

# PATRIOT PRESS

November 2009 Volume 7 - Issue 2

The Newsletter of Robert Morris School

## From the Desk of the Principal

### It's Conference Time Again!

Mark your calendars! Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, parent-teacher conferences are scheduled at Robert Morris School. This is an important opportunity to learn of your child's progress, to view samples of your child's work, and to share ideas with your child's teachers for academic improvement as well as social

and emotional development.

As conferences for PK-5 students are tightly scheduled, be sure to arrive on time to get the most out of the meeting. Remember, one of the main purposes of the parent-teacher conference is to address your concerns, so don't feel as if you are putting the teacher out by asking questions. If you have specific questions, make a list beforehand so that all your

concerns are addressed.

Also, don't be shy if you have advice to offer about your child. No one knows your child better than you, and the teacher will benefit greatly from your ideas. I trust that you will find partnering with your child's teachers rewarding, and look forward to seeing you at conferences.

-Dennis Donahue



### Nurses Notes

#### A Test Is Not an Excuse!

Everyone seems to agree with the idea that sick children should stay home. Usually when children are ill, they're content to be absent. There are times however, when children may want to be in school, but should not be. Younger students miss their friends, and older ones may worry about projects, homework, and tests. Parenting isn't easy and sometimes Mom and Dad must make the unpopular and tough decisions.

Although a child should be praised for a responsible attitude towards school, a quiz, field trip, dance or other activity is not a reason to return to school too early. Related to this, the NJ Department of Education has suggested that Perfect Attendance award be temporarily suspended for this school year.

With the current concerns over the

H1N1 flu virus, we cannot afford to ignore a "little" sickness. Children must take the time to recover from illness and not return to school until symptoms such as fever (100° F or higher), diarrhea, or vomiting have been absent for at least 24 hours, without medication being needed.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the federal agency responsible for all issues affecting public health in the United States, including the H1N1 flu virus. Currently, the CDC is the only agency confirming cases of H1N1. However, the local Department of Health has instructed that any influenza-like illness should be treated as if it were H1N1. Although H1N1 is considered to be a relatively mild form of flu, it is easily contagious and therefore has the potential to infect many people. Of course, any flu may be serious for certain individuals.

We all need to exercise precautions to

minimize the spread and impact of H1N1 within our school and the larger community. Besides washing hands frequently, covering coughs and sneezes with tissues or elbows and keeping hands away from our eyes, nose and mouth; adults and children **MUST** stay home when sick.

For accurate and trustworthy information on the H1N1 virus and availability of the vaccine, you may visit [www.nj.gov/health/flu/h1n1](http://www.nj.gov/health/flu/h1n1), or call 1-866-321-9571 on weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm. This is a free, public information hotline offered by the state of New Jersey.



**Patriot Press Staff**  
Coordinator: Mrs. Tomaino  
Editors: Mrs. DiBenedetto, Ms. Lidon, Mrs. Turbowitz  
Printer: Mrs. Velazquez  
Illustration Contributor: Melissa Roth, 8th grader



**Math Connections  
from Mrs. High  
November 2009  
Ways Parents Can Help!**

Positive attitudes about math are important in encouraging your child to think mathematically.

**GRADES K-2:  
Measurement  
Activities**

**Order Objects**

Have your child put objects in order by height. You can help by asking questions such as, "Which is the tallest?" or "Which is the shortest?" He/she can also arrange items by weight. Ask your child to hold objects and compare weights. Another easier way is to read the label for weight.

Ask your child to arrange them items from heaviest to

lightest or from lightest to heaviest. Grocery items work well for this activity.

**GRADES 3-5:  
Measurement  
Activities**

**Grocery Store Scales**

When purchasing produce, use questions to foster our child's thinking about measurement and estimation. For example, you might ask, "How much do you think five oranges will weigh? More than a pound, less than a pound, equal to a pound?" Determine how much the oranges really weigh, then ask, "Did they weigh more or less than you estimated?" He or she could also determine the cost of the oranges by the price per pound.

**G R A D E S      6 - 8 :**

**M e a s u r e m e n t  
Activities**

**Find Perimeter and Area**

The concepts of perimeter (distance around the shape) and area (number of square units inside a shape) apply to many activities in the home. For example, finding out how much trim is needed for a window is an opportunity to measure the perimeter. The one-foot tiles on the kitchen or bathroom floor are one square foot. Have your child count them to find the area of a Room from 0-12.



*Discovery education:  
unitedstreaming.com*

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**R E A D I N G  
CONNECTIONS FROM  
MRS. D'ALESSANDRO  
Simple Strategies For Creating  
Strong Readers**

Without doubt, reading with children spells success for early literacy. Putting a few simple strategies into action will make a significant difference in helping children develop into good readers and writers.

Through reading aloud, providing print materials, and promoting positive attitudes about reading and writing, you

can have a powerful impact on your child's literacy and learning.

Invite your child to read with you every day.

When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help your child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.

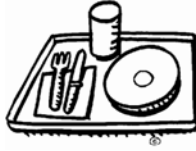
Read your child's favorite book over and over again. Read many stories with

rhyiming words and lines that repeat, and invite your child to join in on these parts. Point, word by word, as he or she reads along with you.

Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?" Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story. Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.

## Cafeteria News

Discovery education: unitedstreaming.com



Please take advantage of our convenient Comalex System. You can eliminate the daily job of seeing that your child has lunch money by depositing weekly, monthly, or even yearly amounts in your child's account by sending cash or check to your child's homeroom teacher. This account can be personalized to include or exclude snack purchases.

Our breakfast program is up and running. Students attending this program should enter the building on the Madison Street side using the door near our science lab. Our breakfast students will be allowed to enter the building at 8:00 am.

## News From The Pre-K And Preschool

Our centers in pre-k are stressing the community during the months of November and December. Currently, the dramatic play center is a pizza store where the children take turns playing the roles of cook, cashier, delivery person and waiter or waitress. In the next few weeks, it will become a beauty parlor and then a construction site. The art center has been highlighting Halloween projects and will soon highlight Thanksgiving and Holiday projects.

The dramatic play center and block center in the pre-school class is now a construction site. The children can use tools, hard hats, goggles, aprons, and work gloves to explore the various roles of construction workers in the dramatic play center. In the block corner, they can use various construction vehicles.

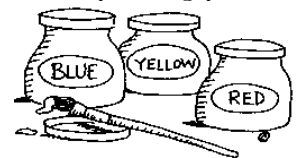
The children are looking forward to their combined Halloween party and Thanksgiving feast.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Geometry Geniuses

Students in Mrs. Ambrose's and Mrs. Krier's class have been very busy learning about many different aspects of geometry. They are using the Smart boards to indentify shapes, using compasses to create circles, and even singing a Polygon Rap. After hearing both Mrs. Ambrose and Mrs. Krier rap, everyone agrees that they should just stick to being 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Nevertheless a lot was learned about polygons. Just ask the fourth graders!

## Busy Second Graders

Second graders completed their first author study of Eric Carle. Along with reading and discussing many of his books the students each made a picture from an Eric Carle book using a style similar to his. They finger painted sheets of paper with different colors and textures. They took these papers and cut out the parts they needed to complete their picture and glued them to a white background adding elements like trees, water etc. This year being the 40th anniversary of The Very Hungry Caterpillar the second graders also participated in a world-wide reading of this classic children's book. Robert Morris Second Graders were part of the nearly one million children who had The Very Hungry Caterpillar read aloud to them.



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**Important Dates to Remember  
November 2009**

November 1	Daylight Savings Time Begins (set clocks <u>back</u> one hour)
November 3	Election Day
November 3	Mega Skills 6:30 pm
November 5-6	School Closed –NJEA Convention
November 10	Special Education Advisory Meeting 7:00 pm
November 11	Mega Skills 6:30 pm
November 12	Marking Period 1 Ends
November 13	Market Day 6:30 pm
November 18	Mega Skills 6:30 pm
November 19	Report Cards Issued Grades 6-8 Board of Education Meeting Room 140 7:30 pm
November 20	Dismissal 12:48 pm Parent Conferences 1:40 – 3:00 pm
November 23-24	Dismissal 12:48 pm Parent Conferences 6:00 – 8:30 pm Book Fair
November 25	Dismissal 12:48 pm Thanksgiving Recess Begins Book Fair
November 26-27	School Closed
November 30 PTO	Meeting 7:00pm

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***“Parents Helping Parents”***  
**ALL PARENTS, PLEASE JOIN US AS WE WELCOME**  
***Dr. Scott Poltrock, Ph.D.***

For a presentation about anxiety in school-aged children,  
followed by a question and answer session.

Dr. Poltrock is a licensed clinical psychologist with a private practice in Somerville. He has worked in schools, hospitals and outpatient clinics, providing therapy for children with social, emotional, and behavioral issues.

When: **Tuesday, November 10, 2009 @ 7:00 P.M.**

Where: **ROBERT MORRIS SCHOOL- Room 140**

Sponsored by (South Bound Brook’s Special Education Parent Advisory Group)

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Please RSVP by November 4, 2009

*Return this completed section to Angela Whitehead @ the Office of Special Services*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Child’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*\*CHILD CARE WILL NOT BE PROVIDED**