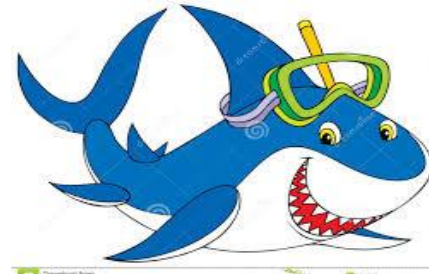


Roger Sherman Elementary School

250 Fern Street

Fairfield, CT 06824

Phone (203) 255-8330



Source: Worldartsme.com

Dr. Ian M. Banner, Principal

“To teach is to understand. To learn is wisdom. To learn together is understanding wisdom”

– Sid Mendenhall (author)

For: April 2019

Dear Parents and Families:

Happy spring, officially. We hope that you enjoyed the recent conferences for your child, and please know that we see these opportunities as an important connection to furthering home and school partnerships. We always appreciate your feedback on your experience at conferences, so please don't hesitate to send a note directly to your child's teacher or myself.

We continue to acknowledge and recognize students who demonstrate Grit & Perseverance, as well as those who demonstrated Kindness & Compassion. I have spent time at lunch and sometimes in classrooms explaining where we really want to see acts of kindness and compassion, such as when an adult (or child) is talking, we should give them our undivided attention and make eye contact to show that we are listening to what they are saying. This often seems a severely overlooked expectation in our modern society and children infrequently appear to realize that this is viewed as disrespectful by the one speaking. Recess, after-school play and unsupervised spells are other times that I typically hear of acts of kindness and compassion going array. As such, my message to our students is always this: *It is when no one is around to supervise your behavior that your true character will be on display. And we (the adults) will find out if you fail to act with kindness or compassion, and we will not accept it.*

Personal Devices in School Rules

I am a huge supporter of technology for because of its potential for making life and work more efficient and effective. Youngsters today have grown up in a world that they know of no time that smartphones, tablets, laptops and smart-watches, didn't exist, and it is incumbent upon us as adults and their guides to monitor and lead them to use it safely, respectfully and courteously, especially when interacting and communicating with others. Simply preventing them from using it does little to achieve this aim. Therefore, I want our students to see the school and I as a supporter and guide for safe and considerate technology use.

I have spoken quite often in the last few weeks to 5th grade students regarding the use of technology in general, as well as my position on its use in school. I have begun speaking to 4th grade students also, and I will continue to do so at opportune times, as I think its essential that this uncharted territory is addressed and not left to chance. While we, the adults, are digital immigrants, we always need to keep firmly in mind that our general life experience is still a necessary guide for our children despite them being often more tech-familiar. I have informed the 5th grade students (and by the end of next week, all of 4th grade) that I believe that technology is importance for helping us communicate and work more efficiently. However, there are times and a place for using smartphones and smart-watches, and that school is not it. Thus, I have informed them that if they do bring a smartphone to school, it is to be (1) switched off before entering school, (2) placed in their backpacks and (3) not brought out until they are out of school.

If these rules are broken, the phone will be confiscated and you, the parent, will be called to come and collect the phone. Your child will then not be permitted to bring his/her phone to school unless I authorize it. Personal tablets are also subjective to the same rules.

I have also informed the students that the school bus is also considered being in school. However, they can choose to use their device, but they must be extremely cautious and mindful of not misusing them. Misuse includes, but is not limited to, taking pictures, sending and posting inappropriate or mean-spirited messages, etc. Such issues are subject to the same rules as outlined above.

Smart-watches are somewhat trickier, yet subject to the same general conditions. I don't have an issue with smart-watches being worn (just like I don't have an issue with smartphones being brought to school), but the moment that it becomes in any way shape or form a distraction to the one wearing it or to others, it will be confiscated. Following this, you will be called to come and collect it and it won't be permitted in again until I authorize it.

Please discuss these rules and expectations with your child and decide if it is necessary for them to have such devices in school. Regardless, if they become a distraction to the educational environment, even minimally so, they will not be permitted in.

Such devices will also not be permitted on field trips, as they provide a risky potential for misuse with limited monitoring capacity. Adult chaperones and the school would be liable for issues related to misuse of devices on field trips under their supervision, which would immediately tar the experience for all.

State Testing (Smarter Balance Assessments)

Smarter Balanced Assessments testing (grades 3-5) and NGSS testing (grade 5 only) begin this week. Please see the letter below (Appendix A) that was recently sent to all parents of grades 3-5.

Stop-Kiss-n-Go

Today (April 1) saw the start of the new SKG trial change. As with any change of this magnitude, we expect some challenges that require kinks being worked out before we get into a flow. Only once such kinks have been addressed will we be able to determine the efficacy of the new SKG procedure, so we kindly ask for your patience and adherence to the process.

Please also see *SharkBytes* (3/29/19) for information on Walking Wednesdays.

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	Fire drill
	10-14	Lockdown 1 (regular)
October	15-19	Fire drill
November	5-9	Fire drill
December	3-7	Fire drill
January	7-11	Lockdown 2 (drill 2)
February	11-15	Fire drill
March	11-15	Fire drill
April	8-12	Fire drill
	22-26	Lockdown 3 (drill 3)
May	20-24	Fire drill
June	3-7	Lockdown 4 (drill 4)

Curriculum Notes

PE Update from Coach O and Coach Lovelett

Quote for the month: “What you eat in private, you wear in public”

- 4/1-4/5 is Body Management Wrap-up (K-5)
Goal: Balance, Body Awareness, Controlled/Creative Movement
- 4/8-4/12 is Jump Roping Stations (K-5)
Goal: Aerobic endurance, Hand/eye coordination, Controlled/Creative Movement
- 4/22-4/30 is Tennis/Racquet Skills and Games (K-5)
Goal: Striking with an implement, Hand Eye Coordination, Skill, Rules, and Strategies

Important Events and Dates

Fire drill	April 8-12. Sometime during the week
School store	Wednesday, April 3 (during lunch)
Hoops for Hope (RSS vs. Mill Hill)	Wednesday, April 3 (6:00 – 8:00 PM) at Ludlowe High School. <i>See SharkBytes (3/29/19)</i>
Spring fair	Saturday, April 6
5 th Grade Family Life Parent Meeting	Monday, April 8 (7:00 – 8:00 PM)
No School (April Break)	Monday, April 15 – Friday, April 19
PTA meeting	Wednesday, April 24 (7:00 PM) in APR
Game Night	Friday, April 26 (6:30 PM) APR. <i>See SharkBytes (3/29/19)</i>
Art Show	Monday, April 29 (6:00 PM)
Book Fair	Monday, April 29 – Friday, May 2

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

A Few FYIs

As a reminder, when your child is absent from school, and especially for periods that extend beyond a day or so, I want you to be aware that teachers cannot provide current schoolwork in the absence of providing students with the necessary and associated instruction. The teachers will direct you to have them practice previously learned content, such as writing in their notebook using previously learned crafts or solving previously learned math problems, to name only two possibilities, but for missed work, students will be expected to attend to it once they return to school and after the instruction has been provided.

While this is the expectation, there may be some situations that require a teacher to carefully consider the circumstances of the absence, and when appropriate and necessary, deviate from the aforementioned expectation.

Swing set

I am still awaiting a date from our maintenance department regarding when the new swing set will be fully installed. I will update you once I hear back.

Roger Sherman Building Committee (RSBC)

The committee continues to meet every other Tuesday evening at Town Hall, so feel free to attend and stay abreast of what is happening, as well as be able to ask questions. Additionally, you can stay informed and up-to-date on the committee’s work for our Phase III renovations by using this link (<https://www.fairfieldct.org/rsbc>). I also want to make note that Central Air is at the top of the list of items to be prioritized in Phase III, which is both the emphasis I have expressed to the committee on behalf of the students and staff, as well as the for the committee, too. However, central air will not be installed in time for the start of next year, just so you are aware.

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

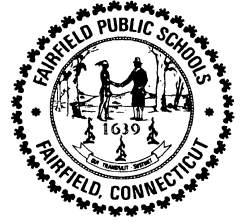
ibanner@fairfieldschools.org

Follow us on Twitter: @rogershermanllc

Appendix A

ROGER SHERMAN SCHOOL

250 Fern Street
Fairfield, CT 06824



2017 Connecticut School of Distinction

March 20, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Fairfield Public Schools will join millions of students across the United States in the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) Test this spring.

For our schools, all students in grades 3-5 will participate in Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) testing in both mathematics and English language arts/literacy (ELA). SBA testing for ELA will take place between April 1-26, and math testing will take place between April 29-May 17. Please note, students in grades 5 are also required to take the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) Standard test. The NGSS Standard Test for all elementary schools will be administered between May 20-24. The NGSS Standard Field Test is an untimed assessment administered on a computer.

The SBA tests are not timed however; it will take approximately 5 total hours to complete both content areas of English Language Arts and Math. Testing will be administered on a computer and scheduled over multiple sessions of about 60 minutes each. It is worth noting that the assessment is adaptive and therefore students may complete the assessment in shorter intervals.

To comply with federal and state statute, participation in the test is required. Please note that Smarter Balanced will adhere to all federal and state privacy laws, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Please visit the Smarter Balanced website at www.smarterbalanced.org for more information. You can also visit <http://ct.portal.airast.org/students-and-families> to learn about the tests themselves. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 203-255-8330.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ian Banner
Principal