

Robertson News



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Principal: Mr. Wolf
Secretary: Mrs. Hegenauer

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Message From the Principal's Desk

We are all concerned about safety, both at school and at home. October was Fire Safety Month and fire-fighters from the Eighth Utilities District came to Robertson to emphasize the importance of fire safety to our children. They also gave the students important information about what to do in any kind of emergency.

We hold regular fire drills and lockdown drills so we know what to do in the event of an emergency at school. We talk about emergency procedures and do the best we can to make sure everyone is prepared.

Another area where safety is always emphasized is when students walk to and from school. During the first week of school we sent a letter home to all of our families reviewing safety precautions that we felt were important for all students and parents to remember. Sometimes as we get involved in the busy daily routines of school and work, these precautions are forgotten.



Here is a reminder:

- ◆ **Do not talk to strangers or get into strange vehicles.**
- ◆ If you are a bus student, be sure to stand well back from the street while waiting at the bus stop.
- ◆ Always follow all of the bus safety rules.
- ◆ When walking to or from school, walk with a buddy.
- ◆ Look both ways before crossing streets.

- ◆ Cross the street where there is a crossing guard. (Parents, please emphasize to your children how dangerous it is to cross Oakland Street without using the crossing guard).
- ◆ Do not take "shortcuts" to school. Cutting through the woods can be very dangerous if an accident should occur.
- ◆ Walk directly to school and directly home. Do not take detours or stop at stores.

Regular reminders both at school and at home will help keep our children safe.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th :

ELECTION DAY (There is no school)

BE SURE TO VOTE!

This is also a Professional Development Day for teachers.

EXTRA TIME TO READ



The November school calendar has several early dismissal days and days off for holidays. What a great opportunity for family members to spend some time together sharing stories and books!

Try to squeeze in an extra trip to the library.

Message From the Principal's Desk, Continued

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, November 11th, school is closed in honor of Veterans' Day. This holiday honors all of the veterans of our armed services who have protected our freedom throughout our nation's history, and continue to do so today.

Wednesday, November 26 is an early dismissal day due to the Thanksgiving holiday. School is dismissed at 1:17 p.m.

Thursday, November 27 is Thanksgiving Day. School is closed. School is also closed on Friday, November 28.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 2, 3 and 4 are Report Card Conference days. School is dismissed at 1:17 p.m. on these days. We look forward to seeing you all during report card conferences. You must attend your child's report card conference in order to receive their report card. (School lunch is served on early dismissal days.)

WINTER WEATHER IS ON THE WAY

With the end of Daylight Savings Time, it is now getting darker much earlier. It is clear that the winter weather is not far away. Please remember that our students go outside for recess at lunchtime every day unless it is raining or the weather conditions are severe. This means that they need to dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Students should come to school with winter coats, hats and gloves or mittens.



Please help your child to be comfortable and healthy by paying attention to the weather forecast each morning and making sure that they leave the house dressed comfortably for the weather conditions.

REMINDER

As mentioned in our Robertson Handbook, certain items are not allowed in school. We rarely see most

of the items that are listed there, but gum, candy and electronic gear are brought to school by some of our students on a daily basis. Please talk to your children about this. It is important that you and they know that if they bring electronic gear or cell phones to school, and they take them out of their backpacks during the school day, we will remove it from their possession for the remainder of the day.



If this happens a second time, we will keep the item until the last day of school or until you come to pick it up. If students bring gum or candy to school, this will be removed from their possession also. Gum and candy will not be returned to a student.

Please review the other items listed in our handbook as well. It is important that they too, never be brought to school.

Also, please note that the school is not responsible for the safety and security of these items if they are brought to school.

SLEEP MATTERS

Is your child acting out in school? A study proves that it may be due to not enough sleep. Children (even older ones) need more sleep than we think. This study shows that even "Small increases in the amount of sleep a child gets can improve behavior at school by a significant amount, while slight decreases in sleep can make them more likely to act out."

So if your child is acting out in school putting them to bed an hour earlier may not be a punishment, it may be just what they need to succeed in school!

(This study was published in the journal *Pediatrics* and reported in *The Hartford Courant* on 10/18/12.)



Message From the Principal's Desk

Please remember that pick-up of students after school and drop off of students in the morning takes place in our back parking lot. School staff is on duty in the morning and afternoon to supervise.

The front parking lot is not designed for pick-up and drop off of students and poses a safety hazard to students and adults.

When picking up in the afternoon, please meet your children where the cement barriers are in the back. This allows us to see where and with whom each of our students goes.

Also, if you are asking another adult to pick up your child, be sure to notify the office in advance either by note or phone call. Thank you.



STUDENT INSURANCE

The Manchester Board of Education makes student health insurance available to families that would like to purchase it.



You may go to either of the following links to access the insurance brochure and sign up.

http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/uploaded/District_Office/Parent_Guardian_Resources/Images/CT_2014-15_MB_Brochure.pdf

Or <http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=939>

Mrs. Sheroff: Art Studio & Ms. Ignatowicz

Recently we added Artist of the Week to our art walls. The artist is selected based on their creativity, improvement, or quality in their technique shown in their artwork. So far **Ritvik Rao, Ola Taha, Hicham Dib, Saksham Singh, Rachel Guzman, Josh Kozlin, and Looma Taha** have been picked to grace our hall. Congratulations!

Please also notice the super work our 1st and 2nd graders did at the entrance and exit doors of Robertson School!

Kindergarten classes have used curved lines, diagonal lines, and texture plates to create textured leaves. They are now using tissue paper to create texture on an apple and making a border with paper strips. Recently they used their geometric shapes to draw pigs and then added their environment.

First grade classes made 3-D pumpkins as their first sculpture. They also made a fall leaf collage with leaf shapes and color resist watercolor. They did a fantastic job!

Second grade classes made an oil pastel resist painting of a sunflower inspired by Vincent Van Gogh and the book *Camille and the Sunflowers*. They just finished an interesting and humorous painting of just the bottom half of the body.

Third grade artists had a leaf printing class. They were inspired by a pop-up book I showed them and we are now creating a pop-up scene. Third graders are now making 2-3 prints of buildings in Manchester.

Fourth grade students are completing a mixed media collage with paper and foil. They are catching on to the technique of popping out the foil really well and their work is coming out great! They are now finishing their clay leaf bowls.

Fifth grade classes are finishing their ship collages and soon will move on to their Fire Prevention Posters.

Fun Facts: from surfnetkids.com

Each year, kids go back to school; here are just a few fun facts about education and back to school that you can share with them:

Fun Fact: The largest high school in America has over 8,000 students. It is Morton High School in Berwyn-Cicero, Ill.

Fun Fact: There are over 7.4 million teachers, and 2.9 million work at elementary and middle schools.

Fun Fact: Indiana has 9 of the top ten largest high school gymnasiums in America.

Fun Fact: Each year, over 78.8 million kids, teens, and adults enroll in school.

Fun Fact: There are over 31 millions kids enrolled in school lunch programs in the US.

Fun Fact: In California, about 45% of children enrolled in kindergarten through 12th speak a language other than English at home.

Fun Fact: A fair number of kids switch schools at some point in their life not counting the normal progression from elementary to middle school and middle to high school. In fact from age 6-11, over 26% switch schools, and ages 12-17 42% switch school.

Fun Fact: 67% of kids like school.

Fun Fact: The oldest public school in the U.S. was founded in 1635, and five of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence graduated from this school: Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Robert Treat Paine, Samuel Adams and William Hopper. It is Boston's Latin School.

Fun Fact: High school was not really a part of school until the 1930s. Before that, most Americans only completed eight years of school. Why was that and what changed it? Well, during the Great Depression, there were many communities that had little work to offer, and they figure that keeping teenagers in the classrooms would keep them out of the work force, thus reducing the competition for many adults who required higher pay than a teen would.



Music: Ms. Greico

Happy November Music Families!

Students in kindergarten through 5th grade recently listened to *The Four Seasons* by the composer Antonio Vivaldi. Students drew pictures of the seasons that they imagined they were hearing in the string instruments. The seasonal pictures came out amazingly well and I have put a few from each class on the wall of Room 8. Please feel free to stop by and check them out.



Also, the Musician of the Month pictures for November are posted in the hallway outside of the Music Room. These students exemplify the Core Values of Robertson School and always follow Music Room rules.

In November, students in Kindergarten and 1st grade will continue to work on the concepts of steady beat, rhythm, singing voice versus talking voice, and chant versus song.

Second through 5th grade will be working on their rhythms as well as songs and instrument activities. They will be focusing on the concepts of major versus minor, dynamics and tempo.

Please ask your child to sing you some songs from music class...they all have such wonderful voices.

Have a musical month!



