



# Dr. N.E. Roberts News



## from Mrs. Howe and Mrs. Noble

Hello and welcome to our school and another great year. We are off to a great start and students are excited about the upcoming year. Please remember, in order to have the most impact on learning, students need to be here every day. Absences and tardies DO affect learning. Mrs. Howe and I want to remind you that we are here for your children and should you need any assistance in any matter feel free to contact us.

## Library News

The library media center welcomes parents between 8:00 and 2:30 everyday to come and check out books.

All that is necessary is to sign a check out contract and you will be able to check out up to five books at a time for a period of two weeks. Please check in at the office before coming. We look forward to seeing you!

Our library catalog is available for searching anytime online. Go to <http://destiny.polk-fl.net> and choose Dr. N.E. Roberts Elementary. Our home page has a link to search for AR quizzes as well as different reference sources such as online encyclopedias and atlases. Our username is "reading" and the password is "rocks". Please contact Mrs. Cronin, the library media specialist, if you have any questions.

Volume 1, Issue 1

September/ October 2009

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## Good News

Dr. N. E. Roberts has won the National Energy Award. This means that we were among the select few schools

in the nation to receive this prestigious award for saving energy but also saving the district lots of money. So, when you enter our school, please look for the plaque attached to the front of the Administration Building recognizing our unified efforts to save energy in this tough economic time.

## Mrs. Benningfield October Key to Character: Self-Control

Once children reach elementary school, tantrums should be few and far between, but some kids (and even adults) still need to work on self-control. No one in the family should "lose it" regularly. Here are some ways you can help at each age:

- **Six- to nine-year-olds** understand that behavior is a choice. They also know that behavior has consequences. If your child is worried that he'll have an outburst, suggest that he imagine a stop sign, or simply walk away and relax.
- **Ten- to twelve-year-olds** realize that feelings have causes. It can help if your child stops to consider, "Why am I so upset? Is this situation as bad as it seems?" Explain that, often, the answer is no. Advise your child to think before acting.

## Kindergarten

Kindergarten is already off to a busy start! Currently, we are working on printing our names in the lines and following classroom rules. In Reading we are busy learning all of the letter names and the sounds they make along with how to properly hold and take care of books. In Math we are focusing on recognizing different shapes and how to sort them. Please remember that homework is a critical part of Kindergarten and to read each night with your child and put their book titles on the reading log. We all look forward to a great year of learning and growth!



## First Grade

Welcome to a new school year! This month, our first graders will be learning how to use sounds to identify and recognize words as well as keeping up with sight words. They will be learning vocabulary words such as characters, setting, genre, sequencing, and beginning, middle and end. In math, they are learning different ways to count, compare, and order numbers 0-100. In Science we are working on Inquiry skills. Parents, October 22<sup>nd</sup> is our Family Building Better Readers night. Please put that on your calendar and we hope to see you there. Please don't forget to practice fluency with your child every night, and please make sure your child reads every night. Practice is very important for your child to be successful. We are working towards a great year!!!

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## Second Grade

So far we are off to a great start to our school year. Thanks to all of you who participated in our first fundraiser and also attended our Open House. Without you we could not be successful. Our boys and girls have been working extremely hard in each of their subject areas. In reading we have been learning about story elements such as characters, setting, plot, and solution. In math we have been skip-counting and using repeated addition. We will be starting place value soon. In science we have been learning about the sun and how it affects our weather, the water cycle and wind. In social studies we have been learning about what it takes to be a good citizen. In writing, we are just beginning to learn the elements of fiction. Your children will soon be able to retell a story using a story mountain and then we will be moving into having them write their own story.

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## Third Grade

In Mathematics we will be starting our unit on multiplication where the students will memorize their times tables and build "Banana Split Sundaes". With each level they achieve they add one more yummy item to their split. In Writing we are starting on our unit for narrative writing. For science we will be moving into energy and heat. As always, though our focus is on reading and remind parents and caregivers to be sure their student is reading every day.

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## Fourth Grade

Fourth grade has started the year off right!! We have been studying main idea in reading and learning all we can about place value in math. In the next few weeks we will be focusing on literary elements in reading which includes plot, setting, and characters. In math we are moving into number operations including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Please practice those multiplication tables every night as part of your homework routine. Make sure you are checking and signing those agendas every day to look for notes and homework assignments. We appreciate all you do at home to help your child excel at school; together we will reach our goals!

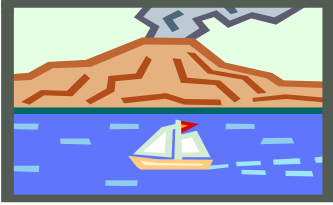
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## Fifth Grade

We are working hard and ready to conquer this year and its many challenges. In Reading, we are constantly reviewing test taking skills and looking at FCAT tested skills. You can help your child succeed in reading by encouraging reading at home. You can check on their comprehension by asking questions about characters, plot, main idea and details. Each class has a scheduled day in the rotation that they are taken to the media center and are being given the opportunity to read. We also ask the children to read about 30 minutes nightly in order to boost vocabulary skills. In Math we are working with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Please study those multiplication facts with your child nightly using home-made flashcards. There is a multiplication table in the back of the agenda to help create those flashcards, or they could be purchased very cheaply at discount stores. In Science, we have just completed looking at the tools we use in science and the scientific process. You can help your child through the scientific process by using daily activities to go through the process. For example; asking your child how much milk or water they drink on a daily basis and how it would affect their thirst if they drank less? The answer to this question would be considered a hypothesis. Actually drinking more or less water would be the experiment. Writing down how they feel or how often they are thirsty would be considered gathering data. Taking all of the information, reviewing and making a statement of what happened would be a conclusion statement. This same process can be done with any other daily chore, especially cooking. In Social Studies we just completed learning and practicing finding locations on a map using longitude and latitude. We're going to have a great time in Social Studies/Writing this year learning about our United States history and fine tuning our writing skills.

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## Mr. Reinhardt ASD 2-5



Mr. Reinhardt's class has been studying volcanoes and even erupted our models made of clay. This month they are studying hurricanes and tornadoes and how to keep safe in and out of school if such an event were to arise.



### Reading from Mrs. Weber

Here are some tips to motivate your child in reading.

- **Create a print rich home environment** - Include both books and writing materials. Newspapers, child-oriented versions of popular magazines (e.g. Time for Kids, National Geographic for Kids, Highlights)
  - **Cook with your child to develop literacy** - Read recipes together, read the labels on ingredients together, and make a family cookbook of favorite recipes.
  - **Tell stories together** - Talk together about you family history, do a family tree. Look at old vacation photos and discuss your memories of the trip.
  - **Read aloud with and to your child every day** - Experts recommend 30 minutes a day. Pick books that are too long or difficult for your child to read on his/her own.
- Visit the library often** - Encourage your child to get her own library card.



### Bully Prevention

Bullying is a problem that occurs in schools and that we take very seriously here at Dr. N.E. Roberts. Students who are targets of bullies report being unhappy, often get lower grades, and occasionally retaliate. On the other hand, bullies may be reasonably successful in school but frequently do not function well as adults. In one study, 60% of boys who were middle school bullies had at least one criminal conviction by age 24. Overall, everyone is affected by a classroom climate that allows bullying because such a climate is not conducive to learning.

Children learn best when they feel safe and respected. Everyone talks about bullying, but when asked, few can give a consistent, clear cut definition of the term. In Polk County schools, student behavior is defined as bullying if it meets three criteria:

A behavior must be unwanted, offensive, threatening, insulting, humiliating, or interferes with the individual's school performance which results in the victim feeling stressed, injured, or threatened.

There must be an imbalance of power between the victim and the aggressor and the behavior must be repeated.

Bullying is not limited to taking someone's lunch money or pushing someone down on the playground. Verbal aggression such as name calling, teasing, threatening, or disrespecting is also a form of bullying. Emotional Aggression such as spreading rumors and isolating a person from a peer group through hurtful gossip is another form of bullying. Cyber bullying occurs when the aggressor uses his/her internet or cell phone to communicate harmful words, images, or language.

At Dr. N.E. Roberts, teachers have been given "**bully box forms.**" Student victims and/or bystanders can complete these forms and put them in the "**bully box**" in the library to report incidences of bullying behaviors. Mrs. Benningfield, our school guidance counselor, will then contact the victim and interview him/her. If the behavior matches the three criteria described above, the problem will be reported to Mrs. Noble, our Assistant Principal who is in charge of discipline. Mrs. Noble will conduct an investigation into the problem and determine appropriate disciplinary action. The **Harassment or Bullying Reporting Form** is attached to this newsletter if you would like to report a problem.

# The Red Ribbon Run is October 31, 2009!

The Red Ribbon symbolizes a commitment to a healthy drug-free lifestyle.

## Title One

Welcome back to a new year! We are off to a busy start with many exciting plans for families.

First, check out our Family Involvement Plan, a Title One document that details many opportunities for our parents to become involved this year. It is filled with information specific to Dr. Roberts. Look for it to be sent home later this month. With its bright orange front page, you can't miss it!

Also, workshops for parents are new this year. Called "Parent Academies," Title One is presenting monthly trainings on a variety of topics. Sessions will be held in the evenings with a repeat session held the following morning for those who would rather attend during the school day. More detailed information will be sent home with the students, but for now the scheduled list for the first semester is as follows;

- Sept 24/25 - Sight Words Strategies (K - 2)
- Oct. 15/16 - Multiplication Times Tables - Tricks of the Trade (3 - 5)
- Nov. 12/13 - Homework 101 (K - 5)
- Dec. 10/11 - Write through the Year (K - 5)

Last but not least, thank you for being involved in your child's education. Parents are vitally important to *our* success with each student. We can't do it without you!

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### Title One Newsletter Survey

We value your feedback. Please let us know what we can do to improve.

What type of parent workshop would be most beneficial to your family? (reading, math, homework help, testing information, etc.)

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What would make a parent workshop more convenient for you to attend? (time of day, arrangements for small children, translator, etc.)

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(Teachers: Return completed surveys to Title One/Mrs. Champion)

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[schools.polk-fl.net/DrNERobertsEI](http://schools.polk-fl.net/DrNERobertsEI)