



**North Campus
September Students
of the Month**

The Treatonian



**Central Campus
September Students
of the Month**

OUR PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE!

In lieu of my message this month, I would like to dedicate this issue of the Treatonian in memory of Mrs. Mary Rossi.

Theresa Adubato

Mrs. Mary Rossi

Mrs. Rossi had been a resident of Clifton for thirty-five years. She was in her thirteenth year as a first grade teacher at Robert Treat Academy and had previously taught at Ss. Cyril and Methodius School and then St. John Kanty School, both in Clifton. Mrs. Rossi educated hundreds of children at the Academy and cared for them as if they were her own. She shared her vast experiences and knowledge with new teachers mentoring and guiding them. She was selfless in giving herself to others. She was an avid supporter of the interests of every member of her family from soccer games to art galleries and everything in between. Mrs. Rossi will surely be missed but we can take solace in the fact that her life and her legacy will live on through the children she touched.



SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



LEFT TO RIGHT: ROW 1 – DANIELLE ALCANTARA, PETER REYES, KRISTAL NARVAEZ, NURI RAHEEM, SCOTT QUISHPE AND EBONY MARSHALL

ROW 2– MARIAH LOPEZ, NICHOLAS CARRERO, JABARI FINNEY, GLORIBEL HERNANDEZ, NADINE FERRER AND DIEGO CUEVAS

ROW 3-EMILY ACOSTA, DEVON NUNEZ, JOSUE SOLORZANO-PICHARDO, ANDREW VASQUEZ, LAMARA WHITE, CHRISTINA MCKENZIE, KATELYNN RODRIGUEZ, MANNY AROCHO, TATIANA NAVARRO AND CALEB MOTEN

CENTRAL

BOTTOM TO TOP:

LEFT TO RIGHT:

**JANEL BOOKER,
AMARIS HERNANDEZ,
ARIA WATSON,
GABRIELY ACOSTA
AND
DESIREE JOHNSON**



Student	Rm/Act
Jabari Finney	104
Gloribel Hernandez	107
Nicholas Carrero	201
Manny Arrocho	202
Caleb Moten	203
Lamara White	204
Tatiana Nazario	205
Katherine Ramos	206
Andrew Vazquez	207
Diego Cuevas	208
Josue Solorzano-Pichardo	210
Krystal Navaez	301
Mariah Lopez	302
Danielle Alcantara	303
Peter Reyes	304
Ebony Marshall	306
Nuri Raheem	308
Scott Quishpe	310
Devin Nunez	Art
Nadine Ferrer	Music
Christina McKenzie	Physical Ed
Katelynn Rodriguez	Science
Emily Acosta	Tech.



Were You There?

Below are the percentages of attendance at the August and September Parent Council Meetings. As you can see, we had less parents attending in September than August, which is a disappointment. Our goal for the rest of the school year is to have every child represented at these meetings. We're counting on seeing you at these meetings.

C/R	August	September
12C	86%	76%
13C	100%	84%
14C	83%	80%
301	96%	76%
303	96%	92%
308	83%	80%
310	84%	72%
304	92%	88%
306	85%	76%
302	88%	68%
203	80%	73%
201	92%	80%
202	78%	70%
205	80%	64%
208	80%	88%
204	84%	64%
206	84%	65%
207	84%	42%
210	84%	76%
104	79%	54%
107	92%	67%
	86%	73%

Student	Rm./Act.
Gabriely Acosta	12
Aria Watson	13
Desiree Johnson	14
Janel Booker	Music
Amaris Hernandez	Physical Ed.

Central Students Learn More Than We Know?

Submitted by the
Kindergarten Team

The kindergarten class at Robert Treat Academy Central is a very busy place! We have learned so much in the two months we have been at school. One of the best parts of our day is workshop. We separate into groups and visit different learning stations. Our favorites include computers, art, the listening center, reading, and writing. Last week we read *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. We created our own wild thing and wrote about what we would do if we were the leader of the wild things. In the listening center we get to read and create a book report about our favorite part of the story. One of top picks this month was *A Pocket for Corduroy*. The computer center is always enjoyable because we get to practice our learning in SuccessMaker. Kindergarten at Robert Treat Academy Central is terrific!

CENTRAL CONNECTION

Submitted by Mr. M. Trillo, Vice Principal



Autumn is a wonderful time of year. The weather cools down a bit, the leaves burst into beautiful canvases of diverse colors, football season and the baseball playoff season converge to create a sports fans paradise, and the parks are filled with children frolicking in fallen leaves or playing organized sports. Another exciting event that routinely takes place each fall is our first set of **parent conferences** where parents can speak with teachers individually and go over each student's first report card of the year.

This year's conferences are scheduled for the entire **week of October 18th**. Please be sure to take a moment to make an appointment to speak with your

child's teacher and receive the first report card of the year by stopping in the main office and asking for the Parent Conference binder. **Report cards will only be given out at these conferences and will not be sent home until the conference is held.** If for some reason you cannot attend during the available times please speak to your son or daughter's teacher to coordinate alternate arrangements. Our attendance rate at parent conferences has always been 100% and I would expect that to continue this year. Parents and teachers will have another opportunity to communicate formally via parent conferences in early March at the conclusion of our 3rd cycle. Thank you in advance for attending and communicating your concerns with the teachers.

Although autumn is a beautiful time of year, it can also present some hazards for your children of which you should be aware. For starters, with the colder weather please be sure to bundle up your children to keep them from catching colds or a case of the sniffles. Also, while playing in piles of leaves can be a fun and invigorating experience it also presents a safety concern. Please make sure to supervise your children if they are playing outside and make sure they are out of harm's way. Every year it seems I hear of a tragic story involving a child hiding in a pile of leaves and getting seriously injured or worse. Of course, another huge safety concern revolves around candy and Halloween. As I'm sure you'll hear a thousand times before the children don their costumes and go trick or treating, I would like to remind you to check all items before allowing your children to eat anything. If anything looks like it's been opened or appears suspicious in any other way please just discard it. I don't mean to worry you but I want to see all of our children be safe, healthy, and in school where they belong.

BULLYING

- **Is it intentional?** Bullying does not happen by accident. In many cases, the target does not knowingly provoke the bully. The victim may even have made it clear that the behavior is unwelcome, yet the bully persists.
- **Is it repetitive?** Typically, bullying is repeatedly carried out over time.
- **Does it involve hurtful acts, words, or other behavior?** Bullying is an oppressive or negative act intended to hurt someone else. It may include many different types of behavior, including physical harm and verbal abuse.
- **Is there an imbalance of power?** A child without power cannot bully. A bully's power can come from physical strength, social status, or intimidating behavior.

**TEACHER CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD
ON BOTH CAMPUSES DURING THE WEEK
OF OCTOBER 18, 2010.**

**STOP AT THE MAIN OFFICE AND
RESERVE YOUR TIME IN THE PARENT
CONFERENCE BINDER.**

**NO REPORT CARDS WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT A CONFERENCE.**

**REMEMBER, PARENTS, ONCE YOU MAKE AN
APPOINTMENT, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP IT AS THE
TEACHER HAS PUT THAT TIME ASIDE JUST FOR YOU.**

PLEASE ADHERE TO THE TIME SCHEDULE.



Applications, Anyone?

Submitted by Ms. Moje
Director, High School Placement

October is a Busy Month for the High School Placement Office!

Now that Interview Day has come and gone, many might think things have quieted down in the High School Placement Office. However, now the fun really begins for the HSP Team and the 8th graders. Together, the office and the 8th graders will begin the long process of filling out each individual application form. With 375 applications to complete for 63 different schools, this is no easy task. Students will work on multiple drafts of applications and then sit down and work one on one in the office until the application is perfect and ready to go. Ms. Aduato herself will screen every single application before it is sent to a high school.

Parents are involved in this process as well. Parents will attend a Financial Aid Application workshop on October 19th from 6-8pm. Mr. Robert Mitchell, Director of Admissions for the Morristown Beard School, will be on hand to host this workshop. During the week of parent conferences at Robert Treat Academy, 8th grade parents will have to make a stop in the High School Placement Office to sign off on applications, and an evening application workshop will be scheduled for late October.

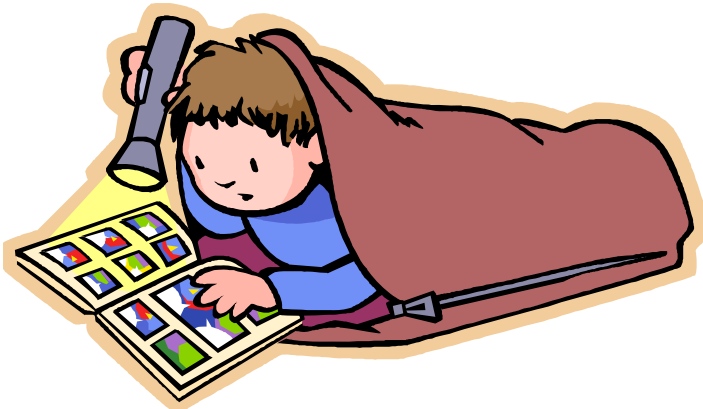
In addition to all this, the 8th graders are still working hard, getting ready for the COOP exam and the SSAT test, held in November and December. They have SSAT class four days a week, twice in the afternoons and twice during aftercare from 4-5pm. They are also coming on Saturday mornings to prepare for this important test. As if that weren't enough to keep them busy, many of the 8th graders will be having private interviews with some schools who could not make it to Interview Day. Phillips Exeter Academy, Phillips Andover Academy, and Montclair Kimberley Academy will all make a trip to RTA to meet with members of the 8th grade class. Newark Academy, who was a guest at Interview Day, will return to talk to applications and also host an information session for the 7th graders.

The Pingry School and Saint Vincent Academy will host events for some young ladies from the RTA 8th grade as well. 18 young ladies, together with their parents, will have breakfast at Saint Vincent's on October 14th. They will meet with the principal, take a tour of the school, and talk with SVA students. On October 19th, 2 young ladies from the 8th grade will spend the day as guests of The Pingry School, together with their parents.

It is a busy, busy month for the 8th graders, their parents, and the High School Placement Office, but we all know this hard work will be worth it in the end!

Reading CAN be FUN!

Submitted by the Fourth Grade Team



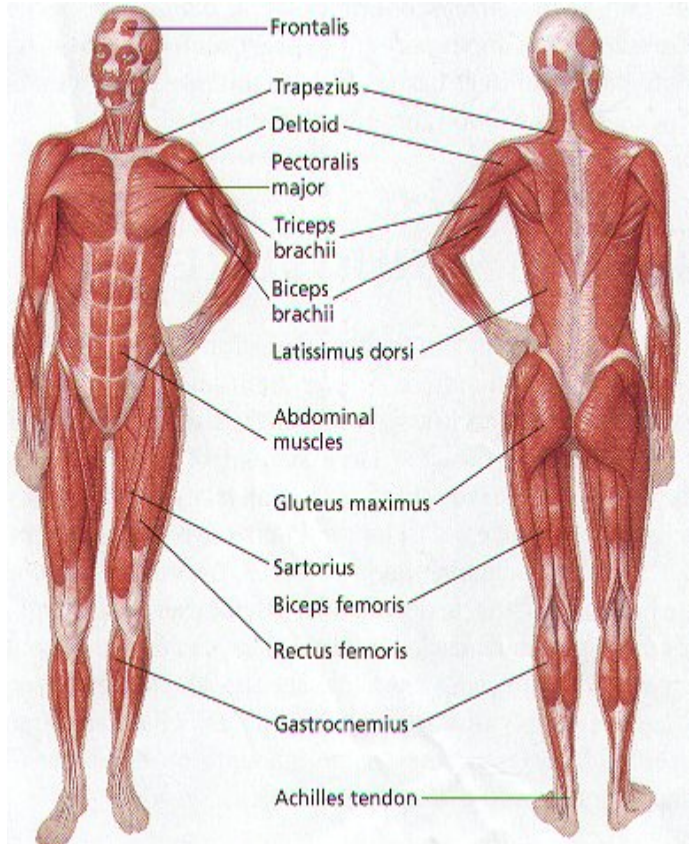
Fourth graders are coming to the conclusion that reading can in fact be fun, and if they haven't come around yet, then they soon will. The students have been introduced to T.A.B. Time or Totally Awesome Book Time, which is when a child must read at least 50 pages of a great book at home. Each child receives a T.A.B. receipt every Friday, and they must fill it out with the title of their book, and the pages they have read to prove they enjoyed a "totally awesome" book over their weekend. In turn, the parents are getting involved with comprehension questions that we have sent home. Parents can connect to their children about books even if they haven't read the same books as the children have.

It is important for parents to be having discussions at home when their children read these books at night and over the weekend. Parents can encourage their children to ask questions about topics they do not understand, or clarify words that are unfamiliar to them. As a parent, these questions help build the comprehension skills of the children. Also, having the children read out loud can help improve their reading, oral expression, and writing skills. With everyone on board with T.A.B. Time, how can the children NOT want to read?

Welcome to the Science Lab, Grade Six

Submitted by Ms. Kelly Kemple, Science Teacher

The students in grade six are doing a fantastic job coming to the science lab three afternoons a week for science class. This is the first time that they must pack their bag and travel to the lab for instruction. They have done a wonderful job with organization and cooperation. The first topic that they are investigating is "The Human Body". They are studying the digestive system and nutrition. They have already completed a few hands-on labs and cooperative group activities. This class has a wonderful spirit and positive attitudes. They come to class with smiles and great questions. We are all looking forward to a great year.



BOOK FAIR

November 16 thru November 19, 2010

Grades Kindergarten—Eighth

Both Campuses will be involved!

Central Students Know Their ABC's in P.E.

Submitted by Mr. A. Batlle
Physical Education Teacher

The students were working up a sweat during the month of September with activities such as Fitness Stations and ABC Tag. During the fitness activity, the students were able to visit various stations working on their flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, and their lower and upper body strength. The students were able to identify the muscles and muscle groups they worked.

The students at Robert Treat Central not only got to work out their bodies, but they also worked their minds. The students were able to play ABC Tag, where when a student was tagged, they had to shape their body into a letter. In order to be free once again, a fellow student would identify that letter. After the activity, it was time to cool down and the students worked cooperatively in groups to create some of their sight words (at, tell, here and more). These activities gave the students not only great exercise, but also an opportunity to be creative with their peers. Great Job Kindergarten, First, and Second graders! Can you guess what sight words they created?

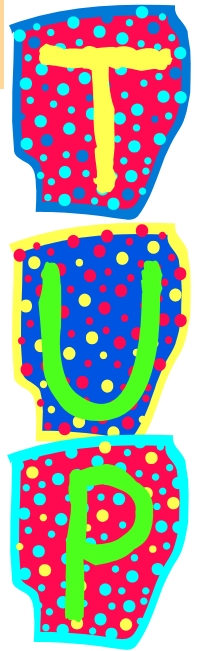
.FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ALANI RODRIGUEZ, SHAYLA MILLER, ANGELICA BUSTAMANTE, AND TOM' MEES PICKETT-TELFAIR



LEFT TO RIGHT: TAMIA BUTLER, KENNEDY ROBINSON, CHIBUNDOM EZEONU AND CAMILA ZAMBRANA



LEFT TO RIGHT: WILLIAM ABOU-RJAILI AND RICHARD HUANG



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES at CENTRAL

(All activities work towards having friendly competitions with help from the students' comprehension of team building and character education.)

COMING SOON!!!



Scarecrows and Pumpkins



Ghosts and Goblins



The Haunted Gym

Cooperation and Teamwork

Submitted by the Seventh Grade Team

In the month of September, the 7th graders were able to spend a few days away from their studies in the classroom for a couple educational fieldtrips. The first trip they embarked on was to the Far Hills Day School for a high school fair. Here they were able to learn about some of the ins-and-outs of some of the boarding schools and day schools that they will be looking to apply to in the following year. They were able to ask the representatives from the school questions about their school: their academics, the social life, the school year, and extra-curricular activities to name a few. Through this experience the children gained a better understanding of what they need to do in order to prepare for high school and which schools can be a good fit for them!

Along with the trip to Far Hills, the 7th grade also took a field trip to Fair View Lakes. This trip was all about cooperation and teamwork. The classes were broken up into small groups and were asked to carry out a series of different challenges. These challenges required each member of the group to think outside the box and work together in order to complete the task; if one member did not cooperate, the task could not be completed. Some of the challenges included: getting the entire group onto a small box, onto a small platform, over a log, through a web, or through a tire. The 7th grade did a tremendous job of working together and completing the task at hand.

We are hoping that the lessons learned from both these trips will be exemplified throughout the school year in order to have successful and cooperative school year!

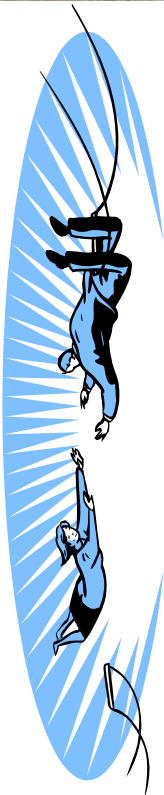
TeamWork



Cooperation



Trust



Exciting Time!!

Submitted by the Eighth Grade Team

This is an exciting time in the eighth grade. The eighth grade will soon be finishing our unit entitled *Tales of the Strange and Mysterious*. This is a very enjoyable unit as the stories all revolve around mystery. The students have enjoyed reading stories by notable authors WW Jacobs, Edgar Allan Poe, Roald Dahl, and Lensey Namioka. We have also begun our first major essay of the year. Students are currently comparing and contrasting Edgar Allan Poe and WW Jacobs use of suspense and foreshadowing. The concepts needed to complete this paper are rather complex in and of themselves, so writing the paper is no easy feat! This is a large undertaking and we are proud of their efforts.

We will be wrapping the whole unit up with a study of William Shakespeare's Macbeth. There are many fun activities planned for the end of this unit. We plan to act out scenes, rewrite scenes, create journals, and write a large thematic paper. Again, the material is difficult but the students have proven to be dedicated and enthusiastic.



City Wildlife

Submitted by the Third Grade Team

This month we began our city wildlife unit in our reading class. When most students think of wildlife in a natural setting they think of wild animals in jungles, forests, national parks or refuges. They do not realize that wildlife, both animals and plants, can survive and flourish in cities filled with cars, tall buildings, and lots of people.

Scientists from fields as diverse as biology, ecology, zoology, botany, sociology, and economics have raised questions about city wildlife.

The selections for our unit, fiction and nonfiction, focus on various species of plants and animals that have adapted to an urban habitat. As students explore the selections and pursue their own investigations, they will become more aware of the wildlife around them, and of the problems and rewards involved in humans sharing habitats with wildlife.



Graphs in the First Grade North?

For the past several weeks, the first grade learned how to use tally marks and graphs to organize information. We used tally marks to record our favorite color choices and our favorite lunches. We then used our information to create a bar graph and picture graphs. Through these activities the students had the opportunity to read, represent, organize, and analyze data from charts, tables, and graphs. To conclude our unit, the students used M&M's candies to further explore making a bar graph. They sorted the candies by color, recorded the information on a graph, and enjoyed eating their "data". What a delicious way to learn math!



AKIRA BERNARDINO

Submitted by the North First Grade Team



**JOSHUA
LOPEZ**

Music Class Isn't Just Singing!

Submitted by Ms. Walker, Music Teacher Central

I would like to congratulate Robert Treat Academy's star students of the month. This proves they are really working hard in class and trying to be the best they can be.

Kindergarten has been having lots of fun in music. We are singing songs, learning poems and will soon be using rhythm sticks and drums. We are also learning how to greet each other in different languages. We have successfully learned the school song, patriotic song and we are very proud of this accomplishment.

First grade has been enjoying music as well. We are exploring the difference between loud and soft sounds. The first graders were making small movements to soft sounds and large movements to loud sounds. We are also learning about echoes. We have been singing new songs and playing fun games to enhance our learning about loud and soft sounds. Together we read a poem and added our own body percussion to it.

Second Grade started their first unit called "Music is Mine to Share". The students had the opportunity to share their musical talents with the class. Students were allowed to sing a song, write a song, write a poem or even do a dance. They were also allowed to change into a costume to accompany their performance. This assignment was very successful. About half of the class prepared for their performance and we are hoping that by the end of the year the other half will share with us.

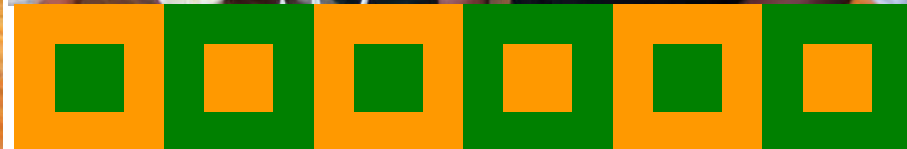
The students and I are very excited to have a great musical experience this year. There is just one thing that you should always remember and that is: **"Without music, life is a journey through a desert"**.



Thanks for Caring

Submitted by the Sixth Grade Team

The sixth grade students spent their Friday morning bestowing their appreciation on the custodians for consistently maintaining their school and keeping the building, a safe and clean learning environment. The students, as well as Mr. Fernando Fontanez and his staff, had breakfast of bagels, cream cheese, juice and good cheer. The students gave a PowerPoint presentation in morning announcements and read letters they wrote to these gentlemen thanking them for their hard work and dedication to the school. Everyone enjoyed the breakfast and the students would like to say, "THANK YOU" again.



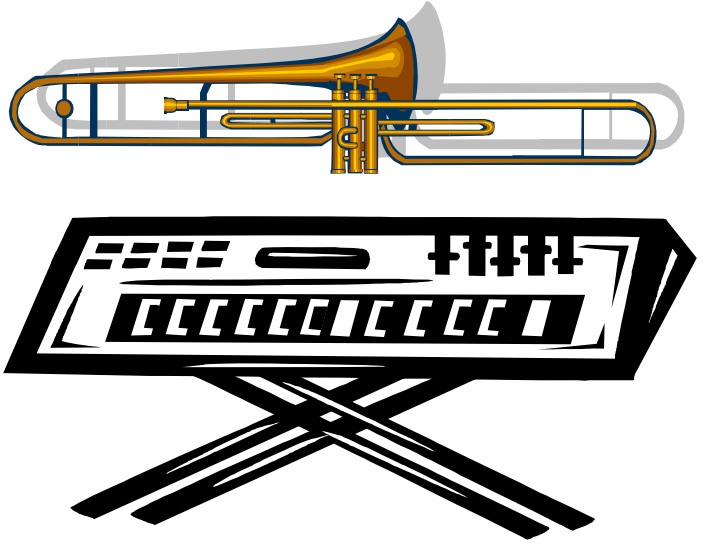
News From the Music Rooms

Submitted by Ms. Heinlein Wood, Music Teacher



The Band/Orchestra has begun and a fourth day of the week has been added for lessons. This has enabled us to involve more students and for all students to have longer lesson times. We even have students on a new instrument, which happens to be Mr. Jorge's performance specialty --- the trombone! STUDENTS: please check my bulletin board for updated news about lessons. PARENTS: please check newschoolnotes.com.

Music Lab is beginning the first week of October and still continues to run on a Monday through Wednesday schedule, taught by Mr. Vinas.

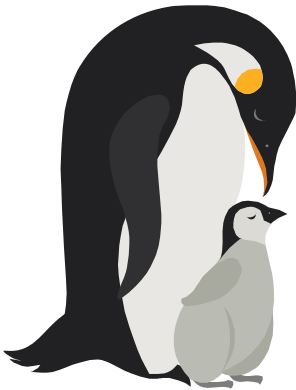


Central Students Learn About Animals and Habitats

Submitted by the Central First Grade Team

The students in the first grade at RTA Central are learning about different kinds of animals and their habitats. So far, we've read and discussed stories that involve animals that live in the rain forest, the Arctic, the desert, the grasslands, and the mountains. They will continue to learn more about polar bears and how they keep warm in the cold

and icy Arctic. They will also come across a story about desert animals that use saguaro cacti as their homes. They will discover how important homes are to animals, what makes a good home, and how animals survive in the environments they live in. This month we will have a "wild" time!



Internet Safety

Remind your children to never respond to messages that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make them feel uncomfortable. Encourage your children to tell you if they encounter such messages. If you or your child receive a message that is harassing, of a sexual nature, or threatening, forward a copy of the message to your service provider and ask for their assistance.

Sixth Grade Students from RTA Help to Put Books in the Hands of Kids Who Need Them-Simply by Reading

Submitted by the Sixth Grade Team

THROUGH THE CLASSROOMS CARE PROGRAM, STUDENTS UNITE ACROSS AMERICA TO READ AND HELP SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB DONATE ONE MILLION BOOKS TO CHILDREN IN NEED

The sixth graders from Ms. Roemer and Ms. Hernandez's classroom are helping other children while they help themselves this school year by participating in Classrooms Care Program, a philanthropy based literacy campaign designed to teach children about the joys and importance of reading and giving and encouraging students to read every day to lead better lives.

This fall, each student is challenged to read 10 books and, in turn, Scholastic Book Clubs will donate one million new books to disadvantaged children nationwide.

These books will be distributed locally through three national charity partners whose shared mission is to help put books in the hands of the hardest to reach and neediest children through Reach Out and Read, Save the Children, and the Pajama Programs. Through the Classrooms Care program, students aren't just reading, they're reading to give. Through this program we will allow our students the opportunity to celebrate the importance of reading and to demonstrate our spirit of service and sharing.



Apples!

Submitted by the North Kindergarten Team

The fall season is here! Students have spent the past month working on a unit on apples. They have learned how apples grow by studying the stages of an apple tree through the seasons. Through pictures and observation, students were able to learn the various parts of an apple: the stem, the skin, the core, and the flesh. We shared what we know about apples, and even conducted a taste test! Students had the opportunity to taste a variety of apples to find their favorite. Here are some of their responses:

"Mmm! This apple tastes good!" – **Everett Johnson**

"My apple is crunchy AND juicy!" – **Danielle Alcantara**

"We could make applesauce!" – **Nyla Vasquez**

"Apples are sweet and drippy." – **Jaiden Guzman**



Halloween Dance
(Grades 6 th thru 8th)
Friday, October 22, 2010
6:00 PM until 8:30 PM



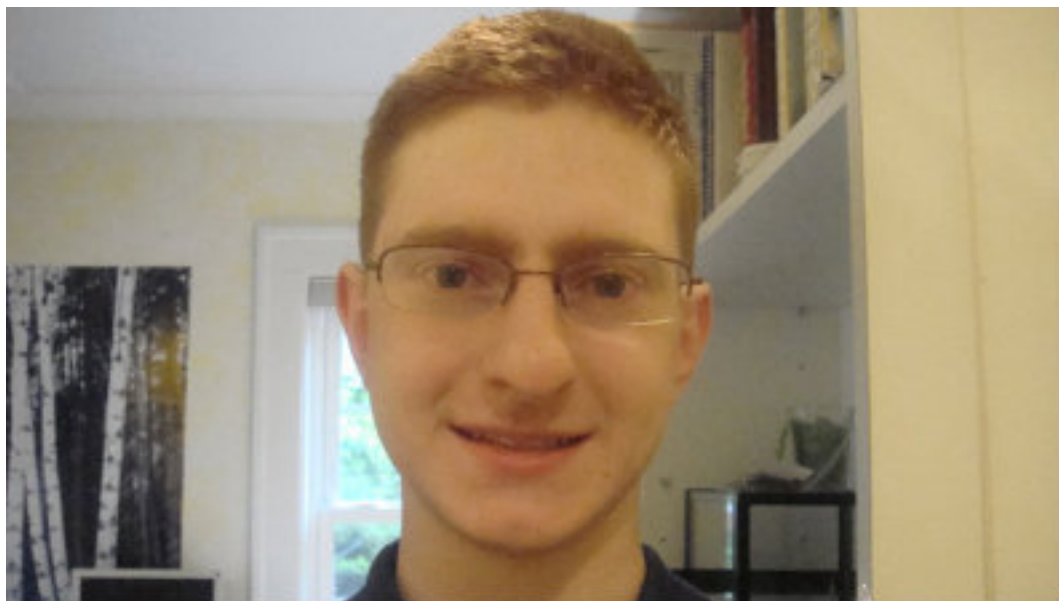
TYLER CLEMENTI'S DEATH IS A CALL TO ACTION

BY LARRY MAGID

TAKEN FROM SAFEKIDS.COM

The recent suicide of Tyler Clementi, which raised the visibility of cyberbullying and digital ethics, is serving as a call to action to end something much deeper than that: cruelty, homophobia, and a distorted sense of entitlement to disclose information about others.

Clementi, an 18-year-old freshman at Rutgers University, jumped off the George Washington Bridge after his roommate, Dharum Ravi, and Rutgers student Molly Wei (both also 18) allegedly used a Webcam to record and live-stream Clementi kissing another male in his dorm room.



What these two students did was wrong for a number of reasons—and it would have been just as wrong, if modern technology hadn't been employed, or if the victim were heterosexual.

As my ConnectSafely co-director Anne Collier pointed out in a [blog post](#), this story “is not (about) technology, but inhumanity.” CNET's Greg Sandoval made a [similar point](#) that humans, not machines, are responsible for Clementi's death. But the fact that technology was involved does change the equation somewhat.

“Like so many documented instances of cyberbullying,” said Dr. Patti Agatson, co-author of [“Cyber Bullying: Bullying in the Digital Age,”](#) “it is unlikely that [the two youths charged with streaming Clementi's intimate encounter] could have foreseen the horrendous outcome of their actions.”

When it comes to bullying, the Internet can encourage what psychologists call “disinhibition.” As Rider University psychology professor John Suler put it in his free 1996 online book [“The Psychology of Cyberspace,”](#) “people say and do things in cyberspace that they wouldn't ordinarily say or do in the face-to-face world.” It's somewhat similar to road rage. How many times have you seen someone in a passing 3,000-pound vehicle make a hand gesture that he or she probably wouldn't have made, if encountering a similarly frustrating situation while walking down a sidewalk?

The Net is the real world

Like it or not, the Net now is the real world for the overwhelming majority of children and adults in the developed world and, increasingly, for the rest of the world. It was real for Tyler Clementi because real people were witnessing an intimate act from his dorm room that he had a right to assume was taking place in private.

Whether it's an invasion of privacy—or outing, as in this case—or other forms of cyberbullying, such as defamation, impersonation, or just plain being mean, cyberbullies can inflict mental anguish that can hurt worse than physical wounds because a cyberattack can reach a vast audience, and it can haunt the victim forever. It can follow children home from school and possibly for the rest of their lives. And it can affect different people in different ways. Some people can deflect situations better than others. How they react depends on a host of factors the perpetrator often can't possibly predict. At least in a school yard brawl, a bully can see his or her victim suffer. Online bullies may never know how much suffering they're inflicting.

We will never know the full story of why Clementi took his own life. Suicide experts say it is rare for one instance to lead someone to such a desperate act. And while suicide remains a statistically rare consequence of cyberbullying, Clementi's death is one of several recent examples of young bullying victims driven to that tragic end.

Worse for LGBT youth

Long before teens started flocking to the Internet, suicides among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered youth

(continued on the next page)

Important Dates

October 11	Monday	School closed-Columbus Day
October 20	Wednesday	Meeting of Parents with siblings for the 2011-2012 academic year
October 21	Thursday	Board of Trustees Meeting
October 22	Friday	Halloween Dance (Grades 6-8) Picture Day
October 25	Monday	7th Grade to Food Band-Community Service
October 28	Thursday	Pink Denim Day-Breast Cancer Awareness
October 29	Friday	Halloween Maze, Parade and Trunk or Treat

(continued from page 15)

were too common. The 1989 Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide from the Department of Health and Human Services found that gay youth are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide, according to Iowa State University professor Warren Blumenfeld, who recently conducted a study on cyberbullying of LGBT youth.

Blumenfeld's survey found that 54 percent of LGBT youth had been victims of cyberbullying in the past 30 days. Forty-five percent of the respondents "reported feeling depressed as a result of being cyberbullied, 38 percent felt embarrassed, and 28 percent felt anxious about attending school. The authors reported that "more than a quarter of LGBT cyberbullying victims (26 percent) had suicidal thoughts.

Tipping point and call to action

I don't think that there are many who would disagree that it's time for all of us--young and old--to think more about the implications of our actions on and off the Internet. Cruelty and bigotry of any sort has no place on the Internet, in our schools, in our workplaces, and in our communities or our political discourse, where even our national leaders too often are negative role models.

Every parent needs to talk about bullying and cyberbullying with their children, every school needs to integrate it into their curriculum, and every civic leader--at all levels of society--needs to incorporate civility in their messages and the way they act. It's not just about lecturing kids about how to treat other kids; it's the way all of us lead our lives in public and in private.

Being active includes not being a bystander but an interrupter of negative behavior. "In many of these situations, someone knows beforehand or early on when mean material is being posted," said Nancy Willard of the Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use. "It's essential for everyone to take personal responsibility and speak out by saying "hey, it's not OK."

Willard recommends that young people learn to work in groups. "If you see something wrong, and you don't feel safe saying stop, you can find two friends. Then it becomes the power of three speaking out. That's very powerful."

