

# PATRIOT PRESS

January 2010 Volume 7 - Issue 4

The Newsletter of Robert Morris School

## From the Desk of the Principal

### ROUTINES FOR WRITING

Want your child to get in the habit of writing? Try making it a regular part of her life. Whether you have a little time or a lot, here are some ways to fit writing into both of your schedules.

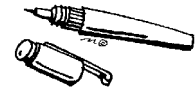
- Enjoy on-the-go writing. Carry a small notebook and pencil, and let your child see you use it to make a to-do list: "Mail package to Grandma; pick up dry cleaning."

Has your youngster been invited to a birthday party? Suggest that he or she make a list of gift ideas on the way to the mall. Your child can draw pictures and write the first letters of the words if he or she is not spelling yet.

- Start a family journal. Keep a pad by the telephone or on the kitchen counter. You could write about the weather getting cooler and the leaves changing colors; your child might report (in pictures or words) that the dog

learned a new trick. At the end of the week, read aloud from the journal after dinner.

Write a recipe. After making lunch together, you and your youngster can write down how to make a peanut butter and banana sandwich: "Spread peanut butter on two pieces of bread..." Suggest that she make up a silly recipe, too (dandelion tacos, sweatshirt stew).



### A Message from the School Counselor

#### High School, Here We Come!

RMS future freshmen visited *Somerset County Vocational and Technical School* recently. After visiting, students are already submitting applications. Several youngsters are interested in careers in the medical and science field and are applying for acceptance to the *Academy for Health & Medical Sciences* program. Students who successfully complete the four-year program will earn an associate degree from Raritan Valley Community College in addition to a high school diploma. *SCVTS* offers a wide range of programs from musical theatre and dance to Cisco™ computer systems, and culinary arts. Parents and students are encouraged to attend the open houses that are scheduled for the coming weeks.

RMS students that plan to attend *Bound Brook High School* will be invited to an open house for students and parents that will be scheduled at a later date.

#### Vo-Tech Open House Dates:

#### Student and Parent Visitation – All Programs:

Tuesday, February 2, 2010  
Saturday, February 6, 2010 (Call for times – 908-526-8900 ext 1)

#### Academy for Health and Medical Sciences

More info: (908-526-8900 ext.7243)

Information Sessions:

Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 10:00 am

Information Session and Admission Testing:

Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 10:00 am

Saturday, February 20, 2010 at 10:00 am

#### Performing Arts Day (Dance, Musical Theatre, and Acting)

More info: Cami Drew-Slade (908-526-8900 ext. 7162)

Friday, January 15, 2010: 9:00 am -1:30 pm

(Students must arrange transportation for visit with parents)



#### Patriot Press Staff

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## Math Connections from Mrs. High

### Ways Parents Can Help!

Positive attitudes about math will reinforce encouragement.

Remember, positive attitudes about math are important in encouraging your child to think mathematically.

### GRADES K-2: Probability and Statistics Activities

#### **Gather, Record, and Display Data**

Have your child survey family members and display the data. Surveys could include favorite foods, shows, hobbies, entertainment, birthdays, and music. The results can be displayed in a chart or bar graph.

#### **Doubles**

Using a pair of dice, roll the dice

and tally the number of rolls it takes before you roll doubles. When a player rolls doubles, his/her turn is over. The next person rolls and tallies the number of rolls it took before rolling a double. Who set the record for the most rolls?

### GRADES 3-5: Probability and Statistics Activities

#### **Survey Family Members**

Your child can collect data about almost any activity and create a display of that information. For example, he/she can record how much sleep each family member gets each night, or how the family spends the weekend hours.

#### **Find Averages**

Using data collected, your child can find averages. He/she might find the average number of raisins in small boxes that come in

packages of four or six. He/she can count the raisins in each box, find the sum, and divide by the number of boxes. If your child is involved in baseball or basketball, he/she can find his/her batting average or free-throw average.

### GRADES 6-8: Probability and Statistics Activities

#### **Coin Toss**

You will need two different coins for this activity. Have your child toss two coins together 25 times. After each toss, record the results of the toss. What lands up--two heads, two tails, or one head and one tail? You can have your child predict what he/she thinks the result of the toss will be.



## READING CONNECTIONS FROM MRS. D'ALESSANDRO

### *Tips for Starting a Home Library*

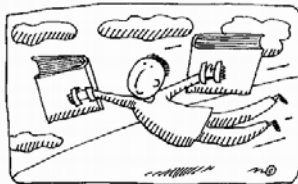
Starting a home library for your child shows her how important books are. Having books of her own in a special place boosts the chance that your child will want to read even more.

#### **What You Need**

Books from bookstores, garage sales, flea markets, used book stores, and sales at your local library

A bookcase, a cardboard box, or other materials to make a place for books

#### **What to Do**



books so that she knows where to look for them.

A cardboard box that you can decorate together might make a good bookcase. Or you might clear one of the family bookshelves and make a special place for her to put her books.

Help your child to arrange her books in some order—her favorite books, books about animals, holiday books. Use whatever method will help her most easily find the book she's looking for.

Pick a special place for your child's

Borrow books from your local library. Go to the children's section and spend time with your child reading and selecting books to take home and put in her special place. You might even have a box or space just for library books, so that they don't get mixed up with your child's own books.

Encourage family members and friends to give books to your child as presents for birthdays and other occasions

When collecting and reading books are a part of family life, you send your child a message that books are important, enjoyable, and full of new things to learn.

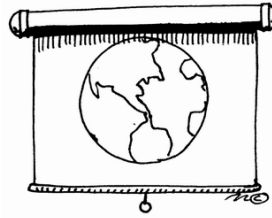
## Nurses' Notes Greeting the New Year with a Smile!

Friday, February 5, 2010 will mark New Jersey's seventh annual *Give Kids A Smile Day!* On that day, hundreds of dental professionals across the state will be offering free services to children in need, ages 12 and younger. In order to participate, children need to have a signed, parental consent form which can be downloaded from the website. Parents must also call in advance to secure an appointment at a participating dental office. In Somerset County, there are participating dentists in Hillsborough, Manville, and Somerville. For complete information about this event, visit the website at [www.njda.org/gkas](http://www.njda.org/gkas), or call (732) 821-9400. Forms and information can also be requested through the Health Office.

The Food Bank Network of Somerset County is offering health assistance programs that give us another reason to smile. Children who need eye-glasses or a dental visit and do not have the means or insurance to pay for such services may be eligible through the Food Bank Network. Contact the Health Office for more information on these services.

Please keep in mind that the traditional peak of the flu season occurs in the winter months, and we are still concerned with the possibility of the H1N1 virus spreading in our community. Every household should own an oral thermometer to check for fevers. Continue to practice and encourage your child's frequent hand-washing and cough/sneeze hygiene. Remember that ill children and adults should stay home from work and school until recovered. The School Nurses continue to monitor absences and report numbers of flu-like illnesses to Administration and the local/county health authorities.

To all our Robert Morris family, we wish a happy holiday season and a healthy New Year, filled with reasons to smile!



## News From the First Grade

December was a very busy month for the First Graders. The children built up their frequent flier miles learning about North America. Working on map skills, the children used their imaginations to fly north to Canada and learned about the traditional Boxing Day celebration. Then they were off to Mexico to enjoy a traditional Las Posadas with homemade foods and a piñata. The students flew back to the USA in time to celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas. They even enjoyed breakfast with Santa. The first graders along with their teachers wish you a very happy New Year!

## Busy Second Graders

During the month of November, second graders learned how children lived in colonial times. Colonial times was a period in our nation's history from the years 1630 – 1730, which is before the thirteen colonies became the United States of America. Second graders compared the way they live today to how children lived in colonial times. We learned about colonial clothing, food, manners, laws, houses, games, Sundays, and schools. Our second graders were very surprised to learn that colonial children paid their schoolmaster, or teacher, with corn! Ask a second grader about other interesting facts they learned about colonial times!

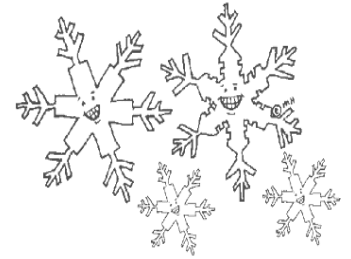
Students culminated this unit with a colonial craft day and dinner. They made a game called a Bilbo catcher and wrote with a quill pen. Students ate a colonial dinner with turkey and corn. Thank you, parents, for sending your child to school in colonial clothing and for providing the food items for our dinner! We would also like to thank the homeroom parents who organized and assisted at our colonial dinner.



## Important Dates to Remember January 2010

**Happy New Year!**

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|-------------------|---|
| <b>January 4</b>  | <b>School Reopens – Classes Resume<br/>PTO Box Top Contest begins</b>             |
| <b>January 6</b>  | <b>Family Tools and Technology Grades 6 &amp; 7</b>                               |
| <b>January 12</b> | <b>Special Education Parent Advisory Meeting 7:00 p.m.</b>                        |
| <b>January 13</b> | <b>Family Tools and Technology Grades 6 &amp; 7</b>                               |
| <b>January 7</b>  | <b>Board of Ed. Meeting, 7:30 – Room 140</b>                                      |
| <b>January 18</b> | <b>School Closed, Martin Luther King Day</b>                                      |
| <b>January 20</b> | <b>Family Tools and Technology Grades 6 &amp; 7<br/>Student Council Bake Sale</b> |
| <b>January 21</b> | <b>Winter Concert</b>   |
| <b>January 22</b> | <b>Market Day Pick-Up 6:30 All Purpose Room</b>                                   |
| <b>January 25</b> | <b>PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.</b>  |
| <b>January 27</b> | <b>Family Tools and Technology Grades 6 &amp; 7</b>                               |
| <b>January 28</b> | <b>Board of Ed. meeting, 7:30 – Room 140<br/>Marking Period 2 Ends</b>            |
| <b>January 29</b> | <b>PTO Box Tops Contest Ends</b>  |



### ART – A – FACTS

The Environmental Education Center in Basking Ridge, NJ will be holding the annual  
*"Nature Through A Child's Eyes"* art exhibit.

The following students will have their artwork showcased in the exhibit.



#### Congratulations to:

Danna Cristaldo Grade 2  
Stephen Demcher Grade 2  
Carolina Niebles Grade 2  
Bryan Solis Grade 2

An opening reception for the exhibit will take place on Sunday, January 3, 2010 for the student artists, families and teachers. The artwork will be on display throughout the month of January.