



# Roger Sherman Elementary

September/October 2011

## Principal's Corner

L. Moss

As we are heading into fall and into the swing of school it has become necessary for me to address School Bus Safety. We have 7 buses that bring students to and from school. Several of our buses are filled to capacity. In the upcoming month, the bus company will conduct bus safety programs where the drivers will speak to the students on safety procedures. The bus drivers will hand each student a copy of bus rules to follow.



### But we still need your help.

Here's how parents can help support us to keep **all** children safe on the bus. Review the following rules with your children on a daily basis.

1. Students should stay seated in their seat with their hands in their laps.
2. Students should keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves.
3. Students should use indoor voices and always speak respectfully to each other and the bus driver.

4. Students should remain in their seats until the bus comes to a complete stop.

One of biggest changes this year has been that school arrival is indoors. We have decided to keep students inside because transition to classrooms is quicker and the school day can begin on time so students don't lose valuable instruction time, also, there are fewer chances for problems to occur between students. So far inside arrival has worked out well. Grades K-2 students are reporting to the gym, grade 3 sits outside their classrooms upstairs, grade 4 is located in the cafeteria, and grade 5 is in the Reading Center. As we become familiar with our new morning routine, it will become easier for everyone.



I have added a duty teacher to the Del Terrace parking lot. In the past, parents have sped unsafely through the parking lot, have double parked, and have parked in no-parking zones. If a teacher asks you to move your car it is because our goal at Sherman is to keep all students safe. It is very important for parents to respond respectfully to school personnel and work with us to maintain safe arrival procedures.

## *Pre-K and Kindergarten*

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

Mrs. Rarey and Mrs. Conway would like to thank all the parents who came to our October open house. We enjoyed talking to you and showing you so much more about your child's day in school. We are looking forward to meeting with everyone again, one-on-one, at conference time in November. We love talking about all the great progress your children are making in the classroom.

Our preschool classes are settling into the school routine very well. We can now sit at meeting times, listen to our teachers, and raise our hands to answer questions. We can walk through the hallways appropriately and go to specials. We even know a fun "Rules of the Classroom Rap" song! We are learning our letters and numbers and so many more things about the world around us.

We are especially excited about our first field trip to Norton Brothers Farm and Orchards in Cheshire. It will be good to get some hands-on experience with apples, pumpkins, and a hayride to reinforce our study about autumn.

Kindergarten is a busy place. In math students have been working with numbers 1-4, patterning, and sorting. They are focusing on recognizing letters, the sounds that letters make, and listening for rhyme. Students have been practicing how to form letters correctly and are beginning to write letters to match the sounds they hear in words. Our Open House in October was very successful. It was wonderful to see so many parents come out to support their children and meet the teachers. Homework has begun and students are taking their responsibility very seriously. They are also working on sight word contracts. We are looking forward to starting our Word Wall of Fame. As you can see, the boys and girls in kindergarten have been working very hard.



## *First Grade*

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

Thank you for sharing your child with us in First Grade this year. First Grade students are hard working learners. We are working on Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies, Second Step, Handwriting, Spelling, Vocabulary and much more! Our first focus in First Grade is learning sight words. Knowing all our sight words will make us better readers. Please practice with your child at home at least several times a week.



Tiffany and Mariela enjoy our healthy fruit snack!



First graders already got to have a field trip! We walked down to the Meriden Public Library to learn about the library and checking out books. All students who filled out an application received their very own library card. Students were able to check out one book. These books are due back to the library November 7<sup>th</sup>. There are many great free activities at the library that you and your child can participate in. Please consider making the library a regular trip with your family. This is a fun, free way of supporting your child's reading.

In Math we have worked on many topics, such as patterns, counting, and addition. Students use math manipulatives such as Unifix cubes, Pattern Blocks, Bear Counters, and buttons to work hands-on with these math ideas.

It's important to talk with your child about their day. What did they learn today? What was their favorite part? Students in First Grade are expected to be able to answer questions using complete sentences and explain their thinking. Taking the time to talk with your child and listen to what they have to say is a great way to encourage them and let them know that you care about how they are doing at school.

## *Second Grade*

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

Second grade has had a busy start to their year. We have made some new friends and have earned many PBS

tickets. We are focused on using the Golden Rule. We have learned that the Golden Rule means to treat others the way you want to be treated. We have learned about fact families and making patterns. The biggest thing that we have done so far this year was to have our Constitutional Convention.



Did you see us in the Record Journal?



We brought history to life by holding our own convention to vote on our Second Grade rules. We made classroom rights that we took to our convention.

We even had our own delegates to sign for each class.



### *Third Grade*

**B. Higley, K. Mastriano, B. Cabell**

Greetings from third grade! The past two months have flown by! We have been very busy throughout September and October, fulfilling many objectives and earning lots of tickets through PBS. In September, many students participated in a PBS activity of lunch outside and an extra recess! In October, students were given the option to dress up and have a Halloween parade around the building; many students participated and had a great time! Our classes have done individual activities, as well, ranging from pajama day to an extra recess time!

In Language Arts, we have been studying such ideas as synonyms, antonyms, using a dictionary, and writing complete sentences. While we read, we have been reviewing and using several strategies, such as decoding, reading ahead, summarizing, and making & confirming predictions. All of us have been reading, reading, reading! We have read great books such as Officer Buckle and Gloria, The Olympic Games: Where Heroes are Made, and Turtle Bay, as well as many others. We are focusing on the difference between physical traits

and personality traits, as well as making connections. Ask your children about these topics when they read at home!

In Math, we have been working hard on addition with regrouping, and are now moving on to subtraction with regrouping. Previously, we have worked on place value, tables and graphs, and a basic review of addition and subtraction.

We are looking forward to many other great learning opportunities throughout November. Be sure to check notices coming home with students because there are several days off from school in November! Check back in December to see what we are doing!

### *Fourth Grade*

**C. Smith, A. Bryers, F. Wagner**

The fourth grade is off to a busy start of the school year. Currently, Ms. Wagner, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Bryres are focusing on helping the students make connections and recognize the author's craft of figurative language. Some of the craft items include humor, similies, and personification. Along with that the students are working to explain why they author used that craft. In math, the students have recently completed a unit on three digit computation and are now working on estimation. In writing, the students are busy working on a five paragraph process piece. The students are working with the narrative diamond to plan and write the most descriptive stories they can. We hope everyone enjoyed the long Columbus day weekend and look forward to meeting with all of you during the upcoming term one conferences.



## *Fifth Grade*

S. Owen, A. Abbott, R. Tellez

The fifth grade students in Miss Abbott, Mrs. Owen, and Mrs. Tellez's classes are off to a fabulous start this year! All 3 classes have been working hard on mastering rules of respect for self, others, and school. Fifth grade teachers have high expectations for students; which include demonstrating respect consistently, putting forth their best effort, completing **ALL** class work and homework assignments, and attending school regularly and on time. Of course, we can't forget to enforce that all students are to read every day to help increase skills and strategies. We are looking forward to creating a group of lifelong learners this year in fifth grade!

In September, all 3 classes earned at least 30 PBS class tickets for demonstrating respect. As a special reward, we had a game afternoon to celebrate. The students were able to bring in different games from home to play with friends. Students had the option of moving amongst the 3 fifth grade classrooms, to try different games, meet up with friends, and work collaboratively with others. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon and we look forward to celebrating the respect and hard work of the fifth graders throughout the year!

Fifth grade is an exciting time for students and families alike. We have lots of wonderful activities and lessons planned to help students to prepare to transition to the middle school. The fifth grade students have already brought home notices about orientations for students and families, to visit the middle schools on different nights. Over the next few months, more information about the

middle schools will be coming home. It may seem early in the year, but students will need to begin making choices, with their families, about their plans for next year. Attending the orientations will help to give you the opportunity to get information and ask any questions you may have about the middle school transition.

On a final note, the last full week of October will be dedicated to Red Ribbon Week at Roger Sherman School. This week focuses on the importance of keeping drugs out of our lives. We are asking all students to donate 50 cents towards the DARE program, which is part of the curriculum for all fifth grade students. On Friday, October 28th, we are looking for all students to wear the color red in support of the importance of staying away from drugs. We hope that the fifth grade classes will support this very important cause!

## *MLT, Art, Music, Media, PE*



Mrs. Muir – MLT

Early Fall is always a period of re-acclimation to school routines. In the computer lab, we initially focused on the routines while in the lab, and the PBS expectations that allow for optimum student learning. We also discussed Internet Safety in all grade levels. The students brought home papers to share with their families. These outlined some strategies that all family members can use to maximize Internet Safety. We also handed out booklets to adults on the night of Open House to expand on some of these important issues and keep parents aware of this ever changing topic.

Kindergarteners have been learning how to log onto the computer, and how to use a mouse and keypad. They have been enjoying some of the programs that reinforce some language arts skills. They have also navigated some internet sites that they can explore at home, including StarFall [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) and Highlights <http://www.highlightskids.com/>.

First graders have done a great job of logging on with their own user names and passwords. They, and the second graders, have learned how to use Spelling City which allows them to practice their spelling words for the week. The first graders are proud of their ability to create more involved documents. They also worked on reinforcing upper and lower case letters, initial letter sounds, and some computer skills.

Second graders started the year by creating an acrostic poem with graphics depicting the letters of their names. They have also written about the changes that come with Fall.

The upper grades have been exploring their Social Studies themes in MLT. Third graders created a web about themselves

in Inspiration. They are now exploring our natural resources, and the role of humans in preserving them. In MLT, they are looking at WATER, its importance, the states of water, its uses, the water cycle, and how we can conserve water.

Fourth grade is exploring their own state of Connecticut and turning it into a PowerPoint Presentation and Fifth grade created an Inspiration web about a Native American tribe or nation of their choosing. We discussed the different cultures of different tribes, as well as the impact of the local environment on their lifestyles.

Fifth graders have also explored the website weather.com and are creating an Excel document based on data that they found.

With most projects for grades 1 - 5, there is a rubric which shows the goals of the project, and the success of the student in meeting those goals. The rubric is graded and stapled to each completed project. It is an easy way for students and their parents to view the individual student's achievement on each project.

**PBS**

**PBS Team**



Welcome back! Students at Roger Sherman earn yellow tickets for showing respect to themselves, respect to others, and respect to school. Our students were able to participate in 2 activities, one in September and one in October using their yellow tickets that they had earned for respectful behavior.

In September if students paid 10 yellow tickets they could have Lunch outside and extra recess time.

In October the students who choose to will participate in a Halloween Costume Parade. Students will pay 15 of their yellow tickets and a canned good or 20 blue tickets to be able to participate. The canned goods will be donated to a local soup kitchen.

We are really focusing on 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.

Our December PBS activity will be here before you know it! We will be having a Holiday Store again this year. Please consider donating small gift items that students can purchase with their yellow Sherman Star tickets. All items can be brought in with your child or brought to the Office. Students have been saving up their tickets for this activity and with your support and donations we know that it will be a success!



*TPT*

**Teachers and Parents Together**

**Michelle Haag: President**

**Melanie DeBaise: Vice-President**

**Laura Graves: Treasurer**

**Anne Sharnick: Secretary**

Welcome back! The TPT is excited to be working hard for your children this year! We have many great events planned and cannot wait to see you there!

Thank you to all families who have joined the TPT. Please consider becoming a member of the TPT. Your support is very important to your child's education! In September we started the year off with a bang with our school-wide fundraiser. Students sold items as a way of fundraising for our school.

All the money raised by the TPT through the fundraiser goes right back to the kids. The money goes towards assemblies, field trips, folders, planners, bookshelves in the Media Center, Gym equipment and music, just to name a few. This year we had only 111 students participate in the fundraiser with over 530 students in our school. All the money raised from the fundraiser and other events throughout the year pays for these

educational assemblies, events, and field trips. Without your support these opportunities for your child will be unable to occur.

Our major fall event, The Monster Mash will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The \$5 cost per person goes towards the cost of the Laser Light show, trick or treating items and decorations. Families can wear a costume and participate in safe trick or treating at our school with teachers and other staff members dressed in costumes passing out candy. The hallways will be decorated thanks to teachers and volunteers into a spooky Halloween atmosphere. Students will watch a Spooktacular Laser Light Show set to music.



Congratulations to our top sellers! These students will receive a limo ride and a free pizza lunch courtesy of the fundraising company!

### **Fall Fundraiser Top Sellers**

**Eliezer Reyes (Pre-K)**

**Christian Kruger (K)**

**Joiah Gonzalez (1<sup>st</sup>)**

**Jack Lischeid (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Jose Rosado (3<sup>rd</sup>)**

**Hannah Nocera (4<sup>th</sup>)**

**Juliette Roman (5<sup>th</sup>)**

We've had two TPT meetings so far this school year and thank everyone who has attended! Don't forget to come to our next TPT meeting: Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Volunteers are always welcome! You are needed to work with students to review math skills, listen to children read or help students while working in centers. Volunteers are also needed to assist teachers with making copies or cutting things out. Your child's teacher may also like help with things that could be done at home. These are just a few ideas. Please do not hesitate! Talk to your child's teacher to see how you can get involved!

Volunteers are also needed for special events here at Roger Sherman School. Please see a TPT officer if you are interested!

When you do volunteer remember to "sign in" in the office and wear your visitors pass!

We look forward to seeing YOU!



## *Math Minute*

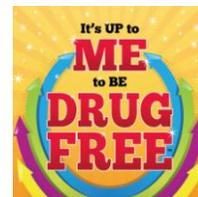
**The Roger Sherman Math Team**

Into our second month of school now, all grade levels have already completed

several units of study. In Kindergarten, students have been working with sorting and being able to tell what makes something the same or different from something else. First graders have also worked on sorting. They have already done graphing and are beginning to look at patterns and addition concepts. In second grade, students are focusing on strategies to help them with their addition and subtraction facts. Third graders have finished their unit on place value and have also begun reviewing basic facts up to 20. Fourth and fifth graders have spent some time reviewing their addition and subtraction facts and have now moved into more difficult concepts such as estimation and multiplication.

At Roger Sherman we will be holding another basic facts competition in January for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Similar to last year's events, students will race for accuracy and fluency in knowing their facts. Third graders will be responsible for knowing their addition facts to 20; fourth graders will be responsible for knowing their basic subtraction facts; and fifth graders will be challenged by how fast and correct they know their multiplication facts. Students will be informed through their teachers on when the competition will be held.

All students can benefit from practicing basic facts at home. Therefore, it is encouraged and recommended that students engage with their family members to review basic facts on a daily basis.



## **Red Ribbon Week**

**Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>- Friday,  
October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Roger Sherman Students will celebrate Red Ribbon Week! Red Ribbon Week is the largest campaign to stamp out drugs in the nation. Over 80 million people participate every year. It was started by former President and Mrs. Regan in 1988. Roger Sherman students will unite and take a stand against drugs! There will be door decorating, and a go red day. On Friday students are asked to wear red and bring in \$.50 to donate to the Meriden D.A.R.E program to help continue their fight in educating our students in making good choices when it comes to drugs. We will form a human chain around the school at 10:30 in the morning to show we are locking drugs from our school. Families of all Roger Sherman students are welcome to attend!

If you would like more information please call the school or e-mail Miss Abbott at amanda.abbott@meriden.k12.ct.us



*From the Nurse*

For Preschool and Kindergarten parents : Just a reminder that ALL preschool students need proof of the FLU vaccine before Dec 31, 2011. The doctor will give you a note for the school nurse, please make sure you send it in to school.

Also, Hepatitis A is also required....all children in preschool and Kindergarten should have 1 dose. The 2nd dose is given 6 months later... please make sure you send in proof of these vaccines.

Children will be sent home if they are NOT in compliance.

You will be receiving reminder notices when your child's vaccine is due. The vaccines can be given at your doctor or the Meriden Health Dept. You can call the Health Dept at 203-630-4234

**Please call me with ANY questions,  
203-639-5533**

Thank you,  
Nurse Bonnie

## Roger Sherman Book Swap



Mark your calendars and planners!  
Wednesday,

November 9th & December 14th  
8:30-8:50-Before School

Two for one Special!

Trade 1 book from home and choose 2 books to keep!

"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/>



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