

# PATRIOT PRESS

October 2009 Volume 7 - Issue 1

The Newsletter of Robert Morris School



## From the Desk of the Principal

### Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year!

It was wonderful to see so many supportive parents at Back-to-School Night this year. By coming to school, you have demonstrated your interest in your child's education and your commitment to his or her success at school.

There will be many more opportunities to participate in your child's school experience and support our home-school partnership. Your child's teachers and I will continue to keep in close contact with you throughout the school year.

As we begin the new school year, we ask for your support in helping your child to develop good organization skills. Organization is one of the most important skills for students to have, especially as they

enter a new grade. When students start off organized, they're more likely to stay that way throughout the school year. Here are some things students should organize:

- **A study routine.** Help your child decide when and where he or she will study. Children should study every day, preferable at the same time. Their study spot should be quiet, neat and comfortable.
- **Assignments.** Help your child use his or her assignment notebook/planner and calendar to keep track of due dates. Show children how to make daily "to do" lists. Help them choose a filing system to organize papers.
- **Belongings.** Make sure your child has specific places to put his/her belongings. For example, a student might leave his/her book bag by the door each night or keep library books in a special place.

- **TV Time.** Children should not watch more than 10 hours of television per week. To limit viewing, ask your child to plan which show he or she would like to watch. Tape any that interfere with homework time.

- **Other Activities.** Encourage your child to write commitments, such as soccer practices and social events, on a calendar. Use job charts to organize family chores.

Please check our monthly calendar for school events. I hope you will join us often. Best Wishes to you and your child for a wonderful school year.

-Dennis Donahue

### Guidelines

#### A Message from the Counselor

There are many things you can do to make sure your child gets off to a good start this fall and continues to have a successful year. Get to know your child's teachers. You know important things about your child that will help them to better relate to your child. Make a list of important items that you would like to share and discuss with teachers during conference time. Let your child know that homework is important. Find a

quiet place and set a regular time for homework. Encourage your youngster to use the Robert Morris School homework planner. Visit the school web-site to keep informed about upcoming events ([rmschool.com](http://rmschool.com).) Help your child to organize time and not put off assignments until the last minute. Being organized is half the battle. Be there to help if needed. Let your child know what you expect. Talk about school every day and praise good work. Read to and with your child. Turn off the TV and send the message

that reading is important. Working together will help make this school year the most successful ever!

Reminder: Keep your child's cafeteria account up to date!

## Math Connections from Mrs. High

Ways Parents Can Help!

Positive attitudes about math will reinforce encouragement. Your feelings will have an impact on how your children think about math and themselves as mathematicians. Positive attitudes about math are important in encouraging your child to think mathematically.

### GRADES K-2: Number Sense Activities

#### Count Objects

Encourage your child to count pieces of fruit, cans of vegetables, stair steps, or kitchen utensils.

Provide counters, such as paper clips or dried beans, and ask your child to count out specific amounts

First and second grade students can make groups of ones and tens to match

place value names. For example, three sets of ten items and five single items are called "3 tens, 5 ones," and represent 35.

#### Skip Count

Count with your child by 2's, 5's, and 10's. Challenge your child to count by tens in patterns, such as 4, 14, 24, 34, etc.

### GRADES 3-5: Number Sense Activities

#### Practice Number Facts

Your child will still need to memorize multiplication and division facts. Spend one or two minutes a day asking for products and quotients up to  $9 \times 9$  and  $81 \div 9$ . Many children can learn the math facts more quickly when music, rhyme, and rhythm are used to teach them. You can make up "counting chants" together or set math facts to familiar tunes.

### Use Multiplication Ideas

Look for situations where sets of equal amounts are combined. For example, if you buy two or three packages of hot dog buns, ask how many buns there are all together. Other questions you might ask include: How many fruit snacks are there in three (or more) boxes? If you watch 30 minutes of television, how much do you watch in a week?

### GRADES 6-8: Number Sense Activities

#### Practice Number Facts

It is essential that middle school students know their multiplication facts so that class time is spent effectively learning middle school math content. Spend a few minutes each day with flash cards to ensure that your child has memorized his or her multiplication/division facts.

## Reading Connections from Mrs. D'Alessandro

For many families, songs are a natural part of family life—whether it's singing holiday favorites, "Happy Birthday" to the birthday person, camp songs around the fire, or traveling songs in the car while on summer vacation. When songs are sung and the singers have a copy of the lyrics in front of them, they are *reading*. They are reading short, highly

predictable texts that are meant to be read orally. These texts are among the very best materials for developing students' fluency and word recognition skills. Research is beginning to show that singing does provide a wonderful and effective vehicle for teaching reading.

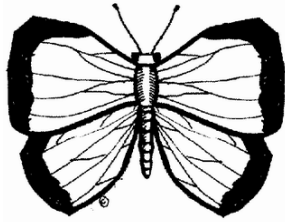
Songs and singing should play an important part in the literacy experience for children in school and at home. There are several websites where parents and children can find the lyrics to classic old songs.



Check out:

<http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/musicchild.htm>

## Busy Second Graders



Second graders are learning about the life cycle of a Painted Lady butterfly. They are caring for caterpillars in our classrooms. Students prepared food and shelter cups for their caterpillars. Our second graders learned that in the wild caterpillars eat weeds, such as mallow and dandelion. These caterpillars are eating commercial food processed from plants they would eat in the wild. Most students thought this food was very interesting! Students have discussed that every living creature has basic needs such as air, water, food, and appropriate temperature and shelter. Ask a second grader about the basic needs of their caterpillars!

## News From The Pre-K And Preschool



Robert Morris' youngest students are becoming accustomed to separating from their parents and attending school. They are learning how to play with classroom materials and toys, how to share and how to work in the various centers. They are also learning about school rules. The most important and difficult one for them is keeping our hands to ourselves.

They are looking forward to their trip to the South Bound Brook Fire House on Tuesday, October 9, 2009. Our classroom centers have changed in order to reflect our themes of Halloween, fire safety and mixing colors.

## Let the Reading Begin!

To help promote a love of reading, Mrs. Ambrose and Mrs. Krier spent a pleasant September afternoon walking their classes to the Bound Brook library. Mrs. Draghi, the Bound Brook children's librarian, read the students a story about the first census. While discussing the story it was enlightening to realize our students have never been part of a census before. This will be the first time they will be counted in the census. After a brief tour of the library facilities, students with library cards were able to take out books. Mrs. Draghi encouraged others to come back with their parents to get their new card.

## Writer's Notebook Lunch Share

Mrs. Hnasko and Mrs. Trudeau-Smith would like to thank all the third grade writers who attended the Writer's Notebook Lunch Share. Last year, these students created writer's notebooks in second grade. Students personalized the cover of their notebook with pictures and drawings. During the summer, these writers wrote entries in their notebook. We invited these writers to eat lunch with us and share their entries with each other. We truly enjoyed reading and listening to your writer's notebook entries. Keep reading and writing, third graders!

## First Graders Take A Bite

The first graders have been learning about Johnny Appleseed through stories and hands on activities.

### **Did You Know:**

Johnny Appleseed was born on September 26, 1776, in the state of Massachusetts. His real name was John Chapman, but he was given the nickname "Johnny Appleseed" because he dedicated his life to planting and pruning apple trees. He traveled hundreds of miles in what are now the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Wherever he went, he planted apple seeds that he carried in a sack on his back. He became good friends with the Indians and the early settlers across the frontier. "Johnny Appleseed" is a celebrated hero in the legends of the American Westward Movement.

**Try making some cookies at home.**

### Applesauce Cookies

3  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all purpose flour

1 cup butter or margarine, softened

5 teaspoons apple pie spice

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup thick applesauce

$\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup dark corn syrup

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups packed brown sugar

1 large egg

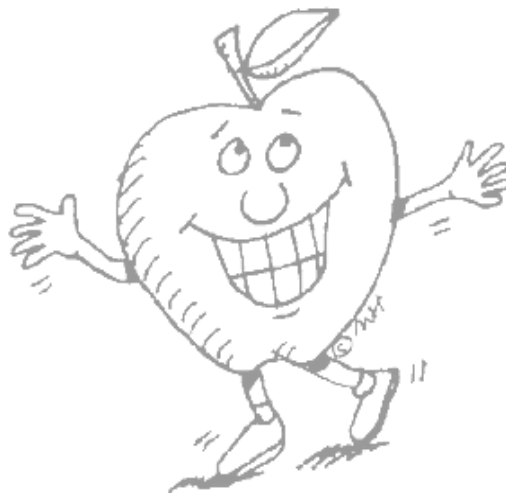
In a small bowl, mix flour, apple pie spice, baking powder, and salt; set aside.

In a large bowl at medium speed, beat brown sugar and butter until fluffy. Beat in applesauce, corn syrup, and egg. On low speed, gradually beat in flour mixture.

Divide dough into four portions and roll each into a log. Wrap each portion in plastic wrap or waxed paper. Chill several hours until firm enough to cut. Turn oven on to 350. Grease cookie sheets or spray with non-stick coating.

Cut dough into a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick circle. Place cookies about 1 inch apart on cookie sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes. Remove cookies from cookie sheets and cool on wire racks.

**Enjoy celebrating Johnny Appleseed's Birthday!**



# Important Dates to Remember

## October – 2009

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| October 1     | Back to School Night  |
| October 5-9   | Fire Prevention Week  |
| October 6     | Homeroom Parents' Tea   |
| October 7     | Intramural Basketball Begins                                  |
| October 9     | Mid-Point MP1   |
|               | PTA Sally Foster Fundraiser Begins                            |
| October 13    | Special Education Advisory Meeting - 7:00pm                   |
|               | Voter Registration Deadline                                   |
| October 15    | Board of Education Meeting<br>Room 140 - 7:30pm               |
| October 16    | Market Day - 6:30   |
| October 19-23 | School Violence Awareness Week                                |
| October 20    | School Picture Day  |
| October 26    | PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Room 140                                |
| October 27    | Mega Skills   |
| October 28    | Intramural Soccer Begins                                      |
| October 30    | $\frac{1}{2}$ Session Dismissal 12:48 - Halloween Celebration |

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Parents: Please do not double park in the  
Elizabeth Street Lot