



# Roger Sherman Elementary

Remember to check out our school website for more school information.

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

## March/April 2011

### *Mrs. Moss' Message*

L. Moss

#### **Parent Power:**

There are many ways you can support your child's learning and school. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts your child brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day.
- Tell your child's teacher if you can help them out at school or at home.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time, send a thank you or an email.
- Contact your child's teacher immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your child succeed.
- Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly.

We need to work together to ensure students are receiving the best education possible while remaining safe at school. With that said, I need to address a serious safety issue at the Del Terrace drop off area. Parents who drop off students on the Del Terrace side must adhere to the following safety procedures:

- Cars must enter and exit the parking lot slowly, no more than 5 miles per hour.
- Drop off students, and leave safely. DO NOT PARK YOUR CAR. Cars are not allowed to park in the designated fire lane areas per order of the police department.
- When students exit the car they should exit on the right side onto the side walk.

Choose a different area to drop off your child such as near the Liberty Street pathway. There is crossing guard to guide your child to the school.

Please keep all Roger Sherman students safe.



### *Pre-K and Kindergarten*

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

Thank you parents/guardians for coming in to speak with us for your child's parent teacher conference. It is a wonderful experience to discuss your child's progress and what he/she continues to learn as we focus on letter recognition, printing letters, reading words, identifying letter sounds and learning rhyming words.

Our Mystic Aquarium field trip was a wonderful experience viewing sea life after learning about whales, fish, sea lions, seals and penguins just to name a few. Thank you to the many parents who came as chaperones to help us supervise the children.

We look forward to spending time outdoors now that the warmer, nice weather is upon us looking for signs of Spring.



A picnic lunch.



Petting sharks.

We look forward to planning our walks to Washington Park, and our annual Preschool Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Family and friends are welcome to attend. The ceremony will be held in the gymnasium at 9:45 a.m. for the morning session children and 1:15 p.m. for the afternoon session children. More information to follow.



Kendall and Cassidy printing letters and words.

Wow...the kindergartens are really taking flight as they prepare to be first graders. They really enjoy being readers. They are practicing their decoding strategies, retelling stories, and making connections to text. Be sure to continue to practice sight words at home to further move them along as readers. In math, students have been weighing and measuring objects, and have begun addition. Kindergartens in Mrs. Kalber's class went on a nature walk looking for signs of spring. We found flowers sprouting, leaves budding, and we even found an April shower. Mrs. Nitkowski's class observed a bird's nest and feathers. Both classes have been learning about what comes from eggs. Students have also been preparing for the Easter Bunny and completing art projects that tie into the holiday. We hope you enjoyed your Spring Break!

## *First Grade*

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

During the month of March we celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday which is Read Across America Day! All of the classes created and wore hats that resembled the hat of the Cat in the Hat! In addition to this, we read stories by Dr. Seuss and even ate Green Eggs

and Ham! It was very delicious.

The weather is starting to change and the wind is picking up. The weather is perfect for flying kites. Mrs. St. John's class made their own kites and had the privilege of flying them on a windy, spring day.

In preparation for a special math contest titled: Are you faster than a 5<sup>th</sup> grader? The first graders have been working hard to commit addition facts 0-20 to memory. Mrs. Fedora's class has been competing against 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders! Parents, please continue to prepare your child for this math contest at home by practicing flash-cards regularly.

Mrs. Weaver's class learned about using their five-senses to enhance their writing. We brainstormed sensory details about the spring and used them to do some creative writing on flower petals.

All of the first grade classes are preparing for the DRA2 test which is right around the corner! Please be sure that your child is reading both fiction and non-fiction at home every night. Encourage your child to read, retell, make connections and explain the author's message.



## *Second Grade*

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

The second grade has been very busy. We have been learning about making meaningful connections to a characters feelings. We have learned how to create wonderful responses using details from the

text to support our answers. We are now getting ready to watch the metamorphosis of tadpoles. We can't wait until they transform into frogs!

Mrs. Baransky's class was hard at work with their reading buddies to create a presentation for CECA at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. Elyssa and Jose' were selected to present the project with Brianna B. and Zach from Mrs. Owen's class. They did a great job sharing our "Show What You Know" project! They even were able to present it to Governor Malloy.



Governor Malloy, Jose', Zach, Brianna, and Elyssa.

## *Third Grade*

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

The third grade teachers would like to thank the parents for coming in during conference week. This was an important time to discuss the child's strengths and weaknesses as well as sharing our goals for the rest of the 2010/2011 school year. Thank you again!

Third grade students exhibited tremendous effort during the CMTs. To summarize, students had two writing prompts, a revising and editing assessment, three reading assessments, and two math assessments. **GREAT JOB BOYS AND GIRLS!**

In the area of **reading**, students are learning how to compose a journal entry, include two points in a speech, and create two questions that are not answered in the text. Students are doing quite well with this reading goal. Our next goal will be **Descriptive Writing**. Students will be scored on specific details, word choice, and organization.

In **writing**, students finished a unit on **Personal Narratives** and **Poetry**. Students learned that a Personal Narrative needs a main character. In addition, the narrative needs to end with what the character learned from his/her experience. In our Poetry Unit, students created a Picture Poem, Spring Poem, and Limerick. After vacation, we will begin a unit on Expository Writing. This type of writing is to **inform** the reader!

For math, students completed a unit on Fractions, Measurement, and Money! They are finishing a unit on Problem Solving and will begin a unit on Place Value.

HAPPY SPRING!

### *Fourth Grade*

**W. McKay, A. Bryers, F. Wagner**

In Language Arts the fourth grade students are reading stories with a theme of "New Lands". In this theme, students are reading about characters that travel to new lands. The characters come to view exploration and discovery as lifelong processes, always beginning with an open mind and courageous heart. In writing, the students have begun to explore expository writing. They are very eager to write about topics they know and provide main ideas and details to support their writing. In math the students are continuing a unit on long division. They will continue the year solving multiple step problems and extended problems. In Social Studies, the students will be visiting the Peabody Museum and the New Haven Museums in New Haven, CT.



### *Fifth Grade*

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

The students in Miss Abbott, Mrs. Owen, and Mrs. Tellez's classes have been working on some interesting science experiments. The fifth graders have been studying about light and vision. The students learned about the parts of the eye and their functions. They have been learning about how the pupil is affected in bright lights and darkness. They studied how rainbows are made using prisms and flashlights and connecting it to rainbows made from sunbeams and raindrops. They experimented with colors and learned how colors overlap to create white light. The culminating project allowed the students to dissect a cow's eyeball! The students were able to take the eyeball apart, layer by layer, to see how all the parts interact with one another. It was truly an exciting event for everyone!!

On May 5, 2011, we will be honoring 15 fifth graders at the Project Excel ceremony at Maloney High School, at 6:30 p.m. These students have modeled appropriate behaviors with respect for self, others, and school. These students have also put forth their best effort in their academics, always working hard to achieve success. This year we will be honoring the following students: Evan Adamowicz, Brianna Boulay, Greyshel Colon, Jonathan Craig, Brianna Cuevas, Gillian Galotti, Moza Maindu, Nicholas Milslagle, Zachary Pavitt, Karleigh Pedroncelli, Kimberly Preece, Raven

Santello, Paige Tortorella, Alyssa Tresselt, and Keyshla Valentin. We hope to see you there, as we show our support for these students and the hardwork they've demonstrated in their years at Roger Sherman School.

## Specialists



**Mrs. Muir – MLT**

As the computer skills of the Kindergarteners are growing, they are combining more skills and gaining an increased sense of comfort. They have started to use some of the drawing skills. They are strengthening some of their academic skills in the computer lab by typing their sight words, and practicing their numbers. They are also learning to copy and paste rather than recreating objects over and over again.

First graders have moved from the icon-driven version of Scholastic Keys into the regular "adult" version of Microsoft Office. They created a table to show their favorite pets in a pictograph. They made sure to use a key at the bottom so that everyone could understand the data. With this understanding of how to make a table, they are exploring other uses for it. They have also created tables to sort vegetables, fruits and dairy products, as well as to make a calendar of May from scratch!!

Second graders also utilized tables to create a document showing the power of Double Facts. They revisited the software program PowerPoint in order to create a presentation on Meriden. We talked about why Meriden is nicknamed "The Silver City", and looked at different places in town. They have each identified 6 different locations in town, and are writing about them. Some of the students are learning how to record their own voices reading the text in the slide show.

Third graders have been researching the

Mexican holidays of Cinco de Mayo, Día de los Muertos and Día de la Independencia. They are learning how to take notes from the internet, rewrite the information into their own words, and then copy and paste their own text into a new document. They are using Excel for their final document.

Fourth graders also completed a document in Excel. They used this powerful program to create a graph of a class vote of favorite Disney Characters. They are now creating a web of their selected Biome in the software program Inspiration. They are identifying the climate, animals and plants of their Biome, and creating a graphic representation of it.

Fifth graders are creating their "flying projects". They are utilizing a picture of themselves, removing the background, and placing themselves in a different space like DC, France, underwater 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!!



**Mrs. Hettrick, Ms. Gallo – ART**



Two grade 5 Roger Sherman students, Zachary Pavitt and Kimberly Preece, were recently honored at the 12th annual Connecticut Association of Schools arts festival. The festival was held on Feb. 8, 2011 at the Aqua Turf and recognized students in the highest grade, in their elementary school, for outstanding abilities in the arts. Zachary was chosen by art teacher, Kathy Hettrick, and Kimberly was chosen by art teacher, Bonnie Gallo. Each received this award for their excellent artistic talents, as well as being great students! The two students were joined by parents, siblings, friends and teachers for a fun-filled evening. The menu of pizza, tacos, pasta and of course, the sundae bar, was geared toward the young artists. Caricatures were done and the entertainment provided by "Poetry in Motion", a hip-hop dance group, was an enjoyable part of the evening. Congratulations to Zachary and Kimberly!!!

creatures such as sea stars and lobsters. We also pet a snake and a chinchilla. Did you know that chinchillas have incredibly soft fur?



On our last trip, we went horseback riding. We learned how to ride a horse and practiced different maneuvers that professional riders do! Did you know that female baby horses are called foals? We were able to see a two week old foal playing with her mother. It was so exciting!

## Saturday Academy



This year, Saturday Academy Students participated in interesting after school activities and attended some fabulous field trips!

At the end of April, we will be going to Action Wildlife Safari to see live animals! Learning is so much fun!!!

At the beginning of March, we went to the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford. Students explored and learned about different science topics such as sound and space! They also learned about climate change and what we can do to help our planet!



Scientists from Mystic and The Children's Museum visited us after school. We were able to learn about and interact with animals that live in Connecticut. We held sea

PBS

PBS Team



We recently had some visitors to our school! PB and GiGi, our PBS school mascots, visited looking for students who are respectful for self, others, and school. PB left gold stars where he saw students who were being respectful in these ways. They recognized students who were showing respectful behavior.

Our March PBS Reward was movie with a friend. Students paid 70 blue tickets to watch a movie with a stuffed animal and blanket.

Students really enjoyed watching [A Bug's Life!](#)



Make sure to keep saving up blue tickets for April's reward. It will be a Cinco De Mayo celebration the first week of May. It costs 80 blue tickets. May's blue ticket award is the Roger Sherman Prom for 90 blue tickets! June's activity will also be here before you know it – A Block Party for 100 blue 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!



TPT

**Teachers and Parents Together**

**Jennifer Flood: Co-President**

**Laura Graves: Co-President**

**Carrie Mislagle: Treasurer**

**Anne Sharnick: Secretary**

**Teachers and Parents Together**

Our upcoming May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting is very important! Nominations will be held for next year's Executive Board. These positions include President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Please come and discuss this important decision with us.

The TPT has sponsored many assemblies recently for your child. We had an acrobatic group assembly. Upcoming this week is a Latin American dance assembly that will really get your kids moving!



Keep saving those Box Tops! There is another contest running through the end of May. The top 3 classes will earn a pizza party!! Remember that each Box Top you turn in is 10 cents for our school!

Our recent movie night showing Despicable Me was a huge hit! Thanks to all who attended!

Next week the TPT and Roger Sherman Students are invited to Chuck E. Cheese. Our annual Chuck E. Cheese night is a great way to spend some fun time with our school community. Look for a sticker going home with your child next week that will give you free tokens!!



**Next TPT meeting:  
Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the  
Roger Sherman Cafeteria.**



*Math Minute*

**The Roger Sherman Math Team**

Students in grades 3-5 completed the Math sections of the Connecticut Mastery Test in late March. Many students expressed confidence in their preparation and performance during the 2 days of testing. Students in these grades will continue to work on completing this year's units which will prepare them for their next grade level. Students in Kindergarten will complete the year exploring estimation, addition and subtraction. Grade 1 will learn about estimation and probability and grade 2 will finish the year by learning the beginning stages of multiplication and division.

In late May and early June, students in grades 1-5 will be competing in a fastest facts competition. Grades 1 & 2 will focus on addition; grades 3 & 4 will focus on subtraction; and grade 5 will be competing with a mix of multiplication and division. To involve the students from all grades together there will be an exhibition competition of relay teams made up of one student from each grade. There will be four teams of these students representing grades 1-5.



*From the Nurse*

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.

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