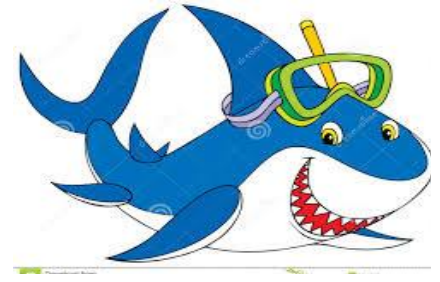


Roger Sherman Elementary School

250 Fern Street

Fairfield, CT 06824

Phone (203) 255-8330



Source: Worldartsme.com

Dr. Ian M. Banner, Principal

“True compassion means not only feeling another’s pain, but also being moved to relieve it.”

– Daniel Goleman

For: December 2018

Dear Parents and Families:

I want to wish you all a very happy Hanukkah and holiday period, and it remains my hope that you all enjoy the enthusiasm and excitement that this time of year brings.

Beyond Grit & Perseverance...Kindness & Compassion

Recently at our town meeting, we introduced Kindness and Compassion (K&C) as our current focus traits. We will of course continue emphasizing the practice and recognition of Grit and Perseverance (G&P), but we also now wish to emphasize and spotlight being kind and compassionate. Similar to the way we have recognized G&P, we want the adults in our building to acknowledge when they see others (students and adults) demonstrating K&C, and when they do, they will present the student with a colorful heart, which will then be placed on a large brown paper tree we have taped to the wall in the main foyer (courtesy of Mrs. Kopchik, Mrs. Goldberg and Miss Ciarletto) next to the mural. Our hope is to watch this tree bloom with K&C up to and beyond the holiday period, and with a view to supporting and encouraging us all to practice these traits free of the motivation to acquire recognition or reward, and rather to simply do what’s right because it’s the right thing to do.

When we introduced these focus traits at the town meeting, we showed the students videos that exemplified K&C, and we had a few first, second and fifth grade students share their perspective on and stories of K&C. Here is a link to one such video we shared that we really felt captured the true essence of what we want everyone to practice and recognize when we think of K&C: <http://viewpure.com/uaWA2GbcnJU?start=0&end=0>

School Safety

As a reminder, on the weeks specified below, which may be subject to change, we will be conducting either fire or lockdown drills. During these exercises, students will continue to practice responding to such events under trained faculty direction and in a calm and orderly manner. It’s also an excellent opportunity for the staff to further review and refine our procedures to avoid needing to think in the event that a real emergency does arise and simply act with speed and efficiency.

Month	Week of	Safety Drill
September	31 10-14	Fire drill Lockdown 1
October	15-19	Fire drill
November	5-9	Fire drill
December	3-7	Fire drill
January	7-11	Lockdown 2
February	11-15	Fire drill

March	11-15	Fire drill
April	22-26	Fire drill
May	20-24	Fire drill
June	3-7	Lockdown 3

A PE Update from Mr. Osleger (Coach O) and Mr. Lovelett

The students will be participating in the following PE focus activities and on the following dates:

- It’s TARZAN time on the ropes (12/3 – 12/7)
- Scooter Noodle Hockey & Scooter exploration (12/10 – 12/14)
- Scooter Line Ball & Scooter Tag (12/17 – 12/21)

Important Events and Dates

Fire drill	December 3-7. Sometime during the week
Movie Night	Friday, December 7, 7:00pm in APR
School Store 1	Wednesday, December 5
School Store 2	Wednesday, December 19
Town Meeting/Sing-along	Thursday, December 20 at 1:30
Half-day early release at 1:40	Friday, December 21

Note. Please *SharkBytes* for additional PTA information and events.

A Few FYIs

Roger Sherman Building Committee (RSBC)

Despite not being a member of the Roger Sherman Building Committee, I continue to be in close communication with the work by attending committee meetings and weekly meetings with our central office members, the civil engineers and architects (Silver/Petrucci). At this stage in the process, I want to remind, and moreover, encourage you to stay informed and up-to-date on the building committee’s work for our upcoming Phase III renovations by using the link (<https://www.fairfieldct.org/rsbc>). This will provide updates and progress on the agenda items and minutes for and of past meetings.

The next meeting is tomorrow evening (Tuesday 12/4) in the First Floor Conference room at Sullivan Independence Hall at 7:00 p.m. I encourage you to attend the meetings or at the very least refer to link above for details regarding location, dates, times, because the committee has now tentatively selected a very new proposed plan for the parent drop-off and pick-up, which, if fully agreed upon and permitted, will look very different from the current one. There will likely be a chronological overview presented at the January PTA meeting on this drop-off and pick-up plan, and it is important that you be informed about these proposals and that you feel free to ask questions at the scheduled RSBC meetings.

Reflections

The PTA is already advertising for participants in this year’s Reflections Arts Program (see *SharkBytes*, 10/26/18). This is a wonderful opportunity to support your child in developing other and often less emphasized forms of expression and creativity. Given my youngest son’s penchant for expressive movement, I have recently enrolled him in dance classes, which is serving as a valuable opportunity to develop his whole being.

Upcoming events

From Mrs. Walters and Mrs. Ferrara:

Save the date! Sherman Family STEAM Night will be February 6th (Snow date Feb. 13th) from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. We will send permission slips out after winter break.

Reminders

We encourage you to remain or become familiar with our school’s website (<http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/sherm/>), from which you can also access our PTA information, and the district website (<http://fairfieldschools.org>). A great deal of pertinent information can be found at these online locations.

Your Feedback

Let me know what questions you have on these and any other topics, as well as how we're doing. While the staff and I are very busy in the educating of our youngsters (your children), an important and essential element of doing that effectively is having an open and on-going dialogue with you.

Yours truly,

Dr. Ian M. Banner

ibanner@fairfieldschools.org

Follow us on Twitter: @rogershermanllc

See Appendix A and B, below.

Appendix A

From Mrs. Sabrowski (sent on: 11/30/18)

Hello Sherman Families-

Due to the fact that local vendors have been able to provide gifts for our Fairfield Families in need, I thought it might be a good idea to "Pay it Forward" by supporting a community recently affected by Hurricane Michael. The Bay School District in Panama City, FL is in need of over 14,000 gifts for their displaced students who have lost their homes and/or are sharing school campuses while theirs are repaired.

I am always overwhelmed by the generosity of our families and since this is a situation that is close to home for so many, I thought it would be a meaningful way to support others in a time of need.

Below is a link to the Amazon "wish list" the Bay School District has created for their gift collecting initiative:

https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/IJKXMNQ5888UG/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_Pje8BbVNR3TW9?fbclid=IwAR21Jx7eJhruBXJNl_8tTYQszmcEUjDHvzdbZj1MXRI3PGQFq1ju8FZdVZc

Please feel free to reach out with any questions and stay tuned to see how we can help them rebuild their school supplies in the future!

Happy Holidays to all,

Kirsten Sabrowski
Social Worker

*Lest there be any confusion, families that have already applied will still be provided gifts.

Appendix B

From Anna Soja Mulhall (parent). This program was approved by PTA

Hello, I am happy to share we are reintroducing the **Crayola ColorCycle** recycling program to Sherman School. Students and staff can help to keep plastic out of landfills. Collect markers from **classrooms/office** and bring in from **home** any used **markers** that are ready to be discarded. *They can be any brand of marker, highlighter or dry erase, markers and/or caps.* Rather than throwing them in the trash and into landfills, they can be deposited into the **ColorCycle** boxes we have located in the **Art Room** as well as outside the **Library** doors. The markers we collect and keep out of landfills will be sent back to Crayola - free of charge. The tip and reservoir will be removed and the plastic marker barrel will be recycled and repurposed into something else ! How cool is that ? ! So let's start recycling those markers Sherman Community!

This program starts today and there is no deadline. We will collect and recycle markers through this program throughout the school year. The Mulhall family - Michael 3H, Max 3M and Maggie 1D will be responsible for shipping them to Crayola ColorCycle.

It may be helpful to set up a recycle bin in your classroom/workspace that gets deposited into the central box locations periodically. Do whatever works best for you. It would be greatly appreciated if teachers allow students to bring markers from home to the ColorCycle boxes during the school day. Perhaps when they are on their way to Art/Library for minimal class disruption.

For more information see the following link:

[ColorCycle](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you and Sherman School for supporting this initiative!

Anna and the kids