

Conerly Road School & PTO Newsletter

We Hop To The Top!!!

Summer 2008 Edition

Thanks for a Great Year!!

As the school year comes to a close and summer looms ahead, it's a great time to reflect on the hard work of the students and staff.

Best of luck to all next year!



When You're Smiling...

On Tuesday March 25th, Conerly hosted a preventative dental care services program for our students. Dentists from Mobile Dentists/Smile Programs set up a mini-dental office to provide dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, x-rays, and, if necessary, sealants.

Mrs. Kenny, School Nurse, coordinated this program as an awareness of good oral health that is important to a child's overall general health.

Reading All-Stars Shine!

Since the October 2007 start of our reading initiative program, nearly 100 students in grades PreK-4 received recognition as they reached the First Level by reading the required number of books based on their grade level. All students reaching the first level get their picture taken and placed on the Reading All-Star bulletin board located in the hallway near the library.

The number of First Level readers increased each week. Many First Level students continued reading as they moved on to the Second, Third, and Fourth Levels. Second Level readers received a "Free Homework Pass," Third Level readers received an "Extra Recess Pass," and Fourth Level readers received a "Pass for a Free Purchase at the School Store."

All 100-book readers attended an end of the year breakfast on Monday, June 16th.

Contents

Mobile Dentists Info	1
Reading All-Stars	1
Peace Mandala	2
Healthy Eating Habits	3
Author Visit	3
Peace Puppets	3
FHS Athletes Visit	4
Pre-K News	4
Dance Happenings	5
Curbside Safety	5
Kindergarten Family Night	6
Movie Making for Kids	6
CRS Contact Information	6
Science News	7
Recaps	8-10
Key September Notes	11



Peace Mandala

*People grow through
experience if they meet
life honestly and
courageously. This is
how character is built..*

Eleanor Roosevelt

Conerly's Peacemakers created the "Peace through Education Mandala" during the school year. A mandala is a graphic symbol for the universe. The Peace Mandala is the Peacemaker's graphic symbol of Peace.

Circular in design, each student contributed to the mandala by creating a ceramic tile containing items of the many things that they felt "...help us spread Peace." All tiles fit together to form the mandala's continuing symbol of Peace.

The Peacemakers worked with ceramic artist Linda LaStella as they fashioned clay into computers, books, nature, cell phones, playing together, sharing with adults, music, good ideas, sharing food, and talking with each other. Each Peacemaker designed a ceramic tile that included their items of Peace and their name.

Mrs. LaStella designed the center tile as a school building with the Earth inside of it. She put the tiles of the mandala together and did all the glazing beginning with the strong heart-color of the school holding both the whole world and each individual--symbolized by the mirror.

During May, the Peacemakers presented the mandala to Franklin Township School Superintendent Edward Seto.



HEALTHY EATING = HEALTHY STUDENTS

March was National Nutrition Month at Conerly with Physical Education Teacher Mrs. Burd and School Nurse Mrs. Kenny leading the charge. Mrs. Burd included nutrition and exercise awareness during each class that month, including such topics as the Food Pyramid and healthy food choices.

Mrs. Kenny coordinated “Fruit Day” on Thursday, March 20th, during which each student received a piece of fruit as a reinforcement of a healthy snack food choice.

Both Mrs. Burd and Mrs. Kenny prepared a take-home activity for distribution in June that allows students to continue their nutrition awareness and knowledge this summer and then discuss when they return to school this fall.

Author Visit

Illustrator and author Michael Dooling visited Conerly on Monday, May 19th wearing a Colonial outfit. He explained his process for illustrating books, demonstrating his painting method, and explained his interest in history and historical subjects. His assembly held student interest as he allowed students to help him complete painting a sketch and answered questions at the end of the assemblies.

PEACE PUPPETS

Earlier this year, Conerly’s students took part in the “Peace Puppets Project - Restore a Kid's Childhood” in association with the Peace Pals Program. As part of the project, students selected a country and learned about its traditions, values, languages and most importantly, its children and what is happening to them. Each of the 20 countries participating in the Peace Pals Program received a package at its Peace Pals site, which contained Peace Puppets, letters from Conerly’s students and a Play Therapy

Puppet Manual for the Peace Pals Coordinators. Our students filled their letters to the children with messages of hope and friendship. Slovakia and Nigeria quickly responded to us. In his letter, the Nigerian Peace Pal Coordinator Olaitin Ibiyemi said, “Once again, I wish to sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness and we promise that we shall strive to maintain a strong link with the pupils in your school.”

FHS ATHLETES SCORE BIG AT READ ACROSS AMERICA

Franklin High School's Ultimate Warriors spent the day at Conerly on Monday, March 3rd in celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday.

Accompanied by FHS Coach Burd, they visited the classrooms, read Dr. Seuss books, gave away Cat in the Hat bookmarks, and answered questions.

It was very exciting for everyone at Conerly to meet these student athletes who compete in their chosen sport, maintain grades, and take part in community service projects. They are excellent role models for Conerly's students.

Our special thanks to Ultimate Warriors Melissa Gaber, Jessica Goldberg, Kevin Osman, Emily Lewis, Billy Scharnikow, Shannon Collins, Nick Consoli, Julie Boyle, Rachel Goldberg, Krystyna Freda, Ale Fantuzzi, and Emily Boyle.

Also that day, Conerly's Head Custodian Russell Hall and fourth grade student Kimani Key from Mrs. Diamente's class took part in reading to the students. A very special thanks goes out to both of them as well.

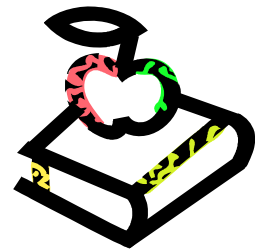
Pre-K Authors

Pre-K students in the morning and afternoon classes each created a three-page book about feelings. Pre-K Teacher, Mrs. Zoldi, discussed the different kinds of feelings in class and some reasons why they might feel the way they do. After two weeks, students began working on their final project.

As author, illustrator and publisher of the book, students drew a picture of three different feelings, wrote the word for the feeling on each page and then stapled the book together themselves. They were very proud of their final product!

Pre-K Parent Readers

Pre-K Parents visited the Pre-K students, Mrs. Zoldi, and Mrs. Trent during their month long celebration of *Read Across America*. Each day in March, parents joined the class reading a book of their choice to the Pre-K students. Mrs. Zoldi photographed each parent with their child and displayed the pictures on the "Read Across America" banner in the hallway near the Pre-K class





Dance Happenings

During March, the third and fourth graders learned the Italian Tarantella, a dance named after the bite of a tarantula. The kids enjoyed learning the movements while shaking a tambourine. They then moved on to Rhythms of the Highlife, a dance from Ghana, Africa. The kids loved this celebratory dance and especially the drum music.

NEWS FROM MRS. REILLY...

Creative Movement Teacher Ms. Reilly shares, "Congratulations to the CRS Third and Fourth Grade Dance Troupes for fantastic performances!" She reports, "They recently danced in the All-District Dance Showcase held on May 27th at Franklin High School. They also dance in the Conerly Road School Music and Dance Concert on June 3rd. I am very proud of these talented kids! It has been a pleasure to work with them this year!"

Ms. Reilly reminds all 3rd and 4th graders that, "As our weather becomes warmer, please continue to wear sneakers for Dance. Flip-flops and sandals are not safe for movement classes. Thanks!"

Curbside Safety



Parents, when dropping off your kids at school in the morning, please remember to let your kids out of the car onto the sidewalk and not into the street. Safety first!

Kindergarten Family Night

Kindergarten Family Night was Friday, March 7th, led by Kindergarten teachers Mrs. Savva, Mrs. Curtis, Ms. Sukha, and Mrs. Mechem. The night's theme was "Dr. Seuss on the Loose." Students and their families experienced a special evening of games, crafts, food, and fun with a focus on the joy of math, literacy, and family learning.

Movie Making For Kids

Third and fourth graders took part in a 12-week movie project led by project coordinators Mrs. Abu-Bakr, Mrs. Marx, Mrs. Stewart, Ms. Levine, and professional movie-makers Donna and Jeff Clapp after receiving a grant from the Franklin Foundation for Educational Excellence.

During each week, these 28 teacher-selected students along with the project coordinators and parent volunteers met before school each Monday morning at 7:30 AM as they brainstormed ideas, selected issues, wrote scripts, and then during a Saturday in April, acted out their scripts during a day of filming that took place in Conerly's library and Mrs. Stewart's home.

After the editing phase, a final product DVD made up of five short films presenting the issues selected and acted out by the students was ready for showing. The issues, "Hooked on Video Games," "Bullies," "Gossip and Rumors," "Dealing With Brothers and Sisters," and "When Parents Fight" are issues that kids face in their lives today.

Each short film presented facts about the issue, an acting scene representing the issue, and specific solutions for dealing with that issue. At the completion of the project, all elementary schools in Franklin Township received a copy of the DVD and its discussion guide.

Very important to note is that although other student film projects took on these issues, Conerly's students are the youngest to address these issues, present it on film, and to be so very involved in the creative process from beginning to end.



Conerly Road School
35 Conerly Road
Somerset, NJ 08873

Phone: (732) 249-9362

Website: <http://www.franklinboe.org/crs/>

Newsletter Staff

Editor/Writer: Abbe Levine

Writer: Ruth Williams

SCIENCE RECAP

New Math Program Used in Daily Science Lessons

Mr. Nesto, a firm believer in differentiated instruction, attended the Math Trailblazers Workshop for teachers. He has integrated the third and fourth grade math lessons into his daily science lessons. "I believe that all students need as much reinforcement and review of math and problem solving skills as possible. I extend the classroom teachers' daily math lessons and present it with a new perspective."

Mr. Nesto, with a lot of help from his friends from Franklin Township, has acquired a large 36x26 inch TV, used as his computer screen, along with a new printer and software. We now have audio/animated science presentations during lessons. Mr. Nesto presents his charts and graphs on his computer for a much more comprehensive analytical approach to his science labs. These labs are "A.S.K. focused", since 70% of the new A.S.K. Science Test is based on analytical skills.



Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of the imagination.

Thomas Dewey

Mr. Nesto's Presentation

Conerly's Science Specialist, Mr. Nesto, presented "Preparing for NJASK & GEPA: Getting the Most out of your Daily Lessons," at the New Jersey Science Convention in October, 2007.

This proved a "hot topic" in consideration of testing that took place during the month of March. Mr. Nesto accommodated the standing-room-only crowd by moving to a larger room for an audience of Science Supervisors, Principals, Vice-Principals, Science Specialists and Teachers.

All received his presentation well with many staying after to chat with and commend him.

Mr. Nesto gave a PowerPoint presentation on Franklin Township's new science curriculum, held at the C.R.S. Library on Family Science Night. Mr. Nesto explained the goals of the program, the new curricula, as well as the integration of math and technology into his daily lessons. It was well received with a full house of inquisitive and appreciative people!

Way to go, Mr. N!

State Testing

In order to have up to date knowledge and information to better prepare our students for N.J.A.S.K. Mr. Nesto attended an all day workshop given by the New Jersey Department of Education entitled "State Science Assessment" at Rowan University.

Down The Road

Mr. Nesto, in his previous district, was the computer club mentor. His team won second place nationally on their investigation into fuel cells. Mr. Nesto is working with the National Coordinator of TechXplore to bring the competition to the fourth grade level. Presently it's open to middle and high school students. If successful, he would start a "TechXplore" club at C.R.S.

April Recap

- Tuesday, April 1st - Pre-K Class Event - Brian Eslick – Magician (AM & PM)
- Friday, April 4th - RVCC Dance Troupe Assembly
- Monday - Wednesday, April 7th through April 9th - NJ Pass (Grade 2)
- Thursday - Thursday, April 10th through April 17th - NJ PASS (Grade 2) Make-Ups
- Thursday, April 10th - Lights, Camera, Action Assembly
- Friday, April 11th - CRS Family Movie Night - Enchanted
- Monday - Friday - April 14th through April 18th - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Tuesday, April 29th - 3rd Quarter Report Card Distribution
- Wednesday, April 30th - Wendy's (Easton Avenue)
- Wednesday, April 30th - Peppermint Playhouse Puppeteers

May Recap

- Friday, May 2nd - 1st Grade Class Trip - Adventure Aquarium
- Friday, May 2nd - CRS PTO Spring Fling
- Monday, May 5th - Harmony Week Assembly
- Monday - Friday, May 5th through May 9th - National Teacher Appreciation Week
- Wednesday, May 7th - Display My Art Pick-Up
- Thursday, May 8th - CRS PTO Mother's Day Sale
- Friday, May 9th - Snow Give Back Day -- No School
- Tuesday - Friday, May 13th through May 16th - CRS PTO Spring Book Fair
- Tuesday, May 13th - 2nd Grade Class Trip - Crayola Factory
- Thursday, May 15th - 3rd Grade Class Trip - Liberty Science Center
- Friday, May 16th - Kindergarten Class Trip - Turtle Back Zoo

May Recap (cont'd)

- Saturday, May 17th - Spring Yard Sale & Chrysler Drive for the Kids Fundraiser

Many participants completed the Chrysler survey forms and some took a test drive in a Chrysler vehicle. The CRS PTO received \$5 for every person that did this and made a total of \$470 that day. Mrs. Zoldi's Pre-K PM Class had the most people who completed the survey forms and won a Pizza Party!

- Monday, May 19th - Author Visit
- Wednesday, May 21st - McDonalds - Easton Avenue
- Thursday, May 22nd - "Setting Goals" - Grade 4 Assembly
- Friday, May 23rd - Snow Give Back Day - No School
- Monday, May 26th - Memorial Day - No School
- Monday, May 26th - CRS Children in the Memorial Day Parade
- Tuesday, May 27th - Dance Showcase 2007 (all schools participate) - Franklin High School
- Thursday, May 29th - 4th Grade Class Trip - Liberty Science Center
- Friday, May 30th - Field Day
- Friday, May 30th - Spirit Day
- Friday, May 30th - End of Box Tops Contest

The class with the most Box Tops was Mrs. Zoldi's Pre-K PM Class. The students won a Make-Your-Own-Sundae Party in June!

June Recap

- Tuesday, June 3rd - Spring Concert
- Tuesday, June 3rd - Kindergarten 2007-2008 Orientation
- Wednesday, June 4th - 5 & 6th Grade Orientation
- Thursday, June 5th - Pre-K 2007-2008 Orientation
- Wednesday – Friday, June 11th - June 13th - CRS PTO Father's Day Sale
- Thursday, June 12th - CRS PTO Meeting - 6:00 p.m. – CRS Cafeteria - Voting in Next Year's Officers. Closing out the year and planning for next year.
- Friday, June 13th - CRS Flag Day Celebration

June Recap (cont'd)

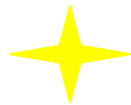
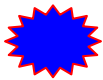
- Saturday, June 14th - CRS Community Car Wash (Burger King)
- Monday, June 16th - Reading All Stars Breakfast
- Monday, June 16th - BOE Recognition (K - 4) – FHS
- Wednesday, June 18th - Internet Safety: How to Talk to Your Kids About Online Safety, Internet Safety Advocate Marian Merritt - CRS Gym
- Thursday, June 19th - CRS Grade K-2 Student Recognition
- Friday, June 20th - First Day of Summer
- Friday, June 20th - Spirit Day
- Friday, June 20th - CRS Sign Ribbon Cutting
- Friday, June 20th - Somerset Patriots Game
- Monday, June 23rd - Full School Day
- Monday, June 23rd - Pre-K Ceremony/Celebration
- Tuesday, June 24th - Minimum Session Day
- Tuesday, June 24th - CRS Grade 3 Student Recognition
- Wednesday, June 24th - 4th Quarter Report Card Distribution
- Wednesday, June 25th - Last Day of School - Minimum Session Day
- Wednesday, June 25th - 4th Grade Graduation Event - 11:30 - 12:15 PM, Pizza Party & 12:15 - 1:15 PM, Yearbook signing and other events.
- Month of June - Yearbook Distribution - Date TBD
- Homeroom Parent Coordinators, please contact your teacher for end of year class parties.

Key September Notes

- Thursday, September 4th - 1st Day of School for K-4
- Monday, September 8th - 1st Day of School for Pre-K
- Monday, September 8th - 6 PM CRS PTO Meeting
- Saturday, September 13th, 1 – 4 PM - 1st Annual Homecoming Picnic
- Monday, September 15th – 7 PM - Back to School Night (parents only)



Congratulations to all the Graduates!



To all the students who will be returning next fall,
have a great summer and see you in September!

Best of luck to all!