



Roger Sherman Elementary

March/April 2012

Mrs. Moss's Message

L. Moss - Principal

The TPT (Teachers Parents Together) really needs your help to continue running special family events, fundraising to provide funds to offset 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 extracurricular events. In May, we will have the TPT's annual elections for officers for the 2012-2013 school year.



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 the Halloween Boo Bash, a laser light show, the Multi-Cultural Potluck Dinner, the Snow

Ball and soon the end of the year carnival. 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, R. Natcher, K. Kalber

The Preschool classes of Mrs. Rarey and Mrs. Conway thoroughly enjoyed two marvelous days at Mystic Aquarium. The weather cooperated and was just perfect for all we planned. Students enjoyed a sea lion show.



In the aquarium they were able to view the shark tank, eels, sea horses, sea turtles, sea stars, jelly fish and a marvelous sight of the octopus, just to name a few of their exhibits. They were able to reach into the "touch tank" and experience feeling sting rays and sand sharks.



And of course, remarkable views of the Beluga whales swimming right in front of us were very exciting. The penguin exhibit was great with a stunning view of the penguins swimming in the tank. We walked along the pond and caught a glimpse of tadpoles, frogs and turtles. Our bus trip was enjoyed by the children singing songs and discussing what they had experienced. Thank you to the many parent chaperones that accompanied us to provide a safe adventure for the children.



We are looking forward to learning and discussing our topics on "Spring Wonder."

As climate changes occur, we also look forward to more time spent outdoors.

Spring has arrived in Kindergarten. Students have been looking for signs of spring and writing about their discoveries.

We enjoyed an Easter basket hunt and will soon be planting seeds. The kindergarteners are sad to say good-bye to Mr. Parr, the Para-professional in Mrs. Nutcher's class. We wish him well in his future endeavors. We have been busy reading and practicing sight words. We can really see the improvement the students are making from daily practice at home. In math, we have been learning about measurement concepts, numbers to 12, and shapes. Look for upcoming notices about our picnic in the park. We will need parent volunteers. If you are willing to be a contact parent for your child's classroom, please send a note to your child's teacher. The contact parent will help coordinate the picnic with the teacher.

First Grade

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

We have been very busy in First Grade! We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday in March. We read many of his books, responded in writing, and even discussed the places we'll go in life. Mrs. DeMore and Mrs. Fedora's classes enjoyed a visit from Mrs. Moss, who was a guest reader for Dr. Seuss' birthday. Mrs. St. John's class has been enjoying kite flying at Recess and discussing the signs of Spring. They took a nature walk and recorded all the signs of Spring they noticed using their five senses. Mrs. Sharnick's class is creating robots out of empty cardboard boxes as a culminating project after reading *My Robot*.



First Graders have been working on reflecting on text. Students are asked to write about their favorite part of the story and give a detailed explanation as to why it is their favorite part. We have been using songs, big books, fiction, and non-fiction texts for our responses.

In Science, we have been learning about bees. We read a story in our Harcourt Anthology book called Busy, Buzzy Bee. Bees collect both nectar and pollen from flowers. Students have been identifying the parts of the bee, learning about the bee's role in pollinating flowers, and how honey is made. We have been able to sample honey and use our 5 senses to describe the honey. We even have a real (empty) beehive to study! First graders have been busy, busy bees.

Second Grade

K. Baransky, A. Jensen, J. Crouse

The Second graders celebrated the culmination of their Pioneer Unit with Pioneer Day on Monday, April 2, 2012. Students participated in 8 different stations all dealing with the pioneers.



Second graders made butter and ate the butter with crackers. They had to shake, shake, shake their containers to turn the cream into butter. Students realized that the pioneers really had to

work to get butter. The students also had the chance to play pioneer tunes on a keyboard.



They played **Oh, Susanna** and **Clementine**. The next station was to make a 3 dimensional pioneer house. Students colored and glued together their houses. The second graders also created a pioneer game, called the ball and cup. They decorated a paper cup and then tied a bead to the end of a string. Students had to swing the bead and catch it in the cup.



The most interactive station was the Oregon Trail. Students had to first visit the general store and pack their wagons full of supplies. Then they traveled the trail, stopping at different points to complete a task. Mrs. Baransky cooked authentic pioneer food for the students. The students had the chance to try stew and cornbread. They also had the chance to view and interact with different artifacts from the time of the pioneers. The last station that the students visited was the game station. Here, the students played different pioneer games such as: ball and cup, Jacob's ladder, ring toss and marbles.



Pioneer day was fun for all involved. It was a great way for students to show what they have learned and to celebrate the end of the Pioneer unit.

Third Grade

B. Higley, K. Mastriano, B. Cabell

The third grade students will begin their last theme, Celebrate Our World, in their anthology. They will be reading a poem called I'm in Charge of Celebrations and Alejandro's Gift, a story about a lonely man living in the desert and how a water hole changes his life. The students will also be reading three

nonfiction books in this theme. Students have been working on telling and writing summaries. When your child is reading at home, you can help your child's reading comprehension by asking them to summarize what they have read. Their summary should be about six sentences long. The summary should include information about the main character, the main events, and the problem and solution.

Third graders took the first Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) of their educational career. Students were focused and dedicated to completing the test to the best of their ability. All students did their best and we are proud of their efforts. Parents will receive the results from the CMT testing in the fall.

In Writing, the third grade students have been practicing the skills learned throughout the year in a variety of ways. Mr. Cabell's and Mrs. Mastriano's class completed a unit on poetry. The students wrote limericks, shape poems, diamante, haiku, and cinquain poems.

Mrs. Higley's class worked in cooperative groups to write a sequel to, the whole school read, Because of Winn Dixie. They will be starting a poetry unit after vacation.

In math the students are working on a unit on problem solving. They are using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to solve word problems. Remember to encourage your child to continue to practice addition, subtraction, as well as multiplication and division facts. Ordering numbers and place value up to 10,000 will be the next focus in math.

We hope everyone enjoyed reading the "One School, One Book" selection, Because of Winn-Dixie, a novel by Kate DiCamillo. Thank you Miss Flood for organizing this exciting new reading adventure!

A date has been set for the third grader fieldtrip to the Norwalk Aquarium. We will be going on Monday June 4th during school hours. If you would like to chaperone please contact your child's teacher.

Enjoy the spring vacation and remember to read every day!

Fourth Grade

C. Smith, A. Bryers, F. Wagner

The fourth graders are working on synthesizing during reading. By looking for clues in the text, students are able to identify the morals, values, ethics and beliefs of the author.

A fable is a story that is written with a specific moral in mind. Ms. Wagner's class is writing their own fables. With the help of Ms. Everett, our student teacher, we are coming up with great stories. Check out this sample fable:

The Turtle And The Dove

Once there was an imaginative Dove that wanted to be able to swim. She wanted to catch a fish that way. Dove asked Turtle for lessons. Turtle said "sure" as long as they shared a fish together. Dove agreed. Turtle took Dove into the water, but she almost drowned. Turtle had to catch a fish for Dove to show her how to do it. She tried again. She caught a fish, but Turtle had to save her at the last minute. "I give up!" said Turtle. He was tired of trying to save Dove. Dove took the fish and flew away. She never dreamed of swimming again.

MORAL:

Be careful with what you wish for

Fifth Grade

S. Owen, A. Abbott, R. Tellez

The fifth grade students in Miss Abbott's, Mrs. Owen's, and Mrs. Tellez's classes had a very exciting month of March. For 3 weeks, the students worked exceptionally hard to complete multiple days of CMT testing. The students did their best to utilize all the skills and strategies they had been taught, to respond to every question on each section of the test. Each morning the students started the day with a snack, provided by their teachers, to bring them an extra boost of energy. The students focused and put their best effort into each day of testing. We couldn't be more proud of them! After testing was completed, the students were rewarded with an extra recess block outside. The students worked in teams to rotate through 4 stations: an obstacle course, a 4 square game, a game of "Cut the Pie" and finally an egg toss competition. Each team showed excellent sportsmanship and maturity while completing the activities.

March also brought around the Spelling Bee challenge for the fifth grade students. It was one of the toughest challenges we have ever had here at Roger Sherman School. The final two challengers came down to Patrick Daley (who finished as our alternate) and Monserrat Tsuzuki (who finished as our overall winner). Monserrat went on to compete in the citywide spelling bee tournament that was held at Hanover Elementary School. Competing against fifth grade students from all of the elementary schools, and sixth grade students from the middle schools, Monserrat was declared the overall winner for the city! We are so incredibly proud of Monserrat for her hard work and dedication in the spelling bee challenge!

Finally, March included an announcement of our Project Excel recipients for the 2012 school year.

Project Excel is a program that rewards exceptional students, who demonstrate respect for self, others, and school; who put forth their best effort in their learning; and who excel to the best of their ability in their academic studies. Roger Sherman is proud to have 20 fifth grade recipients this year. The following students will be honored in May: Luis Aguilar, Olivia Amico, Raul Calderon, Kelvin Cortes, Andy Cruz, Chelsy Cruz, Jack Flores, Daniela Fuentes-Mercado, Khalil Hissouf, Nayeli Mendez, Laura Mendez, Nickolas Ortiz, Juliette Roman, Natasha Schweiger, Ryleigh Shortell, Monserrat Tsuzuki, Sadiel Vega, Kimlyn Vo, Zackary Weisz, and Eryka West. We hope you will join us in congratulating these exceptional students!

We hope you have a wonderful April Vacation! Remember that school begins again on Monday, April 23, 2012.

MLT, Art, Music, Media, PE



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

Kindergarteners are becoming increasingly independent on the computers and are continuing to strengthen some of their academic skills in the computer lab. They are strengthening their Concepts of Print by focusing on capitalization, spacing and punctuation. They are becoming more comfortable with some computer features like WordArt, Clip Art and drawing.

First graders are using the computers to explore the world around them. They are utilizing Google Earth to develop a better schema of oceans and continents, as well as the cardinal points on a compass. They have had fun

travelling through their state and city by using this tool, as well as visiting faraway places like Hawaii and Japan!

Second graders are finishing up a PowerPoint presentation on the life cycle of beans as they watch the weekly transformation of their bean seed. They are using their skills in this program to create a presentation of some of the points of interest in Meriden. They are also learning how to record their voice into this program.

Third graders are finishing up on a research project on Leatherback Sea Turtles, and are beginning a research project on Mexican holidays. They have discussed the importance of national holidays, and are developing an appreciation of the differences in cultures.

Fourth graders finished their Glogs on a New England state, and are starting to do research on a rainforest animal of their choice.

Fifth graders finished creating a PhotoStory presentation on their trip to Sturbridge Village and converted it into a movie file and then uploaded it into their Glogster account so that they could share it. They also created 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!! They will also be uploading these pictures into their glogs.

As many of the students utilize the computers at Roger Sherman in the MLT Lab they are engaging in 21st Century Learning. Part of that learning is referred to as Web 2.0, which prompts people to question exactly what that is. Web 2.0 is the Read/Write Web. Web 2.0 refers to web-based tools that allow collaboration and publication of audio, video, and text

to the World Wide Web. Web 2.0 Tools we are currently using at Roger Sherman include Glogster and StoryBird.

Student Use of Web 2.0 Tools: Students are active participants when using Web 2.0 tools. The learning environments being used are secure, teacher created learning environments, which students access by a username and password from their teacher. All student work is monitored by the teacher. For privacy, no personal information is included in student work. Students are allowed to post their ideas and opinions, but not their age, photographs of themselves or family members or other sensitive information. Whether working at school or at another location with Internet access, these activities are an extension of the classroom, and appropriate behavior is expected.



Students continue to do an excellent job of showing respect for self, respect for others, and respect for school. Many students enjoyed participating in our March PBS Reward of a Country Western Dance. Students learned the Cotton Eyed Joe and another country dance.

Our April PBS Reward is Yoga with a Mystery Teacher! One teacher from our school will be leading Yoga exercises in the Gym. This activity costs 80 yellow tickets that students have earned showing respect for self, respect for others, and respect for school.

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 yellow 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!



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

The TPT is having their annual nomination meeting Tuesday, April 24th, 2012. We are looking for volunteers who would like to become involved in the TPT and supporting our school.

Executive Board positions include:
President, Vice-President, Treasurer, & Secretary.

If you can't commit to an Executive Board position but would like to be more involved, there are many activities throughout the year that would need a chairperson.

Such positions include:

- Fundraising
- TPT Bulletin Board
- Publicity (Newsletter, Photos, etc.)
- Book Fair
- Monster Mash
- Snow Ball Dance
- Assemblies and Cultural Enrichment



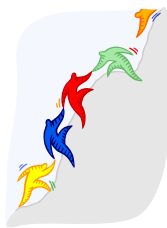
Math Minute

The Roger Sherman Math Team

Upcoming events include Teacher Appreciation Week (May 7th – 11th), Mother's Day Social (May 9th), May meeting (May 22nd) and the End of the Year Carnival (June 1st). Thank you for helping to support the TPT this year!

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 after April Vacation.

**Next TPT meeting:
Tuesday, April 24th 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 CMTs concluded in mid March with many students expressing confidence in their performance. Way to go!! Students are continuing with their daily math exercises and sharpening their skills as they complete the grade level they are in. Kindergarten students are working on estimation and then addition and subtraction concepts. First graders are working on telling time and then will explore estimation strategies and concepts. In second grade the focus will be geometry and probability as the year winds down. In third grade, students are working through higher place value and then move to measurement concepts such as capacity, weight, area and perimeter. Fourth grade students are making their way through long division while fifth graders are studying extended problem solving and measurement.



Students in grades 1-5 will be competing in Fastest Factor contests in early June. The focus for grade 1 students will be addition as well as grade 2 students also competing in their accurate recall of basic addition facts. The students will be competing among their own grade

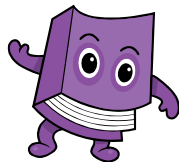
level classmates. Grade 3 students will be focusing on subtraction, while 4th grade tackles multiplication and grade 5 students will test their recall with basic division facts. This year, we are establishing a district wide competition with the top 4 students in grades 3, 4 and 5 going on to compete against other participating Fastest Factor schools (Hanover, Franklin, Putnam and Hale). The date and location will be announced in early 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 in May.

"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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