

# November 2015

## Shorewood Elementary School News

Hello Shorewood Families,

We're looking forward to our **Parent/Teacher Conferences** on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a truly valuable time to discuss your child's academic progress and to gain your insight as a parent. You know your child best and we're always interested in learning from you. In this issue of our newsletter, our teachers share tips for maximizing your time together. Please let us know if you're unable to attend a conference during the regularly scheduled hours. It's vital to our partnership that we meet with each of you in November and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, we wish you good times and safe travels! We're grateful for our fabulous Shorewood students and their dedicated families. Thank you for making education a priority in your home and for your ongoing support of our school community.

*Julie Mancione*

### **Traveling on School Grounds**

As most of you know, arrival and dismissal at Shorewood are very busy! We ask that you avoid cell phone use and drive cautiously. We have bus, car and pedestrian traffic in the morning and the afternoon. For these reasons, it's important that you travel slowly as you enter and leave our school grounds. There are Shorewood families who walk to school and we need to make sure their path is safe. There are also other pedestrians in front of and behind the school. Car rider traffic can be congested at times and we need drivers to be attentive to those directing traffic. Thank you for your careful driving and your consideration of our neighbors who live in the surrounding area.

### **Coffee with the Superintendent**

Superintendent Dr. Todd Koehl is holding three "Coffee with the Superintendent" gatherings this school year. The next two will be Thursday, February 4, 2016 (also with Director of Human Resources, Paul Schrik) and Thursday, May 5, 2016 (also with Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Anne Gmazel), from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. in the District Office, 5800 W. Theodore Street, Door 10 at the south of the building.

These are times when members of the community can drop in for an informal chat with our superintendent or just to say hello. No registration is necessary. For more information, contact Jeanne or Sandy at the district office at (815) 577-3795. We hope to see you there!



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*The Troy CCSD 30-C learning community will achieve excellence and will conquer the challenges of the future.*

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November 11, 2015

To all our families—

Happy Veterans' Day! I had the opportunity to visit a couple of schools today to see their programs. Both were very powerful. We honored veterans from all branches of the service, and the students were able to interact with the veterans. It was a good day for students to understand the commitment of service.

The cold wind today brings to mind that the weather will be changing soon. While this has been an outstanding fall, inclement weather, at least one to two days of it, is inevitable. In light of this, I want to take the opportunity to review our snow day protocols. The easiest of these is that if you do not hear from the school, then we are in session. We will only call when we are canceling school. This means that if we have canceled school for two days in a row, and we do not call third day, then we are in session. As a rule, the area superintendents work together to get our message out as soon as possible. We will try to hit the 6:00 p.m. news, the 10:00 p.m. news, and, if needed the 6:00 a.m. news. We try to make our decision the night before, if it is possible. Once the decision is made, Troy 30-C will call you, email you, tweet it (@troy30c), post it on our website, and call the local media outlets. In the end, we will always err on the side of student safety whether it be severe cold or unsafe travel. We are happy to serve you, and we will communicate our school closings effectively.

We have parent-teacher conferences on November 23 and 24. Please try to schedule a conference with your student's teacher. You are the third leg of the education triangle (student—teacher—parent), and we look forward to the opportunity to share the good news about your student's progress. The recording of progress has changed since we were all in school. As a K-4 parent, I encourage you to review the [Parent Guide to Standards Based Reporting](#), and for grades 5-8, the [report card explanations](#). The key to our assessment of student progress is understanding that the target is student demonstration of mastery independently and consistently. Our report card, then, is simply a report of your student's degree of independence and consistency in demonstrating mastery of a concept. Please come out to our conferences and find out what goal your student has set and what progress he or she is making toward that target.

The holiday season is soon to be upon us. We know that these days bring great joy, and sometimes, some stress for families. Please make us aware of any changes or concerns your student might be bringing to school so we can support you at home. I always look forward to the holiday season and wish for all of you a happy and peaceful Thanksgiving as a start to the season. As always, please feel free to contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions that you have about the education of your student.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Todd J. Koehl".

Dr. Todd J. Koehl, Superintendent

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# What to Expect at your Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conference?

Parent teacher conferences are a great opportunity for us to engage in a meaningful conversation with you about your child's progress up to this point in the school year. We will be able to provide insight about your child's performance in a structured learning environment.

At your conference, we will...

- Share your child's report card.
- Discuss your child's progress and share work samples that illustrate his/her progress.
- Provide you with multiple resources and suggestions in order to help make connections between school and home.
- Answer questions or address any concerns you may have.

Other things to keep in mind...

- We have your child's best interest in mind.
- Open and honest communication is key to your child's success.
- The conferences are 20 minute appointments. Please arrive on time to help us stay on schedule.

We look forward to taking the time to sit and talk to each and every one of you! See you at conferences!

The Kindergarten Teachers



# 1st Grade

## As a Parent...what do I do after conferences?

- Praise your child and highlight all the positive accomplishments achieved this trimester
- Go over the report card with your child and explain how to improve in a specific area
- Share what their teacher talked with you about with your child
- Set goals with your child with non-tangible awards
- Identify an action plan for an area of need
- Celebrate your child's individual achievements!

## As a student...what do I do after conferences?

- Talk to your parents about how you think your year is going so far
- Identify what you think your successes are and areas you think you need to improve
- Pick one thing you think you should work on for the next trimester
- Celebrate your successes!

**Way to go, 1st graders!**

Mr. Majack, Mrs. Miech, Mrs. Moorhouse, Ms. Panagiotaras, Ms. Sheehan

# News from Second Grade!

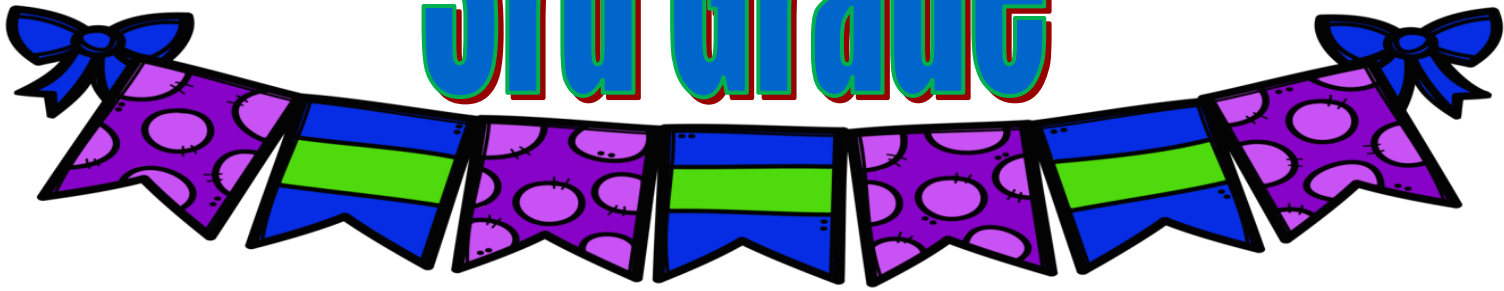
As we approach parent/teacher conferences, we would like to share some helpful tips to make our time together most meaningful.

- Please fill out parent survey and return it to your child's teacher by the teacher noted deadline.
- Please arrive to your conference on time to ensure we take advantage of the full 20 minutes.
- Conferences are a time for teachers and parents to work collaboratively to ensure the success of your child. We look forward to working with you to help your child have a successful school year.
- Always know we have your child's best interest at heart.

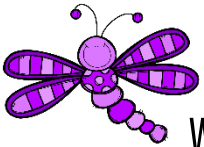
The Second Grade Team



# 3rd Grade



So far this school year, the third grade students have been learning skills and strategies to help them improve as readers and writers. Parent teacher conferences play an important role in your student's academic success and development. This conference is a great way to continue the home school connection. Please return the fall conference information form to your student's teacher. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please forward those to the teacher before the scheduled conference date.



With this, each conference will be productive and timely. Also, as the holidays are fast approaching, it is essential that your child continues to keep up with their nightly homework routines. This includes multiplication fact practice, independent reading time, and practicing technology skills on websites such as IXL, RAZ kids, and Typing Agent. Thank you for your continued support as we grow as learners.



The Third Grade Team



## Fourth Grade Update

We look forward to our upcoming scheduled conferences with you. This is a wonderful opportunity to touch base and collaborate with you for your child's academic progress. In order to take advantage of our twenty minutes together, please see the checklist below to ensure we make the most of our time. The twenty minutes goes very quickly! Thank you in advance for your preparation.

Mrs. Las   Mrs. Lara   Mrs. Petrovic   Ms. McGuire and Ms. Slovinski

### Checklist Preparation for Conferences

- Check your conference time and return the confirmation slip to your child's teacher. If you are unable to attend at the scheduled time, please contact the OFFICE to reschedule. It is imperative that each parent attend a conference for the educational well being of your child.
- Show up to the conference time five minutes early to avoid causing a delay in scheduled conference times
- Complete and return the Conference Questionnaire provided by your child's teacher. If you have any additional questions or concerns outside of the Conference Questionnaire, please list those questions on the back. This will allow your child's teacher time to prepare and thoughtfully answer your concerns.
- To honor and respect the time of those who are scheduled around you, please keep in mind that an additional conference time can be scheduled if more time is needed.
- Please understand that we have your student's best interest at heart! As a collaborative team, we are working to help your child reach their full potential



### **All About Progress!**

Can you believe we've finished our first trimester already? We're a little older, a little wiser, and a little more comfortable in class. So, what better time is there to talk about how far we've come?

Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up on Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24, and these conversations are very important for everyone involved. This is the time to focus on the STUDENT: successes, struggles, reflections of the past, and wishes for the future. So, here are some thoughts about conferences and student progress:

1. We will base our 20-minute conversation on what you and your child wrote down on your conference forms. Yours was the purple sheet sent home on November 10, and your child's was filled out in class on white paper.
2. I highly encourage bringing your child to the conference. They have filled out a reflection form too, and they should advocate for their education, just like you and me.
3. The conference should be about progress in school, not numbers on a report card. I will make report card information available (in paper and online) so you can read over it at home. I can meet with you about these specifics at another time, if you have any questions.
4. Please come at least 5 minutes early. I want to stay on schedule so every family gets their well-deserved 20 minutes with me.

I am very excited to have these conferences, and I hope you are too. I cannot wait to hear your thoughts about how ACE is going, and I cannot wait to tell you how much your child has grown in just a few months!

All the best,

~Mrs. Jenny Komosa



# TIPS Parent-Teacher Conferences [www.ColorinColorado.org](http://www.ColorinColorado.org)

It's hard to believe that it is already November! Parent Teacher Conferences are right around the corner, quickly followed by the holidays. Below you will find some basic information to make the most of your family's time with the classroom teacher and any specialists your child works with each day. If I can assist you please contact me at [aroderick@troy30c.org](mailto:aroderick@troy30c.org) or 815-577-7312, extension 1138, or leave a note on my webpage at <http://aroderick-ell.weebly.com/>

Arlene Roderick, ELL Specialist

## Things to Remember

If you are invited to a conference, it doesn't mean your child is in trouble! Teachers try to meet with all parents. You and the teacher both want the very best for your child. You can help your child by working together as a team.

### What will I learn?

You will learn more about your child's classes, and find out if your child is having any problems.

### What will we talk about?

Your child's teacher will probably talk about your child's grades, classwork, homework, and behavior.

**What will the teacher ask me?** Teachers like to learn about students from their parents. No one knows your child better than you do.

### Before the conference

- Ask your child if there is anything that he wants you to talk about with his teacher.
- Tell your child that you and the teacher are meeting to help her.
- Prepare a list of questions such as:
  1. What are my child's strongest and weakest subjects?
  2. Does my child hand homework in on time?
  3. Does my child participate in class?
  4. Does my child seem happy at school?
  5. What can I do at home to help?



Celebrate  
your child's  
accomplishments!!

### During the conference

- Be on time (or early) for the meeting.
- End the meeting on time. Other parents will probably have a conference after you.
- Relax and be yourself.
- Stay calm during the conference.
- Ask the most important questions first.
  - If your child receives special services such as English classes, ask about your child's progress in those classes.
  - Ask for explanations of anything you don't understand.
- Ask your child's teacher for ways that you can help your child at home.
- Thank the teacher.



### After the conference

- Talk about the conference with your child.
- Talk about the positive points, and be direct about problems.
- Tell your child about any plans you and the teacher created.
- Keep in touch with the teacher throughout the school year.



Clases de inglés para adultos  
English Classes for Adults

Próximamente

El programa de ELL del Distrito Troy en colaboración con colegio de Joliet Junior College **ofrecerá clases de inglés como segundo idioma para los adultos** de la comunidad. Las clases comenzarán en enero de 2016 y serán los martes y jueves de 6:00 pm a 8:30 pm en la Escuela de Troy Shorewood. Cada sesión del programa se ejecutará por 15 semanas. Habrá cuidado de niños, así como todos los materiales necesarios!

Si usted o alguien más está interesado en tomar **esta clase GRATIS** por favor de contactar a la especialista de ELL, Arlene Roderick, por correo electrónico [aroderick@troy30c.org](mailto:aroderick@troy30c.org) o al 815-577-7312, extensión 1138

The Troy ELL program, in partnership with Joliet Junior College, will be offering **English as a second language classes for ADULTS** in the community. Classes will begin in JANUARY 2016 and will be on TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at the Troy Shorewood Elementary School. Each session of the program will run for 15 weeks. Childcare will be provided, as well as all needed materials!

If you or someone you know is interested in taking this **FREE class**, please contact Arlene Roderick at [aroderick@troy30c.org](mailto:aroderick@troy30c.org) or at 815-577-7312, extension 1138.

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Please return this slip to Arlene Roderick at Troy Shorewood Elementary School.

Por favor devuelva esta hoja a Arlene Roderick en la escuela Troy Shorewood.

[aroderick@troy30c.org](mailto:aroderick@troy30c.org) 815-577-7312, extension 1138

We are interested in signing up for the English as a second language classes beginning in January 2016.

Estamos interesados en inscribirnos en la clase de Ingles a partir de enero 2016.

Please contact me/us at:

Por favor llame a:

\_\_\_\_\_ Name/Nombre

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Teléfono

\_\_\_\_\_ Email/Correo electrónico

\_\_\_\_\_ Home Language/Lenguaje de casa

## “Student Ambassadors”



**“Student Ambassadors”** is a new club for fourth grade students only and is being sponsored by Carrie Ienco, School Social Worker, and Mrs. Komosa, ACE Teacher. Each student is nominated for this privilege because they exhibit role model behavior in a variety of areas. Student Ambassadors will have special responsibilities, participate in school-wide projects, community projects, and be a part of a collaborative effort to enhance our student life at Shorewood Elementary. Students will also have the opportunity to bring their ideas to the table for how they would like to enhance our school or community. This is definitely a special role that many students will work toward and look forward to achieving in their final year at Shorewood Elementary School.

## After School Enrichment Programs

Our **Young Rembrandts** after school program has been a big success for the past few years. This year, we’ve added two new after school enrichment options. Students just completed the first session of **Chess Scholars** and **Let’s Build It!** Our parent feedback has been very positive and we’re excited to offer these engaging, creative, and intellectually stimulating after school programs. Please watch for additional information about upcoming sessions of these programs to begin in January.



Please send your child/children dressed appropriately for the upcoming cooler weather. Coats, hats and mittens will be needed for outdoor recess.

If your child is sick with a fever, diarrhea, vomiting and/or excessive coughing, please keep him/her home from school. Children must be fever free and diarrhea/vomiting free for 24 hrs before returning to school. After 3 days of absence, a doctor's note will be needed to return to school.

Please continue to submit dental exam forms. Kindergarten and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students need an updated dental form on record by May 15, 2016.

On Wednesday January, 13<sup>th</sup> The Will County Mobile Dental Unit will be at Troy Shorewood offering free dental exams and dental cleanings to our students. If you are interested, please contact me at the school so that you can complete the appropriate paperwork.

Thank You,  
Mrs. Perinar

## “Spooktacular” Literacy Night

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed our “Spooktacular” Literacy Night. It was a “BOO”tiful success! Our literacy committee, lead by Mrs Beitler, designed many creative activities to engage the whole family. Students enjoyed reading by flashlight, taking selfies at the photo stations, mystery box writing and browsing the book fair in the library. It was great to see so many parents and children together, enjoying everything that books have to offer. There were some amazing costumes as well! Once again, thanks for coming out and showing your support for reading both at home, and at school.



## Veterans Day Assembly

Happy Veterans day to all those in our Shorewood community who have served in the United States Armed Forces. We thank you for your service! It is our pleasure every year to honor you with our school wide Veterans Day assembly. This year, more than 50 veterans and their guests listened to our students sing patriotic songs and recite poetry. It is such an amazing opportunity for our students to learn about our country and honor the people who have served in the Armed Forces. Thank you for coming and participating in this great event!

# ART HAPPENINGS

This past month, in Art students learned about different Hispanic cultures in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The students worked very hard to create wonderful mask from different cultures.

Fourth grade students created Mexican Luchador Wrestling Masks. The students identified a cause that they were passionate about. They then created a three dimensional paper mache mask and decorated to represent a cause that they were passionate about in their community. Students choose such causes as: fight for freedom, fight to end cancer, prevent bullying, and much more.

In third grade students made masks for Carnival. In Puerto Rico, Vejigante masks are made to represent the devil. In Columbia masks are very ornate and beautiful. Students selected a style and designed their own three dimensional paper mache mask.



To prepare for the Veterans Day Assembly, second grade students created paper dolls of themselves that represented G.I. Joe's. Students created one Military outfit and one everyday outfit. Students drew a background to which they attached their paper doll and clothing.

First grade students made masks on milk jugs that symbolize sugar skulls for Dia De Los Muertos or Day of the Dead. Students painted their mask to represent a person or pet who they had loved and lost.

The Kindergarten classes created masks and serapes for Danza De Los Viejitos or Dance of the Old People. Kindergarten students drew the mask by identifying lines and shapes within the face.

On the Serape students experimented with printmaking processes to create lines.

In November, the artists at Troy Shorewood are looking forward to painting abstract art and self portraits.