

Harbor School

October & November 2009

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Harbor Families,

Fall is already here and we are moving full steam ahead with learning. Some of you may have heard of SRBI or RTI, which is a component of the federal mandates of the No Child Left Behind legislation.

SRBI, as it is called in Connecticut, is a model of supports for all students demonstrating need. Please read the following page of information to familiarize yourself with a model that is being utilized within our district. As always, my door is open. Feel free to stop in, or keep in touch via my e-mail at stamblers@newlondon.org. Keep warm and keep reading!

Yours in Education,

Ms. Stambler

Principal



Education is more than a luxury; it is a responsibility that society owes to itself.

-Robin Cook



STUDENT INFORMATION

Please be sure to notify the main office if you have moved, have changed your phone number or need to change the emergency contact information for your child. It is imperative that the school have the most current information available in case of an emergency.

447-6040

Using Scientific Research-Based Interventions:

Improving Education for All Students

[Adapted from [SRBI: A Family Guide](#)]

Teachers, administrators, and families want all children to succeed. There are many ways to get children who are struggling to learn, the additional help they need to be successful.

One way is with the use of “scientific research-based interventions” (SRBI).

What are SRBI?

SRBI are a way to provide support and instruction to children who are struggling to learn. A child’s progress is studied and findings are used to make decisions about teaching and other learning supports. SRBI are most commonly used in addressing needs in the areas of reading, math, and behavior. A “continuum of support” is developed by school districts and programs

What does the SRBI continuum of support look like?

The SRBI framework has three “tiers.” Each tier provides differing kinds and degrees of support.

<i>Tier 3</i>	<i>The school or program provides more individualized instruction for children who need the most support.</i>
<i>Tier 2</i>	<i>The school or program provides help for children who need more support than they are receiving from the general curriculum.</i>
<i>Tier 1</i>	<i>All children receive high quality curriculum and instruction in the general education classroom or program.</i>

Families play a critical role in supporting what their children are learning in school. Research shows that the more parents are actively involved in student learning, the greater the student achievement. There are many ways families can support their child’s learning at home. Here are a few:

- ✦ make reading an everyday habit;
 - ✦ talk with your child’s teachers regularly;
 - ✦ check homework assignments and assist when necessary;
 - ✦ ask for regular progress reports;
 - ✦ celebrate your child’s strengths, talents, interests, and successes;
 - ✦ learn more about what is being taught and how it is being taught at your child’s school; and
- participate in parent-teacher-student conferences and other school functions for your child.

Harbor School will be conducting information sessions regarding SRBI in the future. You may also contact Michele Han, Literacy Coach, at 860-447-6040 or hanm@newlondon.org.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 3	NO SCHOOL	TEACHER MEETINGS
WEDNESDAY	NOVEMBER 11	NO SCHOOL	VETERAN'S DAY
THURSDAY	NOVEMBER 12	1/2 DAY	12:30 DISMISSAL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERNCES
FRIDAY	NOVEMBER 13	1/2 DAY	12:30 DISMISSAL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
TUESDAY	NOVEMBER 17	EARLY RELEASE	1:45 DISMISSAL
THURSDAY	NOVEMBER 19	PICTURE DAY	
WEDNESDAY	NOVEMBER 25	1/2 DAY	12:30 DISMISSAL
THURSDAY & FRIDAY		NOVEMBER 26 & 27	THANKSGIVING—NO SCHOOL

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Harbor School will once again be participating in the Box Tops For Education Program. This program enables the school to earn points which can be exchanged for things such as playground equipment, science equipment and many other school related items. Please send your box tops from any participating companies to school.



Mrs. Alexander's class won a prize in September for turning in the most Box Tops. The third graders in Mrs. Paskewich's class made her proud in October when they won the prize for the most Box Tops turned in. Great Job!

COME AND PLAY!

The Harbor Family Resource Center is open and waiting for you to come and play! FREE play groups will be held for children ages 6 weeks—4 years. Home visits will also be offered.



HARBOR SCHOOL

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**DON'T FORGET TO
DRESS FOR FALL!**

**STUDENTS ENJOY
PLAYING OUTSIDE
AND SHOULD BE
DRESSED FOR THE
COOLER TEMPERA-
TURES.**



NURSE'S CORNER

Here are a few points to help me care for your children in the health room most effectively this year.

Please provide the school with accurate, updated emergency information. This way I can reach you when your child is sick.

Please keep your child home when they are sick with a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, cough and sore throat.

If your child's temperature is 100 F or above, your child must remain home for 24 hours until the temperature returns to normal without the help of Tylenol or Motrin.

Please do not send your child to school with flu-like symptoms, i.e. fever, sore throat and cough.

Following this practice will help keep our school community happy and healthy. Thank you so much for your help and cooperation this coming year. Any questions please feel free to call me at 447-6049.

ATTENDANCE

Please remember to notify the main office (447-6040) if your child is going to be absent from school. Any absence not reported is considered unverified. If your child is absent due to illness, an appointment, or a family emergency, it is considered excused. Family vacations or trips out of town are not excused absences.

School starts promptly at 8:15 am.. Students who are repeatedly tardy often miss valuable instruction time as reading groups start first thing in the morning. Please make every attempt to be sure your child arrives to school on time.

School dismisses at 2:44 pm. Please pick students up promptly as staff often have meetings after school that they must attend.

Hepler's Heroes

Ms. Hepler's Class has been very busy during the month of October. During the first week, we talked about Fire Safety. We had a special visit from a local firefighter who let us model his firefighting gear. He also taught us to "STOP, DROP, and ROLL" and to dial 9-1-1 in case of an emergency. We have also been talking about pumpkins. In Language Arts we are applying sight words to our oral reading fluency through pumpkin poetry and journal writing. In mathematics we are sharpening our number identification, counting and addition skills.

KINDERGARTEN CUTIES:

Kindergarten students have been working very hard in the month of October! In Language Arts our students are working on learning their letters, identifying the beginning sounds in words and on identifying rhyming words. We also began a fun new unit on shadows! In math, we have been doing a lot of hard work on patterning. Ask your child to show you a pattern—they are all pattern experts! Everyone is doing a wonderful job in Kindergarten; both Mrs. Alexander and Miss Mea are very proud—and you should be too! Finally, all Kindergarten children are continuing to work on following the school rule (raising your hand and waiting to be called on, staying in your seat, staying in a straight line, etc.) so that each student can be their very best everyday and most importantly so that we can all stay on GREEN!!! 😊

Harbor's Thrilling Third Graders:

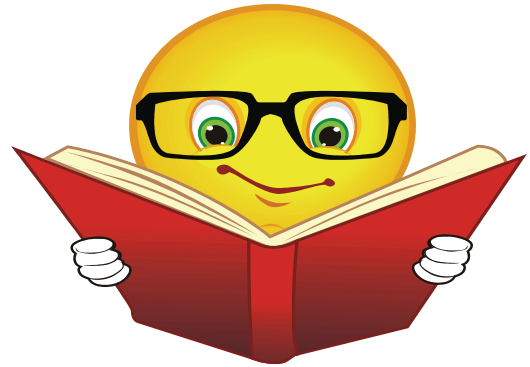
We have enjoyed meeting and getting to know your children. Thank you for sending them to school in their uniforms. They look wonderful!

In reading, our unit is Friendship. We have a new math program and the children now have books in third grade! We are studying all types of numeration concepts. We have started cursive and the children have been excited to practice their letters.

Please remind your child to bring his or her homework folder to school each day. Thank you for your support!

Third Grade Teachers:

Mrs. Paskewich and Ms. Lounsbury



First Grade's Finest ...

The chilly weather has begun and the first grade is enjoying the new season of fall. Workshop groups have begun to meet and the students are enjoying working in small groups to improve their literacy skills. Our reading program has introduced many letter sounds and the students are able to blend those sounds together to read many words. They are quick learners.

Our first goal is that a high percentage of our students will be able to read their 105 sight word list successfully. We already have almost 60% of our students able to do this! We will continue working on this goal.

Thank you to those families that are reading the decodable books with their child for homework. Those repeated readings are a wonderful resource for reinforcing sounds that are taught in class. Most students also return their nightly homework each day, which is terrific!

Thanks from the First Grade Team: Ms. Hewett, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Rivera

SECOND GRADE NEWS

NOVEMBER 2009



EDITION #2

Mrs. Mann and Ms. Koukoularis 2nd Grade

Our First Days of School!

We have been working extremely hard on Responsive Classroom techniques. Responsive Classroom beliefs are that the social curriculum is just as important as the academic curriculum. Here are some goals we are working on for the first 6 weeks of school: To learn our schedule and routines. To learn how to take care of ourselves. To learn to take care of others. To learn how to take care of our school and our school materials. To work quietly during directions and learning times. To practice safety inside and outside the school. Finally, to learn what it looks like to be “good” and use polite manners to friends and adults.

Math and Literacy

Our new math program is called Envisions. We are learning math vocabulary, and working with addition and subtraction. Also we have been using math tools and the classroom computers to reinforce our math skills on the Envisions web site. Parents will soon get information how to access their child’s page and see how we teach math. Parents and students will have access to practice papers, homework and class work. In literacy, we have been working on sight words, creating second grade sentences, writing longer stories, retells of stories we read, and trying to read smoothly and at a quicker rate of speed.

Science and Social Studies

In science we are learning the properties of solids, liquids and gases. There will be more experiments to come! During the first months of school, we have learned about basic map skills and discussed major holidays. In September, we discussed classroom environments and how to work together as a class and school. We also did some activities on Columbus Day and Columbus’ travels, and route from Europe.

Helpful Hints!

*Practice a nightly routine with your child. Try going to bed earlier than usual and read a story together. Continue this throughout the school year!

*Prepare your child with any questions about the first weeks of school. (Example) Your child might be scared because he/she does not know where the bathroom is.

* Assure your child that the teacher or an adult will help.

*Go over the home routines such as getting dressed, eating breakfast, and going to the bus stop. Practice it!

Label all money brought to school in a plastic bag or envelope with amount, what it is for, and your child’s name on it. Many children lose their ice cream money on Fridays!

* Make sure your child is confident about their travel arrangements going to school and leaving school. If there are **ANY CHANGES WRITE A NOTE TO THE TEACHER and CONTACT** the office!

* Try to keep routines simple and try to follow the same routine every day at home and school. Please bring their daily folder back and forth to school everyday.

Thank You! 2nd Grade Teachers ☺

* If your child brings in a snack for the class please be sure to read all labels for peanuts, nuts, or nut oils. **Do Not** bring nut products to school because we have a few students who are highly allergic.

Classroom Wish List!

Clorox Wipes, Wet Ones, small pencil sharpeners, disinfectant cleaners, tissues, paper or plastic cups and plates, plastic utensils



“Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity.”

Aristotle

Fantastic in Fourth Grade!

Mr. Seidel’s and Mrs. Perkin’s classes have recently become involved in a LEARN program called Physical Scientist. We just came back from our first trip to Bushy Hill Nature Center and boy did we have fun. We met our pen pals for the first time and together our classes took part in team building activities. Working together, the students were able to successfully accomplish trust building activities. Parents, you would all have been so proud of your children. They welcomed their new friends so openly. The teachers were so very proud of the way the students cooperated and helped each other have a successful day. Once a month we will be going

PHENOMENAL FIFTH GRADERS!

The 5th grade will be going to LEARN in Old Lyme to do mask making in November as a part of their Symmetry and You program.

Congratulations to the following students for receiving a 12 on their most recent writing prompt: Ataya Green, Avianna Matula, Alexis Parker, and Luis Urena. Way to go!!!!

Mrs. Roads’ class had an exciting field trip to Lyme Consolidated on Friday October 30, 2009 with their partner class from the symmetry program. They went for a nature hike and participated in holiday activities.

Congratulations to those students in Mr. Boushee’s fifth grade class who have kept a perfect behavior chart and stayed on green. Those students recently enjoyed a party with special food and fun.



FAMILY READ

Wednesdays

6 p.m.—8 p.m.

@

NATHAN HALE

Children ages

Pre-K to 5th Grade