



Robertson News

September 2014

Volume 10

Principal: Mr. Wolf

Secretary: Mrs. Hegenauer

ROBERTSON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2014 MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to school! On Thursday, August 28, we opened our doors to 410 students. Our First Day of school was a special occasion because in addition to our students, we welcomed nearly 300 parents, grandparents and guardians representing 260 of our students. They were our guests during the morning of the First Day of school.

Robertson School joined hundreds of schools across the nation that participate in a First Day event. At Robertson, parents, grandparents and guardians joined their children around the flag pole in front of the school for the singing of "It's a Grand Old Flag" follow by the Pledge of Allegiance. Our First Day event was planned and coordinated by Jennifer Westfort, Robertson's Literacy Coach. Thank you to all of the other staff members who assisted and thank you to *all* of the Robertson teachers.

There are many benefits of our First Day event. It starts the school year in a very positive way for all who participate. It involves parents/guardians in their children's education, and we know that the more involved you are in your children's education, the better they will achieve in school. It also helps forge a strong partnership between the home and the school.

Our goal this year is to provide Robertson families with frequent, high quality opportunities to be involved in their children's education. Look for notices that will be coming home throughout the year that will tell you about upcoming family involvement events. The entire Robertson Staff is excited to have the responsibility of teaching your children. Please share this responsibility with us and be involved.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF RETURNING STUDENTS: All returning students must do a Registration Verification on-line. You should have received an email or letter from the Board of Education explaining this. Go to publicschools.manchesterct.gov and click on Registration. Complete the required information, including emergency contacts, and you are all set. Your Registration Verification must be completed by the end of the day on Friday, September 12. Connecticut state law requires 2 local emergency contacts with phone numbers. Again, please complete the Registration Verification by the end of the day on September 12. (If you misplaced your snapcode, please call the school office at 860-647-3372.)

Stuart Wolf
Principal

REMINDER -- OPEN HOUSE/CURRICULUM NIGHT is on MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, at 6:30. Please be careful to park in designated areas only.

ROBERTSON WEB SITE

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

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.

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.

EARLY DISMISSAL FROM CLASS

While we discourage early dismissal of students from class due to instructional time lost, 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.

BELL SCHEDULE

Our school day starts at 9:05 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m. The first bell rings at 8:55. At that time, students may walk to their classrooms. The late bell rings at 9:05 at which time the school day begins. If students arrive after 9:05 they are considered tardy and parents need to sign them in to school in the office. Students will be issued a late pass before going to their classroom.

Please be aware that **there is no supervision at school before 8:45.** Students are not allowed in the building before this time unless they will be eating breakfast. **Walkers should plan to arrive at 8:55.**

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.

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.**

HOMEWORK

As we are back in the full swing of school, you can expect your child to come home with homework on a regular basis. The Board of Education Homework Policy gives details about homework expectations at each grade level.

Please help your child to do their best on their homework. You can do this easily by:

asking them if they have homework and also asking what it is each day;

providing them with a quiet, well lit place to work, away from the TV and music;
being sure they have the supplies they need;
being available in case they ask for help;
not doing their work for them;
having them do their homework during the same time frame each day;
having them show you their work when they are done.

TELEPHONE POLICY

Students may use the school telephone for “emergencies” only. An example of an “emergency” would be if a child leaves their glasses at home and needs them to do their schoolwork. Students may not use the school telephone to call home to ask if they may go to a friend’s house after school or to ask a parent to bring an item such as their basketball.

The use of cell phones, or other electronic devices, by students during the school day is prohibited.

NEW STAFF AT ROBERTSON

The Robertson School Community welcomes the following staff members who are new to Robertson this year:

Beth Courtney – Library/Media paraprofessional (part-time);

Jen Ensling – Special Education Teacher (part-time);

Rebecca Fagan – Fifth Grade Teacher;

Alicia Kaderbeck – Speech/Language Pathologist;

Kara Farrugia-Dugan – School Psychologist;

Nikki Ortiz – Fourth Grade Teacher;

Rachel Pelchat – part-time music teacher,

Ashley Ruggiero – Grade Two Teacher

Monique Sanders – Coordinator of Family Resource Center;

Georgette Thompson – Speech/Language Paraprofessional;

Hillary White – Physical Education Teacher

BOARD OF EDUCATION BULLYING POLICY

In our Robertson Parent/Student Handbook you will find a copy of and a link to the Manchester Board of Education Bullying Policy. This policy contains forms for reporting acts that may be considered bullying. Any student or parent can complete one of these forms if they believe an act or acts by a student or students could be considered bullying. Please be aware that copies of these forms are also available in the Robertson office.

;THANK YOU FOR THE BACKPACKS

A big thank you goes out from the Robertson community to the Manchester Church of Christ on Tolland Turnpike. For the fourth consecutive year the Church purchased over 100 book bags and many school supplies and church volunteers loaded the bags with the supplies. On the first day of school, the bags were given to Robertson families in need of new backpacks and school supplies. The Robertson School community is deeply grateful that the Manchester Church of Christ is a caring, contributing community partner. Their actions speak loudly.

HEALTHY SNACKS AND DRINKS

What your child eats and drinks *does* have an effect on how well they learn at school. Some ideas for healthy snacks include baby carrots (or other vegetables – plain or with dressing for dipping), cheese and crackers, plain popcorn (no butter or artificial toppings), apples, oranges or other varieties of fresh fruit, 100% fruit juice (no sugar added), frozen pops made of 100% fruit juice (no sugar added) or pretzels. Peanut butter was intentionally not included in the list above out of respect for our students that have peanut allergies.

It is also important to note here that the Board of Education policy on Wellness, Section III, paragraph E, item 6, states, “Classroom birthday celebrations will be food and snack free.” Any questions or concerns about the wellness policy are certainly welcome.

LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS

It is the students' and parents' responsibility to be sure that items that have a significant monetary or personal value are not brought to school. The school is not responsible for items that are brought to school and are misplaced, broken or disappear.

SECURITY SYSTEM

This is a reminder that as a security measure, all exterior and interior doors at Robertson School, including our front doors, remain locked throughout the school day. Anyone needing to enter the building to conduct school business will need to ring the doorbell by the front door of the school. A security camera is mounted there that will allow office personnel to identify the person who would like to enter. If the person is not recognizable on camera, they may be asked to hold up a picture ID to confirm their identification. Once the identity and the nature of their business of any individual wishing to enter the school has been established, the front door will be electronically unlocked. ***All visitors to the school must report to the office to sign in and receive a visitor's badge.***

This "buzz-in" security system is part of the comprehensive safety plan for all of Manchester's public schools. While there is no imminent danger or security concern, we believe that it is important that we all feel comfortable with the physical security of the school and its occupants.

LIBRARY NEWS

We are looking forward to a great year at the Robertson Library! The first library class will be a "getting to know each other class" with books being circulated starting with your child's second visit to the library. Please help your child keep track of their library books and get them returned on time.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP OF STUDENTS

Please be sure to use the back parking lot when dropping a student off before school or picking them up after school. ***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 timeframe.