



Bolivar Road School "The Address for Success"

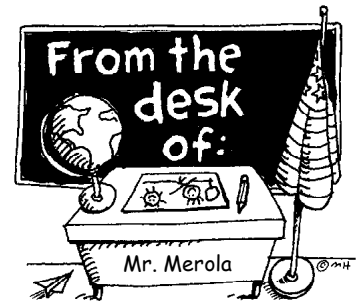
March 2010

From the Principal's Desk...

Good attendance is essential for a child's successful experience and academic performance in school. Here are a few ways you can help with attendance issues:

- **Arrival:** Students can arrive between 8:20-8:45 a.m. **Please do not drop off your child before 8:20 a.m.** Students begin their academic tasks at 8:45 a.m.
- **Tardiness:** The start of each day is a time for organization. It is, therefore, very important that students arrive at school on time. Frequent tardiness (after 8:50 a.m.) interferes with learning and sends students the message that promptness is not important.
- **Absences:** Please remember to call the school in the morning if your child is absent from school. It is important, for the safety of the students, to know where all of our children are. Remember, too, that if you would like homework assignments, books, etc. to be sent home to a sick child, it is necessary to request this as early in the day as possible to allow teachers time to collect the needed materials.
- **Excuses:** While calls about absences are essential, a written excuse is still required when your child returns to school. The excuse should consist simply of the absence date, student's name, reason for the absence, and your signature.
- **Educational Trips:** If your child will be absent for what could be considered an educational trip (visits considered to have educational value), please ask for an educational trip form from the office. If a completed form is submitted to school, your child would not be considered absent on those days but will **not** be eligible for perfect attendance.

Your support of all these attendance areas sends a strong message to your child about the value of learning and time management. With your help, we will continue to provide the best education possible for your child.



Building Planning Team News

Before-and-After School Activities offered this semester include 3rd Grade Spring Craft Club, 3rd Grade Winter Craft Club, 4th & 5th Grade Clay Club, 4th & 5th Grade Jazz/Hip Hop Dance Club, 4th & 5th Grade Project C.A.R.E. Club, Bolivar's Nature Walk Club, Dancebox Club, Kickball Club, Math Jeopardy Club, Math Olympiads, Mother's Day Craft-N-Card Club, Scrabble Club, Spanish Club, Tae Kwon Do Club, and Talent Showcase Club. The Building Planning Team wishes to thank Missy Biviano, Kara Brooker, Mary Lou Champlin, Sheila Davidson, Denise Devine, Ron Drake, Cheri Giancola, Mike Lynch, Robin Parente, Jeanne Pizzuto-Sauve', Laurie and Jim Randall, Nancy Starke, Nicolette Sterling, Shannon Taylor, Katie Weiss, Michelle Wilson, and Mary Wolf for volunteering to share their talents with Bolivar students for the winter/spring semester.

Special Area Class Visitations!

March and April are times to visit special area classes. In order to flexibly meet the needs of your schedules and our class schedules, we invite parents to come and visit any of your child's music, instrumental, vocal, physical education, library, and art classes during the month of March and first part of April. The following weeks have been designated for these visits:

March 8-12	Library
March 15-19	Physical Education
March 22-26	Music (vocal/instrumental)
March 29-April 1	Art

To sign up to visit your child's special area class(es), you will need to contact our school at 687-2880 **before** your visit to make an appointment so that teachers will know to expect you. You will need to have your visit registered no later than 8:30 a.m. on the day of your visit. As your visit will be during a regular class, please be sure to arrive before class starts and plan on staying throughout the class. Also, since instruction will be taking place, **please do not bring any young children during the visit.**

When you arrive for your visit, you will need to sign in at the office and get a name tag. We look forward to having you participate in your child's educational experience.

Student Council Update...

We would like to introduce the second session of our Bolivar Student Council. They are **Katelyn Bloss, Jonah Capella, Clayton Chandler, McKenzie Clark, Anna Geiler, Devin Hodges, Katy Myka, Megan Pierce, Ryan Pitt, Morgan Shoemaker, Mya Streiff, and Tommy Valentine.**

This group has some exciting events planned with the guidance of Mrs. Davis.

Grade Level News

3rd Grade:

Throughout the month of March, students will be very busy. They will be reading various books in guided reading groups as well as in whole group situations. The students will be learning skills and strategies to help prepare them for the New York State English Language Arts Test. Please encourage your child to read at home each night.

Students will be working on creative writing pieces during writing time. The focus will be on word choice and voice in their writing pieces. We are also working on organization.

In math class, students will be learning all about fractions during the unit Fair Shares. They will also be learning more about measurement. Please review addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts with your child at home.

During science class, students will be learning about the water cycle through various hands on activities. In social studies, students will be learning explorers and the history of the United States. Also, they continue to study map skills.

We appreciate all your support at home.

4th Grade:

We'd like to welcome in the month of March by first thanking parents for their wonderful support during last month's Science Fair activities. The students explored some great projects and certainly learned a lot about the Scientific Method. As always, we applaud your hard work, effort, and continuous assistance! We are also so very proud of our hardworking students who gave it their all! Bravo!

In math, we are completing our unit on measurement. We are working very hard to prepare for the NYS Math assessment and welcome your continued support at home. Reviewing math facts, checking homework, and praising your child's good effort are some ways you can help. In science, we have finished our unit on "Density" and are beginning our fascinating study of "Rocks and Minerals." In social studies, we are busily recreating the feel and flavor of the Colonial and Revolutionary Periods through a variety of activities. ELA continues to challenge us as we explore historical fiction and works in other genres.

5th Grade:

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Science Fair on February 11. We are very proud of all the fifth graders for their hard work and effort that was put into their projects. The judges were very impressed with their expertise and the way they presented themselves. Special congratulations to the students who received special awards the night of the Science Fair!

Students have begun the study of fractions in the "Name That Portion" investigation in math. They have also been learning about place value. Their continued practice at home on their multiplication facts will help them to be successful in this unit.

This is an exciting time of the year in science. The crayfish are coming soon! Students will begin the study of crayfish and animal responses later this month. In social

Grade Level News (continued)

5th Grade (continued):

studies, the classes are exploring the geography, history, economics, and culture of the regions in both the United States and Canada.

In reading class, we are working on building reading success through the teaching of many different strategies. Students are also reading bibliographies and learning about poetry through reading. Poetry is also an area of focus during our writing class as well as working on creative writing pieces. Please continue to have your child read for 20 minutes each night. They should be well on their way to finishing their goal of twenty five books read for the year!

Keep up the great work fifth graders!!!

Special Area Classes:

In late February, our Olympians practiced various events from speed skating to luge and ski jumping to bobsledding. The gym was transformed into the site of the Winter Games 2010, and in the end a circuit was designed to incorporate several events.

March Madness lies ahead where our students will compete in group basketball challenges to test their skills. Bolivar students continue to work towards improving their fitness, and it is so important to extend this focus outside of PE classes. Feel free to ask your child, "What did you do in PE today?"

Remedial/Resource Classes:

Mathematics

One of the most important ways parents can help their children with math is to help them memorize their facts! Students in third grade need to know their addition and subtraction facts. Once they know these, they can begin to memorize their multiplication facts. Fourth and fifth grade students must know their multiplication facts to remain successful in math. These facts are not only used with multiplication, but also division, fractions, percents, and so on. There are a number of neat websites children can go to for practice with their facts. Check out the links on Mrs. Starke's webpage found at:

- * www.chittenangoschools.org
- * Bolivar Road Elementary School
- * Bolivar Teacher Pages
- * Mrs. Starke

If you have younger children at home, try the PBS website for games and ideas for infants through children in second grade at www.pbs.org/parents/earlymath/.

School Physicals

The State Education Law requires that all fourth grade students and all students new to our district have a physical. Physicals will be done on March 10 by our school doctor. If your child has had a physical or will have one performed by April 1, please call me at 687-2886. Otherwise, he/she will have a physical performed at school. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Ms. Cheri Giancola, School Nurse

Bolivar PTA Corner...

Family Involvement continues at Bolivar School! Help your child see that you are interested in their school—be sure to check out our upcoming activities:

- You can still pre-order your **Bolivar Memory Yearbook** Grades 3-5! Please pre-order by March 12. Delivery will be at the end of June. Cost of the yearbook is \$11; please make check payable to Bolivar PTA. Any questions, contact Connie Tessier at 687-6142.

- **Monday, March 8, PTA meeting** from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Bolivar library. All parents of 3rd & 4th graders are asked to attend as we begin to plan for next year! **Anyone who attends the March PTA meeting will have a chance to win a \$20 Book Fair gift certificate!** Also, all current committee chairs are asked to attend. Please call Sonja at 510-6502 if you cannot attend.

- **March 22-25, Bolivar Scholastic Book Fair** during school and open during Family Fun Night—books will be available for students to purchase. Can you help? If so, contact Cheryl Seale at 687-5639.

- **Tuesday, March 23** from 5:45-8 pm, **Bolivar Family Book Fair Night**. Your family can visit the Book Fair then enjoy a cookie and get information on our PTA Cookie Dough Spring Fundraiser. A special event has been added to celebrate Bolivar Reading Challenge success! Bring your family for a visit from guest author James Bruchac! More information will be sent home later in March. *Free Admission thanks to support from your Bolivar PTA!

- At the end of March, help us continue to offer great programs to all Bolivar students by participating in our spring fundraiser. We have once again selected "**Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough**." **This was a sweet success last year!** Delivery will be before Mother's Day! Fundraiser information will be sent home in late March.

Bolivar PTA is proud to sponsor Bolivar Road's own **Parents as Math Partners (PAMP)** program. Together students and parents worked on fun math skill activities that will help support them for their upcoming NYS Math Exams. Thank you to Bolivar PTA member and 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Biviano, for putting together the student packets for all Bolivar students!

☑ Check your student's backpacks in March for the following: PTA volunteering letter, Bolivar Memory Yearbook pre-order information, Silent Fundraisers: Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education reminder letter, school Book Fair flier and Family Fun Night information, and Cookie Dough Fundraiser information in late March.

» Bolivar PTA nominations committee is recruiting officers and committee chairs for next school year - contact Mandy Blaszkow for information at 687-6377

*On behalf of Bolivar PTA, Sheila Pitt, President, 510-6622,
BolivarPTA@gmail.com*

Project C.A.R.E.

The character trait for
March and April is:

RESPONSIBILITY

The character trait
for all year is:

CITIZENSHIP

(Please go to the Bolivar Webpage
to find out more information.)

On March 12, there will be a Project C.A.R.E. assembly at 9 am. At the assembly, awards will be given out for Perseverance, and Responsibility will be introduced.

"2010: A Science Odyssey"

On February 11, 106 fifth grade science projects were displayed throughout the gymnasium for judges to view and critique. The topics were interesting and the displays continue to improve each year. Thank you to all teachers and parents who helped students design and construct these creative projects. A special thanks to Jed Cestaro who organized this successful event.

Congratulations to the following fifth grade students who received special recognition for their projects.

Phil Abell	Katy Myka
Logan Boyd	Megan Pierce
Brennan Buyea	Ryan Pitt
Jonah Capella	MacKenna Raymond
Julie Carosella	Jonathan Reale
Clayton Chandler	Tommy Rooney
Rachel Cleary	Morgan Shoemaker
Matthew Collado	Tommy Valentine
Emma Colligan	Johanna Vaught
Mikey Culkin	Kirsten Warner
Caylah Lanning	Zachary Wilsey
Katherine McReynolds	Cooper Young
Noelle Miller	