

# African Road Elementary

November 2009

Office of the Principal

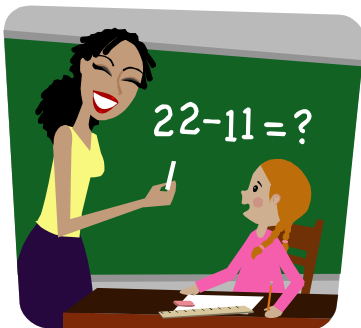
Issue 2

Dear Parents:

## MATH WEB SITES:

Here are some sites you can explore to assist your children with math practice activities:

- <http://www.vestal.k12.ny.us/students.shtml>
- <http://www.classzone.com/cz/index.htm#>
- <http://www.vestal.k12.ny.us/vestal-hills-favorites.shtml>
- **Aplusmath:**  
<http://www.aplusmath.com/>
- **Multiflyer:**  
<http://www.gdbdp.com/multiflyer/>
- <http://www.vestal.k12.ny.us/clay-favorites.shtml>
- **Houghton Mifflin Math:**  
<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmm/>
- **NY Math Connects:**  
<http://www.macmillanmh.com/math/mathconnects/ny/index.html>



## FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR:

Hello, ARE families! I hope everyone has enjoyed a smooth transition back to school. Let me fill you in on what we have been up to at African Road.

In September, I went into every classroom. I completed my first lesson of the year, where I remind students of my role at school, how to reach me and Good Citizenship. As you might remember, this is our program at ARE that encourages positive choices and responsibility.

In October, I was in all second-grade classrooms completing my five lessons focused on friendship and Kelso's Choices. In these lessons, I read stories and the students completed activities that reinforce the message that friendship is important, and that we must all work at our friendships. In our lessons on Kelso's Choices, students learn the difference between small and big problems, when they can solve their own problems and times they need adult intervention.

In November, I plan on completing my five lessons in grade one. In these lessons, students learn

about expressing their feelings, celebrating our differences and Kelso's Choices. I link all of these concepts to the importance of being a Good Citizen at ARE.

In other news, I am taking the time to meet all of our new students and welcome them to our school community. I have really enjoyed getting to know everyone. The Banana Splits groups are also in full swing. These groups will meet every other week for nine sessions. If you have questions throughout the year, please contact me at 757-2335. Have a great year!  
Colleen Ferratella  
School Counselor

## PRIZE BOX DONATIONS:

Does anybody have any donations for a prize box in one of our special education rooms? Donations can be small things like Happy Meal toys, etc. Anything would be appreciated.



## ART NEWS

### Looking for lonely socks!

Art Clubs for third-, fourth- and fifth-graders are in full swing. We are all making wearable badges based on famous works of art. Soon we will need some lonely socks. Do you have a warm, snuggly sock sitting in a drawer, sighing for its mate? Are you sure the dryer has devoured the second of the pair? Send the lonely one to the art room. We will transform it into a weird, wonderful creature.

This year, in addition to the regular Art Clubs, we have started two new programs. First, the third-graders who attend an Art Club may also sign up for an Art Service Club. These students will use their art skills to enhance the school experience for others. Their projects will not be kept for themselves, but given in service to others. The first service project is making bookmarks for the library. If you have any stickers or cardstock you would like to donate for the service club, they will be greatly appreciated.

Second, all third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students are invited to "Lunch with a Twist." Every third cycle, a classroom will be invited to eat lunch in the art room, and then experience a brief theater improvisation exercise. This will help

develop creativity, spontaneity, imagination, teamwork and self-esteem in an out-of-the-ordinary setting.

Hoping you all are enjoying the beauty of fall... another wonderful work of art!



"Finished Pie" by Emily Xiao

### ARE HAS EXTRAORDINARY READERS!

The Summer Reading program coordinated by ARE parent Jane Miller was a huge success. More than 87 students participated, which is pretty awesome in my book.

Beginning the first week of school, your children came to the ARE Library individually and with their class. You should have already seen library books in your child's book bag. One of our first classes, for all ages, was establishing rules that everyone agreed on, so class time in the library would be a productive time. Children from grades Kindergarten through fifth grade settled on many of the same rules such as:

1. Talk quietly in the library
2. Take good care of the books
3. Walk
4. Be polite/share
5. Follow directions.

Mr. Brower's steadfast rules included, "Use a 'Shelf-card' and use a Bookmark".

Parents - You can help avoid lost books by picking one special place with your children to keep their library books until library-class day. Ask your child when they have library-class and mark the calendar with a written reminder or a special sticker to remind them to place their library books in their book bag. When books are returned on time they can be borrowed by other children AND it is less likely they will become lost.

**Please don't forget to read to your children for 15 minutes every day.**



**Bookmarks from Grade 3's Service Club:**





Aysha Puzhakkaraillath  
Mrs. Baechtle's Room

**FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE:**

If your child is absent from or tardy to school, please call the Health Office every day that your child is absent or tardy. The phone number is 757-2313. If you do not call the nurse, it's district policy that she must contact you.

It's a good idea to make arrangements ahead of time in case your child becomes ill at school. Make sure that we have a phone number where someone can be reached.

If your child needs medication during the day, please bring in the medication (both over the counter and prescription) in a pharmacy-labeled bottle or the original container and give them directly to the school nurse. Each medication must have a signed permission from the parent and an order for the doctor. The nurse cannot give medication without an order.

The nurse's office is in need of gently used clothing for those accidents that sometimes occur during the day. Most in need are pants sizes 6 and larger with an

elastic waist. Athletic pants or sweat pants are perfect. We also need brand-new underwear and new socks in any size. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.



Tara Roberts - Mrs. Day's Room

**TARGET "TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION"**

I want to thank the ARE families who have designated their Target credit cards to benefit African Road Elementary in their "Take Charge of Education" program.

This year we received \$811.67 that directly benefits our students. We have used it to purchase supplemental materials to enrich classroom learning environments.

Recently we have purchased a karaoke machine that scrolls lyrics to combine familiar music with words to help some students become better readers. We also have purchased craft and game items to be used during indoor

playground. The money was also used to purchase additional teaching resources that support students in math and reading.



Christopher McCoy  
Mrs. Day's Room

**ELKS DICTIONARY DISTRIBUTION:**

On November 5, the Vestal Elks visited African Road Elementary School. During this visit they gave each third-grade student a free dictionary.

This is an annual Elks activity to live out their motto "Elks Care and Elks Share."



**SNACK TIME:**

Keep snack time healthy! Healthy snacks include veggies, raisins and fruits, instead of chips and cookies. Choose healthy snacks!

**GEORGE GRAMATIKOV:**

In 2008, George won the northeast regional (15 states) tennis tournament in Chicago. Then he represented our region at the Nationals in Austin, Texas, where he reached quarter-finals. (He was the only player from a Northern state among the first eight.)

In June, George was invited to play for the USA National tennis teams (boys born in 1999) in a match against Europe. (Unfortunately we could not make it).

Also George received an invitation to play at the 2009 International Little Mo tournament in December at Port Saint Lucie, Florida.

Recently George was ranked #1 in the Eastern USTA (NY, NJ and CT states) boys 10 age group. His achievement was recognized by BTC.

George has also won USTA tennis tournaments in the upper age groups: boys 12 and boys 14.

Congratulations, George, on your achievements.

Sincerely,  
Joanne Mitchell  
Principal

