



Roger Sherman Elementary

Januray/February 2011

Mrs. Moss' Message

L. Moss

On Friday, February 11, 2011, as many of you already know, Governor Dannel Malloy visited Roger Sherman School. Governor Malloy visited three classrooms, our new family resource room, toured the school, and attended a pep rally where he spoke to third, fourth, and fifth grade students. Governor Malloy was very interested in our Intervention Program. This program is extra reading instruction four days per week for thirty minutes of small group skill work.

During the month of March students in grades 3 – 8 across the state will take the Connecticut Mastery Test. This test assesses students in reading, math, science, and writing. Please help our school by having your children in school and on time every day, make sure they eat a good breakfast, and make sure they get a good night's sleep. Results will be returned to parents during the beginning of the next school year.

Important Announcement

Calling All Families!!!

Family Center Grand Opening
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
5:15-8:00
Admission is Free!

What is the Family Center?

It is a resource room filled with information on many community agencies and their available services. It is also a warm and cozy place where parents, children, and teachers can meet and talk.

How can the Family Center help you?

This is the place to go if you'd like information on educational opportunities, childcare, recreational activities, health care, assistance programs, etc.

Why come to the Grand Opening?

It's free! We will begin by distributing raffle tickets at dinner (served by many of your favorite teachers). This will be followed by a tour of the Center. A variety of community agencies will be present to share information and answer questions about their services. You and your child will get to make a fun hands-on activity. The evening will conclude with raffle drawing for some fantastic prizes. You must be present to win!

Save the date! More information coming in March!

Pre-K and Kindergarten

S. Conway, M. Rarey, K. Nitkowski, K. Kalber

In the preschool classes of Mrs. Rarey and Mrs. Rodriguez, we tried very hard to have a unit on winter: snow, ice, penguins and polar bears. Unfortunately, **WINTER** got in the way! We had our first full week of school since before Christmas just this past week! Yikes! We did manage to learn some interesting facts about snow and ice. We were able to go to the South Pole to learn about Emperor Penguins and the North Pole to learn about Polar Bears. We read lots of books about all of these subjects and learned the difference between fact and fiction books.



Joshua makes a penguin habitat in the water table with real ice.

In Mrs. Conway's and Mrs. Edson's classes we are also glad to finally have some full days and weeks of school. We all miss school when we have to stay home so much. We have been learning all about colors. The children are also learning to write their names on their papers just like the big kids!



Melanie found matching mittens in the dress up corner.

Coming up the week after February break, we have our annual SMENCIL sale. This fundraiser helps fund our annual trip to Mystic Aquarium. We need your help to take the children on this fun and educational trip in April. Please consider buying one of these wonderful smelling, environmentally friendly pencils. Thank you for your support!

The kindergarten students have been very busy. They have been focusing on recognizing letters and letter sounds. Students practice sight words daily and continue to have monthly sight word projects at home. In math, students have been graphing, sequencing, counting to nine and creating patterns. We know it seems like so long since the students have had a full week of school. You can help your child become reacquainted with routine by getting them to school on time and assisting them in completing and returning their homework. The kindergarten teachers look forward to seeing students and families at the CMT Circus. We have a fun activity planned. It will really "pay" to stop by and visit our station.

First Grade

A. Weaver, K. Fedora, B. St. John, A. Sharnick



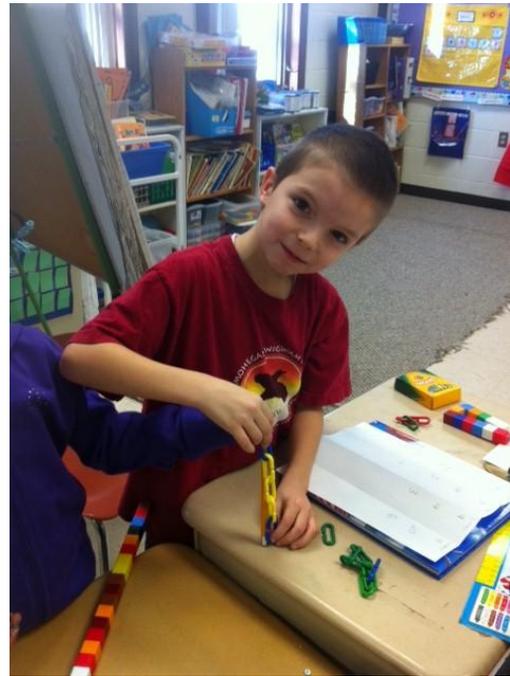
Governor Malloy in Mrs. Weaver's classroom.

Even with may snow days, delays and early dismissals, the first graders have studied many topics this month. In Math, students learned about measurement. They learned how to measure objects in the classroom in centimeters and inches using rulers. They also measured items using paperclips, plastic links, and erasers. Students had fun using color tiles to calculate the area of the floor tiles. During buddy time, Mrs. Weaver's 1st grade class and Ms. Wagner's 4 class used sweethearts to create math problems. Who knew math could be so sweet?



Celebrating 100 days of school!

First graders have been practicing reading and writing words with vowel teams as well as magic E words. You may have seen some students wearing their magic E hats in the hallways, or heard them reciting the rule "when two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking." You may have even seen some of our students on the news this month! Governor Malloy came for a visit and stopped in Mrs. Weaver's room to see what students have been learning. The students were very excited to meet him.



Measuring using many objects.



Second Grade

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

The second grade classes have been very busy learning about how to find information in a non-fiction text. Students have been finding important information and sharing details about what they have learned with each other. We are working on comparing and contrasting two different non-fiction subjects and putting the information into a Venn Diagram organizer. We are working on our question answering skills by writing our information from the organizer into a short paragraph.

We have also been busy working on learning how to subtract with regrouping. The students have been learning about science and animal

traits through our anthology story Dear Mr. Blueberry. Do you know what blubber is? If you don't make sure that you come to the CMT circus to learn what blubber is and to experiment on an adaptation that a whale has. We hope to see you all on Thursday!

Third Grade

B. Higley, K. Wilson, B. Cabell

Can you believe February is almost over already?! That means March and the CMT (Connecticut Mastery Test) are right around the corner! The third graders have been very busy reviewing strategies and skills needed to do well on the CMT. We have been making connections, writing journal entries as if we were the characters in the story, and much more! In our anthologies, we have begun a new theme, "Tell me a Story," in which we are reading folk tales from around the world, including the Native American tale, Coyote Places the Stars, and the African tale, Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears. In reader's workshop, we have been celebrating Black History Month by reading biographies about African Americans who have made a difference in history! Ask your child who we read about and what they did!

In math, we have been hard at work on geometry and fractions. We have also been reviewing our skills and strategies for the CMT, such as estimation and problems called, "The baseball problem." Ask your child what that means!



Third graders showing Governor Malloy the signs they made.

On February 11th, Governor Dannel Malloy came to visit Roger Sherman! We were honored to be able to sit in and listen to his speech. He also walked around and saw our classrooms! He was very impressed with our school! We made signs to welcome him and the other government workers, such as senators, who came to see Roger Sherman!



Third grade students listening respectfully to Governor Malloy.

Thank you to everyone who helped out Grade 3 by purchasing "Snowman Soup" and "Build-a-Snowman" at our Snow Ball on February 4th, as well as those who purchased Pencil Grams this week! Your purchases are helping us to pay for our field trip to the Norwalk Aquarium in June! We will learn about many of the sea creatures that live here in Connecticut and see an IMAX movie about a T-Rex!

Remember to practice your TestPrepFun during vacation and in the coming weeks to prepare for the CMT! The website is: TestPrepFun.com. Your child should have their username and password in order to log in and play! Those students who do well and win the selected amount of games, will also win prizes! KEEP PRACTICING!

Fourth Grade

W. McKay, A. Bryers, F. Wagner

The fourth graders have been keeping very busy. Despite the string of snow days, the fourth graders keep plugging along and are learning a lot! Here's what is new in fourth grade:

Fifth Grade

S. Owen, A. Abbott, R. Tellez

Fifth Grade Newsletter.....February

In language arts, our focus right now is main idea and theme. Students are asked to read a nonfiction article and describe the main idea of this passage in a few words or with a short phrase. They support the main idea with details from the passage. With a fiction text, students are asked to define the theme of the story. Because the theme of the story is not usually stated, students have a difficult time deciding on one word that states this. Teachers have given students a list of seven common themes that they will often find in literature that they can refer to when they are faced with this type of question.

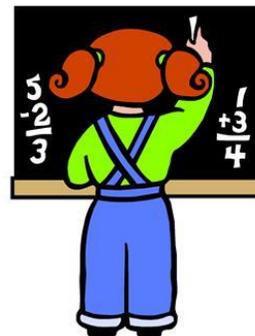


Recent topics in math include probability, fractions and measurement. Our grade level is also working on estimation questions from Strand 11 on the Connecticut Mastery Tests. However, the most exciting part thing we've done in math recently was the January "Are you Faster Than a Fifth Grader" addition fact practice competition. We were proud to have many fourth graders participate in this event. While ultimately the winner was a fifth grader, all fourth graders who participated or attended had a great time. Plus, this gave students a chance to brush up on their speed and accuracy when answering addition questions.

Our students were excited to host Governor Malloy at our school on Friday, February 11th. Our classes made signs to welcome our new governor at the assembly. We wore blue and yellow to show our Sherman school spirit. We listened respectfully and enthusiastically as he spoke to us. We were proud to be a part of such a historic event at Sherman.

The fifth grade classes of Miss Abbott, Mrs. Owen, and Mrs. Tellez have been working hard to master our math facts in both speed and accuracy. The students practice every day to improve their recollection of basic math facts in all four operations, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The students were competing against one another in order to attain a spot in in the "Are you Faster Than a Fifth Grader" challenge. Each classroom, in grades 3-5, had to send their top 7 contestants to represent their class. Students competed against one another to see who knew their facts at the quickest pace, with the best accuracy. After multiple rounds, and serious competition, we are pleased to announce that Alyssa Tresselt, in Mrs. Owen's class, was officially declared the final winner! As a reward she received a certificate, a trophy, and a pizza party for her class. We are proud of all the contestants for demonstrating sportsmanship, respect, hardwork, and determination. We look forward to future events and challenges!

The fifth grade classes were lucky enough to be a part of a special pep rally in honor of Governor Malloy when he visited our school on Friday, February 11, 2011. The fifth graders made signs to show their support for the Governor and the honor of him visiting our school. Governor Malloy gave a speech to the students, encouraging them to work hard and to always do their best when it comes to school and their education. Having the Governor come to Roger Sherman was an exciting experience for all of us!



On Thursday, February 17, 2011, we will be hosting the 3rd Annual CMT Circus here at the school, from 6-8 p.m. The students will get the opportunity to take part in math and science activities, in preparation for the upcoming CMTs. This year there will be a hands-on fish tank set up for the students, so that they can get up close and personal with marine life. There will be a basket raffle to benefit our school for upcoming programs and activities. Refreshments will be made available for purchase. This event is free for all students and families, however all students MUST be accompanied by an adult to enter. We are hoping to see as many families as possible at this amazing event!



MLT, Art, Music, Media, PE



Mrs. Muir – MLT

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. With their increased mastery of the connection between upper and lower case letters, and increased use of the keyboard, they are becoming much more adept at using the computer. The use of the computer also reinforces Concepts of Print, such as the space between words;

punctuation; and capitalization. They have also spent some time on Phonics Express which supports and extends their knowledge of the relationship between letter name and letter sounds. They also explored some of the concepts of size, and are learning how to draw with a mouse.

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, some students practiced manipulating shapes to make a design out of hearts. They used the math concepts of flipping, rotating and sliding shapes. First graders are also supporting their Social Studies curriculum by exploring Google Earth, and the software program, Trudy's Time and Place House. They are learning about the cardinal points (North, South, East and West), continents, oceans, and how to find their neighborhood.

Second graders are finishing a PowerPoint presentation on the Life Cycle of a Bean Plant. They are utilizing their background knowledge and applying it to this program.

Third, fourth and fifth graders are utilizing the first 15 minutes of their MLT time on a district initiative called Critical Reading Exercises. It is instructional software designed to instruct students to do what "good readers" do. Reading research has repeatedly demonstrated that good readers re-read, read ahead and inference as they read. This program provides the opportunity to do this at the student's instructional level.

Third graders have been researching Leatherback Sea Turtles, and are creating a poster about their findings. They are learning to organize their research, and to create an interesting presentation.

Fourth graders are finishing their poster 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. As they are sharing information, some have discovered places

they would like to visit, and some are surprised by the similarities and differences between their states. They are gaining increased understanding of searching the Internet for information, as well as how to effectively manipulate graphics in order to gain the desired effects.

Fifth graders are finishing up their research of American Explorers. They are refining their note taking skills through this project, and are going to be creating a final document that is going to allow a wider audience to view their projects.

PBS

PBS Team



We are continuing to stay focused on being showing 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.

January's PBS activity was a Game Day! Students enjoyed bringing in games from home and having a chance to play them with their friends. February's PBS activity will be after vacation. It is going to be an Ice Cream Social! Students who want to participate will need to use 60 of their yellow PBS tickets. It's a great time to talk to friends and have a sweet treat at school.



TPT

Teachers and Parents Together

Jennifer Flood: Co-President

Laura Graves: Co-President

Carrie Milslagle: Treasurer

Anne Sharnick: Secretary

Teachers and Parents Together

Our recent TPT Snow Ball was a huge hit! Students loved coming to dance and talk to friends. Congratulations to those who were crowned king and queen of their grade level!

Look for information about our upcoming Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser! Teachers will be serving breakfast at Applebee's to your family. This is a great way to help support our school!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Cookie Dough Fundraiser. The money we make goes right back to your child through activities and programs here at school. You can pick up your cookie dough order on April 12th at the TPT meeting.

Next TPT meeting: Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30 in the Roger Sherman Cafeteria.



Math Minute

The Roger Sherman Math Team

Students in grades 3, 4, & 5 are preparing to take the CMTs in March. They are reviewing important concepts to help them be successful on our state standardized test. Simple concepts to practice away from school are basic facts; addition—all facts grades 3, 4, 5; subtraction –all facts grades 3, 4, 5; multiplication – grade 3 x 0, x 1, x2, x5, x10; grades 4 & 5 all facts; division –grade 3 - ÷1, ÷2, ÷5, 10; grades 4 & 5 all facts. Students may also

practice rounding and ordering numbers. Students in grades 3, 4, & 5 are currently studying measurement, linear, area, and in grade 5 conversions of linear and time.

Kindergarten students are working with numbers 1-10 and geometry. First graders are studying fractions and will be starting adding numbers up to 20. Second grade has begun working with subtraction with regrouping and then continuing with money and problem solving.

Students in grades 3, 4 & 5 recently competed in a school wide challenge called, "Are You Faster than a Fifth Grader?" Alyssa Tresselt, a fifth grader from Mrs. Owen's class won the entire challenge. She was able to answer 50 addition facts the fastest in the school. Congratulations Alyssa and the other 63 participants!!



From the Nurse

The nurse will be doing scoliosis screenings on the 5th grade classes in February and March. The purpose is to check for any curvature of the spine. The screenings will take place during gym and they are asked to wear loose fitting shirts. Should you have any questions, please call the Nurse's office.

Any completed physicals (blue forms) done for Pre-school or Kindergarten entry can be returned to the nurse promptly.

Don't wait to schedule your child's physical. Should you have any health concerns to share with the nurse, please feel free to stop by or call her office. (203) 238-1286 and ask for the nurse.



**Come and join us
for the CMT
Circus!
Thursday,
February 17, 2011,
from 6 – 8.**

Please note that the dates for report card conferences has changed. They will now be held on Monday, March 21st, Tuesday, March 22nd, and Wednesday, March 23rd. Thursday will be a regular dismissal of 2:50.

**Remember to check out our school website for more school information.
<http://sherman.meriden.k12.ct.us>**



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