

Robertson News



Mrs. Courtney, *Editor*

Principal: Mr. Wolf
Secretary: Mrs. Hegenauer

March, 2016

Volume 11, Issue 7

Message From the Principal's Desk

Students in grades 3, 4 & 5 will take the Smarter Balance Assessment (SBAC) beginning in March. Like the CMT before it, the SBAC measures student achievement in the areas of Reading and Math. The SBAC is a rigorous test with challenging items.

Students in grade 5 will also be tested in Science using the CMT science assessment. The 5th grade testing window begins on March 8 with the Science test. The rest of the 5th grade testing will take place between March 21 and March 28. The 4th grade testing window is between April 4 and April 20 (vacation week is April 11-15). The 3rd grade window is between April 25 and May 2.

All SBAC testing is done on the computer. It is very important that all of our students are able to work to the best of their abilities, therefore, please be sure that your child has a good night sleep each night and has a healthy breakfast in the morning. The results from the SBAC help us know what we are doing well and what areas of instruction we need to strengthen.



Report card conferences will be held on Tuesday, March 15, Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 17. If they have not already done so, classroom teachers will contact you soon to schedule your conference. Each report card conference day is a 1:17 p.m. dismissal day. Lunch will be served.



While you are here for your report card conference, please take the opportunity to complete our School Climate Survey. We value your opinion. We want to know what we are doing well and what we need to improve upon. Information about where you can access this survey online will be coming soon.

SAVE THE DATE: Robertson Family Literacy Night is coming! We hope to see you here on Wednesday, March 30, for this exciting event. Dinner will be served and childcare will be provided. We will even be running busses from the apartments at 360 Oakland St. and the Pavilions Apartments.

DRESS FOR COLD WEATHER

January and February are the two coldest months of the year in Connecticut. Students should dress warmly, bringing a hat, gloves or mittens, and a winter coat to school each day. We plan to go outdoors for lunch recess every day, unless the weather is inclement or extremely cold, so it is truly important that students are appropriately dressed.

If your child is in need of a warm winter coat, mittens, a scarf or a hat, please call the school at 860-647-3372, and ask for Ms. Muraski, our Family Resource Center Coordinator.



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

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.

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

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please use extreme caution when driving a vehicle through the school parking lots and on the streets nearby. In the morning before school and at dismissal time there are many people, both students and adults, walking along the sidewalks and IN the parking lots. Be sure to obey the posted signs.

Those spaces marked for handicapped parking, in both the back parking lot and the front, are only for vehicles displaying a state handicapped tag. Violation of any of the parking lot regulations can result in a costly fine from the Manchester Police Department. The police will focus their attention on school parking lots and the streets surrounding the schools this fall, to insure student safety.

Unfortunately, some vehicles were ticketed last year for violations.

The parking lot regulations are designed to keep our children safe. Please keep this in mind at all times.

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 to be used for the drop-off or pick-up of students. If you are running late in the morning (after 9:05) you may park in the front lot and walk your student into the school office to sign them in. If you arrive late in the afternoon (after 3:40) you may park in the front lot and come into the school office to sign your student out.



The back parking lot is supervised by school staff from 8:35 – 9:05 every morning and from 3:25 – 3:40 every afternoon. The back doors are locked until 8:35 and after 9:05 so please do not drop a student off outside of that time frame.

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

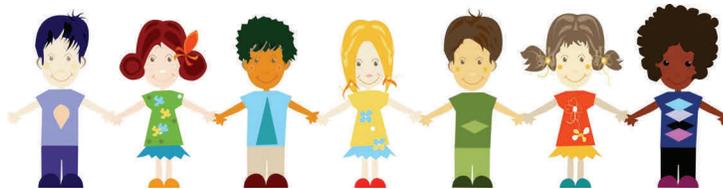
ROBERTSON WEB SITE

Be sure to check out the Robertson School Web Site! You can access this site at:



www.publicschools.manchester.gov

Then click on the *Schools* tab, find Robertson and click. It is a user-friendly site filled with helpful school information that includes curriculum outlines, an events calendar, PTA news, photos and much more. We are continuously updating this site and including more and more useful and interesting information.



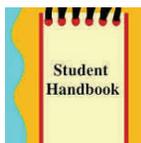
BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

This is just a reminder that we still collect the "Box Top\$ 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.



PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK



Our complete Parent/Student Handbook is now available to you electronically on our Robertson Website. To access our website, please go to: publicschools.manchesterct.gov. Then click on the Schools tab, find Robertson and click.

In addition to our Parent/Student Handbook, our website contains lots of other information that will be helpful to you throughout the school year. We hope you will visit it often.

If you do not have access to our website at home, we will be happy to provide you with a hard copy of the handbook upon request.

BUCKLAND ALLEY

Access to Robertson through the use of Buckland Alley is prohibited. Only authorized vehicles such as maintenance or trash haulers may use this access to the school. This is not a safe location to pick up or drop off students. When driving on the streets surrounding the school or in our parking lots, please think ***Student Safety First***.



EARLY DISMISSAL FROM CLASS

While we discourage early dismissal of students from class because of the instructional time they lose, we realize that there are times when this is unavoidable – such as a doctor appointment. If you plan to pick your child up before the school day is over we ask that you send a note to your child's teacher. In the note please state the reason your child needs to leave school before the end of the day and what time you will come in to pick them up. Thank you

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 overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.

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

VALUABLE ITEMS IN SCHOOL

Our Parent/Student handbook states that there are certain items that should not be brought to school. This is a good time of year for a reminder.

Electronic games or other electronic gear, radios, or trading cards are among the items that should not be brought to school. All of these can cause a distraction from instruction. Also, gum and candy are not allowed in school. This is not a complete list and other items may be excluded from school, at the discretion of staff members.

Students will be given a warning upon the first violation of this rule. Continued violations will result

in school staff removing the item(s) from the student's possession. It is each student's responsibility to ensure the safety of his or her own personal belongings.

If something has a significant monetary or personal value, the item should not be brought to school. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen personal property.



90 MINUTE DELAY SCHEDULE

When school opens 90 minutes late the entire morning routine changes:

Students should NOT arrive at school before 10:15 because there is no supervision before that time.

The school day will begin at 10:35 and it will end at 3:25 for all of our students.

Morning buses run 90 minutes later than usual. (For example, if your child's bus usually picks them up at 8:20, it will come at approximately 9:50.) Afternoon buses will run on their regular schedule.

NO BREAKFAST IS SERVED WHEN THERE IS A DELAYED OPENING. CHILDREN SHOULD PLAN TO EAT BREAKFAST AT HOME ON THOSE DAYS.

We do serve lunch on delayed opening days, but there is no recess.

All school cancellations, delays and early dismissals will be automatically announced to your phone number on file at school through the district's "School Messenger" service. The school no longer makes phone calls. Please be sure that we have your updated phone and email contact information on file.

Other sources for information about school closings, early dismissal or delayed opening are WTIC radio (1080 on the AM dial) and TV channels 3, 8, 30 or 61. All will have up to the minute information.

PLEASE KEEP THIS NOTICE HANDY THROUGH THE REMAINING WINTER MONTHS.

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

Black History Month:

The students and staff at Robertson recognized Black History Month during the month of February. Teachers in every classroom developed a variety of special activities for their students as well as integrating information into their regular lessons that helped to demonstrate the important role of African Americans in the history of our nation.

Students studied the lives and accomplishments of and read many literary works by African Americans. It is important to note that while special Black History Month activities take place in every classroom during the month of February, teachers select instructional materials and activities that focus on people of color, their cultures and their contributions to our society throughout the entire school year.



We all know that the current economy is causing many families to struggle financially. Therefore, we are pleased

to inform you that there is financial assistance available for school lunches to families that qualify. We have applications and our school counselors, Ms. Jones and Mrs. Prager, will be happy to assist anyone that would like help completing one.

It is important to note that even if you applied at the beginning of the school year and did not qualify for assistance, you may qualify now if your job has changed or your income has changed.

APRIL VACATION

April vacation is the week of April 11-15.



REPORT CARD CONFERENCES

Report card conferences for the second marking period are scheduled for March 15, March 16 and March 17. These conferences are another opportunity for your child's teacher to share important information about their academic and social progress. You will also be able to talk about how you can support your child's academic growth at home. When we work together as a team, with the goal being academic and social success, your children are the winners. Please make every possible effort to attend your scheduled report card conference. If you cannot attend at the scheduled time, please contact your child's teacher to reschedule your conference for another day or time.

***Please remember, we do not honor requests for a specific teacher for next year. If there is information about your child that you feel is important for their teacher to keep in mind when creating classes for next year, please share this information with them at conference time.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL UPDATE

So far this school year we have missed 2 days due to snow storms. *At this point in time* the scheduled last day of school for students is Monday, June 13.

Family Resource Center

News from the
Family Resource Center...



This month, a group of MELC 2nd and 3rd graders finished constructing their bird houses through a group coordinated with the Youth Service Bureau (YSB).

When the warmer weather arrives, these students will hang up the bird houses along a trail in Manchester to be enjoyed by different animals.

A new group that was started last month is Girls' Circle. This group is a partnership with YSB as well and allows girls to express their triumphs and struggles in an open and welcoming environment.

The FRC partnered with the 4th grade classrooms to host a Souper Bowl canned good food drive. Fourth grade students made announcements as well as counted the goods turned in daily. The drive produced about 300 non-perishable items to be donated to the MACC Food Pantry!



STEM News: Mrs. Gardner & Ms. Munoz

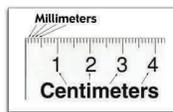
Kindergarteners continued to study animals and learned about what we humans need to survive. They also used only their hands to explore objects in hidden in "feely boxes". They practiced and described objects using the properties of size, shape and texture using only their sense of touch to make their observations. Kindergarteners also used their sense of touch, as well as thermometers, to explore snow which we brought to the classroom in trays.

The four first grades have worked together on a project to explore the sizes of animals. Each class measured the length of different animals and compared them to one another using the terms longer, longest, shorter shortest, and tall, tallest. The result of this project is a number line in the hallway on which animal lengths are labeled. They were surprised to learn that the blue whale was much longer than they predicted! Come and check it out!



After second graders learned about buoyancy, they became engineers applying what they learned to build boats. They competed against their classmates to build boats that would carry the greatest load (weight) and remain floating. As they tested and revised their designs, they learned that the property of shape is as important as buoyancy. Students also learned that, in engineering, communicating ideas is as important as design.

In third grade, we started a unit about the environment and conservation. We are focusing on using technology and digital resources including Google Classroom, several data bases and interactive websites. In this unit, we will be learning about what we can do to help our environment and make earth a better place.



In fourth grade, we are studying the physics of motion with a focus on measurement. Students are measuring distance using the customary and metric systems and learning to calculate speed. Soon we will begin discussing how a push or pull force affects the way an object moves.

In fifth grade, students are studying their five senses and the organs that control them. Students planned and carried out investigations related to the effect of sight on their reflexes and the relationship between smell and taste. Students are currently preparing to take the fifth grade science Connecticut Master Test in the month of March.



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

Language Arts

The kindergarten students are continuing to have fun reading fiction and non-fiction texts during shared reading, read alouds and guided reading. During those reading opportunities the students are learning to apply many reading strategies, such as sounding words out, looking at the picture, and looking for repetitive language.



The students are also learning before, during and after comprehension skills, such as making predictions, retelling events and determining the author's message and purpose.

Please help us enforce these comprehension strategies at home, both when you read to your child and when he/she reads aloud. Ask them who the characters are, where the setting is, what the problem and solution were, and retell the events in the story.

We will be reading stories about penguins, bears, and St. Patrick's Day. Ask your child what was his/her favorite penguin story and why? Can he/she tell you two facts about penguins? Check out more stories at your public library!



During writer's workshop, children are continuing to write stories with a beginning, middle, and end. We are also learning about non-fiction writing. The children will be researching penguins and bears. They are using the information in their writing.

Please continue to practice reading the 40 sight words. If your child can read all 40, have he/she write them correctly or use them in a sentence.

Math

Students are beginning to learn how to subtract by taking away or crossing out an amount to see how many are left. Students have been taught that when the number zero is subtracted from any other num-

ber, the difference is equal to the other number. Students will also learn that when the number 1 is subtracted from any other number, the total is one less. We will continue to practice addition and subtraction throughout the school year. By the end of the year, your child should be able to add/subtract within five fluently (there are 21 addition/subtraction facts) and be able to add/subtract within 10 with manipulatives and/or by using the "counting on/back" strategy.

Please have your child practice adding and subtracting at home: You can have them count out four toys and 1 toy. How many toys do you have all together? Now, take 3 toys away. How many are left?

Write a math sentence on paper. ($3+2=$) or ($5-3=$). Can your child solve it independently by either drawing a picture, using fingers, or using manipulatives?

Upcoming Events

- ◆ PTA Meetings- March 9th 6:15 – 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ PTA Event- Ice Cream Social 3/15 Watch for more info in your child's folder.
- ◆ Book Fair (held in the library) March 14-18. Volunteers needed!
- ◆ Half Day-Early Release: March 15, 16, 17 for parent/teacher conferences
- ◆ Good Friday- March 25th No School

Box-Top Collection Competition: Please cut and send in box-tops to help our school earn money. Winners are announced at the weekly "bee hive" meeting and given a class set of pencils.

Core Values/ Social Thinking:

Students are continuing to practice and display our school's core values throughout all aspects of the school day. Robertson's three core values are: **Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible**

(Continued on page 11)

First Grade: Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Beauregard, Mrs. Rawlins, Ms. Rubino

March certainly got here quickly and we even managed to squeak in a couple of snow days in February!

In Reading Workshop, we are learning about nonfiction text features. Ask your child if they can tell you about the following text features: table of contents, captions, photographs, and headings. These are just a few of the many things that we look for when reading nonfiction text. We are always on the look-out for these features and have had fun finding them in the books we read during independent reading time. We are also encouraging students to explore the nonfiction section of our school library.

In Writer's Workshop, we are researching, taking notes, and writing books! Students have picked an animal to learn about. They are reading books and using internet resources, like San Diego Zoo and Go Pebble!, to gather information. Then they are putting their information into books. Their final books will include a table of contents, headings, illustrations that teach (diagrams, labels, close-ups, and maps), and writing that informs readers. We are so excited to share our non-fiction texts!

We have started a new unit in Math Workshop this month; collecting, organizing, and representing data! We are working on our abilities to read and share the meaning of data in a graph or table. Data in our math problems may be shown in tally marks, a picture graph, or words. It is also important that we keep up our practice on addition and subtraction facts to 10 and to 20! We certainly appreciate all of the math fact practice you do at home with your child; it makes a tremendous difference in their ability and confidence.

In Social Thinking, we are continuing to teach problem solving using "Breathe, Think, Do" strategies. Ask your child to show you how it works. Our focus this month will be on identifying the problem. Next we will practice coming up with a plan to solve the problem. The thinking part of the 3-step plan is hard work and we need to think with our eyes and our brain. Students will consider asking for help as a possible plan and think about who can help them solve their problems. Last, we get to the "Do" part of the plan! We will practice using several act-along stories the students will find helpful.

We are looking forward to meeting with you at your March parent conference to talk about your child and his/her progress so far this year!



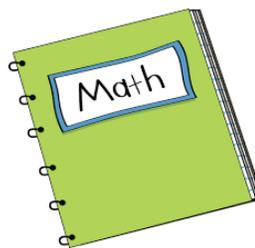


Students are learning to read like a story teller. We are focusing on reading fluently and using expression to convey the message of the characters in the story.

As we read, we are also paying attention to literary language such as metaphors, similes and alliteration. Reading with your child every night will help you to see if your child understands what they are reading about. As the two of you read ask your child questions such as:

1. What is happening in the story?
2. Why do you think this is happening?
3. Does this remind you of anything?

For more information on how to better help your reader, please come to the first Robertson Literacy Night on March 30th! More information will be sent home regarding this event in the upcoming weeks.



In math, we are continuing to work on place value and identifying values of digits within a number. For example, "What is the value of 4 in 349?" The response that we are looking for from the students is "The value of 4 in 349 is 40." Having a strong understanding of place value will help students with addition and subtraction of 2 and 3 digit numbers.

Students will be able to regroup tens and ones easier once they have a strong understanding of place value. We are working on adding and subtracting 2- and 3-digit numbers.

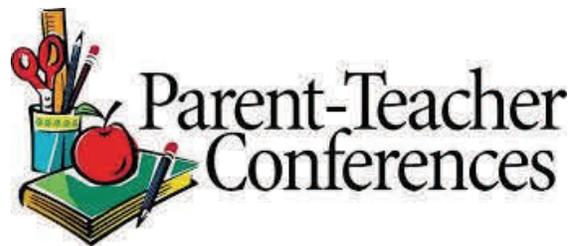
In this unit, students are able to apply their knowledge of basic facts and place value to obtain the correct answer to the problems they are assigned. Students are being exposed to various strategies of solving 2 and 3 digit addition and subtraction problems, but if your child feels comfortable using one or two specific strategies, encourage them to do so.

Please continue to review basic facts every night for at least 5 minutes. Students need to have their basic facts within 20 mastered (95 or more problems out of 100) by the end of the year. Encourage your child to use Fastt Math at home to make the study process more exciting.

The second graders are learning to use scientific process skills to investigate solids and



liquids. This means that they are learning to ask scientific questions and to create their own investigations to answer their own questions. They will make observations, collect data and analyze it. Then they will use this data to support their conclusions with their classmates. Through this project, they will be able to show how to identify and compare the properties of these two states of matter.



Be on the lookout for information coming home regarding your child's conference. There will be three different days (March 15, 16, & 17), all of them having an early dismissal at 1:17 p.m., with lunch served.

We look forward to seeing you!

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

During the month of March, things will really start to heat up in the third grade! We welcome spring and lots of new learning for our scholars. Here are the goings-on in the upcoming month:

Reading:

We will dive deep into character study and learn how great authors develop the concept of character. We will notice how, much like real life, character is expressed by a particular person's actions and words. Authors invite us to make judgements about the characters in a story through their actions and dialogue.

To take this concept deeper, we will find patterns in characters' behavior within and among texts and ask ourselves why certain characters are the way they are. From here, we will learn to make predictions about how a character will behave later in the stories we are reading.

Math:

In March, we will continue to learn and play with the concept of multiplication. So far, we learned a ton of multiplication strategies such as skip counting, properties, arrays, bar diagram to multiply, and equal groups. We have also been learning how to solve and author our own multiplication and division word problems.

As we move into our next topic, we will apply our knowledge of multiplication and division to the concept of area (with standard and non-standard units). We are also excited to dig deeper still by using squares to find the area of regular and irregular shapes.

Writing:

Opinion writing and persuasive speeches are the focus this month in writing. Parents, be forewarned that your scholar may come home with a rock solid, well thought out argument for why they should be able to stay up later, choose what they would like for dinner, or be allowed to maintain a messy room. They are all creating ideas for change and thinking about addressing their audience and their concerns. They will learn effective ways to construct arguments, appeal to emotion, and support claims with statistical data and expert testimony. Here, we are creating a platform for our young citizens to be effective at enacting change in their own lives moving forward. Last year, a third grade class was able to convince the administration to implement the spirit days we have all enjoyed this year! Who knows what accomplishments this year's class will produce.

SUPERFLEX



Rock Brain



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

Despite the fact that this month is very short, we have been very productive! In math, we have continued with our fraction unit and can now create equivalent fractions, compare fractions and simplify fractions. Ask your child about improper fractions and mixed numbers!

We are currently on Topic 9 of our EnVisions Math Program: Adding and Subtracting Fractions (including mixed numbers). Please continue practicing your basic facts at home. You can even challenge your children by adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with multiple digits.

In reading, writing and social studies, we have finished up our FEMA projects and shared their Powerpoint presentations to the class. Each group had to research causes, effects, preparation, and awareness for their disaster. Be sure to ask your child what their topic was because they have all become experts!



In writing they independently wrote a letter to FEMA arguing why their disaster needs funding. We also took time to discuss the issues of segregation and integration for Black History Month. Our students were very engaged and had some wonderful questions.

March will be the second round of parent conferences. Please make sure you get to schedule a time to meet with us. We look forward to seeing you all soon!



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

(Continued from page 7)

Students are continuing to learn how to problem solve through the social thinking curriculum. Breathe –Think – Do!

Reminders

-Homework is due on the first of each month. Thank you to all who sent in their homework. This is a great way to practice skills being taught in the classroom as well as being responsible!

- ⇒ Please pack a healthy snack for your child every day.
- ⇒ Please empty your child's backpack and/or Home-School Folder daily.
- ⇒ Please send a towel/blanket with your child each Monday. (Blankets are sent home every Friday to be washed, and returned on Monday.)
- ⇒ Please send in an extra set of clothes for your child. If your child is sent home with clothes, please send in a new outfit the next day. (Please keep in mind that we are still in the cold winter season).
- ⇒ Please help your child learn to tie his/her shoelaces, put on gloves and to put on and zip his/her winter jacket.

*** 'Tis the season for stuffy and runny noses- Boxes of Tissues are always a welcome donation, but NOT mandatory. Thank you!!**

5th Grade: Mrs. Fagan, Mrs. Frye (Ms. Green), Mrs. Kearney

ELL: Mrs. O'Connell & Mrs. Kubinski

Language Arts: In March, students will begin reading and writing opinion pieces. Students will learn to analyze different perspectives and authors' opinions. In writing, they will use evidence to form an opinion and organize their writing by summarizing and paraphrasing evidence that supports that opinion.



We will be continuing to read different novels in our guided reading groups and learning to dig deep into a book to make inferences and draw conclusions.

Math: Our 5th graders will continue to learn fractions this month. We will be working on multiplying and dividing fractions using the Envision Math Program.

The Envision Program has provided the students various ways to learn. It has been wonderful in giving the students opportunities to learn and reach their highest potential. Students will also be taking the Orleans-Hanna Algebra Prognosis Test during March. This test will be used to help determine the placement of your child in math in 6th grade.

Social Studies: We will continue to discuss the foundation of our country leading up to the Revolutionary War. Students have finished up their informational writing piece on a region of the original 13 colonies. Don't forget conferences are this month. Make sure that you have scheduled a conference with your student's teacher. We look forward to seeing you and discussing your child's progress!

We have completed the annual LASLinks testing required by the state of Connecticut. All ELL students have worked hard on the Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing portions of the test.

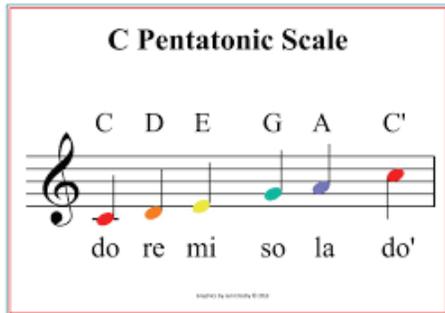
Mrs. O'Connell and Mrs. Kubinski will now clean, organize, and cross-score parts of the assessment with the rest of the ELL staff in the district on March 9. Then the LASLinks will be sent to CTB for final scoring and reporting to the state. Final results should be available by early April, but we believe our Robertson students have made some wonderful progress this year!

In addition, we want to announce how proud we are of all the awards that our ELL students have earned this year so far!



Music: Ms. Grieco & Mr. Hayden

The music room is filled with the sounds of the pentatonic scale this month. Students in grades 2-5 have been working hard composing their own pentatonic melodies and performing them on a variety of instruments for their classmates. A pentatonic scale is a scale comprised of 5 notes only...do re mi so and la. The typical scale we use is octatonic which is comprised of do re mi fa so la ti do (8 notes).



Students in Grades K-1 are working on a variety of chants, songs and dances. Some that you can ask your student about are “Bow Wow Wow”, “I’ve Been Workin’ on the Railroad” and “AEIOU” in 1st grade, and “BINGO”, “The Doubles Rap” and “Johnny Works with One Hammer” in Kindergarten.

Our Chorus and Townwide Chorus groups are practicing for their upcoming concerts. If your child is in the 5th Grade Townwide Chorus, please stay tuned for dates of upcoming rehearsals and performances.

Have a musical month of March!
Miss Grieco



Manchester Public Library

Sleep: What Every Parent Needs to Know – Tuesday, March 8th, 6:30 p.m. at Cheney. This workshop, with Manchester School Readiness Nurse Rhonda Dannehy, will cover ages and stages of sleep (newborns to age 5), sleep safety, and sleep challenges/ solutions. **This program is for adults only and registration is required.** Registration begins February 22nd. Call [860-645-0577](tel:860-645-0577) for more information. Location: Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main St, Manchester, CT

Preschool Dance Party – Monday, March 14th, 2-2:30 p.m. at Cheney. For children up to 6 years old, this program is a time for caregivers and little ones to rock out at the library. Dance, sing along and have fun! Call [860-645-0577](tel:860-645-0577) for more information. Free & no registration required. Location: Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main St, Manchester, CT.

St. Patrick’s Day Craft – Visit Cheney between 3-6pm on Thursday, March 17th to make a craft. Call [860-645-0577](tel:860-645-0577) for more information. Location: Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main St, Manchester, CT

Pumpnickel Puppets: The Tale of Peter Rabbit – Saturday, March 19th, 10:30 a.m. at Cheney. This awesome puppet show tells Peter Rabbit’s story and is recommended for children age 3 and up. Call [860-645-0577](tel:860-645-0577) for more information. Location: Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main St, Manchester, CT

Peter Rabbit – Saturday, March 26th at 10:30am at Cheney. Remember your camera for this fun photo opportunity and craft with Peter Rabbit! Call [860-645-0577](tel:860-645-0577) for more information. Location: Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main St, Manchester, CT



Physical Education: Ms. White & Ms. Falkowski

Jump Rope for Heart was a success! We raised over \$2,000 to be donated to the American Heart Association. Thank you to all the families and friends who helped make that happen!

Kindergarten through Grade 2

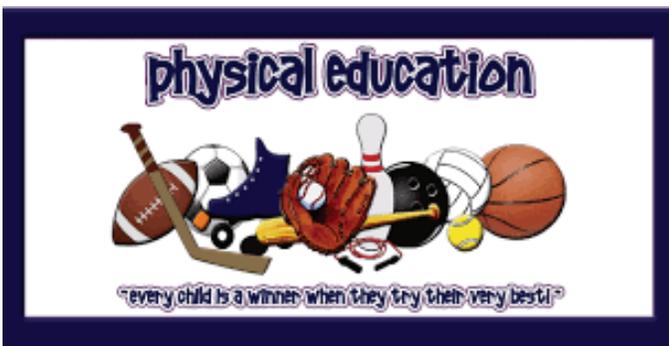
Students spent the last few weeks learning about hopping, leaping and jumping to prepare us for our Jump Rope for Heart Event. We had fun stations set up around the gym to allow them to practice these skills.

Moving forward we will be working on the skills of striking using paddles. This will lead us to play games similar to tennis.

Grades 3 through Grade 5

Students took their mid-year fitness test. The two assessments they are trying to make progress in are push-ups and the PACER test (running component).

The students participated in Jump Rope for Heart day, with various jumping related activities set up around the gym that they could jump rope to. Moving forward the students will be starting a volleyball unit.



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

During the month of February we had a Black History Author/Illustrator Celebration in the library for all grade levels. Students learned about famous African-American authors and illustrators and the books that are in our library. Each grade level also had a guest reader! We hope your child enjoyed this event.

The PTA sponsored Book Fair is scheduled for the week of report card conferences which is March 14th – March 18th. It will be open from 9 am – 4 pm on Monday the 14th, Wednesday the 16th, and Thursday the 17th. It will be open from 9 am – 7 pm on Tuesday the 15th and from 9 am - 1 pm on Friday the 18th.

During that week of March 14th - 18th we will have a computer area set up in the library and in the entrance to the school so that parents can access an online survey about their experience at Robertson School this year. Please stop by and access the survey if you have not done so prior to that time.

You can view our collection at any time by going to the K-8 Resource Page (address below) and clicking on the "School Catalogs" icon, and then clicking on Robertson School. The K-8 Resource Page also has links to the most commonly used sites at Robertson.

<http://mpspride.org/page.cfm?p=1220>



Art: Mrs. Sheroff & Ms. Beyer

Kindergarten artists have completed working on a heart hanging piece. They are now beginning to learn about different kinds of painting.

First grade finished their work on their 3-D stuffed painted hearts. They are looking forward to their next art unit.

Second grade artists have finished working on sculpting their clay penguins. Ask your child if they know any facts about penguins! Next they are now starting their unit on symmetrical painting.

Third graders have just finished working on their collage guitars. They had a great time designing them and the guitars turned out great. Their next art unit will be working with clay and they will learn to sculpt coil pots.

The fourth graders have been working with a material that is slimy to the touch. They formed different objects and had a great time experimenting with the slime.

Fifth graders have been creating 3-D sphere drawings and shading. They created 3-D free-standing basketball stands and their work turned out super!