

# PATRIOT PRESS

November 2011 Volume 9 Issue 2

The Newsletter of Robert Morris School



## From the Desk of Dr. Goeke

November certainly is a busy month!

The National Education Association's 90th annual American Education Week—November 13-19, 2011—presents all Americans with an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child receives a quality education. We will be hosting several events here at RMS to celebrate.

Monday – Read-A-Thon

Tuesday – Student-Teacher Exchange

Wednesday – Open House

Thursday – Senior Day

Friday – Where Did My Teacher go to College? Day

Early Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences

Of course we end the month celebrating

Thanksgiving. Here's a fun little true/false quiz to see how much you know about this uniquely American holiday.

1. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated by Puritans grateful for surviving their first year in the New World.
2. The spot where the Pilgrims first landed is called Plymouth Rock.
3. The Pilgrims spent their first year in the New World fighting off native peoples so the crop was left unattended and did not yield much.
4. The first Thanksgiving meal consisted of wild turkey, pumpkin pies, rich cheeses and plenty of milk to drink.
5. George Washington declared the first official Thanksgiving Day in the United States.
6. The Mayflower Pilgrims were former residents of Holland, fleeing religious persecution.
7. A Native American by the name of Samoset was the official liaison between

the pilgrims and the native people because he could speak both English and the native language.

8. The wishbone became an icon of good luck in the New World because it symbolized breaking away from the tyranny of England at the time.
9. Thanksgiving became an official American holiday after President Lincoln declared it so in 1863. With the help of Wampanoag people almost all of the original Pilgrims survived their first year in the New World.

I wish you all a peaceful, family, food, and fun-filled day.

- Dr. Goeke

(answers appear on the last page)

### Happy Holidays, EID MUBARAK, Have a blessed Eid

#### What is Hajj and Eid-Al-Adha?

Every year, millions of Muslims from around the world make the journey to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for the annual pilgrimage (or Hajj). Dressed in the same simple white clothing to represent human equality, the pilgrims gather to perform rites dating back to the time of Abraham. At the end of the Hajj, Muslims throughout the world celebrate the holiday of Eid al-Adha (*Festival of Sacrifice*). This is called the greatest

Eid. During the Hajj, Muslims remember and commemorate the trials, triumphs, and sacrifice of Prophet Abraham.

During the celebration of Eid al-Adha, Muslims commemorate and remember Abraham's trials, by slaughtering an animal such as a sheep, camel, or goat. The meat from the sacrifice of Eid al-Adha is mostly given away to the poor. On the first morning of Eid al-Adha, Muslims around the world attend morning prayers at their local mosques dressed in their best clothes. Prayers are followed by

exchange of gifts. Many Muslims locally will celebrate with large community gatherings for 5,000 or more. Others may have parties and feasts with friends and families. Some will include music, entertainment, and amusements for children. The festivities continue for 3 days. It will begin on November 5, 2011.  
EID MUBARAK!!!  
From Ms. Abdul-Raheem

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Congratulations! to newly elected officers..

The eighth grade, along with the student council, will sponsor dances this year. They are held in the Robert Morris School cafeteria from 6:30-9:00 P.M.

Tentative dates for the dances are Dec. 16 (Winter Buffet Dance, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), Jan. 20, Feb. 24, and May 18. We are looking for 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents to help chaperone these dances. *If each 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent would sign up for one dance, we won't have to depend on a few parents to chaperone all of them.*

The 8th graders hold fund-

raisers each year to raise the needed money for the class trip and dinner dance. The class trip is overnight to Malibu Ranch in Milford, PA. The dates are May 30, 31, 2012. The dinner dance date will be announced. This dance is for 8th graders only; parents may stop in for pictures during the night. More information will follow. **Your child's participation in the class trip and the dinner dance depends upon his/her school behavior.** Students are aware of this consequence.

For the graduation ceremony, **students will be wearing gowns.** Suggested clothing is a simple dress for girls, and pants and a shirt for boys (tie optional). **Jeans are not permitted.** Students do

dress up for the dinner dance. More information will follow.

I would like to thank the following students who helped out by baby-sitting while parents attended the Homeroom Mother's Tea. These students watched, talked to, helped with the computers, and showed them the animals in the classroom. A big thank you to **J. Rivera, A. Rodriguez, A. Theissen, M. Trotter, C. Ciancia, J. Cuzzocrea, S. Velazquez, R. Wesner, R. Fry, and M. Mayer.**



### Mrs. D'Alessandro's Reading Connections

Perhaps the most common form of texts that all of us write and use on a regular basis is a *list*. Adults make to-do lists, grocery lists, birthday wish lists, etc. We also read lists as well-the list of ingredients in a favorite recipe, the list of top teams in major league baseball, the list of best selling books; just to name a few. Indeed, lists have become so popular that many books of lists have been published.

Parents and children can work on to-do lists and everything in between. Making and reading lists are a normal part of family life, and an excellent way to share literacy with children.

#### PRE – Kindergarten Visits the Firehouse

Last month the Pre-K classes took a walk to the South Bound Brook Firehouse, to observe Fire Prevention Week. The children were taught fire safety rules such as Stop, Drop, and Roll if your clothes catch on fire, crawl under smoke, and find a safe spot for your family to meet outside the house. They were able to look at the equipment, and gear firefighters use. Each child got to spray water from the fire hose. The fire department provided hats and a goody bag along with a snack. However the most memorable part of the day was riding back to school inside the fire truck. A BIG Thank you to the Fire Department!

### News from the Preschool

The children enjoyed their trip to the South Bound Brook Fire Station. The highlight of our trip was the ride in a fire truck back to the school. Another special event in October was our combined Halloween party with Mrs. Miller's pre-k classes. During the month of November and December, we will be highlighting the five senses. In addition, our learning centers will be changing. The block corner and dramatic play center will become a pet store. In the art center, the children will be making fall and Thanksgiving projects. The table toy center will have animal puzzles and a variety of new manipulatives. The science center will have activities involving the sense of sight and the literacy center will have some fall and Thanksgiving books for the children to look at and listen to. In addition, a puppet show and animal puppets will be added.

The children will be preparing popcorn for our Thanksgiving feast with the children in kindergarten and pre-kindergarten.

I am looking forward to meeting with all of the parents of the students in my class to share their progress during our school conferences during the month of November.



## Student Council Up-date

Nineteen students gave speeches on October 6<sup>th</sup> in hopes of being elected as an Officer of Student Council. Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> homerooms selected homeroom representatives. We now have our 2011-2012 Student Council.

Student Council will meet for the first time and be sworn into office on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

President: G. Torres  
Vice-President: M. Cortes  
Secretary: V. Mandato  
Treasurer: A. Hasson

Important Student Council events:

Can-Can Week, November 7<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Points will be given for items brought in. This is a great way for homerooms to earn extra points. All items brought in will be transported to the South Bound Brook food bank.

On November 15<sup>th</sup> we will have our Student/Teacher Exchange in Recognition of American Education Week. Student Council members will have the opportunity to teach a class. First, they need to get permission from a staff member to

teach for one class period, next they need to develop a lesson plan for the class, and then teach the class. This is a great opportunity for students to understand how a teacher must prepare on a daily basis for their classes.

Special dress days:

November 4 Cartoon Shirt Day  
18 Crazy Sock Day



**Introductions Please!**

***Ms. Rosario***

Rosana Rosario is a new kindergarten teacher here at Robert Morris School. She is twenty-four years old and was born in New Jersey in 1987. She graduated from Rider University. Unlike now, the schools were very different, when she went to school. There wasn't a lot of technology. She quoted, "Teachers then, were *horrible!*" Ms. Rosario told us that she felt very welcome the first day she came here. She said that the staff seemed great and very kind. Ms. Rosario loves being a kindergarten teacher.

Before she came to Robert Morris School, Mrs. Rosario was in South Korea for two years teaching English. She said there were a lot of differences between the culture like the food and the children. We asked her what she would do to make RMS a better place and she responded, "I would try to make it more fun, maybe add some color." She really loves it here. Ms. Rosario is a fun, energetic, and enthusiastic person.

A. Onate & J. Calderon

***Mr. Gomez***

Mr. Gomez has not been here long, but from what he told us he enjoys his job, and likes working at Robert Morris School. Mr. Gomez is the business administrator and he has an important job at our school – keeping the finances in order.

He was not always a business administrator. When he first started out, he worked with computers until his friend told him, "You should step it up and try to be a business administrator." So he did, and he went to college and studied to be a business administrator.

Mr. Gomez enjoys his job as a business administrator. He also likes working at Robert Morris School.

He lives in Eastern Pennsylvania and has three beautiful dogs that he loves a lot.

C. Cronheim & G. Colina

**Mr. Reardon**

Mr. Reardon is a special education teacher at Robert Morris School. He became a teacher because that's what his parents did, and he looked up to his parents. Mr. Reardon became a teacher at Robert Morris School because he was lucky enough to get hired. He also likes it here at Robert Morris School, because everyone knows each other, we're friendly, and we act like a community. It's also a plus that it is close to his house; Mr. Reardon lives in Rocky Hill. Before Mr. Reardon became a teacher at Robert Morris School, he worked in a summer program helping high school students with special challenges.

Kayla and Dominique

**Mrs. Abdul-Rahim**

Mrs. Abdul-Rahim began working at Robert Morris School on February 11, 2001 as a curriculum coordinator. She is responsible for all the NJASK, and the benchmark assessments. She also writes curriculum for all subject areas and coordinated the Mathathon.

As a child Mrs. Abdul-Rahim wanted to become an engineer, which she did prior to becoming a teacher. Although she enjoys her position here she would like to one day help first generation students get into college and graduate.

D. Martinez and N. Lujan

**Mr. Gonzales**

Mr. Gonzales was born in Cuba and has been in the United States for eleven years now. He and his wife, who is from Guatemala, are both Spanish teachers. They have a 15 month-old daughter, named Maya.

Mr. Gonzales earned his degree in 2008 and has been teaching Spanish for four years. Prior to coming to Robert Morris School, he taught Spanish in various other schools. He loves speaking Spanish and teaching people the language. He hopes to be here for a very long time.

In his free time Mr. Gonzales runs, teaches CCD classes, and plays the guitar.

S. Cubas and L. Suarez

**Introductions Please! Continued**

**Mrs Tripoli**

Mrs. Tripoli is an aide at Robert Morris School. She works with in kindergarten as well as with Mrs. Parente's class, Mrs. Bochner's seventh grade social studies class, and Mr. Reo's eighth grade science class. She started here when she saw a job application online, and since it was close to home, she took the job. In addition to working here at the school she also works at a pizzeria in Hillside, and at Eclipse Gym (note her name has tri in it). She loves all her jobs.

Prior to coming Robert Morris School she used to be a first grade teacher in Randolph. Mrs. Tripoli loves working here at RMS.

Mrs. Tripoli is happily married to her husband, Brian who works as a corrections officer. She and her husband are also the proud parents of their son, Brian, who is 23 months old. They have a cat named Bello, and a dog named Biggs. Daniel Allen and Antonio Lopez

**Ms. Flaccavento**

Ms. Flaccavento, is the new social worker. She has enjoyed working here so far and thinks we are a very close-knit school. Her job supports and affects the school by supporting the students with their education and the teachers, as well.

Ms. Flaccavento says her job "is to make sure that the students are able to reach their potential in their education." She always wanted to become a vet but became a social worker instead, because she enjoyed working with kids and being a part of their school life. She believes that she pursued her dreams becoming one.

She went to West Chester University and NYU, and graduated in 2009. She has worked with kids all over. She found out about the position at Robert Morris School online and feels that any day she helps a student get through a rough day is one of her best.

As a student, her favorite subjects in middle school were science and history. Today, she enjoys playing with her daughter and dogs and being outdoors. In 20 years, she hopes to be approaching retirement (with any luck). We hope to see her here for a while.

V. Shrinet and N. Seyffart

**Mrs. Lober**

Mrs. Shannon Lober teaches kindergarten at RMS. She is no stranger to our school; she attended RMS as a child herself. Many of the teachers Mrs. Lober had as a child, such as Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Coddington, Mrs. Krier, Mrs. Peck, Mr. Reo, Mrs. Blake and Ms. Weikel, still work here. It must be nice to see your old teachers again and actually work with them.

As a little girl, she wanted to be a paleontologist. Then in high school she wanted to be a television producer. Mrs. Lober's mother, Mrs. Quinlan, has been a big influence on her daughter's career choice. She told Mrs. Lober that she would be a great teacher, but that wasn't Mrs. Lober's passion at the time.

Mrs. Lober went to college and received her Bachelor Degree in Communication and Technology. After she graduated college, she began substituting and being an intern at a television company for commercials. Mrs. Lober worked as a television producer for *The Wonder Pets* on Nick JR. and *Third and Bird* on Disney Channel. Soon she began to like teaching more and went back to school for her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Out of all the positions she has worked in, her favorite is teaching kindergarten. She gets to teach them how to read and count numbers. She says, "It's the time when they learn the most and I want to be there helping them." Mrs. Lober felt nervous about being a kindergarten teacher because when she got her class list, she had 30 students. It had been the most students she has ever taught. But she was mostly excited and couldn't wait for the school year. Mrs. Lober was super ecstatic to teach 5-year-olds. She kept wondering how big the classroom would be and what students she would have.

Mrs. Lober would also like to teach other younger grades, up to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She would absolutely love to teach kindergarten again. We can now say Mrs. Lober's passion is teaching.

-J. Barreto and M. Cortes

## Important Dates to Remember November 2011

- November 1** Family Science 7-8:30  
**November 3** Grade 7 Class Trip  
Grade 8 Parent Meeting 6:30 Room 140  
**November 6** Daylight Savings Time Ends - set clocks back one hour  
**November 8** Election Day  
**November 7-9** Student Council Sponsored Can Can Week  
**November 9** Marking Period 1 Ends  
**November 10-11** School Closed – NJEA Convention  
**November 15** Special Education Advisory Meeting - 7:00 pm  
**November 17** Board of Education Meeting Room 140 - 7:30 pm  
**November 18** Dismissal 12:48 pm  
Parent Conferences 1:40 – 3:00 pm  
Report Cards Sent Home Grades 6-8  
**November 21-22** Dismissal 12:48 pm  
Parent Conferences 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
Book Fair  
**November 23** Dismissal 12:48 pm  
Thanksgiving Recess Begins  
Book Fair  
**November 24-25** School Closed  
**November 28** PTO Meeting 7:00pm

**PTO Messenger:  
Please remember to....**

Keep Collecting Box Tops for Education  
Keep Collecting Juice Pouches  
Next PTO Meeting November 28th @ 7 pm  
Place your Market Day order

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### Answers to the Thanksgiving Quiz

TRUE. Puritan settlers, also known as Pilgrims, celebrated their first successful harvest with a large meal, inviting many of the local native people who helped them with their crops.

FALSE. The Pilgrims first landed at the tip of Cape Cod, in what is now known as Provincetown. They next moved on to Plymouth, Massachusetts.

FALSE. Natives of the Wampanoag Tribe were kind and helpful to the Puritan settlers, teaching them how to work the land and capture wild game. Without the help of the local people, historians believe the Puritans would not have survived.

FALSE. While it is possible that wild turkey was on the menu, there was no flour left to make pies, cakes or cookies of any kind, and no domestic cattle to provide milk for making butter or cheese. The only foods historians are certain about were some type of wild fowl and venison.

TRUE. George Washington declared November 26, 1789 to be a National Day of Thanksgiving although discord among the colonies led many to disagree with his decision.

TRUE. Originally from England, the Puritans fled to Holland in search of religious freedom. After becoming disillusioned with the Dutch people, they returned to England to set sail for the New World.

FALSE. Squanto was the name of the Native American who had spent 10 years in Spain and England before returning to the New World in 1618. Samoset was his friend in the Wampanoag tribe.

TRUE. The successful breaking of the wishbone represented the successful split between the Pilgrims and the religious persecution of the English crown. The person holding the larger portion of the broken wishbone was said to have one year's good luck.

TRUE. In 1863 President Lincoln declared the last day in November to be a National Day of Thanksgiving. However it was President Franklin D. Roosevelt who encouraged Congress in 1941 to proclaim the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day.

FALSE. Over half of the original Pilgrims died during that first harsh winter and long wait for the initial harvest.

