



# The Roadrunner Reader

Russell Elementary School/Title I/December 2011/Volume 1, Issue 4

## Notes from Dr. D!

Dear Parents,

We have come to a very busy time of the year! The days are filled with events and shopping. In all this rush, it is easy to forget about time with our children.

This Holiday season, give yourselves and your children the gift of time. Take the time to read with your children. Watch that TV show together. Carefully censor what your child is doing on the computer. Take the time – it is the best gift you could possibly give your children. Everyone have a wonderful holiday season!

See you December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 for Russell's holiday performance!

Your Principal,

Dr. DiPetrillo

## Buy a Brick, Help Celebrate 50 Years!

Russell Elementary is launching a "Buy a Brick Program". A personalized, engraved brick is a great way to commemorate your years at Russell Elementary, honor a child, recognize your family, show your support of a teacher, advertise your business, honor a student's graduation to middle school, or remember a loved one. The funds raised will go toward Russell Elementary outdoor beautification projects. The engraved bricks will become a focal point in our butterfly garden.

This is an opportunity for you, family members, friends, neighbors, and area businesses to support our school and its **50 years** of educational excellence. The "Buy a Brick Program" is an excellent way to ensure a permanent memory for years to come.

If you are interested in purchasing a brick, please complete the attached order form and include a check made out to Russell PTA. You may also purchase a brick by using a credit card at [www.bricksrus.com/order/russell](http://www.bricksrus.com/order/russell).

### Counselor's Corner:

Thank you for participating in the Thanksgiving food drive. We collected around 275 items to feed families in our area!

# THANK YOU!

Thank you all for your participation in the Joe Corbi fundraiser. With all of your efforts we exceeded our goal!

**Mrs. Sprague's 3rd grade** was the top selling class and the following students were the top five sales people: **Alexander Brown, Helena Chea, Trenity Acey, Kyle Keegan, Camren Gonzales** Way to go!!

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News:

Join the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee for Movie Night on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Cafeteria. We will be showing Cars 2. There will be popcorn! Bring the whole family out for a fun night at school. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is also hosting a Valentines dance Feb 10 2012. More info to come!

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade PARENTS:** It's time to get involved! As you begin to wind down your last year at Russell, there will be plenty of ways to get involved with the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee and all of the preparations for the end of the year. Contact Karen Andrew-Dyett at [Andrewdyett@yahoo.com](mailto:Andrewdyett@yahoo.com) to get involved or with any questions.

Yearbook ads for 5<sup>th</sup> grade are now available. This is a great way to honor your child's time at Russell with a full, half, or quarter page ad in Russell's fabulous yearbook. Full page ads are \$100, half page \$50 and quarter page \$25. Contact Karen Andrew-Dyett or Sarah Canup ([sarahcanup@gmail.com](mailto:sarahcanup@gmail.com)) for more info!

## Academic Coach:

Congratulations to all of our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Honor Roll students for the 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks! Students and parents, over the Winter break, why not use Study Island ([www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com)) together? This is a great resource for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students. It is an excellent way to reinforce skills learned in the classroom. During the break, also continue to study your basic math facts and to read each day. The more you read, the more you learn! There are many great math websites on the Russell webpage to use at home when studying your math facts. A great one to use is [http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/math2004/math2004\\_menu\\_ga.html](http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/math2004/math2004_menu_ga.html). Once you are on the website, go to *That's A Fact*. You can practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division facts.

## What's Happening?

### Butter Braid Sale

11/30 – 12/12

**Delivery on DECEMBER 21 ONLY!**

### Holiday Performance & PTA Meeting

**Thurs. 12/1 6:30 PM**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and Chorus perform following the PTA meeting. K-Kids Penguin Shop in Media Center from 5:30 – 6:30.

**ALL SPIRIT WEAR ON SALE THIS THURSDAY NIGHT DURING THE PTA MEETING.**

**ALL ITEMS THAT ARE IN STOCK ARE ON SALE. NO ORDERS.**

### K-Kids Meeting

**Fri. 12/2 3:00 – 4:00**

### Family Movie Night

**Fri. 12/9, 6:30 PM**

Cars 2 – in the Cafeteria

### Checkpoint Testing

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

12/12 – 12/16

### Class Holiday Parties – 12/22

### Winter Holidays

FRIDAY 12/ 23 – MONDAY 1/9

**No school FRIDAY 12/23 or**

**Monday 1/9/12**

## Music Notes:

Thanks for collecting Box Tops for Education. I submitted over 6,000 Box Tops on November 1<sup>st</sup>. AWESOME! Let's try to reach our goal of 15,000 this year. We can do it!

Third Graders did an outstanding job performing for the Cobb Marietta Retired Educators at the Freeman Poole Senior Center on November 10<sup>th</sup>. They represented Russell well!

*Upcoming Performances:*

**Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and Chorus perform at the Holiday PTA meeting **Meet in the gym at 6:10** Performance starts after the PTA meeting

## Science News:

**Kindergarten** has just finished a lengthy unit on day and night. They will be studying gravity and motion when we get back from Thanksgiving break.

**First Grade** will continue their unit on magnets and then begin a unit on sound.

**Second Grade** will finish a unit on light and heat energy then they will begin a unit on force and motion. They will be measuring the distance their cars go on ramps.

Members of the Russell Space Team have been doing an excellent job on learning their acronyms and sequence of a launch. Our next order of business will be learning the sequence of deorbit, reentry, and landing. In December they will begin learning about the jobs in Mission Control and the astronaut job.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science News:

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Soil Layers

Students grab a shovel and dig a hole with your whole family. See if you can teach them about the 3 layers of soil. Show them about the different colors to the layers and try to find any many organisms and organic matter as possible.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Light

Students look around your house for objects that are transparent, translucent and opaque. Try the activity "Can You See Me" while exploring how light travels.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Physical -vs- Change

Students see if your parents can cut an index card so that you could walk through it or try to make rock candy. Have fun experimenting how the world changes around you.

Thank you **Rosa Cruz, Janine Cuevas-Abarca, Arianna Hutton, Dayana Sandoval, Jorid Fernandez, Benjamin Antonio, Chaya Chitolie, Zayguan Graham, and Madelyn Ortiz** for sharing your science knowledge with me. I love the treasures you have been finding and the connections you are making with science and the real world. **Keep up the good work!**

## Media Center News:

### THANK YOU!

We are grateful for the support received for the recent Book Fair. Special thanks go to all our volunteers including **Mrs. Thomason, Mr. Canup, Mrs. Luft, Mrs. Dyett, Mrs. Griffith, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Wilkerson, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Antepara, Ms. Gatdula, and Mrs. Ongtingco.**

### HELPING YOUR CHILD BECOME A GREAT READER

If you have a child who is a struggling reader, or you are looking for ways to help your child become a great reader, a CD produced by Russell teachers was distributed at the last Learning Night. A limited number of copies are still available. If you are interested, please request one by sending an e-mail to Mrs. Arrington. Be sure to include your child's name and homeroom teacher. Only one per family, please.

**PARENTS MAY CHECK OUT BOOKS** for their Russell students in the Media Center. Just come by and set up an account with Mrs. Kiger. Books are due on the same schedule as student checkouts.

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY PROGRAM:

We will begin our annual holiday program in the Media Center on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers to bake star-shaped sugar cookies and help set up for this much-anticipated annual event. We have a very special story planned for this year and Mr. Swift is already at work on designing a wonderful setting for the program. Please contact Mrs. Thomason or Mrs. Arrington to help. Thank You!

### RIDDLES:

1. What do snowmen eat for breakfast? 1. Frosted Flakes
2. Can you spell hard water with only three letters? 2. I-C-E!



Parents, visit [www.daves-snowflakes.com](http://www.daves-snowflakes.com) for really cool, easy to cut paper snowflakes!

11/28/2011 10:01:00 AM