

ROPER ROCKETS

AUGUST 2009

Dear Parents,

The 2009-10 school year has started extremely well. We have another record breaking attendance, close to 900 students are attending Roper.

The traffic in the morning and evening is heavy but parents seem to cooperate and everyone is moving in and out quickly. As we continue to plan for a variety of activities, we hope that you as parents can participate. The fundraiser is in full swing and if it is feasible for you we hope you can take part.

Thank you for a good beginning.

Sincerely,
Dan Navratil, Principal

EXCITE! News

The Excite classrooms are very excited about being at school. They are learning the routine and making new friends.

We welcome Stephanie Deeds to Roper this year she is our new speech pathologist.

Parents please remember there is no Excite on the PLC days.

SALE Roper T-Shirts & Sweatshirts!

Get Your Roper Rockets T-Shirts or Sweatshirts Now!

The PTO is selling t-shirts and sweatshirts. You can purchase gray or red shirts / sweatshirts with the color logo shown here.

T-shirts: Short Sleeve are \$8.00 and Long Sleeve are \$10.00.



Sweatshirts: \$15.00 also red or gray.

Please get your order with payment in now!

Look for the form in your child's Thursday Folder. Please fill out the form and give it to the office by September 11th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me czimmer@neb.rr.com or call 435-6628.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

We are off to a great start in Kindergarten!

Your child is learning to be safe, respectful, and responsible here at school in our classroom communities. We have spent lots of time getting to know each other and learning all of our friends' names. We are also learning to identify and write letters of the alphabet using the correct strokes.

When helping your child at home, please make sure they start each letter at the top and soon we will be learning to write our names the "school way" with a capital letter at the beginning and the rest lower case. In addition to our alphabet work, we have been learning lots of nursery rhymes and songs.

In math we have been talking about the calendar, days of the week, counting the

days we have been in school and sorting things in our math tubs by shape and color.

Every day we start our day with the pledge of allegiance. We have been learning to say the words and try to understand what they mean.

Finally, we have been having fun playing outside and eating with our friends in the lunch room. And don't forget to ask your child what they have been doing in art, music, computer, P.E. and library. For many children, specials is their favorite part of the day! We will continue to keep you informed of what we are learning this year.

Thank you for sharing your children with us and thanks for your continued support.

1ST GRADE

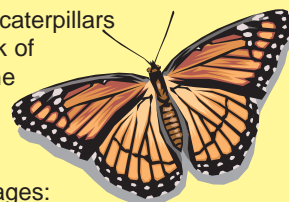
First grade has had a super beginning for the 2009-2010 school year. We have learned recess and lunch procedures. Roper's new discipline plan called **BIST (Behavior Intervention Support Team)** has been discussed frequently. We encourage you to begin routines of early bedtime, daily reading, and breakfast. First grade collects box tips, pop tabs and Campbell soup labels in our area. Thank you for your continued support.

2ND GRADE

Second Grade is off to an exciting new year. We are so pleased with your student's ability to learn and work cooperatively in our second grade setting. We are ready to make connections with your child and family to assure the best learning environment is provided.

Our team consists of: Lori Mack - team leader, Marilyn Brinkman, Irene Ochoa, Connie Scheer, Cortney Hensley, Shelly Jones, Jessica Barnes, Amy Wiese - resource teacher and Billie Meyer, Brooke Schwab are our E.L.L. (English Language Learners) teachers.

The Painted Lady caterpillars will arrive the week of September 8th. The students will be observing the complete butterfly metamorphosis stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult (butterfly) as part of our science unit on animal life cycles.



A field trip to Lincoln Children's Zoo on September 4th will allow our children to explore animal life cycles first hand.

On September 3rd, you are invited to attend our Second Grade Curriculum Night. Please come and spend an hour (6:30 - 7:30) with us learning about your child's year in Second Grade.

On November 24th, we will be having our Second Grade 50's Program. This is a special evening for parents and children to experience special activities with your child's homeroom teacher and P.E./Wellness, Art and Music Specialists.

Our conferences will be held the first part of October. Your child's homeroom teacher will send home specific dates/times for you to attend. We look forward to sharing valuable information about your child's academic, social and emotional development.

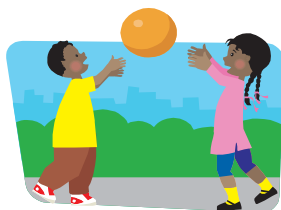
The Second Grade Team

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year!

We would like to invite you to visit our physical education classes where you will see your child participating in a quality physical education program, the cornerstone for developing an active lifestyle. Our program consists of developmentally appropriate activities that create maximum opportunities for development of skills, knowledge, health-related fitness, and ultimately, the confidence to enjoy an active, healthy lifestyle.

Your child's learning environment is safe and non-threatening and provides opportunities for success. Physical education courses offer the chance for your child to develop habits for lifetime fitness and health. Research indicates that students who receive quality physical education experiences during the day participate in more physical activities after school.



During this school year, we want to encourage you to participate in your child's physical development

and fitness. Children need a minimum of 60 minutes of physical activity every day and what better way than playing together. Go for a walk, take a bike ride or toss a ball. It is so very important for your children to see you being physically active as role models.

Thank you for partnering with our physical education program to develop your child's lifetime health and fitness. By working together we can bring the joy and health of physical activity to your child and family. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to teaching your child this year.

Oct. 7th SAFE WALK TO SCHOOL

Students can walk from home or from Coddington Park

Oct. 8th PUMPKIN STROLL

Fitness and health related activities from 5:30 to 7 p.m.



Mrs. Janet Brandt
Mrs. Sonia Jambor
Physical Education Specialists
Roper Elementary School

3RD GRADE

The third grade team consists of six classroom teachers. The third grade Team Leader is Mrs. Arrigo. Mr. Beatty, Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Maney, and

Ms. Podraza complete the team of classroom teachers. Miss Boyle provides resource instruction for third grade.

The third grade year has several highlights. We hatch chickens, go to Morrill Hall for a dinosaur experience, visit the UNL football stadium and the Haymarket. We also finish learning the cursive alphabet. As well as, learn multiplication and division facts.



Once a month school dismisses early for Professional Learning Communities. The third grade team is in the process of evaluating student strengths and needs. We will soon be setting our team "SMART Goals."



We are also implementing the **BIST Behavior Intervention Model**. The purpose of the BIST model is to partner with students when they are struggling and help them be accountable for their actions to make changes in their life. BIST is designed to teach and protect students, via GRACE and ACCOUNTABILITY so that students can demonstrate the Goals for Life and make good choices. The Goals for Life that Roper students will be asked and supported to follow are:

- *I can be productive and follow directions even if I am mad.*
- *I can be productive and follow directions even if others are not okay.*
- *I can be productive and follow directions even if I don't want to.*

The bottom line is that it is NEVER okay to be DISRUPTIVE. Students do not have the right to interfere with the learning of others or to be harmful.

We look forward to creating a strong and positive partnership with you and your child. Thank you for the support that you provide at home to help us achieve our goals.

Sincerely,
Third Grade Team



5TH GRADE

Westside Wages

Dear Parents,
Your child may have mentioned to you that in the fifth grade, we use the Westside Wages System. This is a token economy system that allows students to get paid for their work at school, and lose money or be fined for late work or disruptive behavior. Although we do not pay the students with "real" money, there will be opportunities for students to get real items with the money in their accounts. Here are some details.

Students will start the school year with \$250 in their account. They are charged \$50 for supplies and book rental for the year, and an additional \$25 for their first month's rent-leaving students with \$175.

Students earn \$5 per day for coming to school.

A fine of \$10 (per day late) will be assessed for late work. Late fines are subject to increase through the school year.

A fine of up to \$25 can be assessed for disruptive or inappropriate behavior.

Once a month, we have a Team Reward Day. Cost to attend is \$25. In the past, Reward Days have included the Westside Wages Store, auctions, field days, craft activities and others.

Note: We receive generous financial support from the Lincoln West Sertoma Club to stock our shelves, but we also accept donations from our students. If your family has items such as toys, games, books, or even sporting equipment that you no longer use, we would love to have them to sell in our store. Students who bring items to donate to the store will get into Reward day for free!

Through this program, we hope that your child will be encouraged to stay caught up on their schoolwork and participate meaningfully in their own learning. With the Westside Wages System, every student who puts forth effort and does their best will earn money and be successful! If you have any questions about this program, please contact your child's teacher at Roper at 436-1170. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
5th Grade Team

Message from R.O.P.E.

Welcome Roper Families to the 2009-2010 School Year.

I hope your year is off to a great start. Thanks to the many parents/guardians that have signed up to volunteer at the various PTO sponsored events. There is still plenty of time to sign up if you have not already done so.

I would like to invite you to join us at our monthly meetings. They are held the second Monday of each month (except October and December). We meet in the Media Center at 7:00 p.m. This is a great way to meet other Roper families, and free childcare is provided.

We will have a speaker from the UNL Extension office at our first meeting to give us 16 tips for saving money at the grocery store. This is information we can all use.

Upcoming R.O.P.E. Sponsored Events & Important Dates:

Sept. 10th	Fundraiser Sale End Date
Sept. 10th	School Pictures
Sept. 14th	PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 5th	PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 5th-9th	Scholastic Book Fair
Oct. 8th	Pumpkin Stroll
Nov. 9th-13th	Author Week
Nov. 12th	Waffle Man

Please watch the Thursday folders for more information. If you ever have any questions, comments, or ideas, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board. I am looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Sandy Jensen
2009-2010 R.O.P.E. President
Phone: 438-2113

R.O.P.E. Board Members

President	Sandy Jensen sj85624@windstream.net
President-Elect	Cindy Zimmer Czimmer@neb.rr.com
Treasurer	Danelle Hansen Dnelhansen@windstream.net
Secretary	Leslie Novak Oleslie23@yahoo.com
Member at Large	Jeri Schneider Jroeder@neb.rr.com
Author Coordinator	Michele May michelemay@neb.rr.com

Please send articles for the Roper newsletter to Karla Roscoe: indigomoondesign@hotmail.com

September newsletter deadline: Thursday, September 24.



Box Tops for EDUCATION

Box Tops can be found on hundreds of products. In fact, you probably have some in your home right now! Clip the Box Tops coupons from items you already buy and send them to school. Each one is worth 10¢, and that adds up fast! The deadline will be Oct. 21st and Feb. 24th.



Also, please remember we are saving Campbell's soup labels too. You no longer need to clip the entire label - just the UPC code itself.



NEAT REPEATZ

September 24th - 27th
State Fair Park • Lincoln, NE

- Fall & winter clothes
- Newborn through teen & maternity
- Halloween outfits
- Indoor & outdoor toys
- Strollers, car seats, & furniture
- Nursery, baby gear, & much more!

SHOP. SELL. REPEATZ AS NECESSARY.
www.neatrepeatz.com 402.499.5884

4TH GRADE

Welcome to Fourth Grade!!

Our teachers are Karla Hall, Margaret Rasmussen, Charlene Simpson, Amanda Holst, Tori Hupf, Darcy Ahlman, Bev Cram, and Kathy Sechrest.

We are getting settled in to our new routines. You are welcome to visit us anytime!



Our special events throughout the year are: the Spring Creek Prairie field trip, pioneer ladies, Peter Sarpy presentation and Heritage School all in October, Basic Aid Training, Chorus and Orchestra Program in December, Young Peoples concert in January, our State Writing Assessment in February, The Quilt Ladies and the Sheldon Art Gallery trip in March, Star Lab and the Statewide Reading Assessment, 4th Grade



Program and Chorus and Orchestra Program in April and the Math CRT Assessments in May. Then our trip to the State Capitol and the Historical Museum will be announced later. Whew!

Our major focus is, of course, academics! We appreciate all your support in sending your child to school ready to learn, getting a good night's sleep and eating breakfast. Also, with fall approaching and cooler weather, thank you for helping your child dress appropriately. We would also like to encourage you to read with and listen to your child read as much as possible.



"The more you read, the better you read..."

If you should have any questions throughout the year, please do not hesitate to call.

Again, thank you for all the support you give to us, we deeply appreciate it!

The Fourth Grade Team



SUPERMARKET SAVINGS\$

Learn 16 easy tips that can total big bucks - as much as \$2,000 a year!

Monday September 14 7:00 pm

PTO Meeting at Roper School

Alice Henneman, MS, RD, UNL Lancaster Extension