



Robertson News

June 2014

Volume 9
Issue 10

Principal: Mr. Wolf
Secretary: Mrs. Hegenauer

ROBERTSON NEWS

June 2014

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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 Thursday, June 19. This is A HALF-DAY at Robertson. 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, August 28.

Stuart Wolf
Principal

MS. DANDENEAU NAMED ROBERTSON TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2013-2014

Michelle Dandeneau, a second grade teacher at Robertson School, has been selected by her colleagues to be Robertson's Teacher of the Year for the 2013-2014 school year. This prestigious honor is given annually to a teacher that best represents the outstanding qualities of the teaching staff at Robertson. Ms. Dandeneau 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, August 28. **It will be a full day of school for all students**, including our Kindergarten students. **Dismissal will be at 3:25.**

FIFTH GRADE AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Our annual Fifth Grade Awards Assembly will be held on Wednesday, June 18, at 1:45. 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. Parents/Guardians, Grandparents and Aunts and Uncles are welcome to attend.

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. Storybooks 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 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.

June Library News

It is hard to believe but another school year is coming to an end. We have had a busy and productive year in the library. Many new books have been added to our collection, Guys and Girls Read groups met every morning, and we have had many interesting collections in our display case.

June is the month when we need to get all books back to the library. All library books are due Friday, June 13th. Overdue notices will be going out during June. Please assist your children in locating any overdue books. (Note: Books will be available to students through the end of the year as requested by teachers.)

During June a librarian from the Manchester Public Library will be visiting all classes to talk about the summer reading programs available. Please involve your child in these programs and keep them reading all summer long!

Special thanks to Mrs. Joyce Fish our former secretary here at Robertson who volunteered to read to our primary classes once a week all year. Thank you, Mrs. Fish!

Special thanks and good-bye to Mrs. Badeau, our library paraprofessional, who is retiring at the end of the year. Her hard work, patience, and variety of interesting items that she always brought in to supplement the stories will be greatly missed!

Remember, the K-8 Resource web page can link you and your child to many of the sites they use in school every day. Bookmark this page on your computer for easy access this summer: <http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=1220>

We hope all of our Robertson families have a safe and enjoyable summer filled with lots of good books!

June Music Newsletter

Happy June Everyone!

It has truly been an amazing school year. Grades K-5 have learned so many songs, chants and musical concepts and I am very proud of them. Coming up in June, there will be two singing opportunities for our Kindergarteners and 5th Graders. On June 10th, the Kindergarten Graduation will feature many songs, dances, and chants learned in music class. There will also be a soloist, who has not yet been chosen. On the 18th, the Fifth Grade Awards Assembly will also feature a song or two from our Spring Concert. Please feel free to come and enjoy the music!

Everyone have a fantastic summer!

Miss Grieco



June Art News

It was a true joy and pleasure having our 1st Robertson School Art Show! Thank you students so much for sharing your wonderful artwork with your families and friends!

At this time of year the Kindergarteners are painting, printing and making butterfly collages.

The 1st Graders practiced their geometric shapes by making a barn collage and adding a background and a foreground of barn animals They came out great! They are working with oil based clay making birds, birds nests, and eggs.

2nd Graders have been painting, making a necklace and creating other crafts.

The 3rd graders have been doing a beautiful job of drawing and painting fish!

The 4th Graders are teaming up with a friend to draw part fish and part something else creating a new creature.

The 5th Graders are working on a 3-D ocean scene. They also got their sketchbooks and are exploring some of their ideas and still getting assignments too.

I wish everyone a beautiful and special summer!

Ms. Sheroff



Field Day

Field Day will be Thursday June 12th. All classes will travel throughout the school grounds with another class, participating in fun activity stations from 9:30am-11:45a.m. Parents are welcome to watch and cheer! Each class will earn points by performing well, trying their best, completing the activities as a team, and proper behavior. Ribbons will be distributed to each class based on their final point total.

Please send your child to school dressed in clothing you do not mind getting wet or dirty. It is recommended they bring a bag with dry clothes to change into after Field Day. Students will not be allowed to call home for a change of clothes.

Your child can wear a bathing suit under their shorts and T-shirt, as long as it is a one piece. **Sun block should be put on before they come to school.** Check the weather so they can dress appropriately within the school guidelines (no extremely short shorts and shirts must cover the shoulders). Sneakers are required in order to participate.

Lunch choice for the day is a sandwich (turkey or cheese), apple, baby carrots, juice, milk and pretzels. Your child may choose to bring a lunch from home. Each class will relax with a Popsicle and watch a movie during the afternoon.

Mr. Coughlin needs parent volunteers to help run a couple stations. You will be paired with a staff member and the classroom teacher as well. Please call the school or email Mr. Coughlin (b59jcoug@manchesterct.gov) if you can help from 9:15a.m-11:45a.m.

Should weather postpone Field Day, the make-up date is Friday June 13th. Please refer to the Robertson Physical Education website (<http://schoolnotes.com/06040/robertsonpe.html>) for future announcements.



Physical Education News

ROBERTSON SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN ACES!

Project ACES was a huge success! Close to 300 students and 30 staff members participated on the blacktop at Robertson on May 7th. Mrs. Valenti led the group with one of her highly successful student Zumba routines. This non-competitive event was educational, motivational, and fun!

ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously) was started back in 1989 by New Jersey Physical Education Teacher Len Saunders. Len wanted to get one school in every state to exercise at the same time on a specific day in May to motivate his physical education classes to exercise. The program was also designed to show the importance of Physical Education in school! The program has grown to become a world-wide event in over 50 countries.

ACES aims to educate children about the importance of lifelong fitness. With the obesity epidemic facing the youth of the world, children's fitness plays a major role in fighting heart disease. Robertson School plans on participating in their
6th Pro-
ject
ACES
in
May
2015.





June News



Kindergarten Express

Reading

Reading at Robertson is a blast at the end of the year! Students are consistently showing off their reading skills with pride. Whether they are reading Mondo Books, Books about The life Cycle of a Frog or Farm Animals, it's amazing to see the growth in their reading abilities. Students continue to develop their reading strategies in both fiction and non-fiction books. Can your child tell you the difference between a fiction and non-fiction text? Please continue to listen to your child read for information and understanding. *Predict, Ask Questions, Retell, Figure Out the Author's Message, Draw and Write about your Favorite Part and tell Why? Where and What is The Table of Contents? What are Captions? What is the Topic of this

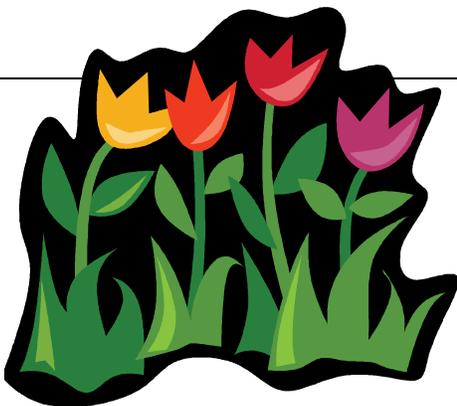
Looking Ahead

June 2 Lutz Museum visit
June 6 Northwest Park Field Trip
June 10 Kindergarten Celebration
(More information coming soon)
June 16 Lutz Museum Visit
June 19 Last Day (1/2 day)

Math

Measuring is fun at Robertson! The students have been very busy discovering different ways to measure using a variety of tools. Students are engaged in real life experiences and using hands-on approaches as they explore how to measure length, weight, and capacity.

You may want to ask your child what tools or math vocabulary best describes each type of measurement. What tools would you use? (Cubes, links, paper clips, scale, measuring cups) Which words best describe what I'm measuring? (taller/shorter, heavy/light, more/less)



First Grade News

Dear Families:

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 made during the school year. It is crucial to keep your children engaged in summer reading and writing activities.

We leave you with a poem written by an anonymous author. It really puts words to our feelings and thoughts:

Dear Parents,

Today I give you back your child. The same child you confidently entrusted to my care last fall. I give them back pounds heavier, inches taller, and months wiser than they were then.

Although they would have attained their growth in spite of me, it has been my pleasure and privilege to watch their personality unfold day by day and marvel at this miracle of development.

I give them back reluctantly. Having spent ten months together in the narrow confines of a classroom, we have grown close and we shall always retain a little of each other. We have lived, loved, laughed, learned, and enriched our lives together this year.

Remember that I shall always be interested in your child and their future endeavors, wherever they go, whatever they do, whoever they become. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your child's teacher this year!



Second Grade News

In our final month of reading instruction, we will be focusing on reading longer and more thought provoking books, such as fiction chapter books. We will be learning primarily through read aloud of wonderful chapter books, as well as through book partners with our friends. We will be making plans for our summer reading.

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, our mathematicians have learned place value, addition and subtraction of two and three digit numbers, fractions, time, money, measurement and everything else that you could think of! We have extensively explored problem solving and how to be the best problem solvers that we could be!

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 will identify the basic needs of plants and animals and compare ways they rely on their environment for survival. We will study food chains and how they influence survival of a species if the chain is altered

Miss Dandeneau and her students would like to thank all the parents and friends that came to see the PowerPoint presentations on animals last month. You made our experience exciting and special!

Mrs. Gardner's class will be finishing their informational books and sharing them this month.

Important Dates

Field Trip to the Essex Steam Train and River Boat on June 6th.

Field Day at Robertson School on June 12th.





Reading

In reading we have been learning various facts about our town, Manchester, and our state, CT. We have been reading books, looking at maps, and understanding the history of our town and state. Our field trip around town exploring different historical sites was a lot of fun. It helped us connect what we read about in class to the “real world.” Now we have gained knowledge about our state and know many of our state symbols. Just ask! Do you know where our state name comes from and what it means? Did you know that we are the third smallest state and that we were 5th to become a state in 1788? So much history is in our awesome state!

Writing

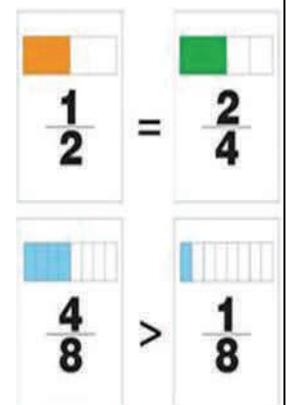
In writing we are continuing our poetry writing and have begun typing it up in Mrs. Mercedes’ class. In all grades we are learning cursive and are super excited about that. Get ready to see our fancy penmanship!

Science

In science we have been studying the five steps in the scientific method and have discovered that it is a way scientists ask and answer scientific questions they have about the world. This process has been explored in the classroom using various experiments. We are continuing to practice being scientists in the class by using this method to ask and answer questions about the world around us. It is tons of fun and students are super eager to carry on our investigations through experimentation. Ask us what are the 5 steps and quiz us on the order!

Math

In math we are continuing our understanding of fractions and have been learning that fractions are not just parts of a whole and less than one, but we can also use fractions to describe a set of objects in a group and that you can even have mixed numbers. A mixed number is when you have more than one whole and a fraction all together. Fractions are almost the same as division and when we partition a number line or shape we are actually dividing it. We have even learned that when fractions have the same value, but the numerator and denominator are different they are *equivalent* to each other. We have been working on determining equivalency to other fractions and moving to comparing them. Fractions are fabulously fun!



Fourth Grade News

Dear Families,

Thank you for all of your help with our field trips this past month. The time spent chaperoning, dressing your children appropriately, preparing your child's lunch and getting them to school on time did not go unnoticed! The students were very excited for our trips and had great opportunities to explore ecosystems and animals. Our day at Hamonasset was beautiful (but a bit cold!). Students had the chance to explore the rocky shore for wildlife and trudge through the marshes to experience the wetlands.

In reading and writing we have continued collecting research on the benefits of sleep. Recently we have discussed the term "sleep hygiene". Ask your child what this means. Remember to read at LEAST 20 minutes every night.

Basic math facts should be mastered in all areas. It is common for their scores to slip if they are not continuously practicing. We have been studying units of measurement. Students were exposed to all types of measurement both in the customary and metric systems. We also practiced converting measurements from ounces to pounds, quarts to cups etc. We are beginning our angles and geometry units by looking at different types of line segments and angles. Students will have to solve algebraic equations to solve for missing information.

We will be starting our next unit in science. Students will be investigating forces and motion. They will be working in groups to design a racecar. They will have to use their cooperative skills to build the car and test it under different conditions.

The end of the year gets very busy for everyone. Please make sure that you are checking Wednesday folders for announcements, and homework will still be given through the end of the year.

Thank you,

Miss Brini & Miss Coll



June Fifth Grade Newsletter

LANGUAGE ARTS- This month all Grade 5 students will enjoy a class read of one of our favorite novels, Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli. As one of our final reads of the year, this story brings us closer together as a classroom family as we learn and discuss the themes of friendship, and the importance of having a loving home and a caring and committed family to support you. Throughout our reading groups this year we've seen all of our students thrive and become stronger readers and writers and thinkers! We encourage you to keep reading with your children at home, because reading equals success!

SOCIAL STUDIES: On Thursday, June 5th, students will be taking a field trip to the historic Nathan Hale Homestead in Coventry, CT. Here students will experience what life was like during the 1700s and get a better glimpse into the life of one of America's first heroes. We have learned about colonial trades, and significant events that led to the American Revolution such as the Boston Tea Party and other famous battles in history. This will be an exciting culminating activity to our yearly Social Studies unit! Parent volunteers are needed, so if you are available, please watch for the chaperone forms that will come home.

SCIENCE-On May 13th, the 4th and 5th graders visited Hammonasset Beach as a culminating activity to our Mystic Outreach Program. They were able to experience the purpose of a marsh, test the ocean water's Ph level, and capture critters found in the Long Island Sound. It was a great, memorable experience.

MATH- The end of the year focuses on the unit of geometry. The students are being challenged with finding the volume of rectangular prisms. Different strategies are being applied to help solve these problems. Remember that math is everywhere around us—so keep your eyes open for real-life math problems every day! It is important to practice math facts over the summer to assure that students will retain what they have learned throughout the year. Parents can purchase practice books or have the students log onto math sites such as CoolMathgames, or Aplusmath to help strengthen skills already learned.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR FIFTH GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Thursday, June 5TH- NATHAN HALE HOMESTEAD TRIP

Thursday, JUNE 12TH- FIELD DAY, Rain date: Friday, June 13th

5TH ANNUAL ROBERSTON SPELLING BEE – DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Tuesday, JUNE 17th - 5TH GRADE END OF THE YEAR PICNIC @ UNION POND (**Chaperones will be needed**)

Wednesday, JUNE 18TH - FIFTH GRADE AWARDS ASSEMBLY (Time to be announced)

Thursday, June 19th – last day of school - early closing, 1:17 P.M. dismissal

REMINDER: As some of the days at the end of the year are make-up days, it is important for students to attend as the final days of school include our end of the year ceremony for fifth graders, yearbook handouts and lots of hugs and tears!

SPECIAL MESSAGE: The fifth grade teachers would like to extend a thank you for all of your support in your children's education while attending Robertson Elementary. We are very proud of all of the hard work "our" children displayed throughout the year and they will be missed. We wish all of you the best as you leave us, and continue on through your amazing educational journey! You are ready!



MANCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Manchester Public Schools is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. 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, access to boy scouts or other designated youth groups, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal non-discrimination laws. Manchester Public Schools does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Inquiries regarding Manchester Public School's nondiscrimination policies 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

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

The school district's policy of nondiscrimination must be prominently included in all handbooks, bulletin, catalog, booklet, announcement, brochure, student/employee application form or other publication distributed to students, potential students, parents, and any other persons benefiting from the school district's activities and programs. The name and contact information (office address, telephone number, fax number, email address) of the Title IX Coordinator must also be included in this announcement.

Title IX Notice
Policy #4013

It is the policy of the Manchester Public Schools to maintain a working environment free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, insults or intimidation on the basis of an employee's sex or inclusion in a protected class. Verbal or physical conduct by a supervisor or co-worker related to an employee's sex, which has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment, unreasonably interfering with the employee's work performance, or adversely affecting the employee's employment opportunities, is prohibited. The school district will provide staff development for new district administrators and will publish its policy and grievance procedures to employees in an effort to maintain an environment free of sex discrimination and sexual harassment.

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 overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX in all areas covered by implementing regulations. The major responsibility is the prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.