

Col. John Robinson Elementary School

Shaping the future one child at a time

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October 20, 2017

Good Afternoon,

We are more than halfway through the month of October if you can believe it. As the weather begins to get cooler please be sure to send your child to school with appropriate clothing for outdoor play. We try to get outside each day for some much needed exercise and movement. Thank you for your help with this.

Below are some important Robinson School updates. As always, feel free to contact us if you have any questions at all.

Have a great weekend,

Kevin LaCoste
Principal

Important Dates:

October 31st: Harvest Parties @ Robinson School
November 1st: Picture Retake
November 9th: Renata Bowers Visits Robinson School
November 10th: No School: Veteran's Day
November 20th: Parent-Teacher Conferences (2-hour Delay)
November 21st: Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)
November 22nd: Early Release: Thanksgiving Break
December 7th: Early Release: Professional Development
December 25th-December 29th: Holiday Break: No School
January 1st: New Year's Day Observed: No School
January 15th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No School
January 16th: Full Day Professional Development: No School

Screening Dates

Annual Vision and Hearing Screening will take place next week, Tuesday through Thursday for all students in K-2. Parents/Guardians will be notified if a concern arises with either of the screenings so that a follow up with a specialist evaluation can occur. Please return these referrals as soon as they are completed. Height and weight will also be measured in all First Grades and will also take place next week.

Renata Bowers Visit to Robinson School!

**Award-Winning Author Renata Bowers
to Visit The Robinson School on Thursday, November 9th**

Community • Acceptance • Responsibility • Excellence



Renata Bowers, author of the Frieda B. series of children's books, is coming to The Robinson School for an author visit with students and staff on Thursday, November 9th. The Frieda B. series received Gold for Best Picture Book Series from the 2015 National Moonbeam Children's Book Awards.

Through her books and her work directly with schools and families, Renata encourages children of all ages to use their imaginations, and to believe that – just like the main character, Frieda B. – they, too, are free to be the very important and unique story they carry inside. The key, she says, is helping boys and girls believe in their inherent worth – and in the worth of others. In this light, Renata and her company, Frieda B., LLC, have just launched a program for families and schools called Frieda B. The Whole Child. Learn more and access free resources at FriedaB.com/TWC.

The first in the Frieda B. series of books, Frieda B. Herself, encourages the reader to “dream your dreams big and believe they can be” – to believe that you have a unique story of great worth. The second, Frieda B. Meets the Man in the Moon, focuses on conflict resolution and the importance of The Golden Rule, treating others the way you want to be treated. The third, Frieda B. and the Zillabeast, provides a vivid example of the importance of putting others first. Book #4, Frieda B. and the Finkledee Ink, helps the reader to understand there's nothing you need to buy or get in order to tell the story you carry; it's already all inside you. And the newest book, Frieda B. A Great Day at the Dog Park explores how seeing others with our heart unleashes the hero in each of us.

The hard-cover books are masterfully illustrated by revered children's book illustrator Michael Chesworth, best known for his illustrations of the Pippi Longstocking series.

For those interested in pre-ordering signed copies of the Frieda B. books, forms will be available next week and sent home via backpacks.

To learn more about Renata and the Frieda B. book series, visit www.FriedaB.com.
To be inspired to dream big and believe in your story, visit www.Facebook.com/FriedaBHerself.

Robinson Community Meeting

On Friday, October 6th we held our second Robinson Community meeting of the year. We took this opportunity to introduce students to our first CARE to Read book, “What Does Peace Feel Like?” CARE to Read books support our core values of Community, Acceptance, Responsibility, and Excellence. This month Mr. Middlemiss, Assistant Principal and I will read to each class to further establish a supportive and welcoming environment.

The first grade team took time during our meeting to share their compassion project with the rest of the school. The first grade's compassion project focuses on supporting our local food pantry. Prior to the community meeting, a few of our first graders visited the pantry to determine what specific items were needed and shared this information with students and staff during the meeting. We are so pleased by the response from our students and families and are prepared to deliver a number of items to the food pantry next week. It is worth noting that some of our first grade classrooms will also help to stock the shelves with the items that were donated.

In related news, Mrs. Bastiani from Fresh Start Gardens will work with Mrs. Mannone's first grade students to harvest the lettuce we have been growing in our gardens at Robinson. This lettuce will accompany the other

donations to the food pantry. Earlier in the month, Mrs. Bastiani also worked with students to harvest herbs and greens that were used in our kitchen.

School Store

This week second graders were thrilled to visit the school store for the first time during the 2017-2018 school year. I witnessed careful decision-making by students as to which items to purchase. Several of the children donated their change to our compassion corner as they left the store. Students in Pre-1st and First grade will have a chance to visit the school store on Tuesday, October 24th.

The School Store is run by volunteers and our PTO. Thank you to Mark Fellows for his leadership with this very important activity. Please note that the school store is only open to Pre-First, First, and Second grade students. Students are able to visit the store once a month. For more information, please visit the Robinson School PTO Facebook page.

Art Twitter and Facebook

If you would like to see what your Robinson children are doing in art this year please consider following Mrs. Quattrocchi's Facebook and Twitter feeds. You can find these pages by searching for @QTEACHESART on Twitter and Quattrocchi Artsimply on Facebook. You can also access these pages by simply clicking on the link to [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#)

Professional Development:

On Tuesday, October 10th the PK-5 teachers met at Stony Brook Middle School in the morning to learn about professional learning communities from John Vander Els. In the afternoon, teachers returned to their buildings to meet as small group collaborative teams. Teams have chosen a topic within a curriculum area to focus on to improve the learning experiences for students. Future professional development sessions will maintain a focus on collaborative teaming to explore specific topics. John Vander El will meet with the elementary group again on January 16th.

The teaching assistants gathered at Stony Brook Middle School to learn about the effects of trauma on learning.

PTO: Academic Enrichment Programs

The PTO continues to sponsor several exciting programs for our students! On Friday, September 29th, our kindergarten classes were treated to a special presentation from Rhythm Kids. Students had the opportunity to do some drumming of their own and were taken on a "plane ride" using the sound of instruments to do so.

This week first graders will meet with author/illustrator Emilie Boon who has published 20 books. Students will learn about the process of becoming an author and illustrator and will be given the opportunity to try illustrating a short story with guidance from Ms. Boon.

Kindness Bulletin Board

Mr. Middlemiss and I are in complete awe of the kind acts that students have demonstrated since we first challenged them a few weeks ago. The bulletin board that we created is now filled with examples of kind acts that students performed.

Car Pick-Up and Drop Off

Drop Off: As we approach November we kindly request that all students exit the vehicle **independently** and from the **passenger door** closest to the curb. We believe it is safest for students to exit this way so that they do not need to cross in front or back of the car. You may also choose to park and walk your child into school if they are unable to exit the car independently. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Pick-Up: Please remember to have your placard visible for adults to see. Though I have come to memorize vehicles and parents, etc. there are times that other staff members unfamiliar with vehicles fill in for me. To ensure a safe and efficient process we ask that you have this ready each day.

Parent-Teacher Conferences and Report Cards

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 20th and 21st. In the next two weeks you will receive additional information in your child's backpack regarding the conference schedule along with directions for using our online conference sign-up.

Last year some minor adjustments were made to the elementary report card schedule. We have extended the length of the first marking term by approximately 4 weeks. Historically, the first marking term has been the shortest of the three terms each year. The beginning of the school year is a time when teachers are getting to know their students, establishing routines, and laying the groundwork for a positive classroom culture. The increase in time to the first marking term will provide teachers with a greater opportunity to assess each student's strengths. With this term 1 adjustment, the number of days in each marking term is more equitable and students will have more instructional time in the first term to meet the term 1 benchmarks. These important new dates are as follows:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
End of Marking Term:	December 1 st	March 9 th	June 14 th
Report Cards	December 15 th	March 21 st *	June 14 th
Parent/Teacher Conferences	November 20 th /21 st	March 22 nd /23 rd	NA
*Date subject to change			

You will note that the term 1 elementary conferences remain during the week of Thanksgiving, with only one week between the conferences and the close of the first marking term. Thus, your child's teacher will be able to accurately discuss your child's strengths with you on the scheduled conference dates in late November. The dates listed above are on our Westford Public Schools calendar, which can be found on the front page of our website at westfordk12.us. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Westford Academy Soccer hosts Matthew Roberge Scholarship Night **Tuesday October 24th, 6:00 pm at Westford Academy** **(versus Concord-Carlisle)**

On Tuesday, October 24th, the Westford Academy Boy's Varsity Soccer Team invites you to help "fill the stands" in support of the Matthew Roberge Scholarship Fund. Prior to the start of the game, the team will recognize their senior teammates – members of the Class of 2018. It seemed a fitting night to also pause to pay

tribute to Matt Roberge, a classmate, soccer player and forever member of the Class of 2018. All gate receipts as well as proceeds from the snack shack will be donated to the Matthew Roberge Scholarship.

Matt was a member of the WA Soccer team during his sophomore year at Westford Academy when he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. Matt passed away in August of 2016 and is dearly missed by his family, teammates and the entire Westford community. The first of many scholarships paying tribute to Matt was awarded to members of the Senior Class of 2017. On this night, the team would like to ask your help to insure that this tradition of honoring Matt continues.

We welcome the entire Westford Community in support of Matt and our senior teammates. Come hungry and enjoy what promises to be a great game versus Concord-Carlisle!

Child Find

If you know of any child attending public or private school, or who is homeless or has left school, and could benefit from a special education evaluation under Chapter 766 or educational services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, please contact the Special Education Department in Westford (978-692-5560). Every effort will be made to contact the parents to advise them of their rights under these laws. Thank you for assisting us in this important matter.