once they created one calendar in Excel, they could use that one as a starting point for a calendar for another month. The power of the computer became more real for a lot of students! With that existing knowledge of Excel, they are displaying what they have been learning about Mexican holidays. Just like many people in the USA celebrate national holidays like Independence Day, Memorial Day and Presidents' Day, other countries celebrate their own national holidays, too.

Fourth graders are taking the results from a survey and turning them into a graph in Excel.

Fifth graders are taking a picture of themselves, removing the background, and placing themselves in a different space like DC, France, or even outer space! They have a better

understanding of why people question photographs that are seen in the weekly magazines in the grocery stores!!



## Math Minute

The Roger Sherman Math Team

Students in all grades are coming to an end of their math studies for their current grade as the end of the year approaches. Kindergarten will complete the year by studying Sharing and Grouping of objects.

In first grade teachers will explore the challenging concept of problem solving.

Second graders will finish the year looking at concepts of multiplication and division while also exploring place value of numbers through the hundreds.

To complete the year in third grade, students will study algebraic reasoning and work on increasing their fluency in multiplication.

Fourth grade finishes the year with a review unit after they work on higher concepts of fractions.

The fifth grade students finish their elementary math experience with harder concepts of measurement such as, angles, and also a review unit that better prepares them for the beginning of 6<sup>th</sup> grade math.

Students in grades 2, 3, & 4 will receive a summer math packet to keep their skills sharp over the long vacation.



### Volunteer Information

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

Any questions about the Volunteer Program can be directed to Mrs. Edson or anyone on the committee. Please call the school office at (203) 238 - 1286.



### 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 last event at Roger Sherman. Please plan to attend and have a wonderful time.



**End of the Year Picnic**  
June 4th



### From the Nurse's Office

Please feel free to call the nurse's office with any questions at (203) 639 - 5533.

### Our Website

We have a wonderful school website that has information about events occurring at our school. It also has many resources to help you help your children learn. All of the newsletters are posted as well.

Please check out our website and explore the wonderful things it has to offer.

The website is:

<http://sherman.meriden.k12.ct.us/>

Our website is updated often and if you have suggestions please do not hesitate to send in a note to your child's teacher.

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Nuestra escuela tiene una página web con información sobre los acontecimientos ocurriendo en nuestra

escuela. Incluye nuestros boletines informativos y muchos recursos e ideas para ayudar a sus hijos a aprender.

Visite nuestra página web y aprovechense de todo lo que ofrece.

La página web es:

<http://sherman.meriden.k12.ct.us/>

Actualizamos esta página con frecuencia. Si tienen sugerencias, comuníquense con el/la maestro/a de su hijo/a.

**We have planned a surprise for our June edition of the school newsletter.**



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