

Rough Rider Round-Up

Volume 3, Issue 3

November 1, 2009

Important Dates

- **November 11**
PTA Board Meeting.
- **November 12,13**
Parent Teacher Conf
- **November 13**
No School
- **November 25-27**
Thanksgiving Break



From The President's Desk

WOW! What an awesome Roughrider Rally and Run. I would like to give a huge "THANK YOU" to all the students, families, teachers and staff for all the support you gave to the Roughrider events. Another big "thanks" goes to all the volunteers who made the Run such a great success. I want to thank Rockie Massey and Leah Houts for the awesome t-shirts they had designed, by Massive Graphics, for the Run. The children loved seeing their individual class logos on the front of the shirt! We had a successful fundraiser, which means the money will allow the PTA to fund their annual budget.

The students exceeded the monetary goal for the Roughrider Run and have earned another "dance party" for each grade level this year. It was a huge hit last year, so we thought we'd do it again and add a few extras. The "dance party" will be held on November 23rd during the students P.E./Music time in the gym. Parents, please feel free to join the celebration with your child during their P.E./Music time. Also, if you would like to volunteer, email me at tlckersey@sbcglobal.net.

Don't forget the next PTA meeting is on November 11th in the library at 11:45. Lunch will be provided.

Thank you for all you do to support our PTA and your children,

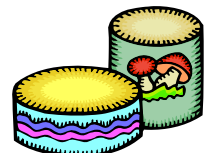
Tracy Kersey, PTA President

Share Your Shelf

Roosevelt Elementary has agreed to participate in Arvest's Bank of Norman's annual SHARE YOUR SHELF community project to benefit The Christmas Store of Cleveland County. As in years past, Arvest Bank of Norman acts as a gathering station for nonperishable canned goods from the community and later delivers all items to the Christmas Store.

Roosevelt will collect items on November 9, 10, 11 and 12

Please join us in the spirit of giving by helping your child select a non-perishable food item to donate during this special event.



Reflections Art Program

Reflections is a national program designed for students to explore creatively what they are learning in the classroom. It provides an opportunity for students to create works of art for fun and recognition.

The theme for this year is: "Beauty is..."

Deadline: Friday, December 4th, no later than 2:45 PM to the office at Roosevelt



Contact: Teresa Bell (tbell@ou.edu or 292-3077)

Categories: Visual arts (drawing, painting, coloring), literature (poetry, short story), photography, and musical composition.

Rules and entry forms will be available starting Wednesday, November 4th, in the office at Roosevelt. Look for more information in Thursday folders in the next weeks.

Save the date!

On Thursday December 3rd from 5-7 in the evening we will have a Book Fair Cafe Night. The Book Fair will be that week and will be open late on Thursday night. Join us for snacks and music in the cafeteria and take the time to read your new books as a family. Don't forget to be reading and recording books read on your Reading Olympics form. If you need a new form they are available on the Roosevelt website. www.norman.k12.ok.us

Operation School Bell

Operation School Bell is a store like environment that is sponsored by the Assistance League of Norman (ALN). Students that are in need of school clothing are identified by school counselors, and each school is given an allotted number of slots to serve their children. Norman Public Schools and Little Axe schools are served by Operation School Bell.

With increased economic difficulties in our community, more children than ever are needing to visit Operation School Bell. While we can not necessarily clothe more children, we can try to give each child that visits School Bell more clothing. Each child attending School Bell receives the following new items free of charge: 2 pairs of jeans/pants, 3 tops, winter coat, shoes, 5 pairs of socks, 5 pairs of underwear and a grooming kit with shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, and a large duffle bag to hold all items. If we have donated clothing, the children are allowed to take as much of that as they can. The problem we are encountering at this time, is that we have very little gently worn, nice clothing to pass along to our elementary aged kids as extras. We are in desperate need for boys and girls clothing in sizes 4 - 12! Please consider cleaning out that closet and donating your nice, gently worn clothes to Operation School Bell. Several Roosevelt parents are involved in the Assistance League and could assist you with your donation. Donation receipts are available for tax purposes.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to make arrangements for clothing donations.

Thank you,
Maureen "Mo" Crook



Roosevelt Welcomes Special Visitors

Tracy Miller, a fourth grade teacher, applied for and received acceptance into the Hitachi-Norman Public Schools Teacher Exchange Program in the summer of 2009. Mrs. Miller recounts her 12-day journey in Odawara and Tokyo as an experience of a lifetime. She had an opportunity to visit 2 Elementary and 2 Jr. High schools in Odawara, which is a city about the size of Oklahoma City. Odawara is geographically located on the shoreline southwest of Tokyo about 80 miles. There are many similarities between Odawara schools and Norman schools despite their distance from each other. Children learn through hands-on approaches in mathematics both in Odawara and right here at Roosevelt. Children enjoy peer relationships at school including playing and laughing, LOTS! For some of the students that Mrs. Miller visited, this was the first time they had ever met an American! On November 2nd, it will be our turn to host Japanese educators from Odawara. Visitors will be in our school on November 2nd during the afternoon. We will share our wonderful school and children with them during a “regular” school lunch with 3rd graders, a tour of classrooms, and a 5th grade presentation of orchestra and the singing of “Oklahoma”. If you happen to be in our building that day, be sure to say “Konichiwa” or hello to our visiting educators! And you can see some photos and artifacts from Mrs. Miller’s visit to Japan in our trophy case on the 100 wing.

Enrichment Programs at Roosevelt

SeeS (science club) has had two wonderful meetings on Aeronautics with another scheduled for November 30th. If you have not sent the Talent/Photo permission (or rejection) back I still need it. O.U. is not allowed to post pictures of any student connected to SeeS without parent permission. We need to know who should not be included in pictures that we take during club as well as those who may be in the pictures. This does not affect participation; all club members may participate.



Yearbook Club students are learning how to use the Josten's computer program to edit pages. Half of our staff took pictures during the Fall parties. The other half will take pictures during Winter parties. We are looking forward to Jan McClaren's **George Washington** presentation, December 1st.

The Gifted Information meeting for parents' of identified students will be held November 3rd from 6:00 until 7:00 in the Library Media Center.

GT Corner

First Grade GT students have started meeting with me. They are an energetic and bright group! We read a book, Animal Should Definitely NOT Wear Clothing. The students created illustrations of animals of their own choosing AND have written a reason why their own animal should definitely not wear clothing. While they are sharing their reasons they are practicing both good presentation skills and good audience skills. Some of the first grades classes have already been dancing with visiting artist Margarita Banos-Milton; the rest will meet her during November. Thank you PTA and the Norman Visiting Artist Program for sponsoring this opportunity.

Second Grade GT students have finished writing “books” with unusual characters (snowballs) doing unusual things in unusual places. The students also learned how to make a book in an unusual way. These are coming home soon. The second graders also have completed a Halloween poem that reflects the things that they think are Most Important about Halloween. They are going to start working on Math games that require some unusual kinds of thinking next. Second grade is unusual!

Third Grade GT students have been working on their writing skills. They have written stories with unusual characters (suitcases, pillows, bowls, mind-reading dogs) doing unusual things (dancing, talking, mind reading) in odd places (factories, fairs, classrooms). The results are wonderful. We are working on making our language more interesting by paying attention to the nouns, awesome adjectives, vivid verbs, and simply wonderful adverbs that we use. The Thesaurus is our great good friend in this. We will be moving on to Wow palindromes, awesome alliteration and many ways of using language that makes our writing sparkle.

I have had the great fun of working with ALL third grade students on two school wide enrichment projects: using oil pastels to create properly proportioned self-portraits, and using mixed media (crayons and glow in the dark paints) to create Night Pictures. In both of these projects students learned Art methods, materials and vocabulary from the Oklahoma Priority Academic Student Skills.

They had fun learning through doing and they will use this knowledge when then take their Art CRT's next Spring.

Fourth Grade GT students took part in reading Scooter, a book by Vera B. Williams, this year's winner of the Neustadt World Literature Today \$25,000 prize for children's literature. Each of the twenty students in this group wrote an essay in response to a question inspired by the book. Their essays were all quite wonderful to read. Roosevelt students used organization skills to sharpen their writing skills, while still making their own essays personal to their own experiences. Sixteen Norman schools participated in the essay contest; each sent twenty entries. Students from thirteen schools won certificates of accomplishment. First place of all 320 entries was Roosevelt student Nicki Smith. She won a beautiful bound certificate, \$100 to buy books for herself AND \$100 for Mrs. Cowen to purchase books for our library. On October 23rd our students had the opportunity to go to O. U. to listen to Ms. Williams talk about being a writer. She told the students that one important reason she was able to write books that they would be able to enjoy was that she could remember what it was like to be a child.

Since testing we have twenty-four students in group. They are working with division and compasses to create regular shapes (polygons). As we develop our skills we will move onto making geometric forms called polyhedrons.

Fifth Grade GT students have created webs using the computer program Inspiration to help them organize their thoughts in order to write essays about themselves. They are currently using dictionaries to better understand a group of Greek and Latin root words. It is fun to see the connections they make to see how words might have come into our language. We have talked about the five “Romance” languages and how those Romans carried their Latin to other countries.



The Teacher Appreciation committee will be doing a morning breakfast for the teachers Friday, November 13. We need volunteers to help bring breakfast foods at 7:15 A.M. before parent-teacher conferences. If you can help, please contact Stephanie Schultz at stephschultz@msn.com

From the Principal's Desk

Roosevelt Parents:

As you are aware, support of the 2007 Bond Election resulted in several improvements for Roosevelt Elementary School. Projects included the installation of a heat and air system for the gym, our new ten classroom addition, which is currently under construction, and an extended parking lot that is nearing completion.

On Tuesday, December 8, 2009, residents of Norman will have the opportunity to vote on a \$109,760,000 bond issue. These bonds will be issued in a timely manner over the next five years so citizens will not face any additional taxes.

Dr. Siano states that revenue from this bond issue will enable the district to continue its efforts to construct, maintain, and improve facilities, giving students the best possible environment for learning. The district will also be able to enhance instruction for our students through the purchase of new technology, equipment, and instructional materials.

With the passage of this bond, Roosevelt Elementary will receive \$1,160,000 for the purpose of remodeling the original structure. This remodel will include new flooring, paint, and roofing needs. Additionally, there will be money for technology updates and playground upgrades.

This five-year bond initiative will make a significant difference for the students being served in our school system. Every school in our district will be significantly impacted.

To learn more about the December 8, 2009 Bond Election please visit the district website at www.norman.k12.ok.us.

Thank you for your continued support. Please vote on December 8, 2009.

Respectfully,

Beth Spears and Olivia Dean

