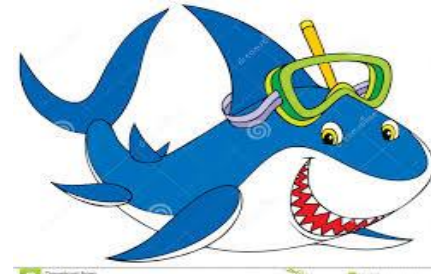


Roger Sherman Elementary School

250 Fern Street

Fairfield, CT 06824

Phone (203) 255-8330



Source: Worldartsme.com

Dr. Ian M. Banner, Principal

“Goodness is about character - integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage, and the like. More than anything else, it is about how we treat other people.”

– Dennis Prager (American journalist)

For: May 2019

Dear Parents and Families:

It was great to see many of you at the Art show recently. It was a great night and some wonderful work was on display for all to see. I want to express a huge thank you to Miss Ciarletto for all of her efforts on making this evening a success, as well as to our many volunteers who supported it in various ways and helped light up the building with work from every grade level.

Please also remember that it's Teacher Appreciation this week (5/6 through 5/10), so join me in celebrating our wonderful Sherman staff for all that they do to support our children and this tremendous community. Without them, I'm not sure what we'd do.

Articulation and Planning for Next Year

We will begin our articulation process starting this month, which means that the current grade-level teachers will start to draft configurations for the classes for next year. This process will involve numerous phases that at varying points will involve classroom teachers, special education teachers, the psychologist and social worker, our language arts and math specialists, as well as our specialist teachers (art, music, PE, library media specialist). Their collective input is invaluable and necessary for establishing appropriately balanced classes for the following year.

In each phase, the staff will consider a multitude of information with the aim of achieving the greatest balance for each class as a whole. However, this does not always allow for students to be with certain other students and/or with certain teachers unless his or her capacity to function *and* achieve curriculum targets/outcomes—in equal measure to his or her typically developing grade-level peers—is dependent on it.

This process will likely be completed before the end of this school year, but will sit in wait of any additional students joining the school or circumstances arising that would warrant any changes being made to the proposed classes during the summer months. And as always, the classes will then be published in late August.

Please keep firmly in mind if you are planning to have conversations with your child's current teacher that requests for friends and certain teachers will not be considered unless it is a necessity to meet the aforementioned criteria. You may speak to your child's current teacher regarding other students for whom you feel would not be a good match for your child based on previous interactions, and to the extent possible, this will be considered. However, please also know that it may not be possible to honor it if it prevents other essential factors from being addressed.

Please also keep in mind that as the year draws to a close, there is a great deal to which I have to attend, and I will therefore not be readily available to meet to discuss placement requests unless for extenuating circumstances arise. Instead, such conversations should be had with the current classroom teacher per the information outlined here.

However, I would encourage you to trust that the system we employ makes use of all of the available insight on our children to form next year's class lists.

Personal Devices in School Rules

I have stated in my previous writing that I want our students to see the school and myself as a supporter and guide for safe and considerate technology use. However, failure to follow the previously communicated rules will not be tolerated, especially misuse of technology, which includes, but is not limited to, taking pictures, sending and posting inappropriate or mean-spirited messages, etc. Additionally, devices will *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 held liable for issues related to misuse of devices on field trips under their supervision, which would immediately tarnish the experience for all.

State Testing (Smarter Balance Assessments)

Smarter Balanced Assessments testing (grades 3-5) and NGSS testing (grade 5 only) continue during May.

Stop-Kiss-n-Go

As I communicated recently, please remember that students are considered late and are marked in IC as such when they arrive in the building after 8:55 AM. This is the case regardless of whether or not a staff member is at the Fern Street door. Also, please ensure that when you drop off in the morning that a staff member is present at the Fern Street door to allow your child to enter the building. If no staff member is present at the Fern Street door, you will need to bring your child to the main office in order for him or her to enter the building and acquire his or her late pass.

Please remember that...

1. Stop, Kiss and Go (SKG) is strictly for students who are being picked up in a vehicle in the SKG line on Fern street. No pick-up is permitted on the other side of the street (the houses side of the road).
2. Students will NOT be dismissed from the SKG to be a walker. Students who will be walking home must be dismissed as a walker. Students in the main building exit from their classrooms doors, and students in the annex will exit through the Fern Street door.
3. There is NO parking permitted on Fern Street during arrival and dismissal. Please inform other friends or family of this who may be less familiar with the SKG process and/or has not directly received my emails.
4. Students should *only* be let off in the SKG line. Students should not be let out of cars on Birch Road and Beach Road to walk to school. These are not SKG areas and this can create issues with safety and an unnecessary back-up.

As always, we appreciate your continued patience during this process, and we continue to welcome any feedback regarding it, and please remember to consider walking or cycling, especially on Walking Wednesdays. For more information on Walking Wednesday, see Sharkbytes (5/3/19) or contact the following people:

annechristine.cochran@gmail.com

Annkatis@hotmail.com

alexis.macbeth@gmail.com

In the coming weeks, you will be asked to provide some feedback for our SKG, which will be considered alongside other factors, as well as the police perspective to determine what we do with SKG next year. As a point of note, the police will be observing this week (5/6 through 5/10) to conduct observations and provide a review of the process.

No Parking in Front of The Main Office

When picking up or dropping off before and after SKG, as well as during the school day, please remember that there will be:

1. No parking or temporary stopping permitted on the yellow lines marked on the ground. Instead, please park in a parking spot or in the bus lane (only outside of SKG times). And this can only be temporary.
2. No leaving a car idling in front of the building, even if only stopping for a short while.

Again, this will pertain to all times before, during and after school, which will include drop-off and pick-up for Kids' Time, as well as students coming late or leaving early.

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. See schedule, below.

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 Unannounced practice lockdown
June	3-7	Lockdown 4 (drill 4)

Curriculum Notes

PE Update from Coach O and Coach Lovelett

To follow in a separate email.

Important Events and Dates

School store	Wednesday, May 1 (during lunch)
Kindergarten orientation (parent presentation and student visit (names A-L))	Thursday, May 9 at 2:00 – 3:00 PM in APR
Digital Families Evening	Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 PM in the APR
Kindergarten orientation (parent presentation and student visit (names M-Z))	Wednesday, May 15 at 2:00 – 3:00 PM in APR
PTA meeting	Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 PM in the LMC
Grade 5 (Chorus, Band, Orchestra) Grade 4 (Orchestra)	Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 PM in the gym
Special Person's Day Early dismissal (at 1:40)	Friday, May 24 (details to follow)
No School	Monday, May 27 and Tuesday, May 28
5 th Grade trip to Sturbridge Village	Thursday, May 30
Field Day	Friday, May 31 (K-2 is 9:30 – 11:00 AM, and 3-5 is from 1:30 – 3:00 PM)
Family Picnic	Friday, May 31 at 6:00 – 8:00 PM on the blacktop

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

A Few FYIs

Recycling and Environmental Conscientiousness

We continue to remind our students to employ environmentally friendly practices that include placing their plastic and metal recyclables on the metal cart in the cafeteria instead of throwing them in the garbage bins, which they are now doing much more readily than they were when we first began. Recently, we have employed a *sharing table* in an effort to reduce waste where students can place unwanted and unopened food items (only those purchased from school) so that other students can take them free of charge. Please see Sharkbytes (5/3/19) for flyer access.

Please encourage your child to support these efforts in school and to recognize opportunities out of school to support environmentally conscious practices. Also, consider having them join the Earth Rangers club. For more information, contact: Alexis Donovan or AC Cochran at RSSGreenTeam@gmail.com.

Roger Sherman Building Committee (RSBC)

Below, is a list of items within the scope of the Phase III renovation plan that will be completed during this summer:

1. **Site work:** There will likely be some changes to the bus loop, which will incur an additional 5 parking spots, and possibly some paving to widen sidewalk along Fern (FPS/RSBC is assessing extents of paving and potential sidewalk upgrades or blacktop improvements to be included in budget, which is not included in the FEMA cap and critical to note).
2. **Electrical upgrades:** This will prepare for the new A/C system.
3. **Lockers:** The goal is to install all new lockers throughout the main building by the start of school in August, and once the environmental study of existing lockers is complete. We are currently waiting on results of this.

Some other items that have recently been discussed by the committee are listed here:

1. **Bike rack at the end of Fern/Birch:** The police and I share the concern of not being able to see nor monitor bikes/scooters being left in this location, especially since it is off-site. By FPS providing a bike rack in that location, it could render us liable for any items stolen or damaged.
2. **Playground features:** Broken basketball hoops, broken "mushroom" stools, and needs for repainting white lines for 4 square and ball games, etc. is being discussed with the FPS maintenance department.
3. **Fern and Birch intersection:** Adding a continuous marked crosswalk, extending the sidewalk on Birch in front of the one property, and adding a crossing guard is currently under review by FPS and the Police, which is also pending the continuation of the current SKG trial.

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