



Roger Sherman Elementary

January/February 2012

Mrs. Moss's Message

L. Moss - Principal

In March, there are several big events coming up that we could really use parental support. We begin Connecticut Mastery Testing in early March. This is an assessment for grades 3, 4, and 5. The intent of the test is to assess the most essential skills in language arts, math, and science at each grade level. It is critical that all students taking the test come to school every day and on time during the testing period.

How students can choose to do well:

Explain that the tests show how much he has learned. Encourage him to try his best, but don't put too much emphasis on them that he feels stressed.

Practice the test format. For example, your child might have to read a paragraph and answer questions. Using one of his textbooks, have him look at the questions at the end of a section first and then read the passage. That will help him know what to read for and how to find the answers.

Limit activities the night before the test. Be sure your child gets to bed on time and sets an alarm for the next morning.

On test day, give him an energy boosting breakfast. Try to include both protein and carbohydrates.

On March 8th beginning at 5:30 we will have our annual CMT Circus. This is a family event where teachers provide problems and activities for families to solve. This year we will be joined by some of our friends from Nathan Hale School.

Hale's grade one will host a fun science activity for students to participate in. All families are welcome to join in the event even if you do not have a student in grades 3, 4, or 5.



At the end of March, Parent Teacher Conferences will be scheduled. The conferences are for parents and teachers to discuss student progress and how parents can support students at home. There are some other ways you can support your child's learning and school. Here are some ideas:

Spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts your youngster brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day.

Tell your child's teachers if you can help them out at school or home.

Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time, send a thank you note or an email.

Contact your youngster's teacher immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your child succeed.

Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly.

Pre-K and Kindergarten

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

We "Welcome Back" Mrs. Nutcher from her maternity leave!

Kindergarten students continue to work hard in all areas of our curriculum. In Language Arts, students did well on the DRA reading assessment and have made significant growth since the beginning of the year. We are working on decoding CVC words and recognizing sight words to make students strong readers. In social studies, we are building a sense of community by exchanging Valentine's Day cards. We also discussed holidays such as Groundhog Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and President's Day. Students have also been busy working on various mathematical concepts. We have been exploring numbers 1-10, constructing different graphs, and making complex patterns. We are encouraging students to complete weekly homework as well as read every night and continue to practice their sight word cards.

The preschool classes have been working hard the last couple of months. Mrs. Conway's class has been busy studying colors and shapes. They learned many facts about the winter season reading many stories about the snowy, cold weather and winter animals. Mrs. Rarey's class finished up a unit on winter too with a focus on snow, ice, penguins and polar bears. They learned many new facts and vocabulary words. They are also learning the difference between fact and fiction books and studying about shapes and numbers as well as letters and letter sounds. We are all going to be so ready for kindergarten! Speaking of kindergarten, **all APPLE preschool students must register for kindergarten at their**

home school regardless of the fact that they are in preschool.



Channing, Mariela, Saniely

Coming soon:

SMENCIL SALE: Wonderful smelly pencils will be sold before school February 27th - March 2nd. This fundraiser helps support our preschool fieldtrip to Mystic Aquarium in April. Thank you for your help!

Conferences: Parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled for March 19th through March 21st and March 23rd and 26th.

Have a great winter vacation!

First Grade

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

The first grade classes have been working hard! Students have been working on retelling stories including all the characters by name, all the events, the problem, and the solution. Students also have to explain about their favorite part of the story and make a connection to their own life. We have become such good readers!

In Math we have worked on many topics, such as measurement. Students learned how to measure objects in the classroom in centimeters and inches using rulers. We also measured using paper clips, plastic links, and tiles. Students learned to calculate the area using color tiles and pattern blocks. Students then moved on to fractions. We have been learning about $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$. Students can identify the correct fraction based on the amount of a shape that is shaded in.

First graders recently celebrated 100th Day! Students in all classes decorated special hats for the occasion. Many students created projects at home with 100 objects displayed on them. We are in awe of the creativity that the students showed working on their project. From cotton balls, pasta, and stickers, to hearts, photographs, and cereal, all students really tried their best. Students also wrote about what they would look like if they were 100 years old! Students practiced writing to a prompt by writing about what they would do if they had \$100. We all had a great time celebrating the 100th day of school.

The first grade teachers would like to thank all the parents that helped with the First Grade Bake Sale at the Snow Ball Dance. We really appreciated all the goodies that you sent in! We were able to raise over \$150 towards our field trip to Beardsley Zoo in late Spring. Thank you!!

Second Grade

K. Baransky, A. Jensen, J. Crouse

The second grade students have been very busy learning about Pioneers. We have learned many exciting facts and are very excited to complete our Pioneer projects over the February break.

We have also been busy learning about non-fiction text features, creating questions, and writing with details and suspense. We have even learned to write poetry! In math we are busy learning about subtraction with re-grouping and we are practicing for the "Fastest Factor" competition later this year.

It is hard to believe that it will be March soon. We taking our writing prompt and are getting ready for conferences. Have a great vacation and we can't wait to see your amazing projects when we get back.

Third Grade

B. Higley, K. Mastriano, B. Cabell

Third grade has been quite busy! We are getting ready for the Connecticut Mastery Test in March. Students have been reviewing math and reading skills. Additionally, students are practicing key events and specific details in story writing. We will continue to work hard on these skills until the CMTs begin.

In reading, students have finished learning about nonfiction text features. The past six weeks, third grade teachers have pointed out that authors include a variety of features to help children understand nonfiction.

Now... students are reading short biographies and learning to record journal entries as well as include ideas in a speech. During the past week, students have been practicing these skills.

In writing, we completed our unit on personal narratives. That's a true story that consists of a main character. For the month of February, we are reviewing fictional narratives. Students are learning to compose a Great Beginning, an Action

Packed Middle, and a Strong Ending. We have a few strong writers in third grade!

In math, students completed units on division, geometry, fractions and decimals. Currently, they are learning about measurement such as inches, feet, yards, centimeters, and meters as well as area. Ask your child to define these concepts for you.

Our PBS activity for February was hot chocolate and a movie. YUMMY!

Please have a wonderful vacation. Have FUN but make sure you read, write, and practice your math facts!

Fourth Grade

C. Smith, A. Bryers, F. Wagner

The fourth grade is getting ready for the CMT test in March. Please remember to have your child eat breakfast before school and get enough sleep. This will help them get ready to take the tests.

Fifth Grade

S. Owen, A. Abbott, R. Tellez

It is hard to believe that it is time for February vacation already! Where did the winter go? The fifth grade students have been busy this season, preparing for CMTs and the transition to middle school...which will be here before we know it!

In Math, we have been mastering skills in fractions; including simplifying, comparing and ordering, adding and subtracting, and creating equivalent fractions. We have mastered measuring in both the standard and metric systems. We have learned how to find area and perimeter of shapes, and how to estimate measures. Let's not forget that we had

our FASTEST FACTER competition in January! All fifth grade participants did an amazing job...and it came down to the final two, Luis Aguilar and Daniela Fuentes, both from Mrs. Owen's class. In the end Daniela edged out Luis for the win. Not only did she win bragging rights for being the FASTEST FACTER, but she won her class a pizza party, which will be celebrated after the February vacation.

In Reading, we are continuing our study into Jerry Spinelli. We recently finished his book, Loser, which the students absolutely loved! We are now working on another one of his novels, Maniac Magee. We are creating connections between Spinelli's books, whether it be with characters, themes, or events. The students and the teachers are enjoying the opportunity to delve into an author study, especially an author that the students can so easily connect with! As always, we encourage the fifth graders to continue reading 30+ minutes per night, to increase their endurance and stamina...and to open their minds to the many types of books there are to discover!

The CMT's are fast approaching. We will begin testing in March. Look for further information to come home with the students. We will be sending out strategies and tips to help your children to succeed and to do their very best. In connection with the start of CMT's, we will be having our annual CMT CIRCUS on March 8, 2012. This night is fun for all families with students in all grade levels, regardless of whether your child will take the CMT's or not. Come out and support your child's education by taking part in math, science, and reading activities that will encourage your child to think, experiment, and problem-solve!

Enjoy your February vacation! We'll see you back in school on Monday, February 27, 2012!

MLT, Art, Music, Media, PE



M. Muir – MLT
K. Hettrick, R. Modzelewski - Art

Our Kindergarteners are becoming more comfortable and 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 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.

Most second graders finished a pictograph of snowmen. They utilized many basic computing skills like copying and pasting, and cropping graphics. For Valentine's Day, they practiced manipulating shapes to make a design out of shapes. They used the math concepts of flipping, rotating and sliding shapes. They are starting a PowerPoint presentation on the Life Cycle of a Bean Plant. They are utilizing their background knowledge and applying it to this program.

Third and fifth graders explored story writing in an online program called

Storybird. In this art-inspired site, students can create books, collaborate with other writers, share their stories with classmates and comment on each others' books.

Third graders have also started 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 online poster of a New England state. They found out about how the states were named 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. They are also typing in text, adding graphics, recording sound files, adding links to online information, and some are even creating videos. As they are working on these projects, they can view each others' creations. Inspired by the creative possibilities in Glogster, some students are creating additional glogs about topics of personal interest.

Fifth graders are creating a Photostory of their visit to Old Sturbridge Village. They are revisiting their experience at this historic site. Through the creative process, they are talking about things that they did, and what they learned about the colonial time period.

It is so exciting that now that many students have used the Glogster and Storybird sites, their ability to use the computer in new and appropriate ways has been expanded. Ask your child to share what they have been doing!

We would like to welcome our new Art teacher, Mrs. Modzelewski! We are all excited to be working with you.



C.A.S. Arts Festival----On Tuesday, February 7th, two Roger Sherman students were honored at the C.A.S. (Connecticut Association of Schools) Arts Recognition Festival held at the Aqua Turf. The students, Khalil Hissouf and Natasha Schweiger were recognized for their outstanding abilities in art. Khalil was chosen by art teacher Kathy Hettrick, while Natasha was selected by art teacher Bonnie Gallo. The two students, along with parents, grandparents and teachers were treated to a great evening of food and fun. Each student had a caricature of themselves drawn by a famous local artist, as well as had a balloons sculpture created by a clown. Another clown painted their faces! The entertainment for the evening was provided by "All That Jazz", a wonderful jazz band. This was a terrific evening for all. Congratulations to the two outstanding young Sherman artists!

PBS
PBS Team



January's PBS activity was making a Valentine project. Students enjoyed making a Valentine guy out of a heart

shape with accordion legs and arms. Students then could decorate their Valentine guy any way they wanted. February's PBS activity is going to be on Thursday, February 16th. Students who pay 60 yellow tickets will be able to watch a movie and have some hot chocolate. Students can bring a blanket to sit on during the movie.

We are really focusing on good citizenship. A student who is a good citizen:

- 1) uses kind words
- 2) problem solves
- 3) helps others
- 4) keeps their hands to themselves
- 5) tries their best
- 6) is honest
- 7) takes responsibility for their actions

Students will be reminded during morning announcements and by their teachers about all these qualities of citizenship. Students will be noticed and complimented for demonstrating these things. Please remind your child what being a good citizen is all about and praise them at home when they show these qualities.



Students enjoying the PBS reward for February: Hot chocolate and a movie.

Many thanks to McDonald's on Queen Street in Southington for donating the cups for this special event.



TPT

Teachers and Parents Together
Michelle Haag: President
Melanie DeBaise: Vice-President
Laura Graves: Treasurer
Anne Sharnick: Secretary

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! Students were also able to create a design and have their design featured on a plate, tote bag, note cards, etc. if they ordered from this great company.



This past week information went home about a Cookie Dough Fundraiser. We would like every family to participate! All of our money raised goes right back to the kids to support educational assemblies and activities. Students earn prizes based on how many items they sell. The top seller from each grade will earn a Limo Lunch.

Also, all students who sell at least 3 items will be entered in a raffle to join the top sellers at the Limo Lunch!! If your child participates they have a chance to win!! All cookie dough orders are due back by March 1st. Thanks in advance for participating and supporting our school.

The Winter Box Top contest just ended. After February vacation the top 3 classes will be announced. These classes will be rewarded! Thank you to all parents who have been sending in Box Tops. Please keep saving them and sending them in, as there will be another contest in the Spring.

Next TPT meeting:
Tuesday, February 28th at 6:30 in
the Roger Sherman Cafeteria.



Volunteer Committee

Mrs. Edson, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Higley, Ms. Poggio

Volunteers are needed!

If you would be interested in volunteering in a classroom please contact your child's teacher.



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 $\times 0$, $\times 1$, $\times 2$, $\times 5$, $\times 10$; grades 4 & 5 all facts; division –grade 3 $\div 1$, $\div 2$, $\div 5$, 10; grades 4 & 5 all facts. Students may also practice rounding and ordering numbers. Students in grades 3, 4, & 5 are currently studying measurement, including linear and 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 to add numbers up to 20. Second grade has begun working with subtraction with regrouping and then continuing with money and problem solving.



On January 30th, Fastest Factor was held at Roger Sherman. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 competed against each other in the recall of facts. The grade 3 winner was McKile Facey from Mrs. Mastriano's class. The grade 4 winner was Jasper Amenounve from Ms. Wagner's class. And the grade 5 winner was Daniela Fuentes-Mercado from Mrs. Owen's class. Each of these winners received a trophy and won a pizza party for their entire class. Fastest

Factor for grades 1-5 will take place at the end of May.



From the Nurse

If you need to get in touch with Nurse Bonnie just call the school (203) 238-1286.

Roger Sherman Book Swap



Remember to be reading your books at home. We will be having another book swap soon.
"Share an old friend- Meet a new friend!"
Any Questions please contact Mrs. Higley,
Grade 3, Room 201
brenda.higley@meriden.k12.ct.us

Check out our school website at:
<http://sherman.meriden.k12.ct.us/>



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