

# Robertson News



Mrs. Courtney, *Editor*

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

**June, 2016**  
**Volume 11, Issue 10**

## Message From the Principal's Desk

We are very fortunate that in Manchester our children have many opportunities to participate in summer reading programs. The summer reading programs of the Manchester Public Schools, Manchester Public Libraries and the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge all encourage our children to be summer readers. Books read during the summer can be used for participation in all three programs.



Why read during the summer? This question can be answered in several different ways. First of all, why stop reading during the summer? Reading is a life-long activity. It is not seasonal. Second, we know that the more you read, the better you get at it. It really is that simple. If children do not read over the summer, their reading skills often regress by the time school starts in the fall. Reading during the summer means that your children will return to school in the fall as better readers and they will be better prepared for the challenge of the next grade.

Finally, summer reading is a great opportunity to make reading a "family event." Sit on the front steps or the porch each morning or in the evening after dinner and read together for 20 or 30 minutes, or even longer. You can read to your children or take turns reading to each other, or you can read side by side.

Talk about the story. Where did it take place? What was your favorite part? Did you like the main character? Tell why or why not. Were any of the characters like you or someone you know in any



way? Tell how. You will soon find that you and your children look forward to this part of the day because you will enjoy the reading and you will enjoy being with each other!

Reading is a "gateway" skill. It opens the door to all other learning. Being a good reader is an important predictor in how successful a student will be in school now and in the future. Like anything else, the more you do of it, the better you get. So please help your children to read, read, read over the summer and all year long.



**REMINDER - -** The last day of school is Monday, June 13. It will be an early dismissal day. Dismissal will be at 1:17. Lunch **WILL** be served.

The entire Robertson School Staff wishes all of our students and their families a restful, fun-filled and safe summer. We look forward to seeing you again in the fall. The first day of school is Thursday, September 1.



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

### **MRS. POLOCHANIN NAMED ROBERTSON TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2015-2016**

Mrs. Claudine Polochanin, a kindergarten grade teacher at Robertson School, has been selected by her colleagues to be Robertson's Teacher of the Year for the 2015-2016 school year. This prestigious honor is given annually to a teacher that best represents the outstanding qualities of the teaching staff at Robertson. Mrs. Polochanin is an excellent selection who displays the qualities of technical expertise, motivation, the ability to connect with children and adults, and the willingness to give back to her profession. We are all proud of her and offer her our sincere congratulations!



### **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

The first day of school next year will be Thursday, September 1. It will be a full day of school for all students, including our Kindergarten students. Dismissal will be at 3:25.

### **MANCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY CHILDREN'S EVENTS**

The Manchester Public Library has planned a summer of outstanding events. Of course there is the Summer Reading Program, but there is so much more! Story time, games, puppets and even teen activities are some of the events planned. Stop by and get your child a library card and sign-up for the summer reading program and get ready to start.

### **SUMMER READING TIPS**

Experts agree: Children who read during the summer gain reading skills, while those who do not often experience learning losses. Here are some tips that will help motivate your children to read during the summer.



⇒ Combine activities with books. Why not encourage your child to read a book about an activity that they like to do? If you're going to a baseball game, suggest that your child read a book about his or her favorite player beforehand. You can

talk about it together. It may make the game even more enjoyable for both of you.

⇒ Visit the library. If your child doesn't have a library card, summer is a great time to sign up. Kids get very excited about having their own library card.

⇒ Lead by example. Read the newspaper at breakfast, pick up a magazine at the doctor's office and stuff a paperback book in your bag before going to the park, the playground or the beach. If kids see the adults around them reading often, they will understand that literature can be a fun and important part of their summer days.

⇒ Help kids find time to read. Summer camp, music lessons, baseball and basketball games, and videos are all fun things kids like to do during the summer. However, by the end of the day, children may be too tired to pick up a book. When planning summer activities with children, remember to leave some time in their schedules for reading. Convenient times may be before bedtime or over breakfast.

⇒ Relax the rules for the summer. During the school year, children have busy schedules and often have required reading for classes. Summer is a time when children can read what, when and how they please. Don't set daily minute requirements or determine the number of pages they should read. Instead, make sure they pick up books for fun and help find ways for them to choose to read on their own.



⇒ Have plenty of reading material around. Story-books aren't the only thing that kids can read for fun. Be sure to have newspapers, magazines and informational material on hand that might spark the interest of a young reader.

⇒ Use books to break the boredom. Without the

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

*(Continued from page 2)*

regular school regimen, adults and kids need more activities to fill the hours. Books that teach kids how to make or do something are a great way to get kids reading and keep them occupied. Don't forget to take your kids' favorite reading series along on long road trips.

⇒ Read aloud with kids. Take your children to see a local storyteller or be one yourself. The summer months leave extra time for enthusiastic read-alouds with children no matter what their age. Don't forget to improvise different voices or wear a silly hat to make the story that much more interesting.

### **FIFTH GRADE AWARDS ASSEMBLY**

Our annual Fifth Grade Awards Assembly will be held on Friday, June 10, at 2:00 p.m. Fifth grade students will be honored with a variety of awards ranging from Art and Music certificates to the prestigious Howroyd Awards and President's Education Awards. Family members are welcome to attend.



### **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.

### **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 non-discrimination 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  
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

## Music: Ms. Grieco & Mr. Hayden

Happy June Music Families!

I cannot believe it is already the end of the year. Time truly does fly when you are having fun.

We have been working on the iPads on various music apps this month. We have also been singing many patriotic songs in preparation for Memorial Day and the Fourth of July this summer.

Here are the songs by grade level if you would like your student(s) to sing them to you at home:

Kindergarten-Second grades:

*You're A Grand Old Flag*

Third grade:

*America (My Country Tis of Thee), God Bless America*

Fourth-Fifth grades:

*America, I'm Proud to Be An American*

Thank you to everyone who came to our Spring Concert. Your support means so much.

Have a wonderful summer!

# MUSIC MATTERS!



## STEM News: Mrs. Gardner & Ms. Munoz

Scientists have been very busy in the month of May exploring their final science topic of the year.



Third grade students are studying Rocks & Minerals. Students compared and contrasted rocks and minerals and discussed their attributes. Then, each student became an expert on a type of rock and shared their expertise by teaching classmates. Finally, students learned about the rock cycle and the process in which rocks are made. In June, students will study the minerals that compose rocks!

Fourth grade students are experimenting with Land & Water. In May, students learned about the water cycle and the bodies of water that exist on Earth. Then, students conducted an investigation on the effects erosion has on landforms. Students will continue this work into June and will end the year with an erosion dam building challenge!

Fifth grade students have been getting ready for sixth grade science! During the month of May, they studied physical and chemical changes and photosynthesis, the process through which plant-like organisms create energy.

Students have begun working on their final science project: The Egg drop Engineering Challenge.



# Kindergarten: Mrs. O'Coin, Mrs. Clare, Mrs. Polochanin, Ms. Smith

## Language Arts

Throughout the year, the students have been exposed to a variety of literature using stories, songs, and rhymes during Shared Reading. Students spent the year making predictions, retelling the story, determining the genre (fiction/non-fiction), making connections, and understanding the author's message. These concepts were also reinforced during small group workstations.



Please continue to read and write over the summer.

## Math

Students have completed the measurement unit. The children learned to measure with non-standard units such as links and toothpicks. They used terms such as taller, tallest, shorter, shortest, heavier, lighter, holds-more and holds-less.

During these last couple of weeks, students will be revisiting addition and subtraction using the counting on strategy, fact families and "decomposing 10". See if your child can solve problems like  $8+4$  by counting on. Start at the number 8 and "count on" four more. Have your child find all the ways to "make 10". For example,  $7+3=10$  or  $6+4=10$ ,  $5+5=10$  etc.

1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8  
9 0

Please continue to practice counting, writing numbers, adding, and subtracting and the 42 combined math facts over the summer. Look for shapes all over the neighborhood. Go swimming and make a math problem such as "How many girls + boys = \_\_\_\_\_ kids".

## Summer Practice

Students will be out of school for approximately 10 weeks during summer break and thus it is imperative that students continue practicing reading, writing and math skills that they were taught in school.

If students do not practice the skills and strategies they learned this school year, then their progress may regress during the long summer break. How-

ever, if students continue to practice these skills, it is more likely that they will retain their knowledge or improve their skills.

All students will be receiving a summer practice packet to practice some of the skills taught. In addition, we ask that you continue to have your child read daily for a minimum of 10 minutes to practice their reading strategies and skills. We also ask that you have your child practice writing as much as possible using their sight word knowledge and the sounding out (tapping out) strategy.

Lastly, we ask that your child continues to practice their addition and subtraction facts, reading and writing numbers to 50, counting to 100 by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s, and counting backwards from 20 to 0.



This year has gone by so quickly! You should be very proud of your children - they worked very hard this year.

Research tells us children who do not read during the summer may lose a month or more of the reading progress they had made in school. It is crucial to keep your children engaged in summer reading and writing activities. Thank you for all your home support and enjoy your summer!



***In Reader's Workshop:***

Students have worked hard all year long on strategies to help them become better readers. As the year ends, students are more confident in their reading ability and have numerous strategies to use if they get stuck on a word. We encourage you to continue practicing these strategies over the summer with lots of trips to the library for independent reading books. To assist with comprehension continue asking your child questions before, during and after reading.

***In Writer's Workshop:***

Students have also worked hard all year long on strategies to help them become better writers. As the year winds down, they are becoming more confident on writing for different purposes. This year, in Writer's Workshop, students learned the process of how to write narrative-small moments, information pieces (nonfiction and how to books), and opinion pieces as well. A journal is a fun way to keep your child engaged and writing throughout the summer!

***In Math Workshop:***

We are continuing to work with place value, as well as adding and subtracting larger numbers using a 120 chart and other strategies.

Students will be introduced to reading time on an analog clock as well before the school year

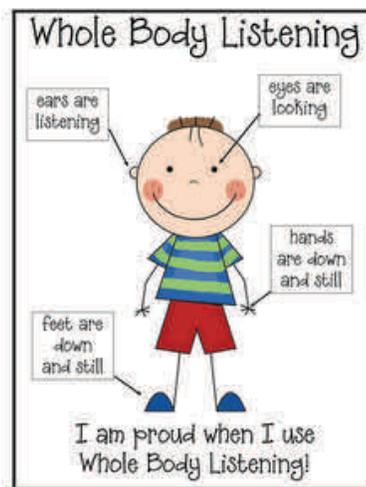


ends! Students have made wonderful achievements in their mathematics skills this year. As the end of the school year and summer are approaching, we recommend students continue to practice their math facts and skills!

***During Social Thinking:***

We began with our new unit "Thinking With Our Eyes." The concept of "Thinking with Our Eyes" helps children understand there is a purpose for observing others and the environment. Our eyes are like arrows- they point to what we are looking at, which suggests what we are thinking about.

We began with a blast off into space and landed on an alien planet. Students learn while verbal communication with aliens may be challenging, by thinking with their eyes, they can figure out how to interact- and have fun- with the creatures they encounter.



## 2nd Grade: Mrs. Osella, Mrs. Mundy, Mr. Jones, Ms. Ruggiero

In our final month of reading instruction, we are currently finishing a unit on Tall Tales, focused on the Old West. We made text-to-text comparisons as we examined the characteristics of each character, the use of exaggeration and the author's message.



Next, we will turn our attention to fairy tales and fables. Students will make comparisons of different versions of a fairy tale, as they learn what elements are characteristic of this genre. Then they will apply what they have learned to create their own version of the story.

Please continue to foster your child's love of reading! Make sure to always have a good book on hand for your days at the beach, or whenever you feel like taking a "mini-vacation" at a moment's notice! Happy reading!



In math, we are working on measurement using a ruler and yardstick. Students are measuring objects to the nearest inch, centimeter, foot or yard.

After we finish measurement, we are moving on to Geometry and our introduction to Multiplication. We will connect repeated addition to multiplication so that students feel comfortable with the operation when they begin third grade. We are also reviewing all the math skills we have worked on during the entire year.



Students are still working on mastering their addition and subtraction facts by the end of the year. We are using various strategies to help students problem solve 2-digit addition and subtraction problems. Once students become fluent with their basic math facts they will then be able to solve 2- and 3-digit addition and subtraction problems more efficiently. Be sure to work on practicing your addition and subtraction facts over the summer. Learning these facts is essential for success in third grade.

In science, we have researched animals. Each class is presenting their research in different ways.

We continue to explore the world of plants as we learn about what plants need to survive and we examine their lifecycle.

### 10 Fun things to do this summer

- 1) Swing in a hammock. Snuggle close to your child, and sway the afternoon away. Look for pictures in the clouds and watch them change, or read books to each other.
- 2) Do Yard Work Together. Toddlers can help pull weeds and sprinkle the flowers with a tiny watering can. Have a kid-size rake and a bubble-blowing lawn mower on hand.
- 3) Play Dress-Up. Collect funny hats, gloves, purses, flowing gowns, and "superhero capes" at a garage sale or thrift store. Slip into your new finery, and have a make-believe garden party, Spider-Man adventure, or masquerade ball.
- 4) Build a Secret Fort. Drape old sheets over lower tree limbs and clotheslines. Eat dinner there. Stay up chasing fireflies and listening to "night sounds."
- 5) Hold a Car Wash. Park your car in the driveway and let your child give it a good scrub with a pot of water and sponge or with the garden hose. Get the whole family involved for added fun!
- 6) Go on a Bug Safari. Dig for worms, scout for lizards, and hunt for frogs and tadpoles. Marvel at an ant carrying an oversize crumb.
- 7) Befriend a Firefighter. Bake cookies (or pick up some ice pops), and deliver them to your local fire station. The firefighters will appreciate the surprise – and your child will meet some heroes, see those awesome trucks up close, and learn a lesson about giving to others.
- 8) Chalk it Up. Everyone loves sidewalk chalk. Use the glow-in-the-dark kind so you and your child can glimpse your artwork from the window at bedtime.
- 9) Make Beautiful Music. Spread a blanket in the backyard for a stage. Ask preschoolers to create (and collect) "tickets" to the big event. Invite kids to bring their instruments and perform – even your littlest musicians can join in using pots, wooden spoons, and shakers. Set up lawn chairs for the audience, and cheer your little stars.
- 10) Dance in the Rain. Surprise your kids by taking them outside during a gentle summer shower. Dance around in swimsuits, catch raindrops in your mouth, and jump in all the puddles.

## 3rd Grade: Mr. Pepin, Mrs. Case, Mr. Moynihan

Your May flowers may still be growing, but in third grade, we are in full bloom. We have come so far this year. Now, we are really showing our true colors and we are ready to take on becoming fourth graders. Here is what's going on in third grade.



### **Reading:**

Students have been working together by forming Research clubs and studying various topics. They reviewed how to use tools like the table of contents to find subtopics, like we did earlier in the year in our writing lessons. The students have also had the opportunity to cross check information among various texts to synthesize information just like the experts do. While doing their research, our third graders have learned to use vocabulary that is specific to the topic they are studying while asking continuous questions like an expert researcher.

### **Math:**

In math, we have focused on the very important lifelong skills related to measurement and data. The students have built on their understanding of time to the nearest minute including skip counting by fives, then counting by ones, and use a counting up strategy to determine elapsed time. You can help your child practice telling time at home by using an analog clock.



The students have also developed a better understanding of liquid volume (capacity) and mass, through the use of a variety of tools, such as pouring liquids between familiar containers and standard unit containers to measure volume and using the scale/number line on the container will help students determine volume in liters and milliliters. The students have also used a pan balance to measure mass in grams and kilograms.

For the data portion of the unit we have focused on reading and making scaled picture graphs and scaled bar graphs that represent a data set with several categories. Students generated fractional meas-

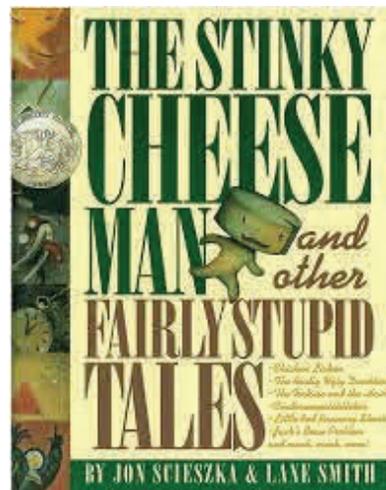
urement data, and represented the data on line plots.

We have also used data from a frequency table to make a picture graph in which a picture or symbol represents more than one of something.

The students have continued to solve word problems. During this unit we have been using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to solve word problems involving volume, mass and data represented in graphs by solving one- and two-step "how many more?" and "how many less?" problems.

### **Writing:**

In our last writing unit, our students have been going back to the classics and studying fairy tales, just like the ones that have been told for generations. They have learned that writers create their own fairy tales by adapting the classic ones, and analyze multiple versions of a tale and ask, "Why might the author have made these versions?" Examples include, the classic *Gingerbread Man* being adapted into the 1992 Fairy Tale of *The Stinky Cheese Man*. The students understand that writers or storytellers adapt fairy tales in meaningful ways by acting out their story as they plan while incorporating a lesson/moral into the tale.



## 4th Grade: Mrs. Blundo, Ms. Oritz & Mrs. Gatmaitan

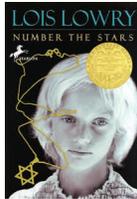
May has been a very quick moving month for Fourth Grade!

We just recently attended a field trip to the Audubon Society of Connecticut. We were able to explore and observe four different habitats. We would like to thank all of the parent chaperones for taking the time to help with our trip!



Our Memorial Day Celebration with grades 3-5 was a success. Thank you to all the families that were able to contribute names to honor for our special day.

In Reading, we are continuing to explore historical fiction. Both classes have started reading *Number the Stars*. Ask your child what has happened so far and what event in history it revolves around. Students are broken up into small literature book clubs. Each club is reading a story that is written during different periods of history. Try to find out what your child is reading and what they think about the book so far.



In Writing, students have spent time researching and writing a nonfiction book. Ask your child how many chapters they have and what their topic was. As the year comes to an end, they will be writing letters to the third grade students and finishing up other pieces of writing they want to take home.

Math classes were working on units of measure and conversions of length, capacity, weight and mass. We explored both the customary and metric units. We have recently started our angles and geometry unit. They should be able to classify triangles and rectangles by the end of the year. Please remember to practice basic facts over the summer so your students are ready for 5th grade when August rolls around!

Have a great summer!



## 5th Grade: Mrs. Fagan, Mrs. Frye , Mrs. Kearney

Can you believe it's already June? Where has the time gone? Your children did a wonderful job this year. We will be ending the year with a plethora of fun and exciting activities.

### Field Trips & Fun Activities:

- June 1 **CT Science Center- Chaperones Needed**
- June 3 **Field Day- Parent Volunteers welcome**
- June 7 **Fifth Grade Picnic at Union Pond 1:45-3:00 pm Chaperones are again needed!**
- June 10 **Fifth Grade Award Ceremony 2:00 pm**



In writing, fifth graders will complete their own memoirs. They will use the writing cycle to enhance, correct, and complete their writing pieces. Wait until you see how far they have come this year!

In language arts, they will be wrapping up their fantasy Book Clubs. All students have read at least one exciting fantasy book and we've looked at the setting, theme, and problem in their stories.

In math, students will be completing their final benchmark exams and fact fluency tests. They will also be studying order of operations and will end the year with some algebra!

Yearbooks will also be sent home so that is something else to look forward to. Thanks again for a terrific year! We love your children and will miss you all! Best wishes for a great year in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade!



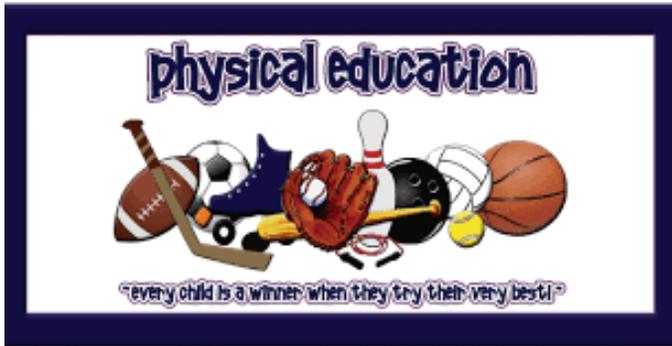
## Physical Education: Ms. White & Ms. Falkowski

Kindergarten through grade 5

Over the last few weeks we have been practicing and preparing for Field Day! There are many events for the students to learn.

These events include the 40 yard dash, tug of war, hurdle relay, leaky cup relay, basketball dribbling/lay-ups, selfie relay, bean bag toss, and a baton relay.

We can't wait to have a fun filled day on June 3rd at Field Day. Thank you in advance to all the parents to help make Field Day a special day, whether you come to watch or volunteer!



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

June is here and the school year is coming to an end.

Officially, all books are due by June 3rd. The library will accommodate all special requests by teachers and students needing books between June 3rd and the end of the year.

If your child is missing books you will receive a notice with the titles. Please help your child locate the books and return them to school as soon as possible.

Applications for summer book borrowing are due June 3rd. If you would like your child to borrow books from the Robertson Library for the summer please fill out and return the application that was sent home in May.

The Buy One Get One Free book fair is scheduled for June 8th through June 10th. Stock up on summer reading titles for your child. The book fair will be opened at the following times:

Wednesday, June 8th: 9 - 4

Thursday, June 9th: 9 - 6

Friday, June 10th: 9 - 1.

Have a wonderful summer and don't forget to visit the Manchester Public Library.

