

# Robertson News



Mrs. Courtney, *Editor*

**Principal: Mr. Wolf**  
**Secretary: Mrs. Hegenauer**

**May, 2015**

**Volume 10, Issue 9**

## Message From the Principal's Desk

As we turn the corner into the month of May, it is important to keep in mind that there is still a significant amount of time left in the school year. There are seven full weeks left of school. The staff at Robertson is committed to helping all of our students reach their full potential and will do so right to the last day of school (Monday, June 22).



Working together, parents and teachers can help our students remain focused and productive for the rest of the school year. Seven weeks is a long stretch of time and a great deal of learning will be accomplished.

Continue to take time each day to ask your child how their school day was. Check homework assignments to be sure they are being completed on a regular basis. If you have any questions about homework or any other assignments, please call or email your child's teacher.

Of course, be sure that your child reads or is read to at home every day. And please remind your child every day how important their education is to them and to you.

### **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Kindergarten 2015—online registration is open!!

If you have a child who will be five years of age on or before January 1, 2016, he/she is eligible for kindergarten for September, 2015. Kindergarten reg-

istration is currently taking place at Robertson School.



There are two remaining dates: May 6 and May 8. To be eligible for kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year, a child must have been born no later than January 1, 2011.

To register for kindergarten, there are two components that need to be completed. First, complete the online registration that is available on the Manchester Public Schools website (we can help!).

Second, schedule a visit to Robertson for you and your child by calling (860) 647-3372. You will need to bring some additional documents with you to complete registration, and we'll give you that information when you call for your appointment.

If you do not have access to the internet at home, please call the school to let us know. We will be happy to have you register your child using one of the school's computers. If you know of a family that has a child that will be attending Kindergarten next year, please give them this information. Thank you.



*(Continued on page 2)*

## Message From the Principal's Desk, Cont'd.

(Continued from page 1)

### **APPROPRIATE DRESS**

Springtime brings warm weather; therefore, this is a good time for a reminder about appropriate dress in school. The Student/Parent handbook says this about acceptable clothing in school:

***Clothing should be neat, clean and free of any pictures, slogans or advertisements that are not appropriate in an elementary school.***

***Halter-tops, tank tops and short shorts are not acceptable. (A rule of thumb for tops is that the straps on a top should be thick and most of the shoulder should be covered. For shorts, nothing shorter than basketball or soccer shorts should be worn.)***

***Open-toed shoes, sandals and flip-flops are not safe in a school environment and should be avoided.***

Please help us keep all of our students focused on the task at hand: learning – during the last two months of school. Thank you.

### **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

The last day of school is scheduled for Monday, June 22. Both Friday, June 19 and Monday, June 22 will be early dismissal days. School will dismiss at 1:17 p.m. There will be lunch served on those days.

### **EARLY STUDENT PICK-UP**

If it is absolutely necessary to pick your child up early from school, be sure to follow the appropriate procedure. Report directly to the office when you enter the school. Let us know who your child is and why you need to remove them from school early. The office will call the classroom to ask that your child come to the office with their belongings. Be sure to sign them out in the notebook that is on the office counter.



For security purposes, no student will be dismissed directly from his or her classroom. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### **DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP SAFETY REMINDER**

***Vehicles bringing students to school in the morning and/or picking them up after school must use the back parking lot. The front parking lot is not to be used for this purpose.***

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Many of our classes will be taking one or more field trips during May and June. Our field trips are always directly related to the curriculum at your child's grade level and are fantastic ways for students to have a personal experience in an area that they have learned about. First hand experience is one of the most powerful ways to learn.

Please check your child's backpack daily to look for field trip notices. Each field trip requires parental permission for students to be able to participate. Be sure that when a field trip notice comes home, you take a few minutes to read about the trip and then sign the permission slip for your child to be able to be a part of this learning experience.



Field trips are also excellent opportunities for you to participate in an aspect of your child's education. Volunteer to go along with them. It's a great experience!

### **ABSENCE NOTES**

Please remember that whenever your child is absent from school, for any reason, they must bring a note from their parent/guardian explaining the reason for their absence. It can be a simple note that states that they were ill.



Even if you call in and report the absence on our absence line, state law says that you must still send in a note when your child returns to school.

## HEAD START ENROLLMENT

The Manchester Head Start program is a federally funded, town supported, child development program now enrolling children born in the years 2011 and 2012. Manchester Head Start provides:

- Pre-School Education
- Family Support Services
- Parent Involvement
- Nutrition
- Health & Mental Health Services
- One Full Year/Full Day Program

To be eligible, families must be Manchester residents, meet the Federal Income Guidelines or have a child with Special needs.

Please call 860-647-3502 for further information or enrollment.



## 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](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>

## Lib./Media Center: Mr. Hadge & Mrs. Courtney



May library classes will be focused on reviewing library skills learned throughout the year and looking at skills the students will be working with next year.

Kindergarten and first grade classes have been working on fiction and non-fiction texts. Second grades have been working on appropriate book selection. Third grades are working on using the library's online catalog and locating books in the library. Fourth and fifth grade students have been working on problem-solving through exercises on the code.org site.

Throughout May, the library will be making a big push to get all overdue library books returned. If your child brings home an overdue notice, please help them locate and return the books. Thanks in advance for your assistance!



On March 31st, the annual Nutmeg at Night event was held at the Mary Cheney Library. Robertson School was well represented at this night of food, fun, and friendly competition by 4th graders Dejavon Morrett, Judy Ayerakwa, and Arriannah Cross. Next September we will be encouraging all 4th and 5th grade students to start reading the new Nutmeg Award nominees!

**K-8 Resource Page:** Many of the sites your children visit at school can be found on this page. Just visit our school website:

<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=714>  
Click on "Resources" in the top row, and then click on "K-8."



**Physical Education: Ms. White & Ms. Falkow-**

**Mrs. Sheroff: Art Studio & Ms. Ignatowicz**

Before April vacation, all grades participated in an “adventure unit.” On the first day, we used the rock wall. The students were given challenges to complete “levels” on the rock wall!



The second day, we still had the rock wall, but the climbing ropes were hung for students to climb or swing on.

On the third day, we took down the cargo net for students to climb up. I was so proud of many students for taking on challenges and going outside of their comfort zone! Not many school districts have rock walls, and certainly not cargo nets, so this is a unique opportunity!

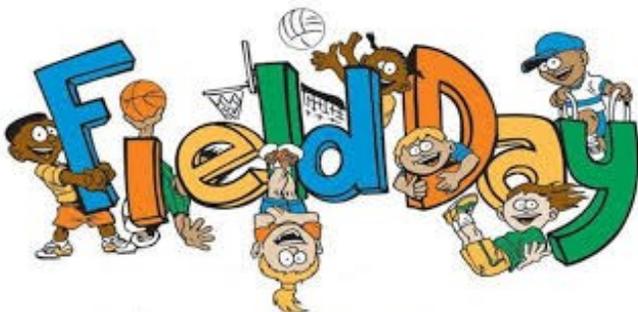


### **Field Day:**

Wednesday, June 3rd (Rain date Monday, June 8th)

I will be sending out flyers with students in the near future looking for volunteers. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

If you already know you're available and want to help, please e-mail Ms. White at [hwhite@MPSpride.org](mailto:hwhite@MPSpride.org) or call the main office!



**Robertson's  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Art Show!  
Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Kindergartners were working on the area of sculpture. They made turtles and cats and have been practicing cutting, folding and connecting pieces together.

First grader artists are starting a warm and cool colored painting collage.

Second graders are working on their Fiber unit and practicing their lettering while sewing their own nametags.

Third grade artists are working on their sculpture unit. They are making the earth and the earth's crust inspired by Mrs. Case!

Fourth grader students are on their sculpture unit. They are making very interesting action figures!

Fifth graders are on working on their sculpture unit and designing and sewing a pillow!



## Manchester Public Library

### *Tails of Joy Presents R.E.A.D. to the Dogs*

The dogs from Tails of Joy return to the Mary Cheney Library on Saturday, May 9th, 2015 from 1:00 -3:00 p.m.!

Beginning readers through middle school students may sign up to read to a Reading Education Assistance Dog (R.E.A.D.). Registration is required – please call (860) 645-0577 or visit the library to reserve your time slot.

Location: Mary Cheney Library  
586 Main Street  
Manchester, CT 06040



## Manchester Memorial Day Committee

The Permanent Memorial Day Committee is making plans for the Memorial Day Weekend and the annual Memorial Day Parade. For many years, in fact since the end of the Civil War, Manchester children have helped by bringing plants or flowers to school to decorate the monuments in Center Memorial Park for the Memorial Day observances.



These plants are brought to school the Friday before Memorial Day, and are picked up by the Manchester Parks Department early that morning. The committee meets at the Army Navy Club where the plants are watered and are kept inside until early Memorial Day morning, at which time the plants are taken to the Center Memorial Park to be used to decorate the monuments.

The committee is asking all elementary school children to bring plants to school. Please bring in your plant or flower to Robertson School on Friday, May 22, 2015. Your flower or plant will be placed at Center Memorial Park for all to see and enjoy!

### Title IX Notice

Title IX is a federal law which states: "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance." Manchester's Title IX coordinator is:

Terri Smith  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
Phone: 860-647-3595  
Fax: 860-647-3327

The Title IX coordinator is responsible for monitoring the over-all implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.



## Family Resource Center: Mrs. Cassandra Rochon



The Playgroups continue to meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for children birth to 5 years of age. In the playgroups, the children are enjoying homemade blocks that stimulate learning by using them for building and stacking.

They are painting and mixing colors as their creativity and imagination goes on print paper. The hands-on activities with felt are encouraging playful learning through sorting shapes and colors. As the playgroups grow with children from our community, the FRC will continue to provide them and their parents with opportunities that spark their natural gift of learning.

Positive Youth Development (PYD) lunch groups have new sessions that started after spring break. The activity that they will focus on is learning more about themselves through a number of events that guide them to discover "self." The other topics covered will be positive friendship, interpersonal skills and how to handle conflict.

The fifth graders were given an opportunity to attend a Leadership Conference at Manchester High School. The conference focused on various teambuilding activities that were led by MHS student leaders. Fifth graders were given a chance to respond to "why they believe that they are a leader" and "what would you do as a leader to create change in your school, community and /or country?"

This conference allowed the student to experience learning in a different setting for a day. They were thinking, collecting opinions of others, sharing and moving to the beat of music! Thanks for an enriching and enlightening experience for all.



Weekly visits to the kindergarten classes during students' play station times have students choosing painting, stenciling, writing or one of the special theme tubs that are shared among the schools. The options the students are choosing from bring them much learning and enjoyment. They are ready to answer questions and have discussions about what they are doing in their particular play station. This is a perfect combination of working, playing and learning.

### MANCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Manchester Public Schools does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Manchester Public Schools' does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Manchester Public Schools' is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and equal access to Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding Manchester Public Schools' nondiscrimination policies and practices should be directed to:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist/  
Title IX Coordinator  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School  
Street Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3595

Shelly Matfess, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil  
Personnel Services  
Section 504 Co-Coordinator  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3452

or

Linda Hodgkins, Coordinator of  
School Health Services  
Section 504 Co-Coordinator  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3324

# Hartford Symphony visits kindergarten students at Robertson!



## Kindergarten News: Mrs. Clare, Mrs. Osella, Mrs. Schueler, Mrs. O'Coin, Mrs. Polochanin

We are preparing for our spring field trip to Wickham Park on May 29th. If you are able to chaperone, please let your child's classroom teacher know. Without chaperones our field trip is not possible.



We celebrated Earth Day by taking a scavenger hunt. During a beautiful spring morning, students took a nature walk and went searching for different things in nature. They had a blast!

Kindergarten students played violins, blew on trumpets and banged drums when the Hartford Symphony Orchestra came to teach us about instruments and how they work! We were so lucky to have them come to Robertson School.

In math, we continue working on addition and subtraction facts. Our goal is for students to master all 42 (21 addition and 21 subtraction) facts within 5, in 70 seconds. Keep practicing! We continue to work on 2-D and 3-D shapes. Try finding these shapes at home, at the store, or at the playground: *sphere, cylinder, cube and cone*



In science, we are getting a "green thumb" in our plant unit. Students have planted flowers and are learning about how plants grow and the name of plant parts. Watch for these beautiful plants coming home soon!

Can you believe all these kindergarten readers? We are so proud of how the students are reading and comprehending. Be sure to listen to your child read and read to them every day! In the classroom, we continue to read both fiction and non-fiction. We spend a lot of time discussing connections, retelling stories, the author's message, and comparing books.

As the weather gets warmer, be sure your child has appropriate shoes for the playground and a light jacket for the cooler days. Hopefully, the days will be warmer and we can enjoy time outside!



## 1st Grade News: Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Beauregard, Mrs. Rawlins

We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing April vacation!

In reading and language arts, children continue to work on applying comprehension skills such as story structure and summarizing, author's purpose and drawing conclusions. Now students are ready to use these strategies as tools for learning.

In writing, we are moving from writing Nonfiction/Information/How-To books to writing about our opinions. Opinion writing involves giving several reasons for our opinion and providing supporting details for those reasons in order to persuade others to share our opinion. We will also be comparing different versions of fairy tales.

Math continues to involve addition and subtraction strategies within 20, as well as continuing to work on understanding whole number relationships and place value. We are also practicing measurement and are learning about fractions.

In science, we will be observing first-hand the life cycles of a lady bug! We will track each step of the miraculous metamorphosis in our science journals.

In social studies, the major themes for the month of May are Flag Day and map skills. We will also continue our Second Step program, learning how to respond to each other appropriately, how to control our emotions and how to solve social problems we may encounter.



Happy Mother's Day! Enjoy the beautiful weather.



Second graders have been learning about the elements of poetry. We are examining how authors use poetry structure and figurative language such as alliteration, rhyme, similes, and onomatopoeia to create meaning. Students are also learning to use these devices and other word choices to write their own poetry.



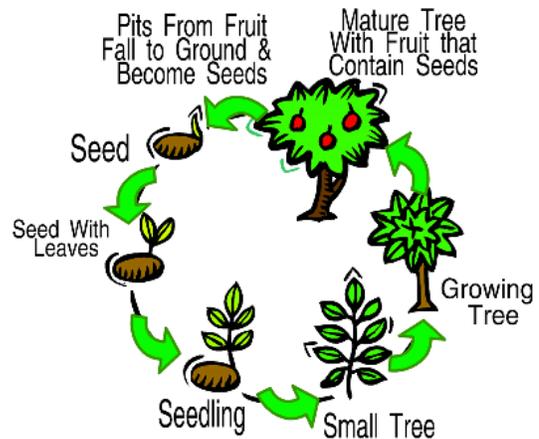
In math, we finished our unit on Geometry. Students compared and contrasted polygons and 3-dimensional shapes. We discussed vocabulary connected to geometrical shapes such as vertices, edges, faces and angles. We drew various shapes based on the descriptions that were provided to us. Students enjoyed working with shapes and building larger pictures using polygons.

This week we are starting our measurement and graphing unit. We will begin using rulers to learn about standard units of measure. Students will be exposed to measuring objects in centimeter, inches, feet and yards. We will also be using graphs to interpret data and discuss patterns within data.

Second graders will continue to explore the natural world. They will be conducting experiments to examine how colors, textures and other properties vary among samples collected from a river. Students will use this information to predict which soil samples would support the growth of plants. They continue to document their findings in written lab reports.



In preparation for a unit on plants, we are growing plants. Some of us have planted marigolds, and others have planted peas, corn and beans. As the plants grow, we will be learning about what plants need to be healthy and about plant life cycles.



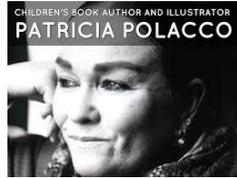
### Fun May Facts

Courtesy of [www.express.co.uk](http://www.express.co.uk)

1. The month of May was named for Maia, the Greek goddess of fertility.
2. According to old Cornish superstition, it is unlucky to buy a broom during the month of May.
3. May 5 is when Cinco de Mayo or the Batalla de Puebla is celebrated in Mexico. It is also celebrated widely in the United States.
4. May's birthstone is the emerald which is emblematic of love and success.
5. May was once considered a bad luck month to get married. There is a poem that says "Marry in May and you'll rue the day."
6. The Indianapolis 500 car race is held each year during this month. The Kentucky Derby, the world's most famous horse race, is also held on the second Saturday of this month.

## 3rd Grade News: Mrs. Case, Mrs. Mercedes, Mr. Pepin

**Reading:** We reviewed how authors organize fiction texts, using story elements (characters, setting, problem, plot, solution, ending). We used these story elements to help us explore the theme of the literature we read. We discovered that the character's actions help to figure out what the character learned, and the lesson helps us find the theme.



We completed an author study of Patricia Polacco, who writes stories about her family members and stories that were told to her as she grew up. We compared stories written by Ms. Polacco, to see how the plots, themes, experiences and settings were similar.



**Writing:** In writing, we celebrated Poetry month! We looked at how poets choose one topic when they write and use what they know about the topic to write information about it. We also learned how poets use figurative language to help visualize the poem and to entertain the reader. We used Alliteration, Assonance and Onomatopoeia to help make the words interesting.

Ask your third grader about the poems they have created!

**Mathematics:** In our measurement unit, we have been working on telling time to the nearest minute, and learning how to determine how much time has elapsed.

We also have been learning liquid measurement, mass and volume of given objects. We will be continuing this unit next month!



**Social Studies:** We have been studying our town of Manchester! We learned about Manchester's history and many famous landmarks. We will see many of these places on our historical tour in May!

## 4th Grade News: Mrs. Gatmaitan, Ms. Brini, Ms. Ortiz

April brought the much awaited warm weather and with it and slew of activities for the fourth graders. We celebrated Earth Day by reading Chris Van Allsburgh's book entitled, *Just A Dream*. Through our discussions, the students got to imagine how the world would look if we continued to neglect our responsibilities toward our planet. They realized that we must do our part by reducing, reusing and recycling.



We enjoyed our trip to the Mystic Aquarium on a very beautiful spring day. We would like to thank all our parent chaperones for taking the time to accompany us on that exciting field trip. We are looking forward to our next trip this May to the Audubon Society in Glastonbury.

Reading classes have entered the creative world of fantasy as we read folk and fairy tales and myths. We looked into the stories that have been carried from generations to generations that explain how people interpreted the world.

Writing classes are moving into opinion writing. A research project that is tied in with Social Studies will be the main focus for this unit.



Math classes are wrapping up fractions and decimals. We have simplified, converted improper to mixed numbers and vice versa. We also worked on decimals on grid and number lines. Next month, we move into our Geometry unit.

Science classes investigated electricity and circuits. A lot of time was spent experimenting and trying out the different materials that were available. We were able to differentiate between conductors and insulators as a result of our investigations.

Reminder:

- More field trips are scheduled for the next two months. Please watch out for the permission forms in the students' Wednesday Folders.



## 5th Grade News: Mrs. Fagan & Mrs. Frye

**Language Arts:** In May, students will begin looking at poetry. We will examine the structure of poems and the different types of figurative language an author uses. We will practice reading and writing a variety of poetry styles, such as cinquains, haikus, and limericks.

In writing, fifth graders will begin to work on writing their own memoirs. We will brainstorm important moments from their lives that they would like to share. We will also work on using the writing cycle to develop and improve our writing pieces. Ask your students to share some of their writing with you!

**Math:** We finished our algebra unit in April and will now be moving on to geometry. Through the end of the year, we will be focusing on 2-D and 3-D shapes. Students will work on classifying shapes by their properties. We will also work on calculating the volume of 3-D shapes. Students can practice measuring and calculating the volume of everyday shapes. Ask them to show you how!

**Science:** In science, we will be using explorative techniques to learn how to investigate problems and conduct experiments. We will be modeling our knowledge through visual representations of our findings. On May 19th, we will be heading to Hammonasset State Park to explore the ocean and marsh there. We are looking for chaperones so please let us know if you are interested!

On May 6th, the fifth grade chorus has the exciting opportunity to perform “America the Beautiful” at the New Britain Rock Cats baseball game. They will sing in front of the crowd at the beginning of the game and then we will stay to watch the game and cheer on the team! Chaperones are needed for this trip as well!

Fifth Grade will also take a trip to Bennet Academy, Manchester’s sixth grade school, on May 22nd. We know the students will be so excited to learn their way around this new place and meet some of the teachers and staff who they will be with next year.

This is an exciting time as our students prepare to end their time at Robertson and travel on to Bennet! Let’s finish the year out by putting in our best effort and continuing to show those Robertson core values!

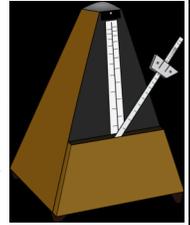


## Music: Miss Grieco



Happy May Music Families!

The word of the month in music is Tempo. We have been talking about the speed of music in grades K-5 in various ways.



Grades 2-5 have been discussing the Italian terms for Tempo like Largo, Andante, Allegro and Vivace.

Grades K-1 have been altering their songs and chants to be slow, medium, fast or very fast.

Grade 5 students have two performances coming up this month. They will be singing *America the Beautiful* at a Rock Cats game on May 6th.

We also have our Spring Concert for the 4th and 5th grade Band, Orchestra and Chorus Members on May 27th. There will be a daytime performance and a nighttime show. Stay tuned for more information.

Have a musical month!

## **BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION**

This is just a reminder that we still collect the “Box Tops for Education” that can be found on many of the General Mills products. Please continue to clip them and save them for our next “Box Top Race.”



We are able to trade-in the box tops for a monetary reward that we can use to purchase extra equipment and supplies and help defray the cost of field trips.

Thank you to so many of you who have participated in our “Box Top Races” so far this year.