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# West Irondequoit Central School District Rogers Middle School Newsletter November 2009



Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the October newsletter I shared with you the instructional focus areas established by the Rogers School Based Planning Team. Specifically, we will continue to instruct in student centered/differentiated classrooms that provide a blend of content and skills leading towards students developing deep conceptual understandings that they are able to independently apply to new situations.

On November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. please join me for our first Parent/Principal Coffee in the Rogers cafeteria so I may highlight some of these instructional initiatives established by our planning team. In addition the Rogers School invites you to our Parent Visitation Day on the 13<sup>th</sup> as well. During Parent Visitation, which runs from 9:00 to 3:05, you will have the opportunity to follow your child's schedule and experience the excellent instruction I have observed in their classrooms. When you arrive at Rogers please sign in at the main office and obtain a visitor pass. The coffee and visitation events are a fantastic way to kick off American Education Week which runs from November 15<sup>th</sup> through November 21<sup>st</sup>.

As I visit classrooms, it is exciting to see students extend their thinking by writing carefully crafted responses to questions that require them to take a stance and develop their ideas fully. In addition, they have been receiving clear and specific feedback from their teachers during individual and group conferences. By engaging stu-

dents in higher level thinking tasks and providing clear feedback establishing concrete goals, students are able to deepen their conceptual understandings and move towards increased independence. Hopefully you will be able to join us on November 13<sup>th</sup> to see the incredible work of our students and teachers.

I have valued the on-going conversations I have had with the parents and guardians of our Rogers students. Please continue to contact me with any questions, concerns, or good news you wish to share.

Thank you for everything you continue to do at home in order to ensure your children are ready and excited to learn each and every day. That level of support sets all of us up for success in maximizing every child's growth.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

James Brennan  
Principal

At  
Rogers  
School  
we  
CARE

## Upcoming Events

Nov. 11  
NO SCHOOL

Nov. 13  
9:30 a.m. Parent  
Principal Coffee

9:00-3:05 Parent  
Visitation

Nov. 23  
School Picture Make  
Up Day

Nov. 25, 26 & 27  
NO SCHOOL

## Important Numbers

Main Office: 342-1330  
Attendance: 336-3030  
Transportation:  
336-2992



## Odyssey of the Mind Update

You can feel the creativity already flowing here at Rogers school. We had over 200 people come to the informational meeting last month resulting in 18 confirmed Odyssey of the Mind teams so far! If you still have a roster to be turned in, please do so ASAP so we can get your team registered. Good luck to all of the students, coaches, and parents who have made the commitment to the Odyssey program this year; I know you all will do a great job! Some important Odyssey dates to remember:

**11/04/09- First Coaches Meeting**

7:00 P.M. at Irondequoit High School (Room 2079)

**11/07/09- New Coaches Training**

9:00-3:00 at Spry Middle School, Webster

**2/01/10- District Odyssey of the Mind Pep Rally**

7:00 P.M. at Irondequoit High School (Cafeteria)

**3/06/10- Odyssey of the Mind Regional Competition**

All Day at Pittsford Central Schools

**3/07/10- Odyssey of the Mind State Competition**

(First place Regional winners only)

SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton NY

Please contact me with any questions

Mrs. Lenzi

[Marybeth\\_lenzi@westiron.monroe.edu](mailto:Marybeth_lenzi@westiron.monroe.edu)

Rogers Odyssey of the Mind Coordinator



## SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

Students are given a C.A.R.E. "leaf" to be hung on the "tree" in the cafeteria. After a student earns four leaves, he or she receives a Spotlight award.

We send a letter home letting the parent know of the recognition and the student's picture is exhibited on our bulletin board.

In addition to announcing our Spotlight winners on the public address system, along with personal congratulations from Mr. Brennan, we are listing our winners in the newsletter. Please congratulate the following students on a job well-done!



Elaina Alston  
Elise McKinney  
Tiara Oglesby  
Maxx Reynolds



## E-NEWS



E-news is a way of communicating with Rogers parents. From time to time, we will send out e-mails telling of an event that occurred at school, or reminders and information regarding upcoming activities, deadlines and opportunities for students and parents. We continue to send home printed newsletters and letters, but e-news allows us to send messages to you quickly at home or at work.

To register, send an e-mail to:

**Rogers\_e-news@westiron.monroe.edu**

Include your child(ren)'s name(s) and grade(s) in the body of your e-mail. Your e-mail address will remain confidential.

We will only use e-mail addresses that have been e-mailed to this special account. When you change your e-mail address, please let us know so you will continue to receive our updates.



## School Picture Make-up Day

School Picture Make-Up Day at Rogers School is **Monday, November 23** from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Make-up pictures are taken if:

- ⇒ your child was absent from school the first picture day (a reminder and form will be mailed home)
- ⇒ the photography company notifies us the picture did not turn out (reminder and form mailed home)
- ⇒ you wish a re-take
- ⇒ you were unable to order pictures for any other reason.

Order forms are available in the Main Office. Even if you do not wish to order a picture package, we take photos of all students for the yearbook and student records. **Please note: If you are having a re-take done because you did not like the first picture, you must return the original package.**

# Counselor's Corner

Lisa Burt, School Counselor



**"Treat others in the same way you would like to be treated. By doing so, you may discover a best friend you did not know you had"**

## **~The Peaceful Solution**

Throughout the school year, I spend time with each grade level conducting classroom lessons. Throughout the month of October, the focus of these lessons was on accepting and *valuing* the differences we all contribute to our classroom team. Classes analyzed and discussed the qualities and characteristics that make each of us unique, and the value this diversity brings to the classroom setting. In November, our focus will be on friendships.

Perhaps your child came home and talked about what they learned about their classmates, or talked to you about what the word acceptance means. I encourage you to discuss these lessons with your child and, as always, feel free to contact the counseling office if you would like additional information or materials.



**You see... you and I are a lot alike,  
We want to be loved,  
and do what's right.  
We both get up each morning to start a new day,  
We should accept one another; this is the right way.  
Please accept me for who I am.**

## Physical Education News

November will be "Fitness Month" at Rogers School. Students will be involved in our Cross Country Running unit. During this unit, students will learn about "aerobic" exercise and how to take their pulse. We will learn about the heart and the effect exercise has on our heart rates. The Cross Country running unit will culminate in our annual Rogers "Run for the Apple" meet.

6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be involved in a Team Handball unit during the month of November. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be involved in a "Fun and Fit."

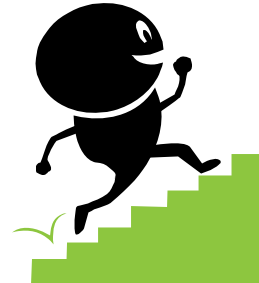
Team handball intramurals will start at the beginning of November for 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will need to **listen to announcements for exact dates**. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome to join a team.

Intramurals are 8:10 - 8:50 a.m.

A days: 4th Grade students

C days: 5th Grade students

S days: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students



Mrs. Evans & Mr. Cardon



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## 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus News

Our chorus is off to a good start this year, and we are looking forward to our first performance!

Please remember, our chorus concert is on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, in the IHS auditorium at 7:00 p.m. There was some earlier confusion about the date; please double check your calendar. You may want to also look ahead to May and confirm our May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 concert date, same time, same place. As always, please accept my thanks for your support of our music programs at Rogers!

Mrs. Conti

# Attention 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents

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The New York State 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Assessment will be administered on:



**Monday, November 16, 2009  
and  
Tuesday, November 17, 2009**

Please make sure your child:

- Goes to bed early
- Eats breakfast
- Is in school on time each day
- Is relaxed and ready to do his or her best

The fifth graders have been practicing their reading, writing, and social studies skills-they are ready!

*Remind your child that you believe in him or her.  
Support and encouragement from you is important.*

*Thank you,  
James Brennan, Principal  
Judy Barrett, Anne Rothfuss, Nicole Brement, Social Studies Teachers*

## **Box Tops for Education:**

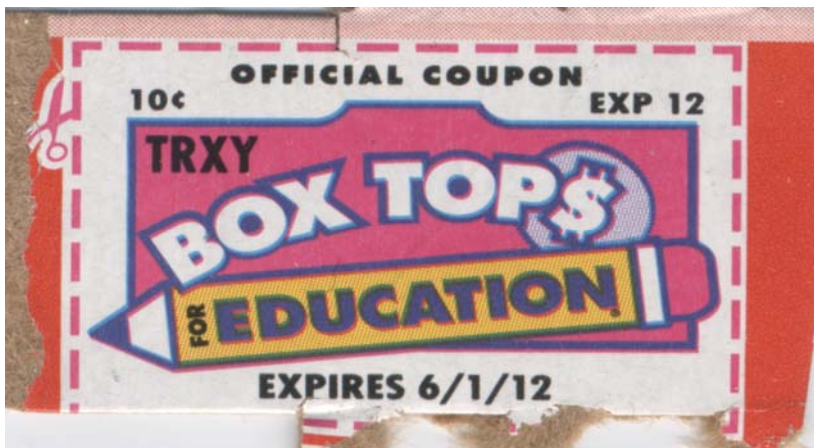
### **Dear Fellow Parents of Rogers Middle School:**

**Please save Box Tops for our school. Last year we got over \$400 for the PTSA. It only takes a few minutes of your time a week, and your children can be a part of this process. My family of 4 alone, saved over 80 during summer vacation. Please do not put 10 cents in the trash that our children at Rogers could use. This is a good lesson for children to learn about saving and caring.**

Although there are over 100 products that include this coupon, I list only the most common brands. Sometimes you can find these coupons on the outside or inside on the wrapping of a group of products packed together, for example: **COTTONELLE Bath Tissues. KLEENEX tissue boxes have coupons on the bottom of the box.**

**Other brands are: VIVA, HUGGIES, KOTEX, PILLSBURY, YOPLAIT, HEFTY, BETTY CROCKER AND GENERAL MILLS products.**

**PLEASE SEND THE BOX TOPS WITH YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ACCUMULATED AT LEAST 10.**



Thank you kindly for your support.  
MARIA WELDY, 585-266-6690 , PTSA Rogers Rep.



## Discussion as a Way of Learning

Debra Lindsey

K-6 Curriculum Supervisor for English Language Arts  
and Social Studies

Talk is a powerful tool for thinking and understanding. It is a natural way to explore ideas and new information with others. Discussion is social and every last one of us is a social being. That's why Igor Vygotsky's theory that social interactions are a key aspect of constructing meaning has always made a good deal of sense to me. Social interaction enables learners to connect information to their lives and to others, to become aware of their ideas and beliefs, and in the process make new information their own.

When teacher and students engage in dialogue to inquire, to explore information and feelings, to analyze multiple perspectives, to make and test hypotheses, to make connections to self, others, and world issues, students deepen their understanding of new information and ideas, remember this beyond a test or quiz, and transfer this understanding to new situations.

When a person reads, the dialogue between the reader and the author is silent (Rosenblatt, 1978), but present. Conversation with a peer partner or peer group extends these silent transactions because such conversations involve listening to alternate points of view, clarifying information, questioning, searching for answers, and reading between the lines of text to determine the author's intention.

When students engage in a quality discussion, they consider different points of view, raise questions, examine and probe information and ideas, demonstrate an interest in deepening their understanding of an event, concept, or issue, explore opposing opinions, offer substantiating support for their ideas by referring to a text or other materials and then reflect on the learning and insights that have been gained from the discussion.

In West Irondequoit, students engage in purposeful discussions to construct meaning across all content areas. In English Language Arts classrooms, students engage in thoughtful discussions to explore the thematic understandings conveyed in the stories being read. In sci-

ence and mathematics classrooms, students engage in discussions in which hypotheses are generated and tested. In social studies lessons, discussions provide a powerful vehicle for analyzing the multiple perspectives that surround a given historical figure, event, or issue so that students are able to deepen conceptual understanding and draw insightful and informed conclusions. This year, as K-6 social studies teachers implement the new K-12 SS outcomes and *History Alive* Resources, they are deepening the role of discourse in developing social studies understandings through such structures as jigsaws, think-pair-shares, seminars, idea circles, and collaborative strategic reading.

In grade 5 classrooms, for example, during their study of the American colonies, students engage in a press conference in which they analyze how the social systems established by the colonists reflect their beliefs about society, politics, and religion, and how these beliefs align and diverge from those of England. In second grade classrooms, while studying citizenship, students will engage in an idea circle in which they explore the qualities that make a person a good classroom and community citizen and then select a classmate deserving of this award. These discussions support students in constructing meaning around essential questions and enduring understandings in social studies, questions such as, "Why must a citizen have responsibilities?" and "How does where a people live influence how they live?" Purposeful discussion invites students to formulate their own questions, think using what they have read as a foundation, listen to others, and then shape their emerging ideas into talk that transforms what they think and feel. These discussions support students in developing understandings that they will apply and continue to deepen throughout their school careers and into their adult lives.

Reference: *Teaching Reading in the Social Studies*, by Laura Robb.

# NEW

from  
Community Education

We have evaluated the pool use and have decided to eliminate Open Swim on Sunday mornings and because of a very positive response to our Friday Family Swim add an additional family swim beginning Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **NEW! Sunday Family Swim**

Bring the entire family for a fun afternoon of swimming. All youth under age 16 MUST be accompanied by an adult. If your child cannot swim unassisted, they must be accompanied by an adult in the water. No flotation devices will be allowed in the pool.

**When:** Sundays, 1-3 p.m.

**Cost:** \$5 per visit for immediate family up to 5, \$1 for each additional member, payable at the door



### Shots for Kids

#### Free Immunizations for Children

Monroe County  
Department of Public Health  
111 Westfall Road  
753-5150

Every Wednesday  
12 Noon to 7:00 p.m.

- No appointment necessary
- Parent or guardian must be with child
- Please bring insurance card and child's shot record to the clinic



### Parent/Principal Coffee Hour

Please join Mr. Brennan  
Friday, November 13,  
at 9:30 a.m.

Parent Visitation Day  
November 13, 2009  
9 a.m.—3:05 p.m.

## News from the Health Office

### Hand Washing - One of the best ways to keep yourself healthy!

Maria McCulloch, RN

Hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Good hand washing, when done correctly, is easy to learn and can significantly reduce the spread of infectious diseases among both children and adults.

There is more to hand washing than you think. By rubbing your hands vigorously with soapy water, you pull the dirt and the oily soils free from your skin. The soap lather suspends both the dirt and germs trapped inside and both are then quickly washed away.

Follow these six simple steps to keeping hands clean:

1. Wet your hands with warm running water.
2. Apply soap.
3. Rub your hands together, making a soapy lather. Do this away from the running water for at least 10 seconds, being careful not to wash the lather away. Wash the front and back of your hands, as well as between your fingers and under your nails.
4. Rinse your hands well under warm running water. Let the water run back into the sink, not down to your elbows.
5. Dry hands thoroughly with a clean towel.
6. Turn off the water with a paper towel and dispose in a proper receptacle.

It is important to encourage and help children to wash hands before eating, after playing outdoors or playing with pets, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their noses. Even though hands may appear to be clean, they may carry germs or microorganisms that are capable of causing disease.

Don't assume that children know how to wash their hands properly. Supervision is an essential element in forming good hand washing habits in children. Children learn by example. Let them observe good hand washing techniques from the adults who care for them.

### H1N1 Update

H1N1 and flu-like illnesses continue to be a concern in our community. Here are a few reminders:



-Please review Mrs. McCulloch's article on hand washing. This simple act continues to be one of the best defenses against illness.

-Children must not attend school if they are sick. **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have a fever, without using fever-reducing drugs, such as Tylenol or ibuprofen.

-Call the attendance line every day that your child is absent. Please be specific when describing your child's symptoms. We are using our school management system, Infinite Campus, to track the incidence of flu-like illnesses in our schools. We must have specific information from families to obtain accurate figures.

-Treatment for seasonal flu and H1N1 is the same. In most cases physicians are not testing patients for H1N1.

-We will continue to post updates on our Web site at [http://www.westirondequoit.org/news/Swine\\_Flu\\_index.htm](http://www.westirondequoit.org/news/Swine_Flu_index.htm) which also contains links to sources such as the Centers for Disease Control.

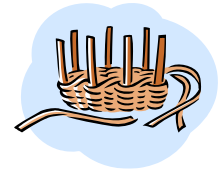
-The Monroe County Web site <http://www.monroecounty.gov/health-index.php> **H1N1** lists seasonal flu vaccine clinics. When the H1N1 vaccine becomes available, the site will be a good resource to locate distribution points.

Please contact our school nurse,  
**Audra Clements**  
At 336-3136  
or Deb Hanss RN BSN,  
WICSD Health Services Coordinator  
at 336-0816 with any questions.

**Art News**  
**Mrs. Landt**

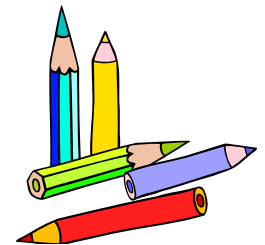
We are enjoying a very busy fall in the art room! Our Rogers art students have been hard at work creating our first few art projects of the school year. There has also been a lot of focus on establishing art room routines to ensure that each art class runs smoothly.

Fourth graders have recently finished a Basket Weaving project. Each student built his or her own basket frame from tag board. After selecting their yarn colors, students began weaving around the basket frame until it was tightly packed with the bright colors of the yarn. Each basket was topped with a paper rim that was decorated to match the yarn. The end result is a beautiful, sturdy basket!



Our fifth grade art students have recently finished their Nearika Yarn Paintings. The Huichol Indians of Mexico create Nearikas as offerings to the nature spirits they worship. In return, they hope to get a lifetime of good health. Our Nearikas were carefully cut out of cardboard into the shape of an animal. We carefully applied yarn to the surface with glue. This was a project that took a lot of patience and persistence! Each Nearika is a colorful and unique creation.

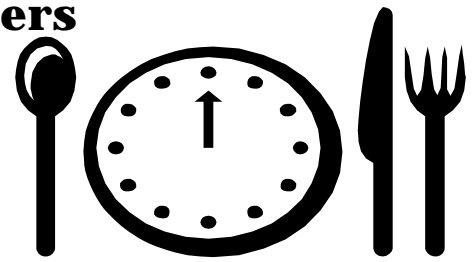
The sixth graders are currently working on Camouflaged Colored Pencil Drawings. This project focuses on developing blending skills. Each student drew a picture in the center of a piece of drawing paper. The paper was then divided into random segments using a ruler. Each segment is being carefully colored with three colored pencil colors that blend seamlessly from one color to the next.



Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have about the art program.

E-mail: [megan\\_landt@westiron.monroe.edu](mailto:megan_landt@westiron.monroe.edu)  
Voicemail: 336-3150 x44815

# November 2009 Lunch Menu Rogers



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<b>2</b> Hotdog on a Bun w/ fries Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>3</b> Chicken Fijita Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>4</b> Chicken Nuggets w /rice Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>5</b> Taco Salad Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>6</b> Big Daddy's Pizza Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  BONUS: ICE JUICEE <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>
<b>9</b> ** Burger w/ Fries Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>10</b> Mozz Sticks w/ sauce Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>11</b> VETERANS DAY NO SCHOOL	<b>12</b> Popcorn Chicken w/ rice Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>13</b> Chicken Patty on a Bun Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>
<b>16</b> Sesame Chicken w/ rice Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch BONUS: ICE JUICEE <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>17</b> Pretzel w/ cheese sauce Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>18</b> Chili w/ corn chips Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>19</b> Spaghetti w/ meatballs Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>20</b> Pizza Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>
<b>23</b> Hotdog on a Bun w/ fries Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>24</b> Chicken Fijita Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>	<b>25</b> THANKSGIVING RECESS NO SCHOOL	<b>26</b> THANKSGIVING RECESS NO SCHOOL	<b>27</b> THANKSGIVING RECESS NO SCHOOL
<b>30</b> ** Burger w/ Fries Sandwiches—Variety Salads to Go Bagel & Yogurt Lunch  <i>Hot Vegetable/Cold Vegetable/ Canned Fruit/ Fresh Fruit</i>		Cook /Manager  Iroquois Maria C. 336-3114 Rogers Lisa G. 336-3079		Looking for part-time work  While your kids are in school? Fill out an application for Food Services! Applications on-line

