

PATRIOT PRESS

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The Newsletter of Robert Morris School

From the Desk of the Principal

READ-ALOUD ENJOYMENT

Some of the best times with your child may be when you share a story. Get the most out of reading aloud with these three easy tips:

1. Hold the book so your youngster can see the words and pictures while you're

reading. Run your finger under the text, or point to interesting things in the illustrations.

2. Take your time and don't rush the story. Your child can tell if you're in a hurry. Reading slowly will help you read clearly - and give you and your youngster more time together.

3. Don't be afraid to stop reading a book if your child doesn't seem interested. Have a backup selection ready so read-aloud can continue.

-Dennis J. Donahue



Nurses Notes

Do You Know What Month This Is?

Have you noticed how different months are designated as a time to remember or think about certain subjects? A quick trip around the internet found several topics that are celebrated, recognized, and observed each month. Among the varied causes listed for March are National Women's History Month, National Irish Heritage Month, and also National Peanut, Noodle, and Sauce Month. In health-related areas, March is known as National Workplace Eye Wellness as well as Save Your Vision Month, American Red Cross Month, National Kidney Month, and National Nutrition Month. All of these observations are important and worthwhile and are supported by

organizations striving to educate and increase public awareness of pertinent issues.

National Nutrition Month, for example, is an informational campaign created by the American Dietetic Association. The purpose of this observance is to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. We all could use a reminder to make healthier, lower fat choices at meal and snack times and to increase our daily activity levels for better health. The ADA's chosen theme for the 2010 campaign is "Nutrition from the Ground Up," and they wish to increase awareness of the importance of daily activity in a healthy, balanced diet. Careers in the nutritional sciences are also highlighted this month. Much more information and games for adults and

children may be found at the website www.eatright.org.

There are also dedicated weeks and days for various causes and topics. This year March 14-20 has been designated as National Poison Prevention week. The answers to emergency poisoning questions may be obtained, 24/7, by calling 1-800-222-1222, a number that should be prominently posted in every household. This national number is routed to our local, NJ Poisoning Information and Education System, which is currently facing possible closing due to budgetary cutbacks. For more information, or to find out how you may help, go to www.njpies.org.



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Art-A-Facts

The annual Youth Art Month Exhibit, sponsored by the Art Educators of New Jersey, will be held at the Somerset Art Association in Bedminster, NJ.

Student artwork will be on display March 1, 2010 through March 14, 2010. A reception will be held for students, families and teachers on Sunday, March 14, 2010.

The following students were selected to have artwork in the exhibit.

Congratulations to:

Kindergarten

H. McVay

I. Seals

K. Vazquez

Second Grade

C. Brown

Fourth Grade

I. Iturra

S. Marquez

N. Murillo

P.S. Aeropostale T-shirt Contest

Also, I am proud to announce that two of our fifth grade students were finalists in the P.S. Aeropostale T-shirt contest. The contest was sponsored by the new chain of children's clothing stores, one of which opened at the Bridgewater Commons Mall. Students in grades 3-5 were challenged to create a T-shirt design around the store's logo "P.S." N. Seyffart and E. Cortes were finalists! Their artwork can be viewed at www.ps4u.com and can also be seen on display as part of the store window design at the mall.

In addition, every student at Robert Morris has received a postcard for a free t-shirt to be redeemed at the store.

Reading Connections from Mrs. D'Alessandro



Did you ever think that watching TV may improve your child's reading?

Most televisions have the capability of providing written captions on the screen. With captioned television, children have the opportunity to see the written form of words as they are spoken. When children follow the captions on the family TV, they are making the match from voice to print. Make sure that your children are watching educational programs such as those found on the National Geographic, PBS, and Discovery Channels.

First Graders Celebrate Chinese New Year

The year of the tiger is upon us. Our first graders celebrated Chinese New Year in February. They learned about Chinese traditions and customs. The children found out that the Chinese calendar has 12 animals, one for each year of the Chinese calendar. Did you know that red and the number 2 are considered to be lucky? It is also interesting how the Chinese honor their ancestors. The children made hats to wear for our special Chinese lunch. The children ate Chinese food with chopsticks! The Golden Star in S.B.B. prepared our lunch of, Chinese chicken with vegetables, sesame chicken, lo mein, fried rice and fortune cookies. After eating the children enjoyed being part of the traditional Lion Dance and marched to music under a dragon head. Welcome to the New Year!

Gung Hay Fat Choy!



Earth Quest



Did you know that each year in North America nearly 350 different species of birds migrate, or move from one place to another? The Earth Quest students have been learning all about birds. By playing games such as "The Great Migration Challenge" and "Food Chain Tag", Earth Quest students learned about the hazards facing migratory bird populations such as collisions with skyscrapers and windows, loss of habitat, exposure to pesticides, predators such as cats, and unexpected weather conditions. They also learned about the diets of specific birds and how their beaks are adapted to the particular food source. Of course, the best part was getting to eat the popcorn and gummy worms!

If your child is interested in joining the fun, please contact Mr. Reo or Ms. Lidon for a March meeting calendar.

Five Ways to Help Your Children Do Well in Math Mrs. High

1. Make sure your children understand mathematical concepts.

Otherwise, math becomes a meaningless mental exercise of just memorizing rules and doing rote drills. Have your children manipulate objects to figure out basic concepts. For addition, they could add one, two, or more blocks to a pile of blocks and then tell you how many blocks are in the pile.

2. Help them master the basic facts.

Mastery of a basic fact means that children can give an answer in less than three seconds. Considerable drill is required for children to give

quick responses. Use flash cards to help your children learn the basic facts. When they don't know an answer, have them lay out objects to solve the problem.

3. Teach them to write their numbers neatly.

Twenty-five percent of all errors in solving math problems can be traced back to sloppy writing. Improve your children's number-writing skills by having them trace over numbers that you have written. Suggest they use graph paper to keep the numbers in problems neatly aligned.

4. Provide help immediately when your children need it.

Math is one subject in which everything builds upon what has been previously learned. For example, a failure to understand the concept of percent leads to

problems with decimals. Ask teachers for extra help.

5. Show them how to handle their math homework.

Doing math homework reinforces the skills your children are learning in class. Teach them to begin every assignment by studying class or worksheet examples. school.familyeducation.com



A Message from Your Counselor

Every child has fundamental needs that must be met for an emotionally and physically healthy life. There are many elective parenting styles or methods, but most experts agree that positive parenting rests upon the attribute of love. *KidsPeace*™, a child centered, national organization offers the following seven standards of effective parenting:

1. Treat children as valued, important and worthwhile people.
2. Display love through positive words, eye contact, and loving touches.
3. Model positive behavior because much of a child's learning comes from their parents' actions and words.
4. Speak honestly to your child to build trust. Effective parents do not knowingly tell falsehoods or intend to deceive.
5. Discipline by offering compassionate, consistent and honest correction.
6. Encourage your child by looking out for his/her interests and needs.

Never give up. In difficult times or when unsure what is right or wrong, do what you feel is best. Effective parents network with informed friends and professionals to whom they can turn for help and advice.

(The above information was taken from: *Healing Magazine, KidsPeace Institute*: Vol. 14, No. 1, 2009.)

Important Dates to Remember

March 2010

- March 2 Robert Morris Education Association
PRIDE Sponsored Read-Across-America
6:30-7:30 p.m. - McLaughlin Gymnasium

- March 3 Mega Skills Parent Workshop - 6:30 p.m.

- March 9 Special Education Advisory Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

- March 10 Mega Skills Parent Workshop - 6:30 p.m.

- March 26 Return Completed Voter Registration Forms to the Board Office**

- March 21 Board of Education Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - Room 140

- March 16 Robert Morris Education Association
PRIDE Sponsored International Night
5:30-7:30 p.m. - All Purpose Room

- March 17 6th Grade Class Trip
Mega Skills Parent Workshop - 6:30

- March 18 1st Grade Class Trip

- March 19 Market Day Pick-up - 6:30 p.m.

- March 22 PTO Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

- March 24 Mega Skills Parent Workshop - 6:30

- March 25 Board of Education Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - Room 140

Election

Voting is freedom.
Vote for someone you can trust.
So get out and vote!

Haiku submitted by Mrs. Parente's 7-1 Reading Class