



The Roosevelt Reporter

December/January 2010-2011



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Online Resource for Parents

This year I have purchased an electronic resource for parents that is easily accessible on our website (www.melroseschools.com/roosevelt). This parent involvement library focuses on specific skills for school success. There are eight easy-to-read resources that cover the following topics:

1. Building Homework Skills
2. Listening Well and Following Directions
3. Problem Solving Skills
4. Reading for Meaning
5. Expressing Ideas in Speech and in Writing
6. Using Time Wisely
7. Working with Others
8. Critical Thinking

Please take a few moments to explore these electronic pamphlets as they offer fantastic advice for parents. This library was purchased because we believe parent and school partnerships are critical components to student success.

Symphony Math

At the Roosevelt School we are sampling a new supplemental math program that will eventually, if purchased, be utilized as a Tier II intervention for general education students who are struggling with math. Symphony Math is a web-enabled program that has a visual and highly intuitive interface which helps students understand math at a conceptual level. This self-paced computerized program has been proven to advance students based on their current level of mathematical abilities.

This 8-12 week pilot began before vacation. Fifty students were chosen to use the program that represent three areas: those who are struggling with math, those who are performing on grade level, and for the students thinking and performing at an advanced level in math. Although we will eventually be using this as a Tier II intervention, the program is made to challenge students at all math levels because of its ongoing assessment and ceiling-less content. As students progress, Symphony continuously gathers data on each individual so that students are always challenged and so we can monitor the level of improvement for each user. I look forward to sharing the data with the Roosevelt Data Team so that we can analyze the information and determine its effectiveness.

Half-Day Kindergarten (2011-2012 School Year)

The half-day kindergarten program has been held at the Roosevelt School for the past three years. Due to an increase in enrollment, half-day kindergarten will be moving to the Lincoln School beginning next school year. It has been a pleasure having the class at our school and it will be missed next year!

Continental Math League (CML)

Students in grades 2-5 will be participating in friendly math competitions this year. This program consists of "meets" that occur periodically throughout the year. A meet consists of six higher-level thinking math problems and students have 30 minutes to complete them. Teachers cannot assist children during this time. After the 30 minutes, the answer sheets are collected and scored by the teachers. Grades 2-3 will have three meets throughout the year and grades 4-5 will have five meets throughout the year.

All CML experiences are designed to both maximize student opportunities to participate and to improve their problem solving capabilities. The children will be participating with other students on the same grade level from schools all over the United States.

This component to our math curriculum is solely an extra fun challenge for students and their scores will not be reflected in their grades. As a matter of fact, the questions are above grade level expectations and it is presented to students that they are to do their best but the problems are more difficult than the grade level norms.

Upcoming Events

| | |
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| January 12 | PTO Meeting & 7:00 (board only) |
| January 17 | NO SCHOOL |
| January 18 | Site Council Meeting 3:30-4:30 |
| January 19 | Kindergarten Information Night (MVMMS) |
| January 25 | Roosevelt School Kindergarten Tours (for upcoming Kindergarten) |
| January 25 | Marks Close for Kindergarten |

Important Dates ~ Mark your calendar! 😊

Early Release Days:

October 26th
October 27th
November 4th
February 2nd
March 8th
March 9th
June 1st

Report Cards:

Gr. 1-5:
12/16/10
3/25/11
Last Day of School
Kindergarten:
2/9/11
Last Day of School

MCAS Dates:

Gr. 3 reading – March 30, April 1
Gr. 3 math – May 10, 11
Gr. 4 long comp. – March 22 (March 31 make up)
Gr. 4 reading – March 24, 25
Gr. 4 math – May 12, 13
Gr. 5 reading – March 28, 29
Gr. 5 math – May 16, 17
Gr. 5 science/ tech. – May 19, 20

Please refer to our Parent/Student Handbook for additional district information.

Quote of the Month

Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends.

Benjamin Disraeli